

Greenies demand U.S. quit EMP research

by Warren J. Hamerman

Once again Jeremy Rifkin is doing Moscow's bidding in targeting for unilateral destruction an area of advanced U.S. scientific defense research, at the very moment that the Russians intensify their work.

Rifkin's Foundation on Economic Trends has launched a federal lawsuit to try and halt electromagnetic pulse (EMP) experiments at seven laboratories in five states as violations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Beginning March 1987, Rifkin's outfit has tried to get U.S. District Court Judge John Garrett Penn to order the military to suspend EMP experiments and related construction until the Pentagon files an environmental impact statement.

The lawsuit was initiated virtually simultaneously with the Pentagon's issuance of a warning about the massive increase in Soviet commitment to developing strategic and tactical radio frequency weaponry.

The Russians, hoping to repeat their approach to nullifying the U.S. SDI, massively increase their own program while encouraging those who serve their interests in the West to target and shut down the same area of science in the West. The work in question—electromagnetic pulse, radio frequency and microwave experiments—is precisely the area in which the Soviets threaten to break out technologically because of a full-scale military applications program gear-up, as this magazine and its founder, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., have intensively warned in an international campaign over the past year.

Justice Department helps Russians

One of the most revealing features of the campaign against the United States' military research facilities, is that the Department of Justice, while supposedly defending the Pentagon, has actually functioned to help those who are looking for pretexts to hamper U.S. research programs in this area. The Department of Justice is riddled with officials who see facilitating cooperative arrangements with the Soviets as a higher priority than protecting U.S. national security—for instance, in its witchhunt against U.S. rocket scientists of German origin on the grounds that they were alleged "Nazis."

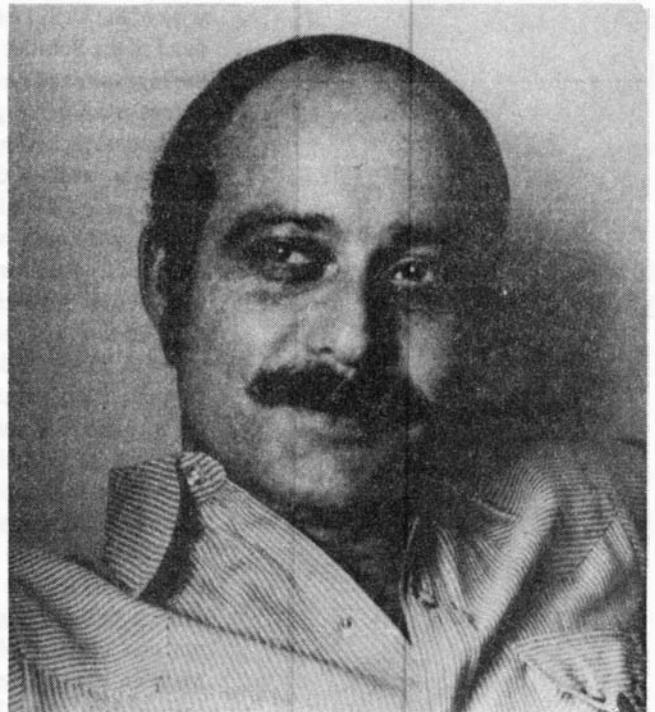
Under the pretext of "defending" the government against

Rifkin, the Department of Justice admitted that certain EMP research facilities had "inadequate or nonexistent" compliance with the Environmental Protection Act because they failed to file "environmental impact statements" as required by law. The Justice Department then named the following "target list" of facilities which were not in compliance:

- Navy EMP facilities on the Chesapeake Bay and at the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland;
- Harry Diamond Laboratory in Woodbridge;
- Defense Nuclear Agency's EMP facility at Kirtland Air Force Base;
- Army's facility at White Sands, New Mexico;
- Army's station in Huntsville, Alabama;
- Navy's facility at China Lake.

Rifkin's lawsuit wants to hold up the experiments, until the Pentagon can guarantee that EMP waves would not affect people wearing pacemakers, birds and animals with delicate nerve centers, and the electronic brains of bad weather radar for passenger planes.

One of the ironies in the situation is that the basis of the environmentalist and "Greenie" objections to this research is incompetent and illogical on its own terms. Scientists have demonstrated that electromagnetic pulsed waves, for example, can safely and cheaply eliminate locust swarms which would otherwise ravage the environment (see "Electromagnetic Pulsed Waves Can Kill Locust Swarms," *EIR*, Vol. 15, No. 16, April 15, 1988).



Jeremy Rifkin