

Reagan announces an age of scientific progress

by Graham Lowry

Barely a week after President Reagan announced his decision to redirect U.S. strategic posture and the entire arms control process toward the goal of Mutually Assured Survival, his opposition's hysterical denunciations of his "Star Wars fantasies" were giving way to growing if grudging acknowledgment that the President had indeed effected a fundamental change in U.S. strategic doctrine. At the same time, Mr. Reagan struck a blow against the geopolitical provocateurs who have dominated American strategy for more than two decades—the Robert Strange McNamaras and the Henry "Dr. Strangelove" Kissingers who enforced the MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction) doctrine as a measure ultimately designed to collapse both superpowers.

What Reagan has said

On an almost daily basis since Reagan's address, the President and his leading spokesmen have made it clear that he intends not only to put an end to MAD, but to make a renewed surge of technological progress, a surge required to develop defensive beam weapons, the basis for eliminating nuclear weapons entirely; and to pave the way for the United States and the Soviet Union to discard their roles as lethally armed antagonists for a partnership in joint development on the frontiers of science.

Asked at a press conference March 25 whether his proposal for beam weapons development meant he was rejecting "the mutual destruction approach," Reagan firmly replied, "Yes," and pointed to the day when these systems are perfected and the President can say, "All right, why not now dispose of all these weapons, since we've proven that they

can be rendered obsolete." The President went further at his March 29 press conference, noting "the many different options" a President of the United States would have once such defensive systems were developed. "He could then offer to give that same defensive weapon to them [the Soviets], and then say, 'I am willing to do away with all my missiles if you will do away with yours.'" Asked if he would consider a joint venture with the Soviet Union to develop these defensive capabilities, Reagan responded, "That's something to think about."

Lyndon LaRouche's proposal of more than a year ago recommended that the United States develop the advanced defensive weapons systems in parallel with the Soviet Union, and proceed with other agreements to attack the causes of war, by collaborating on the development of fusion technology, the colonization of space, and the industrialization of the underdeveloped sector. There are now indications that such a "higher peace movement" is the direction President Reagan has embarked on.

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, in Madrid following the meeting of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group in Portugal, told reporters March 25, "If both sides can acquire the means of rendering impotent these deadly missiles, we would really have advanced the cause of peace and humanity very, very far."

Secretary Weinberger also underscored that the President's proposal sets a new course for U.S. strategic doctrine, announcing that he was "excited and pleased about this initiative because it seems to me this is the one thing that cuts across all of that sterile doctrinal thinking and gets us to the



Philip Ulanovsky/NSIPS

President Ronald Reagan

real possibility of something to work for.”

Dr. Edward Teller, a protagonist in the development of the H-bomb, a longtime opponent of the MAD doctrine, and a passionate advocate of the beam weapons program in personal meetings with the President, wrote in the *New York Times* March 30, “The conversion from mutually assured destruction to mutually assured survival is what Mr. Reagan wants to accomplish. It would benefit not only our children and those of our allies, but also children in the Soviet Union as well. If high technology can be used for this purpose, fear will be replaced by an atmosphere in which we will no longer need worry about the consequences of sharing our technological applications with anyone in the world—in which real cooperation, the basis for peace, will become possible.”

The circles of Averell Harriman and Henry Kissinger are enraged by President Reagan’s beam weapons strategy not only because it would finish off their confrontationist manipulations carried out under the MAD umbrella. The development of such advanced systems would also revolutionize U.S. technology and generate enormous new productive capacities, restoring America to the true superpower status Kissinger and his British sponsors have vowed to destroy.

In Madrid, Weinberger spoke of the scale of American accomplishment in the Apollo space program. “Man had talked about it for centuries,” he said, but “the ability to walk on the Moon was realized in a very short time. . . . That is a very good example of how quickly America can achieve things that have been felt to be impossible when the full strength of our very considerable resources are deployed behind them.”

‘A total defense’

The defense secretary said that funding for beam weapons development would likely mean shifting some of the appropriations already proposed in the 1984 defense budget, and he predicted “all sorts of changes in 1985 and 1986.” For those years and beyond, administration officials are talking about \$15 to \$20 billion dollars annually, or a total of \$175 billion over 10 years, indicating a program far beyond the levels expended on the Apollo effort. At a Washington press conference March 29, Weinberger specified for the first time that the administration intends to develop a “total defense” against nuclear attack, based on a “layered” combination of systems including “laser beams, particle beams,” and other advanced technologies.

President Reagan signed an executive order March 25 directing the scientific mobilization on developing the technologies to proceed, to be overseen by National Security Adviser William Clark. Presidential Science Adviser George Keyworth said the same day that a new office will be established “within a few months” to coordinate the effort, now scattered through various agencies. Weinberger announced March 29 that an executive committee has been established in the Pentagon to evaluate planning and implementation of the President’s policy, which will include Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Robert Vessey as well as top Pentagon officials.

