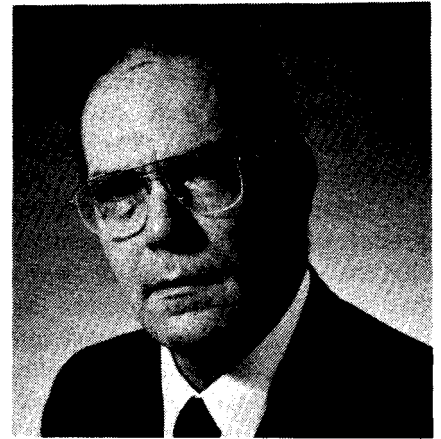


How to stop the threat of general nuclear war

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., Contributing Editor



Lyndon LaRouche, Jr., a Democratic Party candidate for President in 1980, has issued a Special Memorandum outlining those steps that must be taken to reverse the current war crisis leading to thermonuclear warfare between the two superpowers. Entitled "Why the Revival of SALT is Intrinsicly Unworkable—a special memorandum to explore whether a basis exists in potential common perspectives of Atlantic Alliance and Comecon powers for pursuing effective war avoidance measures," LaRouche delineates three basic causes for the current drive toward nuclear war:

1. The current geopolitical strategy of the British oligarchy that is now in total control of the Carter administration to destroy industrialized Russia as the precondition to destroying the nation-states of Western Europe. This is the same geopolitical posture that directly caused World War I and World War II;

2. The policy of International Monetary Fund conditionalities, which is perpetrating a policy of genocide and deliberate depopulation of the Third World;

3. The current neo-Malthusian policy of the Carter administration upon the economy of the United States to turn the United States into a fascist state.

Unless those policies are quickly reversed, states LaRouche, thermonuclear confrontation and war are unavoidable in the short term.

In the final section of the memorandum, LaRouche delineates those measures that must be taken by policymakers and statesmen not only to avoid war in the near-term but to lay the basis for world peace. EIR presents here excerpts from the first and last sections:

There are three, and only three intersecting direct causes for the presently accelerating approach to the point of strategic miscalculations at which general war might erupt.

The first, and most general direct cause for such a potentiality is the continuation of the same general, "geopolitical" policy-doctrine that has already produced two "World Wars" during the present century.

The second, subsumed general direct cause for such a potentiality is the combined economic-depressive general effects, plus the specific destabilization of developing nations caused by the emergence of policies coinciding with International Monetary Fund "conditionalities" in the course of the continuing breakdown of the institutions of the Bretton Woods system.

The third, exacerbating direct general cause for the growing danger of general war is the United States' adoption of the genocidal, "neo-Malthusian" doctrine of the Club of Rome.

These three, interconnected policies are the only direct causes for the danger of general war.

Other past and current developments may contribute to the danger of war, but not as direct causes of the war danger. These other, contributing developments are to be classed as either lack of suitable proposals, or toleration of or inadequate opposition to the three war-causing policies.

Among the second sort of contributing causes for war, we must include leading features of the "SALT"-centered institutions of "detente." The false and dangerous assumption, that disarmament agreements are either the principal or initial opening to peaceful coexistence, has had the effect of directing energies to support of a delusion. This wishful thinking has drawn attention and energies away from effective courses of action.

Admittedly, there were other considerations that justified Soviet participation in a process of negotiations centered around the *pretext* of disarmament discussions. Those "other considerations" can be reduced to the usefulness of establishing and maintaining channels of diplomacy aiding (a) more narrowly, the enhanced possibility for managing episodic, potentially dangerous developments, and (b) more fundamentally, the maintenance of channels through which negotiations might proceed to focus upon the actual war-causing issues in the dimensions of political-economic policies.

Against those positive aspects of the "SALT" process, "SALT" contributed to the development of the war

danger by (a) creating a climate favoring substitution of illusory emphasis on disarmament for address to the actual political-economic causes of war, and (b) strengthening directly and indirectly the delusions associated with "flexible response" within the command of the Atlantic Alliance power.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt committed a counter-productive error in stating recently the exaggerated view that the Soviet Union has no "war-avoidance" perspective. Recent events have proven that the Soviet actions beginning with the deployment into Afghanistan have been decisive, if ironically, in effecting a situation in which war-avoidance might become possible. That continuing "hard" posture by Moscow has had the specific, most useful effect of discrediting the strategic assumptions associated with "flexible response." By thus discrediting a most important part of the broader strategic miscalculation embedded in current NATO policy, Soviet "hard" postures have brought about the present moment of tentative reassessment of U.S. policy.

