

Russian media play up LaRouche support of anti-missile plan

by Our Special Correspondent

While a strange and suspicious blackout continued in the West of the Russian proposal at the April 3-4 Vancouver summit for joint work with the United States on plasma weapon defenses, in Russia itself the support of Lyndon LaRouche for the proposal received prominent media coverage.

The vehicle was the large banner displayed outside the Clinton-Yeltsin summit by LaRouche associates, which *EIR* featured as its cover photo in last week's issue. The banner, stating LaRouche's support for U.S.-Russian "SDI" cooperation, was filmed two nights running on Russian television. The Itar-Tass news agency sent out a wirephoto of it which appeared in several Russian newspapers. As of April 12, an *EIR* correspondent visiting Moscow reported that the photo was on display in the lobby of the TASS offices, in an exhibit of their most interesting photos of the week.

So in Russia, the proposal for "joint plasma weapons experiments" publicized in the newspaper *Izvestia* on April 2 (see *EIR*, April 16, p. 26) is being taken very seriously. It is obvious that many there, particularly among scientific circles, realize that their proposal evokes the policy for which Lyndon LaRouche became enemy number one of the Soviet dictatorships of Yuri Andropov and Mikhail Gorbachov.

U.S. slow to react

By contrast, in the United States, media coverage is being withheld generally, and the Clinton administration has not made public what its reaction will be. However, a delegation of American scientists reportedly to be headed by a senior official of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (SDIO) is being organized to go to Russia for discussions of the proposal. (Under the Bush administration, negotiations with Russia about common anti-missile defense efforts were transferred to the control of the State Department, a formula to make sure they went nowhere, since Secretary of State James Baker was a dedicated enemy of the whole SDI concept.) The Clinton administration's reaction to this crucial proposal may be being slowed by the fact that President Clinton himself has still filled so few significant positions in his government.

Lyndon LaRouche, when the Russian proposal first

appeared in *Izvestia*, said that "this may be the opening for President Clinton to make a radical change or effect a radical shift in an otherwise rapidly deteriorating world situation."

Numerous sources consulted—both in Russia, and veteran western observers of Russia—about the new policy offer the Russians call *Doveriye* ("Trust"), have stressed that the scientific institute leaders who originated the proposal are the most reality-oriented circles in all Russia. They are, by long cultural and political as well as scientific tradition, the best and most reliable force for the West to deal with.

LaRouche elaborated on April 11: "In this case we run smack up against the question: If the Russian leadership, particularly the military-industrial complex and other science-oriented types, adopts a policy on the basis of reason, will the Russian population be willing to implement the policy, or will they slip back into the same kind of peasant mentality which was such an obstacle to economic development under the Soviets?"

This depends on how rapidly and decisively that radical change from the Clinton administration can be brought forth, in economic and scientific policy toward Russia and Europe as a whole.

LaRouche stressed this political context in his weekly radio interview "*EIR* Talks With Lyndon LaRouche" on April 8, the Russian offer "signals to the Clinton administration—and also signals to the old anti-Bush Reagan people whom most people have forgotten about, and to a lot of other people around the world—is that the present strategic arrangements are breaking down. There is no hope for any part of the world, including the United States, if we continue to make policies under the influence of prevailing assumptions of the International Monetary Fund, the Federal Reserve faction in the United States, and so forth.

"The Russians are on the point of recognizing that; they know they cannot go on the way they are going. They wish to maintain a cooperative relationship with the United States for many reasons. What they did, was to take the fact that they are ahead of the United States in a couple of scientific areas, to make an offer whose implication is to start this kind

of cooperation in the direction of technological and scientific progress as the basis for relations, in direct opposition to Andropov's policy 10 years ago."

'No SDI when we need it'

The view of those in U.S. industry and the military who understood the SDI concept best, was expressed by one former service chief of staff: "We have no SDI now when we need it the most."

The Russian scientific academies are, in fact, proposing a "new SDI," (or, as they see it, an alternative to the SDI), based precisely upon the most fundamentally new physical principles and technologies, which were also precisely the basis of LaRouche's outline of a strategic antiballistic-missile defense program. This involves the interaction of directed energy beams with plasmas.