The Defense Department itself will now have to reorganize in accordance with President Reagan’s reorientation of U.S. strategic posture towards defensive capabilities, and clean out both the structures and personnel dictated by the Pentagon’s previous commitment to massive offensive retaliation as the basis for deterrence. That process, expected to get under way by the fall, entails a head-on battle with the Kissinger and Harriman networks.

The Kissinger response

By the morning after the President presented his “vision of the future” to the American people, informed sources in Washington reported that the Kissinger “MADophiles” were preparing to launch an all-out brawl with supporters of the President’s plan, hoping to “delay, obstruct, and wait for the next administration to reverse the policy.” Henry Kissinger and conventional warrior Cyrus Vance led the list of prominent no-shows at a White House state dinner for scientists and current and former cabinet members the night the President delivered his address.

Media leaks since the President’s address report that he went ahead with his beam weapons proposal despite intense opposition from many of his advisers, including Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Fred Iklé, the Swiss banking scion committed to genocidal population wars in the developing sector, and Assistant Secretary for International Security Policy Richard Perle, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and Britain’s International Institute for

Strategic Studies.

Reagan kept preparation of his initiative "on a closely held basis," as one official described it, withholding the draft of his defensive weapons proposal from many of his advisers until shortly before delivering his address, and shutting out many of the administration's "strategic experts" from discussions on the project after reportedly deciding to go ahead with it at a meeting with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in early February. Even White House media chiefs David Gergen and Larry Speakes were denied copies of his address until a few hours before the President went on national television.

By shifting the entire context of the arms control debate with his decision to develop defensive systems, Reagan also threw the Harrimanite nuclear freeze movement for a loop. Having failed the week before the President's speech to pass their nuclear freeze resolution in the House, the freeze supporters have since watched helplessly as Reagan has built his own peace policy.

The Euromissile issue

One week after his rejection of MAD, Reagan announced that the United States would cut back its deployment of Pershing II and land-based cruise missiles in Europe if the Soviets made an equivalent reduction in warheads deployed on their SS-20 long-range missiles.

The President began by citing his defensive systems proposal, as the context for ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons entirely, thus putting his Euromissile proposal within the framework of transforming MAD into Mutually Assured Survival. The President's usual array of arms control critics had no choice but to praise the proposal, while a spokesman for the environmentalist Union of Concerned Scientists said he hoped it "is not just another attempt to weaken popular support for the upcoming freeze vote in the House."

Freezers undone?

The Harrimanites in Congress recognize that they have lost their momentum. A spokesman for the Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus lamented shortly before Reagan's Euromissile announcement, "Now we are dealing with a changed environment. Our main argument was that Reagan wasn't serious about arms control. Well, this week he will propose an interim solution on the Euromissile and next week he will offer a new proposal on the MX which will talk about 'building down' nuclear weapons. And, more importantly, we have this call last week to do away with nuclear weapons eventually." Any vote on the nuclear freeze resolution will not come up before the week of April 19, and while the caucus spokesman thought they still have the votes to pass it, he added, "I am a little worried. We should never have let it get off the floor without a vote. Now Reagan has regrouped and taken the initiative away from us. Governor Harriman was quite angry with the Democratic leadership for not letting the freeze come up for a vote."

Unholy alliance keeps up Reagangate game

by Scott Thompson

President Reagan's March 23 beam weapons policy speech stopped a steamroller drive to sweep him out of office through a series of "Watergate"-type scandals. Now, a "strange bed-fellow" alliance has been made: it joins Soviet agents of influence with the Moshe Arens-Ariel Sharon faction in Israel, George Shultz's State Department, the Manatt wing of the Democratic Party, and the nuclear freeze movement.

The goal of this alliance is to attempt to dump Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who is one of President Reagan's strongest allies in the new high technology effort to gain mutually assured survival.

In the week before the President's speech ending the MAD doctrine, Weinberger had already come under heavy attack—an attack carried out in the guise of opposition to the administration's Mideast policy, for which the Defense Secretary has taken the point position.

Steve Rosen, director of research and information of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), charged Weinberger "with conducting a vendetta against Israel." At the same time, Prof. Howard Adelson, who heads the American branch of Begin's Herut Party, said: "Our trigger-happy Secretary of Defense is undoubtedly the greatest obstacle to peace in the Middle East. Until he is removed from office the possibility for peace in the region is virtually nil. . . ."

This was the response to two points the defense secretary had made on Mideast policy: first, the United States has provided Israel with billions of dollars in military weapons for defensive purposes, not offensive war to regain a biblical Eretz Yisroel; and, second, if the United States is prepared to risk thermonuclear holocaust to guarantee Israel's survival, then Israel is obligated to share defense-related intelligence.

A great deal more is going on under the surface in this debate. Sources report that Steve Rosen and others in the Moshe Ahrens-Sharon faction are insiders on a plot by Secretary of State George Shultz to oust Weinberger and to sabotage President Reagan's effort at a Mideast peace settlement. This plot has been under way since Moshe Ahren's appointment as Israeli defense minister last month. Its cornerstone involves a covert effort to keep King Hussein of Jordan from taking part in negotiations for the creation of a