

## **EIR**SpecialReport

# Beam weapons: the military-industrial revolution is on!

by Don Baier

U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative is now "unstoppable," *EIR's* contributing editor Lyndon LaRouche told the Fourth International Schiller Institute Conference, held Jan. 12-14 in Richmond, Va., U.S.A. No matter what the objections from shortsighted congressmen or the liberal press, LaRouche insisted, "The genie is out of the bottle and it cannot be stuffed back in again."

The wide participation in the conference was itself a striking demonstration of how far the idea of a strategic defense system "based on new physical principles" has come since LaRouche's February 1982 seminar in Washington, D.C., where it was first elaborated as part of a proposed new military-strategic doctrine for the United States. In that light, the representation from Western Europeans, whose nations have been subjected to a non-stop bombardment of Soviet propaganda against "Star Wars" since the day the Strategic Defense Initiative was first announced nearly two years ago, was particularly striking.

Assembled at the conference to discuss the potentials of the SDI, or submitting policy papers to be read and considered by conference participants, were military-strategic and scientific experts from West Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Austria, Japan, and the United States. While LaRouche's assessment was the most optimistic, all agreed that the concept of a beam defense was bringing about a revolution in strategic thinking that held out a new hope for humanity to escape the awful prospect of thermonuclear war. We are pleased to present the views of many of those who contributed to the discussion in this *EIR* Special Report.

Keynoting the conference, the founder of the Schiller Institute, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, declared, "The battle around the SDI is Strategic Question Number One right now. The Soviet Union saw itself, in view of the supposed final collapse of capitalism, quite close to its goal of establishing its own global hegemony, especially because the Warsaw Pact gained a marginal superiority in all weapons categories during the years of so-called detente—and now Moscow sees all of its calculations being destroyed by Reagan's SDI."

Moscow, she said, must be brought to realize that peace depends on reaching



*Panelists at the Fourth International Conference of the Schiller Institute discuss the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative.*

NSIPS/Stuart Lewis

an agreement with the United States for parallel development of the new beam technologies to render nuclear weapons "impotent and obsolete," and the quickest possible economic development of Third World nations. This latter, she pointed out, would require not simply the exploitation of the new technologies, but a redesigned international monetary system to supply non-inflationary credit for economic development.

From the United States, Brigadier Gen. E.F. Black of the U.S. Army (See *EIR*, Feb. 11) informed the conference that President Reagan had instructed his arms negotiating team that the SDI is "not negotiable." It would not, he stressed, be used as a "bargaining chip," nor "sacrificed as a trade-off for reductions in strategic weapons during the 1985 round of arms-control talks."

General Black stressed, "The President meant what he said" and called his decision to proceed with the SDI a "carefully considered national policy based on the most important strategic/political decision since the beginning of the Atomic Age."

Lyndon LaRouche explained that decision as follows:

"Until the President's announcement of March 23, 1983, for nearly 30 years the world had lived under the terror of an insane and brutish doctrine called Mutual and Assured Thermonuclear Destruction. It was argued that if each superpower would hold itself defenseless against obliteration by the nuclear arsenals of the other, that peace could be assured. This policy of nuclear terror was called nuclear deterrence. The promise of peace through perpetual terror was a lie! During the period beginning 1977, faithful adherence to nuclear deterrence brought the world to the brink of total nuclear war.

"When NATO, in 1979, adopted Henry Kissinger's proposal to deploy a pathetic few Pershing IIs in West Germany, in response to the Soviet deployment en masse of SS-20s into Western Europe, the world moved to the threshold of what is called 'launch on warning'—the point at which the computers unleash full-scale worldwide thermonuclear war at the first sign of a missile shot from one of the two superpowers.

"Some of us warned that the only way out of this nightmare was to change the strategic doctrine: to use the new technologies available for destroying thermonuclear missiles before those missiles struck their targets. The President agreed, and announced the change in strategic doctrine on March 23, 1983. The Soviet press and the leading Politburo officials have publicly blamed me for this new strategic doctrine, and the Soviet government and its nuclear freeze agents, in Europe and in the United States, have been conducting some very nasty operations against us.