There is very advanced scientific work ongoing in both countries in the areas required for the anti-missile plasma weapons the Russians propose. The lead Russian scientist for the proposal, Academician Rimili Avramenko, told *Izvestia* that "it is well known that Russia possesses significant achievements and advantages in the area of building powerful microwave generators (potential components of a plasma weapon) and in a new area of science—plasma gas dynamics. The U.S., meanwhile, would provide its solid state electronics and computer technology."

American scientists familiar with SDI work of the past say that the Russian proposal "is serious and viable," and involves special characteristics of powerful pulses of microwaves, which are low-frequency electromagnetic waves of the radio-frequency range. When two optical laser beams converge, they merely add to each other. But when two microwave pulses converge, the effect is one of "constructive interference," similar to the way the convergence of several powerful deep-ocean swells forms a *tsunami*, or tidal wave. There is a geometric (not merely mathematical) increase in intensity.

Using this characteristic, the American scientists conjecture, the Russians are proposing long-range experiments (over the Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific, for example) to generate powerful microwave pulses from two or more sites at once on the ground or on shipboard. The beams would be made to intersect in the upper atmosphere *in front of a target*, and ionize that region of the atmosphere to form a moving plasma, through which the missile or warhead cannot pass without being disabled.

Formed in the upper atmosphere in this way, the plasmas (or "plasmoids," as moving or accelerated plasmas are called) could also couple their energy to the plasma which already forms around the heat-shield of a warhead as it descends through the atmosphere, causing destructive electrical overloads to disable the warhead's electronics.

Izvestia provided sketches of how these beams would be generated and produce this effect. In the laboratory, the

eminent Russian physicist Pyotr Kapitsa was demonstrating this effect more than 20 years ago, and the LaRouche-initiated *Fusion* magazine was reporting those experiments.

EIR informs Washington

Very obvious political pressure has been applied to U.S. newspapers and military and technical newsletters, clearly detected in conversations with their editors, to avoid covering the Russian plasma weapons proposal. Ridiculous stories have been circulated and printed to accomplish this, the most incredible being that the Russian announcement three days before the summit (April 1), was an April Fool's joke. What is hiding behind this stupid lethargy is fear of a Russian move *with a policy of Lyndon LaRouche*, and furthermore, with a policy which demands a major scientific and economic response from the United States; as LaRouche said, a radical shift in the axioms of policy.

On April 15, *EIR* broke the silence by holding a high-profile strategic briefing in Washington on the details and the implications of the Russian proposal. While Capitol Hill representatives did not attend, the diplomatic representatives and news agencies of 13 nations did, including Russia, China, Ukraine, the European Community, Japan, Canada, and seven nations of the Third World. They heard former Fusion Energy Foundation Director Paul Gallagher and *EIR* Counterintelligence Director Jeffrey Steinberg discuss the multiple ramifications of the Russian proposal.

Gallagher emphasized that the Russian offer is perhaps the "last and best opportunity in this period for the United States to abandon geopolitics and instead embrace a policy that will lead to the rapid development of Eurasia" and finally lay the basis for a real war avoidance policy worldwide. Adoption of the Russian proposal is "the only way to avert World War III." Gallagher described the Russian proposal as fundamentally different from the past 14 months of discussions between the United States and Russia on strategic defense issues, in that it "embodies those physical principles and technologies that have held the promise for creating a new industrial revolution for the past 25 years."

Steinberg pointed out that the *Izvestia* piece did not come as a surprise to everyone: Just 12 days before it appeared, LaRouche had told the a national conference of his political movement that now was the time to put the SDI back on the world's agenda. Steinberg went through a detailed history of how the initial SDI came about, detailing the roles of LaRouche, *EIR*, and the Fusion Energy Foundation, and emphasized the irony that the LaRouche-Reagan proposal which the Soviets had rejected initially, had now been taken up by the Russians themselves as a proposal to the U.S. government.

At the briefing, the *EIR* representatives released the pre-publication copies of an *aide-memoire* on the new developments, entitled "The Crucial Role of Lyndon LaRouche in the Current Strategic Situation."