

Insane Priorities

Throughout his Presidency, Barack Obama has continued an offensive strategic policy against Russia and China. The development of the NATO ABM system in Europe and the “Pacific pivot” have forced military and strategic posturing not seen since the Cold War. At the height of these tensions, on Feb. 15, 2013, the Solar System delivered a message: Planet Earth will be wiped out if we continue in that direction; that is, if we don’t destroy ourselves with thermonuclear warfare first.

A particular example of these inverted priorities is the refusal to share military data with civilian scientists. Longtime asteroid expert Clark Chapman, and former Apollo astronaut turned planetary defense expert Rusty Schweickart, have called for the data from military satellite systems to be released to the scientific community to aid science and the defense of Earth.

As reported in an article on Space.com (“Russian Meteor Fallout: Military Satellite Data Should Be Shared,” by Leonard David, Feb. 18, 2013), Chapman wrote, “The satellites that monitor the skies around the world for missile launches also detect brilliant incoming meteoroids, including startling events much smaller than the Chelyabinsk bolide. . . . In the past, these data have been partly withheld from

the scientific community. They should be released immediately, while scientists, emergency management officials, and others are trying to understand what has happened, where people might have been hurt, and where valuable meteorites might be found.”

Schweickart stated, “There’s no question that data sharing here is critical. . . . We need to learn as much as possible from these incidents, and without jeopardizing any legitimate national security consideration, what they have should openly be shared with the rest of us.”

These assessments are corroborated in the 2010 National Research Council report, “Defending Planet Earth,” in which it is stated, “U.S. Department of Defense satellites have detected and continue to detect high-altitude airburst events from NEOs [Near-Earth Objects] entering Earth’s atmosphere. Such data are valuable to the NEO community for assessing NEO hazards.” The report recommends that “data from NEO airburst events observed by the U.S. Department of Defense satellites should be made available to the scientific community to allow it to improve understanding of the NEO hazards to Earth.”

A full-scale Strategic Defense of Earth program will only work if the most advanced technologies and science are shared and applied to the challenges facing all mankind in an international effort. This was a key feature of the SDI which Dr. Edward Teller and Lyndon LaRouche fought for.

—*Benjamin Deniston*