Schmidt's observation was implicitly correct in one part. Although current Soviet "hard" postures are an indispensable element of what would be an overall war-avoidance posture, this course of forcing reassessment upon NATO influentials will fail unless the reassessment leads to elimination of the three general, direct causes for the war danger. Lack of highly visible, public Soviet proposals respecting those three causes of war does represent a lack of overall war-avoidance posture from Moscow.

The alternative path, toward a merely postponed future general war, from the side of the Atlantic powers, is defined by the scrapping of both the IMF "conditionalities" and "neo-Malthusian" doctrines, but retaining the geopolitical posture.

It is feasible for the United States and its allies to create immediately a new, gold-based monetary system which unleashes the potential of the Atlantic Alliance nations and sections of the developing nations for broad-based economic growth. If this is accompanied by dirigist emphasis upon scientific progress, modeled upon the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) experience, the military potentials of the Western Alliance could develop at an accelerating rate over the coming decade, under conditions of a sharply reduced emphasis on a "China option."

This could be instituted through energies mobilized into channels defined by the embedded anti-Soviet mythos of the institutions and general populations of the industrialized Atlantic Alliance nations.

There is a precedent for such a "middle course" in the deliberations of Lord Alfred Milner's Coefficients at the beginning of this century. The kernel of the Anglo-American elites has periodically recognized the qualitative superiority of "Hamiltonian" political economy over

the *monetarist* doctrines flowing from British ideology. They are capable, under special circumstances, of using those "Hamiltonian" policies to develop the broad civilian economy basis for massive rearmament.

The innermost circles of this elite also have demonstrated themselves repeatedly to be capable of adopting policy perspectives for a span of a generation or two. They are implicitly capable of *temporarily* shelving neo-Malthusian policies—in approximately the same way the establishment of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) shifted Britain temporarily from a Malthusian policy during the middle of the nineteenth century, and as Milner's group undertook to rebuild the British navy and army in preparation for World War I.

We now restate the point just made.

The stated, and related considerations show that the ruling strata of the Atlantic Alliance powers have but three categories of strategic options from which to choose at this juncture.

(1) They may choose to reaffirm support of the present policies, or might merely let the policies continue by default. That means an assured decisive strategic confrontation during the short term.

(2) They may muster the resolution to scrap for a period of a generation the neo-Malthusian institutions established during the post-1966 period, for the sake of a "quasi-Hamiltonian" decade of mobilization under conditions of "managed hostility" with the Soviet Union.

(3) Under special conditions, they might choose to seek establishment of the kinds of treaty institutions of durable peaceful coexistence identified in this memorandum.

The principal concerns of this memorandum are both to show why the third choice is indispensable, and what contributing efforts from the Soviet leadership are indispensable for prompting ruling Atlantic Alliance circles to perceive the cited third option as a serious, desirable choice.

From war-avoidance to peace

We can have peace only on condition that some political leaders discover the courage to do what most career-politicians would violently oppose as "unthinkable," "impracticable."

First, we must take adequate and credible actions which institutionalize short-term war-avoidance.

Second, we must use the forward political motion in popular consciousness established by the credible performance in the first instance, to proceed immediately to the next phase, war-avoidance over the remaining decades of this century.

Third, we must use the accelerated motion derived from partial success on the second count to proceed then to the third and concluding phase ...



"A new world monetary system to replace the International Monetary Fund must be established immediately."

A. Short-term war-avoidance

Short-term war-avoidance means, categorically, but *negatively*, the immediate termination of the IMF "conditionalities" and "neo-Malthusian" policies.

Rejecting these war-causing policies does not yet eliminate the third, underlying cause for the overall, more general war danger, the geopolitical assumptions. By itself, it merely postpones the general war danger to a future time, in the order of a decade or so hence.

Nonetheless, *the first step must be taken. If it is not taken, general war during the near future is unavoidable.*

However, taken by itself, repudiation of the two policies of International Monetary Fund "conditionalities" and "neo-Malthusian" doctrines, creates a vacuum in the dimensions previously occupied by those policies. *A positive replacement for those policies is an integral part of the first measures to be taken.*

A new world monetary system to replace the International Monetary Fund must be established immediately. *Whoever opposes that has chosen general war during the immediate future.* No other action, or inaction, will forestall war.

The establishment of the new monetary system is to occur through the equivalent of the following exemplary steps.

