

Editorial

On the tenth anniversary of President Reagan's announcement of SDI

This is former presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche speaking.

As one of the key figures among the few who know the true story behind President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, it is my pleasure and duty to remind people on this tenth anniversary of President Reagan's televised announcement, that that announcement was one of the most important events of the past fifty years.

It was an announcement which changed the course of history, an announcement which led, inevitably, as some of us saw back then, to either new cooperation between the United States and Moscow along the lines President Reagan proposed, or else the collapse of the Soviet empire for economic reasons within about five years.

This was a decision by the President to adopt this policy and to promulgate it, made against the strongest opposition from within leading circles within the United States and even within his own administration—even within his own White House organization. It was a decision of courage which changed the course of history for the better, which obviated the risk of thermonuclear war for that period.

Unfortunately, following the President's departure from office, his successor, George Bush, together with Margaret Thatcher, bungled the greatest opportunity for peace in history, by failing to realize the importance of carrying out the principles of economic-development cooperation embedded in the original Strategic Defense Initiative proposal as I outlined these terms in pre-1983 back

channel negotiations and discussions with the Soviet government.

Bush and Thatcher will go down as the greatest political failures of the late twentieth century because of their bungling of this opportunity with their fads of radical monetarism, radical free trade, with their shock therapy proposals, and with their collaboration with the Gorbachov regime to unleash the British-U.S. assets—or shall we say the Kissinger Associates assets—around Slobodan Milosevic in attacks on the southern flank of the very Central Europe on which eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union depended for the mediation of serious, effective economic cooperation.

We must take note of that unpleasant fact on this anniversary date, this tenth anniversary of President Reagan's brave and important announcement of the SDI, because once again the time has come for similar bold initiatives.

This time the ball is in the lap of President Clinton; and one can hope that the President will listen to the advice of some of those who supported President Reagan in the making of the SDI announcement, that a similar brilliant, imaginative initiative will come from President Clinton even over the objections of some of his closest advisers and supporters.

We must change the situation as we attempted to change the situation with the SDI; and if President Clinton can follow and succeed President Reagan in that respect, he will have in history a successful presidency.

—Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., March 23, 1993