

Editorial

Time to wake up!

Since the third Gorbachov-Reagan Summit, in Washington last November, we have been warning that the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) would be a disaster for the Western Alliance. Many who think of themselves as committed patriots, within the defense and intelligence communities, disagreed with us. "It's bad," they said, "but we can live with it."

We also warned that the friends and associates of Lyndon LaRouche were coming under special attack by the Justice Department, as part of the summit wheeling and dealing. Because LaRouche was the author of the policy to deploy what became known as the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), and because he has been one of the most vocal advocates of deploying advanced systems such as radio-frequency weapons (which the Soviets themselves are developing in a big way), they were determined to eliminate him from the scene.

Now the Justice Department is moving against the Pentagon itself, and the defense budget is being whittled away. Already further cuts, to the amount of \$30 billion, are being mooted to meet new deficits which will bring in the automatic Gramm-Rudman apparatus.

Worse still, the Strategic Defense Initiative appears slated to become a dead letter not only because it is starved of funds, but because Sen. Sam Nunn's ludicrous proposal for the deployment of an Accidental Launch Protection System (ALPS) is now being suggested as an alternative to the SDI, to be deployed in Washington, D.C.

Perhaps now, those patriots who felt that it was a priority to protect their own positions—their ability to remain in place in order to be able to fight the next bureaucratic battle—will recognize their mistake. Who besides LaRouche and his associates are presently defending the Western alliance? What has been the practical result of capitulating on the INF treaty.

If sufficient patriots wake up before it is too late, the present massive attack against the U.S. and NATO defense capabilities, may have the same salutary effect as the U.S. defeat at Pearl Harbor, but now as then, we are paying a heavy price for stupidity—not to speak of

outright treason. The Western alliance to all practical purposes is on the verge of being handed over to the Soviets.

Whatever examples of malfeasance may be unearthed, the plain fact is that the Justice Department raid is undermining the U.S. defense capability at a time when it is otherwise extremely vulnerable. The principle of *cui bono* should be applied to underscore that the kind of stealth tactics which were deployed against employees of the Department and the aerospace industry can only be to the benefit of the Soviets.

Behind the raid is the unspoken assumption that it does not matter if U.S. defenses are partially crippled, since the Soviets are really our friends after all. We don't have to remain at the ready. The same assumption is leading to actions which *de facto* mean an end to the Strategic Defense Initiative as a serious capability.

Phase I of the system was scheduled for deployment in the early nineties; now the best we can hope for would be a 1998 deployment, under present conditions. However, the likelihood is that the program will be canceled.

It is now clear that the resignation of Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger was a policy turning point. His successor Frank Carlucci, immediately upon taking office, called for a review of the SDI by the Defense Science Board Task Force Subgroup on Strategic Air Defense. This is a standing committee of independent "experts." They have recently come up with recommendations, which if accepted will essentially scrap the SDI in favor of ALPS. They call for a priority to be given to the development of sensors, at the expense of defensive weaponry, and they give favorable consideration to the "treaty compliant deployment" of 100 fixed ground-based long range interceptors—in other words of Senator Nunn's ALPS.

The situation will be even worse if Governor Dukakis becomes President, because he has already declared that he will do away with the SDI in favor of what he cynically has named the Conventional Defense Initiative (CDI).