

## Editorial

### *SDI Redux*

Just five weeks after *EIR* published Lyndon LaRouche's comprehensive account of the fight for the Strategic Defense Initiative during the Reagan era ("When Andropov Played Hamlet to Reagan's SDI Proposal," April 21, 2000), President Clinton, on the eve of his first summit with the new Russian President, Vladimir Putin, is talking about sharing American ballistic missile defense technology with all "civilized" nations, Russia included.

LaRouche's idea of cooperation between Washington, Moscow, and other governments around the world, to make nuclear weapons obsolete, through the application of the most advanced scientific and technological discoveries known to man, is as sound an idea today, as it was back in the late 1970s and early 1980s, when LaRouche authored and championed what President Ronald Reagan adopted on March 23, 1983, as his Strategic Defense Initiative.

Back in 1983, there were three principal stumbling blocks to the realization of LaRouche and President Reagan's vision of a world, freed from the thermonuclear nightmare of Henry Kissinger's Mutually Assured Destruction. The first was Soviet President Yuri Andropov, who, as LaRouche explained in the recent *EIR* piece, could not break from his own Hamlet-like fears and paranoia, and take up the Reagan offer. Instead, we got the Russian shoot-down of Korean Airlines Flight 007, and the railroad jailing of Lyndon LaRouche, carried out with a Washington-London-Moscow triangular collusion.

The second stumbling block was the saboteurs inside the Pentagon and the Reagan camp, who attempted to hijack the original SDI plan and transform it into a Cold War provocation, drawing upon off-the-shelf junk technology that was certain to fail. LaRouche and qualified scientists, such as Dr. Edward Teller, denounced the likes of Gen. Daniel Graham and his High Frontier hoaxsters, every time they advocated anti-missile missiles, kinetic kill vehicles, and other Rube Goldberg systems that violated all principles of science and warfare.

In addition to the Danny Graham crowd, the George Bush/James Baker III camp inside the Reagan Administration did everything in their power to water down and

destroy President Reagan's vision, up to the moment when the President delivered his March 23 speech, and beyond.

The third source of sabotage of the Reagan SDI came from the Democratic Party. Recently, when Texas Governor George W. Bush delivered a deliberately vague call for a "bigger and better" National Missile Defense system than President Clinton was pushing (still within the domain of the High Frontier junk pile), Vice President Gore jumped in and swore that he would never allow America to return to the Reagan era vision of a global shield against nuclear weapons.

It is certainly useful that both Presidents Clinton and Putin are talking about cooperation on a serious approach to missile defense and nuclear disarmament. It would have been vastly preferable for President Clinton to have taken up the issue at the outset of his Presidency, when such offers were coming from some Russian defense scientists, with some degree of support from Boris Yeltsin. It is certainly worthwhile for the United States, our allies, Russia, China, and other leading nations of the world, to be debating these life-and-death matters today.

But, let's bear a few crucial things in mind: First, the National Missile Defense system currently up for consideration by President Clinton, is little better than the High Frontier junk-in-the-sky scheme that contributed to the destruction of the original LaRouche-Reagan SDI.

Second, and vastly more important, the real decisions on national missile defense, global missile defense, theater missile defense, etc. will be made over the next five years. If either George W. Bush or Al Gore is in the White House when those heady decisions will have to be made and implemented, the world will be on a path to Hell.

Ronald Reagan adopted a vision of the future that both Dubya and Gore have already rejected. Thus, the fight for a sane policy on missile defense is first and foremost the political battle, already under way, to break the election fix, and put candidates before the American electorate in November, whose names are not Bush and Gore. True, it is late in the game, but the precedents exist, and the options are there.