

Revelations of Soviet 'SDI' shock the West

by Nicholas F. Benton

An article published in the Oct. 25 West German newspaper *Bild Zeitung* revealed the contents of a secret document from U.S. and NATO sources which claims that three U.S. satellites were put out of commission in the recent period by a Soviet laser cannon. The *Bild* article asserts that the Soviets have 10,000 technicians working on the Soviet version of a "Strategic Defense Initiative" (SDI) at 12 research centers, and that the Soviets are "way ahead of the West" in their program.

The Soviet laser cannon is reportedly located in the town of Sarythaganak in Kazakstan, and uses optical guidance to allow the blinding of the satellites. Moreover, in Siberia, the same report says, an SAX-12 missile has been set up.

This revelation of an awesome Soviet SDI capability comes in the aftermath of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov's unsuccessful effort to browbeat President Reagan into abandoning the U.S. SDI program at Reykjavik, and is one of a series of important developments that have occurred as a direct result of the historic meeting.

It is a revelation sources say came from the meeting of NATO Nuclear Planning Group in Gleneagles, Scotland, immediately after Reykjavik. It was what West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl alluded to when he came to Washington for a state visit with President Reagan Oct. 21. In a sharp departure from his usual style, Kohl made very pointed remarks on Soviet SDI capabilities both during his first meeting with President Reagan and in response to a question from *EIR* during a public press conference while in Washington.

A senior White House official reported that Kohl told Reagan, "Perhaps what is missing is that the West—the allies, the United States—are not saying enough about what the Soviets are doing with respect to the SDI." At his press conference the next day, Kohl added, "In my talks with

American officials, I pointed out that now is the time for us to make public what we know about the Soviet strategic defense program," in order to, he said, "counter the fantastic propaganda campaign now going on in Europe, where they are speaking exclusively of the American SDI program never mentioning what the Soviets are doing."

Kohl's pleas, followed by the NATO document revelations in *Bild Zeitung*, are the sharpest inflection points to date of the extraordinary events now unfolding in the post-Reykjavik world, most of which have centered around the SDI, which confirm *EIR's* prediction that Reykjavik represented a turning point, or "phase change" in world history because of its focus on the SDI issue and the strategic significance of the associated Soviet cover-up.

On the Western side, three categories of important developments have occurred: 1) revelations of the Soviet cover-up of their own SDI program; 2) the expulsion of Soviet spies from posts in the U.S.; 3) the moves against the Soviet terrorist surrogate, Syria.

Soviet 'Star Wars'

Following *EIR's* public confrontation with Soviet physicist Yevgenii Velikhov at a Reykjavik press conference about the Soviets' cover-up of their program, the President, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, and physicist Edward Teller have all added their own warnings about the Soviet SDI to what Kohl and the *Bild Zeitung* article stated.

President Reagan referred to it for the first time in his televised speech to the nation upon his return from Reykjavik, and again when he welcomed Kohl to the White House. On the campaign trail, he has made the SDI the central programmatic issue of every speech.

Weinberger, interviewed on Cable Network News Oct.

23, said that the Soviets "have been working on their SDI for 17 years," and added that "there could be no way to verify that they would limit their own work to what they want us to do." He said that the Soviets' "whole objective at Reykjavik was to get rid of the U.S. SDI," and that the entire NATO group meeting in Scotland "supported President Reagan's handling of the meeting." He said that the President "will not bend on the SDI," and stressed that "it is impossible to tell just when it will be deployable," because progress in research is already going so much faster than originally expected.

Asked to respond to Kohl's appeal to "tell all about the Soviet SDI," Dr. Teller gave an exclusive statement to *EIR* while appearing at a gathering commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Hungarian uprising. Teller said Oct. 23, "The Soviets have been working on defense and said they are working on defense for more than 20 years. They have an excellent defensive arrangement which is according to the ABM (Anti-Ballistic Missile) agreement around Moscow, and we did not do anything. They are developing mobile defensive missiles. They have lasers, one developed on the shore of Lake Balkhash at the military test site in Sary Shagan. They know they are far ahead of everybody else. They are protesting against SDI because they have a monopoly and they want to keep it. And if they keep it, then they will be able to dictate to all of us what to do."

