Draft legislation for a U.S. beam program

The National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) will be circulating the following draft legislation among Congressmen and Senators in the special session of Congress that opens Nov. 29. The bill was drafted by the Fusion Energy Foundation.

The NDPC, whose advisory committee is chaired by EIR *founder Lyndon LaRouche, plans a vigorous lobbying campiagn in Washington, D.C., and around the country to gain both popular support and congressional sponsors for the introduction of the bill in the next session of Congress.*

The Directed Energy Beam Ballistic Missile Defense Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1983

A bill to provide for an accelerated program of research, development, and demonstration of directed energy beam weapons to protect the United States from thermonuclear attack within a decade, to be carried out by the Department of Defense.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that this Act may be cited as the "Directed Energy Beam Ballistic Missile Defense Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1983."

Section 2. (a) The Congress hereby finds that:

(1) the world's military balance has been determined for the past 25 years by the existence of an offensive weapon of mass destruction, the nuclear-armed intercontinental ballistic missile, for which there is no defense;

(2) the world's population has been held hostage for 30 years in a purposeful policy of assured vulnerability, in the name of deterrence of the use of these weapons;

(3) the United States has had no protection from the holocaust that would result from the explosion of even a single hydrogen weapon on any city;

(4) there has been no recourse in this period should even an accidental launching of a nuclear-armed ballistic missile occur, an event that could destroy as many as 15 cities in the United States;

(5) the past three years have brought a series of technological successes whose cumulative import is that it is now possible to begin constructing a means of destroying a limited number of nuclear-armed ballistic missiles in mid-flight, after launch, but before their warheads have been released;

(6) these technological advances using directed energy-beam weapons are inherently defensive capabilities and will form the basis of the national security of the United States in the next decades;

(7) directed energy-beam weapons refer to the use of laser, particle, and other forms of coherent high-energy sources to disarm offensive nuclear weapons systems;

(8) expert opinion indicates that the technologies exist to begin construction of such directed energy-beam weapons which, in the next five years, would be capable of destroying any missiles launched accidentally by any Nation and that these technologies could be perfected in the next decade to provide a large margin of protection in the event of a large-scale or total nuclear attack;

(9) according to published reports by the Defense Department and the United States General Accounting Office, the Soviet Union is currently spending at least three times as much money as the United States in the development of defensive beam-weapons systems, and the program in the United States has been only a research effort and not a development effort; the consequences of this imbalance thus threaten U.S. national security;

(10) the technology of beam weapons has been provided largely by similar research on nuclear fusion;

(11) these same directed energy-beam weapon technologies, when applied in the civilian sector, would accelerate the development of thermonuclear fusion power, which is an unlimited source of energy, as well as a full array of plasma technologies and civilian space applications;

(12) the stimulation of all nuclear and related energy technologies from the directed energy-beam research would be the basis of a renewed "Atoms for Peace" program for nuclear exports, and would ensure international economic development, which would decrease the possibility of war; and

(13) the programs established by this Act will require the expenditure of approximately $10 billion during the next 10 years.

Section 2. (b) It is therefore declared to be the policy of the United States and the purpose of this Act to establish an aggressive research, development, and demonstration program involving directed energy-beam weapons systems. Further, it is declared to be the policy of the United States and the purpose of this Act that the objectives of this program are:

(1) to propose immediately with the work necessary to deploy a high-energy laser system within the next five years that could provide a defensive capability against a small number of nuclear-armed intercontinental ballistic missiles;

(2) to accelerate research and development of short-wavelength laser and particle-beam programs with the goal of determining the optimum research and development path for succeeding generations of beam weapons designed to provide complete protection of the United States against nuclear war, and of putting this system in place within a decade;

(3) to take appropriate measures, modeled on the National Defense Education Act as originally adopted, to ensure the provision of adequate scientific and engineering manpower for the development of these weapons systems and the civilian energy and space technologies that will emerge from applications of this research and development;

(4) to take the necessary steps to ensure the fullest participation of the private sector, colleges, and universities; other government agencies; and allied Nations in the directed energy-beam weapon development program, recognizing that defensive technologies do not pose a threat to the national security of the United States and that these technologies will not be classified, except as they overlap offensive weapons technologies; and

(5) to consider these technologies, therefore, unclassified until reviewed by a panel including the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which, at its discretion, may restrict access.

Section 3. The Secretary of the Department of Defense is directed:

(1) to conduct a review jointly with the Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, of the directed energy-beam weapon program and provide, within one year, a program for the most rapid development of this technology, based on the readiness of the technology, rather than budgetary considerations;

(2) to conduct an in-depth review of military strategy to replace the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) and all aspects of "deterrence" doctrine;

(3) to provide the Department of State with the necessary information and guidance to design a renewed "Atoms for Peace" program based on the export of advanced fission and fusion technologies for peaceful uses;

(4) to provide the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency with the necessary information and guidance to prepare a new proposal to the government of the Soviet Union for negotiation of a mutual agreement for the development of defensive weapons by both Nations that would ensure that no third power would ever use the weapon of nuclear blackmail;

(5) to work with the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to ensure the transfer of technology in all applicable areas to the civilian sector; and

(6) to work with the Department of Energy to ensure optimal progress in inertial and magnetic nuclear fusion programs.

Section 4. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1984, $300 million inclusive of any funds otherwise authorized to the Secretary for the purpose of research, development, and demonstration of directed energy-beam weapons for ballistic missile defense, and for each succeeding fiscal year such sums as may hereafter be provided in annual authorization acts.

LaRouche open letter poses policy choice

The following open letter was written by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. in response to a Boston Globe *editorial.*

Re: Editorial, Beam-Weapons
November 14, 1982

Dear Sir:

I am delighted that your newspaper has offered a policy of open debate on the issue of deploying space-based antimissile beam-weapons. Since I am one of the principal co-authors of this policy, if you mean what your editorial avows to be your present policy, you would wish to receive and publish summary arguments from me.

The history of beam-weapons feasibility began in 1859, with the publication of a paper, "On the Propagation of Plane Waves of Finite Amplitude," by Göttingen University Professor Bernhard Riemann. Riemann examined from an advanced standpoint, the principles of hydrodynamics first known to have been discovered by Leonardo da Vinci, applying this to predict, in particular, the generation of accousticial shock-waves such as "sonic booms."

Since then, that paper has had many applications apart from aerohydrodynamics. Erwin Schroedinger's development of his treatment of the electron, isentropic compression to effect thermonuclear ignition, and various other applications are notable.

In any coherent wave-generation, the same principle elaborated by Riemann applies. In treating the range systems, from ordinary lasers, through x-ray lasers, and so-called particle-beam systems, we produce shock-like effects, ranging from the ablative action of military laser-weapons, to the more pronounced, bullet-like shock of beams of higher energy-flux density. All such systems are generically subsumed by the term "beam-weapons."

Although it is feasible to develop beam-weapons systems which might "punch through" the atmosphere, the simplest and most readily feasible systems are those deployed either in space-orbit of our planet, or in more sophisticated, mobile space conveyances. The near-term feasibility of developing and deploying such anti-missile defensive weapons-systems is well established, on condition that a NASA-like effort is implemented. Our objective should be to assure annihilation of the proverbial 99 + 44/100ths percent of all incoming nuclear missiles.