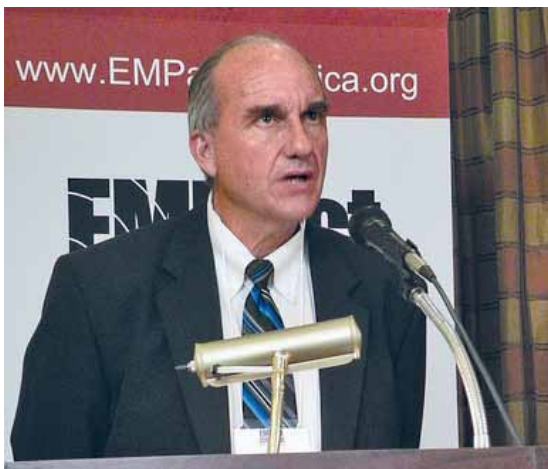


Call for Trump To Revive Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative

by Dean Andromidas

Feb. 2—On May 5, 2017, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis initiated a Ballistic Missile Defense Review which is expected to be completed as early as next month. This is the first such review since 2010, and it has resulted in discussion in security circles about the revival of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) that had been first adopted as policy by President Ronald Reagan on March 23, 1983.

Dr. Peter Pry, the former chief of staff of the Congressional Commission to Assess the Threat to the



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United States from “Electromagnetic Pulse” Attack—has called on President Trump to relaunch the full SDI to replace the “dumbed down” version of ballistic missile defense now in place. Pry was also on the staff of the House Armed Services Committee.

In an op-ed in the widely read Washington-based daily, *The Hill*, on Jan. 17, titled “Trump must realize Reagan’s vision for Star Wars defense—and soon,” Dr. Pry described how Reagan’s SDI ended the cold war, but had been sabotaged after he left office.

He wrote:

SDI technology was proven and ready to deploy. But President Clinton opposed “Star Wars” ideologically. Protecting America risked Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) and ‘strategic stability.’ So Clinton’s Secretary of Defense, Les Aspin, boasted he ‘took the stars out of Star Wars,’ canceling SDI.

What remains is the technologically truncated National Missile Defense that cannot defend allies and has Hawaii hiding in bomb-shelters.

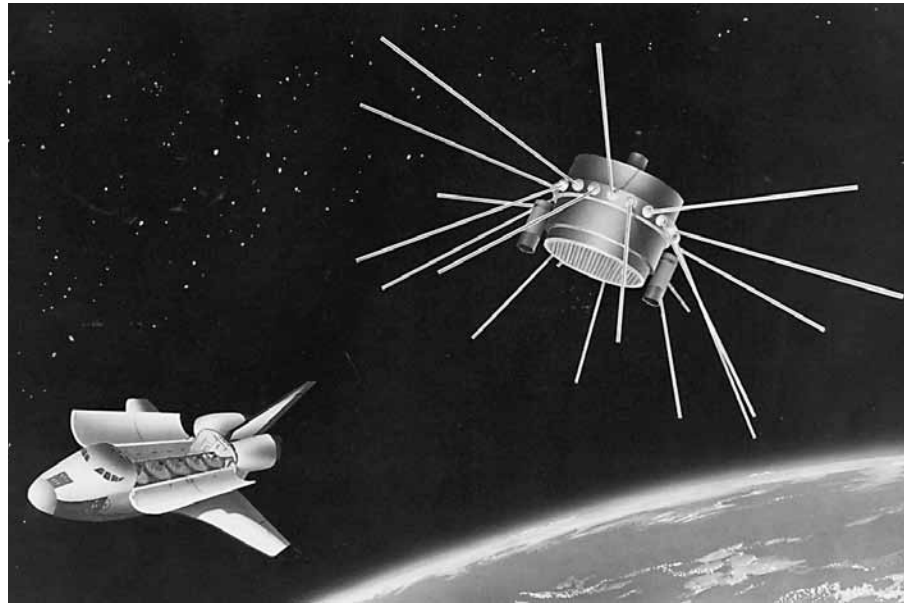
We can win the New Cold War by resurrecting SDI and deploying space-based missile defenses. We are still technologically superior to all potential adversaries and can leverage that superiority to protect America from growing nuclear missile threats. . . .

Space-based defenses offer revolutionary advantages over existing National Missile Defenses (NMD) that cannot protect U.S. allies or bases overseas, might be hard-pressed to defend the U.S. mainland against increasingly sophisticated North Korean threats, and cannot defend the U.S. from large-scale nuclear missile threats from Russia or China.

Most important, Pry stated: “‘Star Wars’ would render MAD obsolete, as Ronald Reagan intended, and really ‘provide for the common defense’ of the American people, instead of merely avenging them.”

Pry points out that “Section 1685 of the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (HR 2810) calls for ‘Boost phase ballistic missile defense,’ and Section 1688, [for a] ‘Plan for development of space-based ballistic missile intercept layer.’” As in Reagan’s SDI, both of those sections also call for “directed energy” weapons as well as interceptors.

Dr. Pry concluded: “If President Trump’s ballistic missile defense review runs with these provisions, President Reagan’s vision will be realized of replacing



EIRNS/Chris Sloan

Artist's conception of gamma ray laser satellite, an element of LaRouche's proposal for space-based strategic defense.

the insanity of MAD with the humanity of ‘Star Wars,’ as will his legacy of ‘peace through strength.’”

In a short interview with *EIR*, Dr. Pry confirmed that he is not only calling for the full SDI, including its “revolutionary” technologies, but also the need to cooperate with Russia to open the way for cooperation, as envisioned by Reagan.

Pry—as a Congressional aide—had previously worked with Congressmen, including former Representative Curt Weldon (R-Penna.), who were calling on President George H.W. Bush to accept Boris Yeltsin’s proposal in 1992 to cooperate on a Global Protection System modeled on the SDI. Pry stated that Weldon, who founded the Duma-Congress Study Group, was one of the biggest supporters of accepting Yeltsin’s proposal. In 2003 Weldon was targeted by the FBI based on claims of illegally receiving funds from Russia. While the ensuing investigation resulted in him not being re-elected, all charges were later proven to have been false.

Pry stated that although there is clearly support in the administration and Congress for the SDI, the current atmosphere created by the anti-Russian hysteria on the one hand, and establishment figures committed to so-called “strategic stability” on the other, could hold back President Trump from adopting a new SDI. Nonetheless, he emphasized, a fight is underway.