

A Giant Step for Mankind

The successful landing of NASA's Mars Science Laboratory rover, Curiosity, on the surface of Mars Aug. 6, couldn't have come at a more welcome time. This accomplishment provides a crucial opportunity to build on the wave of optimism now spreading internationally around the tremendous feat, and move boldly ahead to take the necessary political steps to carry out the program called the Strategic Defense of Earth (SDE).

The SDE, as proposed in the Fall of 2011 by the Russian government, is an extension of Lyndon LaRouche's concept of the Strategic Defense Initiative, to build the capabilities for a defense of Earth from all space-based threats, including asteroids as well as weapons. LaRouche has warmly endorsed the policy as essential to man's survival as a creature of the galaxy, the only creature with the creative capability to develop the power to control his environment.

In the buildup to, and in the wake of the Curiosity landing, suddenly, the traditional mocking of programs to colonize Mars has been silenced, and replaced by pride and excitement, reminiscent of the aftermath of the 1969 Moon landing. It's time to seize the opening.

In his discussion with the LaRouchePAC National Candidates' Slate on Aug. 6, LaRouche laid out the challenge:

"What we're going to have to start thinking about, is more rovers! Because we've got to look at, explore our platform on Mars itself, to find out answers to some of these questions [of the history of life, and of species extinctions in the galaxy—ed.], and to prepare the basis for a full-fledged SDE program.

"We will immediately have cooperation from China and Russia ... on the SDE program. We should be part of that, the SDE program. We need

that! Because in this period, we can't wait for a full generation, to have an SDE program!

"So we now have got to use these means, typified by this landing, to set up an SDE program. Because if we can control something from Mars, or Mars orbit itself, by planting things in Mars orbit, we can actually have some more degree of control over the fate of mankind on Earth. And that's what we have to explain to people. We have to make the demonstrations, we have to make it clear to people what this is all about; we have to get the people who are the veterans of this program, the NASA program, who can actually give the reports, and are authorities, to give reports on what these feasibilities are."

Ironically, this breakthrough, in a program which had been specifically planned 10 years ago, came on Obama's watch—just as the Apollo landing came long after its initiator, President Kennedy, was dead, when Nixon was President. Then, in 1969, the monetarist interests who were taking over the U.S.—and would further consolidate their takeover with the Aug. 15, 1971 cancellation of Bretton Woods—had already dealt a killer blow to the space program, which limped along for a while, but eventually was neutered by budget cuts. Today, that process is continuing with a particular vengeance under Obama, who has totally sabotaged the manned space program in every way he could, along with other science frontiers. This breakthrough occurred despite him.

Now, with this crucial demonstration of what human creativity *can* do, we have to throw off Obama, and the environmentalist, monetarist shackles that have condemned the majority of mankind to misery—and threatened the planet with extinction. From one giant step for mankind, as Neil Armstrong put it, we must take the next.