(1) The representatives of the European Monetary System (EMS) and the President of the United States must agree on a new price for monetary gold. This price must be based on the quantities produced required to sustain the new, gold-based world monetary system. That determines average cost of production for monetary gold replacement-stocks. The price of gold must be an average rate of profit added to that cost.

(2) The United State's President must agree to make the gold reserves of the United States available to support the imbalances on current account against the dollar through the rediscount facility of a new, gold-based monetary system, that system should be based on the cornerstone of the EMS cooperation with concurring petrodollar-holder nations.

(3) The first measure of establishment of the new gold-based monetary system is the issuance and sale of large-denomination, medium- and long-term, rediscountable bonds of a new central rediscount facility. These bonds should be denominated in ECUs at the agreed price of monetary gold, and should bear an interest rate of between 2 and 3 percent. Those bonds should be sold to central banks, commercial banks engaged in financing world trade, and other suitable institutions. The principal marketing objective of the initial issue of such rediscountable bonds is the absorption of several hundred billions of dollar holdings into the central rediscount facility.

(4) The credit of the central facility is available at prime rates of between 4 and 6 percent for approved categories of lending.

The end-result of lending must be high-technology increase in the productive powers of labor of what are called currently "developing nations." This is measured in terms of tangible product usefully consumed as productive capital or as household-consumption goods, with administration and services not included as output, but as overhead cost of output.

These credit-issuances should take the form of credit for agreed projects of development of agriculture, manufacturing, construction, mining, transportation, and energy-production, projects adopted by treaty partners capital-goods-exporting and developing nations. Long-term credit for these projects is extended to the designated financial institutions of importing nations, as the equivalent of "construction loans" and "permanent mortgages." Credit also is issued "upstream" to firms within capital-goods-exporting nations for operating capital, for necessary investment in production capacities, and export-credit with respect to contracts subsumed by the development projects.

Bonds issued to authorized institutions by the central discount facility may be pledged as security for credit to be issued for these designated purposes.

(5) The indebtedness of developing nations must be reorganized under the new system. Such nations joining the new system shall have their held-over indebtedness to public institutions such as the IMF and World Bank "frozen" pending reorganization of those institutions.

Debts to public institutions of sovereign nations are to be settled through direct relations among sovereign nations. The immediate focus of reorganization measures is upon indebtedness to private commercial banks.

Appropriate financial institutions of developing nations, which may be termed "development banks," shall issue gold-ECU-denominated medium- and long-term deferred-payment bonds at nominal interest rates. These bonds shall be discountable in the same manner as regular bonds of the central facility; these bonds shall be used either to purchase held-over debts to private commercial banks, or as new commercial debts. This reestablishes the "credit-worthiness" of the developing nations participating in such agreements, and also revitalizes the credit-issuing powers of the relevant commercial banking institutions.

(6) The participating nations must adopt a code of standards for recommended reforms in internal taxation and credit policies of both industrialized and capital-importing nations. The object is to lessen the relative burden of taxation on productive varieties of capital improvements, and to provide preferential terms and conditions of credit for productive capital-formation and, for those related scientific, educational, and medical programs contributing to the development and maintenance of the productive powers of the populations.

(7) The new monetary system shall also be defined as a sponsor for multinational partnerships among public and private institutions of nations participating in fulfilling a development project for a customer-nation—temporary, multinational "trading companies."

This shift from the devolutionary combined policies of austerity and "appropriate technologies" respecting the developing-nations sector will remove the principal cause for instabilities and repressive regimes among developing nations.

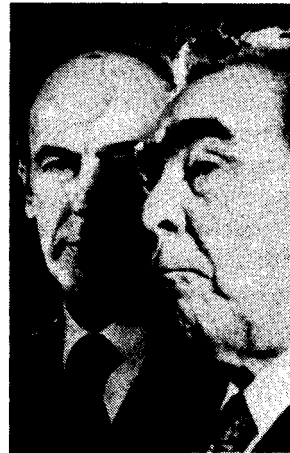
This effect should be reinforced by an adopted policy of hostility toward stagnation and devolutionary policies among developing nations, a policy which might be aptly identified as an "anti-Pol Pot" supplement of clarification to the Nuremberg code.

This amplification of the code of international law should be cosponsored by the United States of America, the member-nations of the European Monetary System, the Soviet Union, Japan, Mexico, and India, plus such other nations as indicate their wish to immediately cosponsor such a resolution. *This should not be conditional upon proceedings of the United Nations Organization.* This agreement must be viewed as establishing a "community of principle" among a sufficient portion of the nations of the world as to constitute a treaty-alliance backed by an

overwhelming political force. Those nations whose governments choose to exert their sovereign prerogatives of being adversaries to such a doctrine need but go to "stand on the other side of the room," so to speak....

