

The Strategic Defense of Earth

by Benjamin Deniston

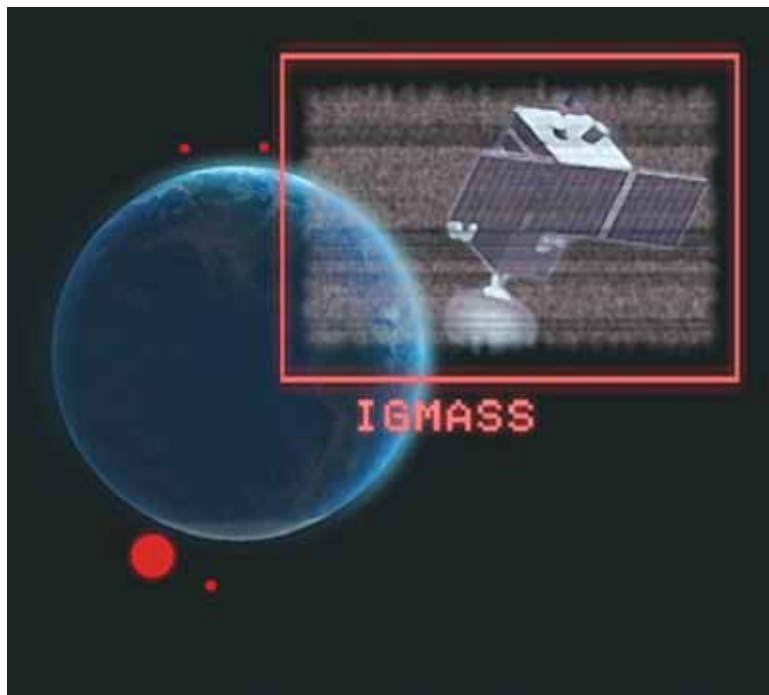
Great ideas, ones with principled relevance to the future for all humanity, do not die easy.

Last Fall, in the context of rising U.S.-Russian tensions over NATO's planned expansion of its anti-ballistic missile systems in Eastern Europe, the Russian government proposed a new direction for U.S.-Russian relations. Covered in Russian press under the title of a "Strategic Defense of Earth," Dmitri Rogozin (then, Russia's Ambassador to NATO, before his December 2011 promotion to Deputy Prime Minister) proposed U.S.-Russian cooperation on both missile defense, and on the defense of the entire planet against the threat of comet or asteroid impacts.¹

Since then, the U.S. government, under the disastrous reign of Obama, has refused to pursue this alternative direction, and has instead brought us closer to the brink of thermonuclear war.² Despite the present failure in the U.S. presidency, Russia has continued to promote international cooperation on planetary defense, with the deputy head of the Russian Federal Space Agency, Vitali Davydov, announcing a proposal to create a new federal program to deal with space threats, and Russia's Security Council for the first time putting asteroid defense on the agenda of their annual international security forum held in St. Petersburg.³ At the same time Russia has been leading international cooperation in scientifically revolutionary areas, such as earthquake forecasting, with the International Global Monitoring Aerospace System (IGMASS) (**Figure 1**).⁴

The perspective of increased international cooperation in the Strategic Defense of Earth (SDE) is not

FIGURE 1



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merely one option among many. As was, and is, the case with Lyndon LaRouche's 1979 to 1980s beam-weapon defense proposal (later termed the Strategic Defense Initiative by Ronald Reagan), this is an existential challenge, which has been placed before all of mankind, predefined by larger processes.

Mankind's entry into the Space Age has provided a revolutionary new vantage point from which to view the past and future conditions of life on Earth. For the first time in human history, we are gaining insights into how the conditions we experience here on Earth are influenced, when not determined, by our Solar System, even our galaxy.⁵ To take perhaps the most pointed example, even the multi-billion-year history of life on Earth is characterized by periodic mass extinctions driven by solar and galactic processes.

The question becomes: Will the economic and political policy of mankind as a whole reflect a recognition of these challenges? We have the unique potential to ensure the protection and advancement of humanity in a way never before possible, and the SDE and IGMASS programs typify the strategic, political, and economic pathway to do so.

5. "Planetary Defense: An Extraterrestrial [Imperative](#)"

1. "As World War Threatens, Russia Proposes 'SDE'"

2. "The Thermonuclear [Option](#): Extinction or Existence"

3. "Strategic Defense of Earth: Russia To Put [SDE](#) at Top of Agenda"

4. "Russians Propose Global [Monitoring](#)"