

Editorial

Zhirinovsky's 'doomsday weapon'

The Dec. 23 issue of the Italian daily newspaper *La Stampa* conveyed Christmas greetings to the West, as we were delivered Russia's Santa Claus, the self-avowed fascist Vladimir Zhirinovsky. He was quoted as warning that the Russians possessed a "doomsday weapon" based upon new physical principles.

This should be taken very seriously. According to Zhirinovsky, the new weapon, called the elipton, is undetectable and more dangerous than the atom bomb. In fact, he bragged, there is no defense whatsoever against it, and it has the capability to annihilate the entire world.

Whatever the truth of his claim, which we would guess is at the least mightily embellished, it brings to mind the real weapons capability of the former Soviet Union in the area of what we call the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Lyndon LaRouche and his associates in the Fusion Energy Foundation were well aware of the Soviet "beam weapons" program, and the proposal for what became known in the West as the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), as enunciated by President Reagan on March 23, 1983, was a response to this. The original proposal was for a global defensive shield against nuclear warheads which would be based upon the application of new physical principles such as electron beams, plasmoids, and high-energy lasers. The Tactical Defense Initiative was an adaptation of this, for the European theater in particular.

The meaning of Zhirinovsky's message/threat must be seen against the backdrop not only of the recent Russian elections, but also of the earlier Oct. 4 coup, which placed Boris Yeltsin strictly under the control of the Russian military and security forces. One might say that both Zhirinovsky and Yeltsin represent the same basic policy, although Zhirinovsky is more outspoken in his threats of a resurgent Russian nationalism. Indeed, it is really not correct to identify Zhirinovsky as a fascist or a Nazi; rather, he is expressing the much older Russian ideology which sees Russia as potentially the Third Roman Empire.

It was this impulse in Russian history about which LaRouche warned in 1983, after the Soviets violently rejected the Reagan SDI proposal and attacked Lyndon LaRouche as its author.

Now is the time for a general recognition of the fact that LaRouche was absolutely correct in this appraisal and in his version of the SDI proposal, which was based upon the development of an advanced scientific capability, rather than off-the-shelf technology, and upon a proposal for technology-sharing with the Soviets.

It is appropriate that in their report of Zhirinovsky's speech in Vienna, *La Stampa* correspondent De Martignetti noted that not even *Jane's Defense Weekly* knows exactly what Zhirinovsky is getting at, beyond the likelihood that it is some form of electron beam weapon. However, there is one place to go for the information—to Lyndon LaRouche and his associates. He writes: "If you want to find a track in the past, you must go back over 10 years, to the right-wing Schiller Foundation [sic] based in Germany, which publicly exposed Soviet work in beam weapons."

La Stampa's correct, if indirect, acknowledgement of the accuracy of LaRouche's assessment of the Russian military policy, is representative of growing international awareness of the importance of LaRouche's assessments and policy initiatives not only in the area of strategic policy, but also in economics.

The same blindness which allows the West to tolerate the looting of the world's infrastructure and means of production in order to support speculative investment, has allowed the folly of seeking to impose asset stripping and usury upon Russia, to the point where the increasingly impoverished Russian people are becoming justifiably bitterly enraged at the West, especially the Anglo-Saxons. Thus, while we are destroying our own military-industrial base, we are goading the Russians toward a military buildup. Perhaps *La Stampa's* reference to the role of the Schiller Institute is a sign that at least some people are waking up to this dangerous truth.