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EIR

From the Managing Editor

The 30th anniversary of President Reagan's March 23, 1983 announcement of a Strategic Defense Initiative poses a painful irony. Reagan, inspired by Lyndon LaRouche, offered the Soviet leadership *cooperation* in a system that would defend both powers against nuclear attack. "We seek neither military superiority nor political advantage," he said that evening. "Our only purpose—one all people share—is to search for ways to reduce the danger of nuclear war." But Soviet leader Yuri Andropov rejected the offer, and, as LaRouche warned at the time, the result was the collapse of the Soviet Union a few years later. The Reagan-LaRouche conception of the SDI was swept aside. Today, 30 years later, it is the Russians who are making an offer for a cooperative Strategic Defense of Earth (SDE): joint efforts to protect the planet from the threats of asteroids and other space objects. And today, it is the U.S. Obama Administration that is saying "nyet!"

LaRouche's *Feature* article on "A New System Among Nations" references the policy fight around SDI, in the course of laying out what he calls "The New Prospect Before Us!"

In *International*, we report on a Moscow development that has been almost completely blacked out of the American press: a conference at the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, at which scientists, political figures, government officials, and corporate leaders outlined what an SDE will require. We include a chronology of earlier Russian offers of cooperation with the United States in these areas of high technology for mutual benefit.

The West's failure to accept such offers derives from British determination to destroy nation-states in favor of a world empire run by the financier oligarchy. We see this today in the threat of war spinning out of control over Syria (*International*); the devolution of Iraq toward a dark age, ten years after the U.S. and Britain invaded (*National*); and also in the escalating collapse of the banking system (*Economics*), and the cash-grab by desperate international bankers in Cyprus.

However, there are also positive developments to report from the southeast corner of Europe: China is doing what the EU refuses to do: building infrastructure in Greece and the Balkans (see *Economics*).