"Obviously the Soviets exaggerate my influence on the White House. But the fact remains that I am an expert on this sort of thing, and therefore I do have the ability to report on some important aspects of that doctrine, with a certain authority."

LaRouche went on to argue that the United States must develop beam technologies as rapidly as possible in order to get the full benefits from the new doctrine, not simply in the narrow military sphere, but in an explosion of benefits to the total U.S. economy that would put millions of "forgotten Americans" into productive jobs.

"This new doctrine is unstoppable! The genie is out of the bottle and it cannot be stuffed back in again. After the

Soviets' Gromyko, in terror, agreed not to walk out of the negotiations in Geneva on Jan. 7 and 8, Moscow had at last made the first step in capitulating to the will of President Reagan. We've got a few more steps to go," LaRouche acknowledged, "but at this point, even those who oppose it cannot stop it. It is unleashed, and you can only ride it, and the person who rides it the fastest, wins.

"The President and others have said repeatedly that the new technologies are still in 'the research phase.' Don't worry about that. Nothing can stop, or very much delay, the spillover from research into production orders."

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### **A vast new power**

LaRouche supplied a sketch of the superiority of the new technologies over those existing in the ICBM.

"A Soviet strategic intercontinental ballistic missile reaches a speed of about 2 miles per second. A high-speed U.S. interceptor rocket might reach 7 or 10 miles per second. But, just to give an example, an anti-missile laser beam travels at the speed of light, which is on the order of magnitude of about 186,000 miles per second.

"The amount of energy needed to launch an intercontinental Soviet ballistic missile is enough energy, at that moment of launch, to light up a whole city. That's why you can't hide them!

"A laser pulse, in a few thousands of kilowatts, in the right frequency and well aimed, can destroy that missile. When anti-missile systems are adequately developed, it is reasonable to estimate that we can destroy a Soviet missile for one-tenth of what it costs the Soviets to build and launch it."

That means, he added, that "in military terms, the defense can supersaturate the offense."

LaRouche stressed that the same power inherent in the use of these technologies as weapons could easily be tapped for the kind of massive agro-industrial projects required to save Africa and develop the whole Third World, and to enable mankind to colonize other planets.

"These are the most powerful kinds of *tools* ever conceived. Every factory which is equipped to build the components of these new kinds of weapons, is also a factory equipped to build components of the most powerful kinds of machine tools, and other tools of production, ever designed!

"Our duty, our concern," LaRouche continued, "is to make certain that the benefit of these powerful new tools reaches out of the anti-missile system production," to touch the unemployed man sitting on the sidewalk in an American city, trying to eke a livelihood out of selling trinkets, "and reaches into the development of Africa as well."

LaRouche identified three overlapping areas of research and development on the frontiers of science as of crucial significance for both the Strategic Defense Initiative and global economic development. Controlled thermonuclear fusion, particle and laser beam technologies, and non-linear spectroscopy could enable mankind to lift himself to the stars, he said.

"If we can build cities holding tens of thousands of human beings comfortably on Mars, beginning in the year 2025, what could we do with the Sahara desert, which is not as difficult as Mars? Or the Arabian peninsula? Or the great American desert there out West?" he asked.

Those who argue that the United States "cannot afford" to spend the \$200 billion required to develop the new technologies on a "crash" basis don't know what they're talking about.

"We've got 15 million people in this country who need work, who don't have it, and who the Labor Department says officially don't exist! Because they've been dropped from the labor force. So therefore, if we simply put people back to work, and at the same time increase the productive power of labor with new technologies, it's obvious that we can increase the wealth per capita, and in total, enough to pay for anything we have to."

Michael Liebig, co-author of the newly released German book *Strahlenwaffen: Militärstrategie im Umbruch (Beam Weapons: Revolution in Military Strategy)* pointed out in his presentation that under the "Ogarkov Doctrine," the U.S.S.R. remains poised for a lightning strike at Western Europe, a display of "raw force" that could range from a local action to a full-scale thermonuclear attack including the United States as well—as one of its remaining options to stop the SDI. "They will sweetly offer us a new Munich," Liebig forecast. "And we had better understand that, and look at strategic affairs without illusions. Because that is the precondition for remaining steadfast, and changing strategic affairs for the better."

In the following pages, the discussion continues.