

Mondale parrots Moscow, launches anti-beam drive

by Nancy Spannaus

Taking his cue from leading members of the Soviet Politburo, Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale has launched the last phase of the election campaign: an all-out attempt to kill the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative.

Mondale's hysterical blasts against what he calls "Star Wars" have been widely publicized, and promise to figure prominently in the final presidential "debate" on Oct. 21. What has been less publicized is the fact that Mondale took his orders directly from his Soviet controllers.

It was on Oct. 13, one day before Mondale's radio ad centered in on the beam defense issue, that the director-general of the Soviet news agency Tass reiterated that aborting "Washington's decision to deploy extensive antimissile systems in outer space" was the U.S.S.R.'s top strategic priority.

Politburo member and Central Committee Secretary responsible for Soviet defense industries Grigorii Romanov re-emphasized the point the next day. Speaking from Finland, he said that the U.S.S.R. deems it a "most urgent task to prevent the militarization of outer space."

That was enough for Mondale—he hasn't been able to stop talking about the issue since.

Why now?

From the very beginning of the electoral campaign, it was clear that the crucial strategic issue was President Reagan's commitment of the nation to a revolution in strategic posture away from Mutually Assured Destruction to strategic defense. For this reason, Democratic presidential contender Lyndon LaRouche laid major stress on this issue during the primary season—a tactic which drew a continuous series of vituperative articles against LaRouche from Moscow.

But, except for one Mondale speech in Cleveland, Ohio,

the strategic defense issue did not feature in the media campaign that passes for the election campaign.

Suddenly, things have changed—putting the most crucial issue of the post-war period in the center of the electoral debate. What happened?

The secret probably lies in what did *not* happen in the Reagan-Gromyko talks. Those talks, set up by Henry Kissinger in his capacity of supervisor of the backchannel relationship to Moscow, were intended to create the basis by which the President would agree to negotiate away the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Kissinger said as much in his *Los Angeles Times* article right before the talks began.

But all indications show that Reagan did not budge on the issue. Having failed to intimidate the President into giving up the SDI, the Soviets called in their reinforcements—the KGB wing of the Democratic Party.

The Oct. 17 interview given by Soviet Party chief Konstantin Chernenko to the *Washington Post* gives strong indications that it is precisely the adamancy of the President on the SDI that has "freaked out" the Russians into deploying their agents openly behind their major propaganda thrust on "Star Wars." Chernenko put it this way:

Every time we put forward concrete proposals, they would run into a blind wall. . . . Such was the case in June when we proposed reaching agreement on preventing the militarization of outer space. . . . An attempt was made to substitute the very subject of negotiations. It was proposed to discuss issues related to nuclear weapons, i.e., issues which had previously been discussed at the talks in Geneva that were wrecked by the U.S. itself. . . . [sic] And what about outer space? Instead of preventing an arms race in space,

we were invited to proceed to working out some rules for such a race, and in fact to legalize it. Obviously, we cannot agree to that [emphasis added].

Did President Reagan, either in the recent talks or in the interchange with the Soviets in June, actually put forward the idea first proposed in Lyndon LaRouche's *Draft Memorandum on Soviet-American Relations*, the idea of a controlled "arms race" in space? Chernenko surely implies that he did.

President Reagan gave an equally strong signal that he was not about to budge from the point of view that led him to present the SDI in the first place, in an interview given to *U.S. News and World Report* on Oct. 22. In response to the first question, which asked whether he held to his view of the Russians as an "evil empire," Reagan gave a slightly qualified "yes." But the only qualification was that his characterization of the Russians was taken from their descriptions of themselves!

Reagan went on to reiterate his continued commitment to the SDI. Calling beam weapons "a marvelous thing" that could defend the West very effectively against nuclear attack, the President reminded Americans,

You know I never called it "Star Wars," and I never even suggested it might involve only space systems. I simply said that nuclear arms are the first weapon that man has created without also creating a defense against it. . . . It just seemed to me that we should find a defensive weapon that wouldn't threaten to kill their people if they tried to kill ours. If we could produce such a weapon, it could be the means of actually getting rid of nuclear arms once and for all. . . . I happen to believe that if there's any common sense in the world at all, we not only should reduce nuclear weapons, we should eliminate them.

If the "Old Fox" Gromyko couldn't intimidate Reagan, obviously the Soviets had to try a new tactic.

Mondale goes ape

Hence the new deployment of Walter Mondale. While the Democrats have previously concentrated on the economic issue and general ad hominem drivel, like the President's age, they are now buckling down to the single issue of "Star Wars." In a buildup to the Oct. 21 debate, Mondale's campaign put out a 30-second prime time TV ad to dramatize the message.

The Mondale commercial is designed to create, and exacerbate, fears within the population of nuclear technologies.

"Ronald Reagan is determined to put killer weapons in space," it argues. "The Soviets will have to match us, and the arms race will rage out of control, orbiting, aiming, waiting, with a response time to fire so short there'll be no time to wake a President. Computers will take control. On Nov. 6, you can take control. No weapons in space by either

side. Draw the line at the heaven, with Mondale."

The atmospheric is even more hysterical. The commercial begins with a satellite view of the Earth, which the viewer eventually realizes is on a television monitor in the middle of a war room. There are no humans in that war room—just glowing computer screens and buttons.

In the foreground of the picture is the "red telephone," ringing away unanswered. When an alarm buzzer goes off, the computer system begins to flash the graphics of a program into "relentless" motion, which is only stopped when the announcer declares that the viewer "can take control."

Will this appeal to hysteria work? It's unlikely. Surveys taken throughout the United States indicate that at least 80% of the U.S. population supports the President's policy of "making nuclear missiles impotent and obsolete" through strategic defense. Rather than delivering a killer blow to the Reagan camp, the Moscow-created strategy for the last part of Mondale's campaign is likely to bring forward the President's best side, and the massive support for the President on the issue of defense.

The media does its part

Moscow puppet Mondale, of course, is not operating alone. On the inside of the Reagan administration, urging him not to look "warlike," are the Kissingerites like James Baker and Michael Deaver. They will do the best they can to prevent him from effectively presenting the correctness and necessity of the Strategic Defense Initiative.

On the outside, and more potent, are the KGB supporters among the media. There is not a major daily newspaper in the United States which supports the President in the most crucial aspect of the fight against Moscow's drive for world domination. No matter how well the President defends his program, they are likely to pan him.

But there is another crucial aspect to the media campaign, which has now gone into high gear. Already the media is beginning to try to make a "credible" case that Mondale is closing the gap, and is set to win the election.

The major tool being used is the "opinion poll." When the polling started right after the Democratic Party convention, all sources indicated that the President was leading the Carter leftover by over 30%. Now, the same polls are claiming that the gap is less than 10%. This is absurd, but indicates quite an evil intention.

In addition, the media is playing up that the Mondale campaign has registered millions of new voters in the largely black and Hispanic inner cities around the country. This "Big Vote"-style style operation, similar to that which allowed the Carter-Mondale machine to steal the vote away from Gerry Ford in 1976, appears to be ready to go into operation as well. Not that all these newly registered individuals will vote, of course. The Mondale machine will simply vote for them.

It will take a major outpouring of votes *against* Mondale, and for Reagan and LaRouche, to avoid this KGB-sponsored tampering with the election from being successful.