The *Bild Zeitung* revelation stuns even those in the West who concede the existence of a Soviet SDI program. Close Reagan advisers, for example, admit the program, but arrogantly deny the Soviets have the computer technology to orchestrate the "command and control" required to make a laser-based strategic defense work. The *Bild Zeitung* story shatters that illusion.

Spy expulsions

What the major media characterized as a "tit-for-tat" exchange of diplomats following Reykjavik actually represented a big escalation by the United States to dismantle the top levels of Soviet espionage operations. While the United States ordered the Soviets last March to remove 25 people from their United Nations mission in New York, a Soviet countermove against that earlier this month provoked President Reagan to demand the immediate expulsion of another 55 Soviet spies from the Soviet embassy in Washington and consulate in San Francisco.

EIR has received information that the New York intelligence station had been set up under secret codicils of the SALT II treaty by Henry Kissinger, to provide KGB with the scientific and military espionage capability to monitor compliance with SALT. Secretary of State Shultz's opposition to the expulsions thus stems from his desire to revive SALT, which Reagan officially junked last summer.

Again, Weinberger defended the move, saying on both ABC and CBS Oct. 23 that the expulsions "remove a very large part of the leadership of the Soviet spy network." An-

other senior administration official said Oct. 22 that the expulsions "bring an end to an era of Soviet spying in the United States," indicating that senior-level officers of the KGB and GRU were chosen to "clean out the top ranks of military intelligence down to the equivalent of lieutenant colonels." He said, "There is now no management left." Another official added, "This is a decapitation of the Soviet intelligence network in the U.S."

Ironically, the Soviets' response, ordering another five U.S. diplomats out of the U.S.S.R. and removing 260 Soviet employees of the embassy in Moscow, only further cut back Soviet spying capabilities—this time by the Soviet employees working at the embassy.

The *Christian Science Monitor* gave Attorney General Ed Meese the credit for orchestrating the expulsion of the Soviet spies. The *New York Post* noted that Meese is "vying for power" in the administration with White House Chief of Staff Don Regan.

In developments that are breaking as *EIR* goes to press, Great Britain broke off diplomatic relations with the Soviet-backed terrorist coven known as Syria Oct. 24, and President Reagan followed the move by recalling the U.S. ambassador from Damascus the same day.

You can pound with Gucci shoes, too

Observers of the Soviet political animal have noted that the debonair "Westernized" demeanor of General Secretary Gorbachov has slipped since Reykjavik. Gorbachov went on Soviet television Oct. 22 to perpetuate the "big lie" and brutish method used in Iceland, protesting violently over his failure to bend President Reagan on the SDI, complaining over the forces of "militarism," the "hawks" in the White House, and the President's "entourage which literally breathes hatred." Gorbachov pontificated, "Why do they cling so stubbornly to SDI? Star Wars plans have become the main obstacle to accord on elimination of the nuclear threat."

Gorbachov reiterated the Soviet position at Reykjavik, which is that its arms control offer composes "a complete package," including a non-negotiable demand that the United States confine its SDI program to "laboratory research," a demand which Weinberger correctly asserted, would kill the program. Although his speech was primarily for domestic consumption, he did not miss the opportunity to praise former U.S. arms-control negotiator Paul Warnke, and closed his remarks by quoting U.S. Senator Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) saying, "SDI must not be the rock on which the arms-control process founders."

Gorbachov's rambling and unfocused tirade was centered on two obsessions, the SDI and the specter of a "new grouping" in the United States which opposes deals with the Soviet Union.

The "new grouping" which so terrifies the Soviet leader, may in fact have been around on this planet for about 2,000 years.