Agreement among the cited principal nations of the Atlantic Alliance and Warsaw Pact to this principle, combined with the establishment of the new monetary order, eliminates the obstacles to war-avoidance otherwise erupting from conditions within the developing sector.

The special case to be resolved is the Arab-Israel conflict. Subject to secondary adjustments, the state of Israel must be assured peace guaranteed by the principal alliances within the so-called 1967 borders, on condition of its disengagement from Lebanon and its sponsorship of a prompt plebescite among the present and former inhabitants of the so-called West Bank and Gaza Strip respecting the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state for those territories....



"Ultimately, the Gaullist conception of 'Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals' can be realized through combined forms of East-West, North-South economic cooperation..."

B. Medium-term war-avoidance

Medium-term war-avoidance is established through Comecon cooperation with the new monetary system.

Ultimately, the Gaullist conception of "Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals" can be realized through those combined forms of East-West, North-South economic cooperation which develop combined efforts in development of the developing sector—in other words, through a modern application of the principle of "Grand Design" of Henri IV and Leibniz....

Those portions of the Comecon leadership which object to "revitalizing the capitalist system" might see themselves as the mythology-ridden fools the consequences of their foolish doctrines imminently declare them to be. Presume that the Soviet Union could win general war under the conditions defined by present trend-lines. At what price? At what risk to the very

survival of even all but lower forms of life on this planet? Is a mere mythological conceit worth that?

As for the demand that "disarmament" must be the first step, the fact that "SALT" was abruptly junked the moment the ongoing crisis reached a certain maturity ought to have taught the more sensible fellows a lesson.

First, there must be durable peace—and only then can there be disarmament. You of the Warsaw Pact who might successfully refuse to accept and act upon that lesson will thereby create within the Western Alliance the conditions under which a spectacular economic recovery is accomplished, all for the purpose of effecting a crushing advantage in military power. Do not imagine that such a mobilization is not feasible. It is not feasible under conditions of IMF "conditionalities" or continued toleration of "environmentalism" and the rock-drug youth counterculture—that is true. But if those two disabling doctrines are crushed, the medium-term military potentials of the Western Alliance are greater than those of the Warsaw Pact. If you think not, you console yourselves with your own ignorance of the ABCs of actual political economic science.

Disarmament comes after peace, and only then.

Whoever makes "socialism versus capitalism" the underlying issue of present relations between the Atlantic Alliance and Warsaw Pact is ensuring general war during some time within this century.

If that adversary relationship is made fundamental, then the side which makes the industrial, high-technology development of the developing-nations sector its cause will be the side which commands the balance of strategic power for general war.

That is the issue posed immediately by the accomplishment of the first phase of monetary and related reorganization outlined above. Once the first phase is completed, the conditions for immediate general war between the Warsaw Pact and Atlantic Alliance are eliminated—assuming the containment of the Peking regime. However, unless this first phase proceeds to the second phase, the first phase defines the range of geopolitical options for deferred general war during this century.

If the Western Alliance mobilizes itself, as the United States mobilized during World War II, for the rapid industrial development of the developing-nations sector, within the second half of the first decade of such development, the growth of combined economic power represented by the new monetary system will be beyond the imagination of previous generations. The subsumption of military development by such economic expansion of the base will be of a corresponding potential magnitude and quality.

If this were to occur under persistence of hard relations between the two military alliances, a new quality of

adversary condition would emerge toward the end of the present decade.

The only point at which the adversary course of development could be forestalled, is during the present period of perceived grave crisis. If the present resources of the Soviet Union are focused appropriately to aid in bringing the world out of the present economic crisis, that cooperation will shape the institutional relations of the coming decade. If the Soviet Union places itself, or is kept in a hostile position respecting the recovery from that economic crisis, then the new geometry of deferred general war will be the institutionalized characteristic of the coming decade. . . .



"Mankind must get its head out of the mud of this planet Earth and begin to dedicate itself to take over the management of the physical processes of our solar system. . . ."

C. The distinction between "war-avoidance and "peace"

It ought to be clear enough that the two initial phases of negotiations we have outlined thus far do not establish peace, but merely institutionalize effective *war-avoidance*. They are, for reasons we have indicated, *the minimal actions without which there is no war-avoidance*.

These two steps of war-avoidance are to be viewed as generating the sort of momentum which can lead to a further development, the establishment of durable peace on a positive basis. . . .

