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From the Managing Editor

The "mainstream" American media these days would give you the impression that the only thing going on in Russia is the street battle for "regime change." But our *Feature* and *Strategy* sections make very clear that the Russian leaders have a great deal more on their minds: the danger that the imminent U.S. deployment of ballistic missile defense systems (BMDS) on Russia's borders, among other military/strategic moves, will lead to World War III, *even very soon*.

Lyndon LaRouche's article "The Showdown Has Now Begun" explains how the British imperial oligarchy is demanding (with their puppet President Barack Obama doing the same) that Russia submit to policies that would destroy its national sovereignty—or else there will be war. Forcing the victims of the intended warfare, LaRouche writes, to defend themselves from the intended preparations for launching such warfare in defense of their already threatened existence, "is already a casus belli."

At the conference on anti-missile defense in Moscow on May 3-4, which has been ignored in the "mainstream" press, one Russian leader after another stressed that the deployment of the BMDS is of existential importance. The graphic on our cover is taken from a presentation by Col.-Gen. V.V. Gerasimov, showing how the NATO system will be able to neutralize Russia's ICBMs, contrary to Obama's claims. The Russians see the NATO summit in Chicago at the end of this month as a turning point. Our *Strategy* section quotes several speakers to this effect, aptly summed up by Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich: "I think that the signals sent not only by General Makarov, but also by other senior military officers, were intended to make the participants of the upcoming Chicago NATO summit understand how serious the situation is...."

Elsewhere in this issue, I draw your particular attention to Harley Schlanger's incisive report on the U.S. political situation; he doesn't spare the Democratic Party leaders, including Bill Clinton, who should know better than to jump on the "Save the Party, Support Obama" bandwagon.

Susan Welsh