The concluding phase of the process leading toward peace (as distinct from war-avoidance) is the institutionalization of a fifty-year global policy embracing three interconnected elements of economic development.

The foundation of the three-aspect global policy is the setting of a goal of two generations of development—approximately the year 2030—as the fulfillment of a process of high-technology transformation of the developing-nations sector which brings those nations into a state of approximate parity in conditions of material standard of living and productive powers with the conditions to be reached in the presently industrialized sector

by that time. About two generations of development of the productive powers of labor in the developing nations will be required, with concentrated efforts, to achieve that.

Second, during that period we must bring to an end all foreseeable shortages of "natural resources." This can be accomplished in only one way: the development of controlled thermonuclear fusion processes to sufficiently high energy flux densities. We must bring "first generation" fusion-energy production "commercially" on line by the early 1990s, and must reach energy flux densities adequate to overcoming all foreseeable "natural resources" problems economically by the interval between 2020 and 2030.

Third, mankind must get its head out of the mud of this planet Earth, and begin to dedicate itself to take over the management of the physical processes of our solar system.

To almost any scientist, the reason for that commitment is more or less clear. Such scientists might differ in choice of specific arguments for such an orientation, but the general direction of thought would be shared in common. For others, some clarification is warranted.

The initial objective of intrasolar operations is not to move "surplus populations" into artificial earth-like environments produced on Mars. The initial objectives are scientific. The discoveries made possible through exploration of nearby regions of our galaxy will be an integral part of qualitative advances in mastering the lawful ordering of our universe. Laboratories, explorations, and large-scale observational capabilities in nearby solar space, including the Moon and Mars, are the obvious means for fostering this progress....

We note that the "fall of Skylab" was entirely a consequence of Carter administration pinch-penny lunacy in related matters of research and development allocations. Moreover, had NASA not been gutted increasingly over the post-1966 period, leaving just about enough to complete the initially scheduled moon shots and a few other tentative operations, we should probably already have manned a station on the Moon, and might also have manned a station on Mars, which we might have named "Little America," in echo of Admiral Richard Byrd's appealing heroism in Antarctica. What we learned from the limited amount of exploration actually accomplished leaves no doubt of the actuality of the massive discoveries probably not to be achieved in any other way.

Beyond the scientific phase of such explorations, mankind is going into solar space—and further—within a generation or two, provided he does not exterminate himself earlier. By fifty years from now, people should be moving into space in substantial numbers, and we will be creating suitable "artificial environments" on the Moon

(or, beneath its surface), on Mars, and in "space stations." No doubt, beyond that, there will be Earth "settlements" beyond Earth. This will occur not to escape overcrowded conditions on Earth, but because the work to be done there requires their presence.

Apart from the fact that conquest of space is indispensable to progress of life on Earth, as a matter of fostering scientific progress, we shall go there because we are human. We need not speculate on "other intelligent beings" analogous to ourselves in this universe—except for the creative intelligence embodied in the universe as a whole, of whose existence we may be already scientifically certain. We shall go into space for the same reason we have accepted our duty to exert dominion over the Earth. It is our business to master each next challenge placed within our reach. It is the development of our creative potentials, our divine qualities, which we further by grasping each new, more challenging task set before us. Just as the forebears of my faction created the nation-state during the fifteenth century in service of that purpose, we must now go out to master solar space, and later what is available to us beyond.

With that perspective, we at last pull our heads out of the mud....

The three-aspect, 50-year perspective we have identified here is the comprehensible expression of that purpose for the present generation. The interconnection among the transformation of the developing sector, the end to raw materials predicaments for our species, and the scientific mastery of nearby space are all feasible and essentially comprehensible tasks. They are tasks that express purpose, not only for each nation, but for each individual within those nations....

I write this, substantially aware that what I am writing here was considered with alarm by elements of the British Psychological Warfare Executive during the second half of the 1960s. I am aware that they were alarmed by the manifest moral effects on the American population of the NASA effort to outpace the Soviet Union in space (and implicitly, weapons technology of the sort correlated with space technologies). I am aware that they proposed not only to slash NASA efforts for that reason, but promoted the "SALT" process chiefly in the effort to induce the Soviets to relieve the United States from the proscience pressure of Soviet high-technology progress in such dimensions....

The proponents of the neo-Malthusian antiscience view have had the same epistemological differences over decades. I propose the space orientation for the same reason of fact they oppose it. Those who proposed the cutting down of NASA were wrong, were part of the effort leading to the present war danger. For related reasons, reversing their policy, as I have indicated here, is part of the pathway toward peace.