

Editorial

Science and the national interest

Citizens knowledgeable in national strategic affairs are generally aware that since the Manhattan Project the larger issues of long-term American "grand strategy" have been inextricably woven with long-term national strategy with respect to the future of natural science.

Every major turning point in the history of America's relations with all other nations since the dropping of the two atom bombs over Nagasaki and Hiroshima in 1945 has been primarily shaped by this interplay between science policy and foreign policy. The Bernard Baruch Plan of putting the lid on scientific progress was coupled with Lord Bertrand Russell's 1947 proposal to A-bomb the Soviet Union while there was still time. Subsequently, the intense factional war within the U.S. scientific community, symbolized in the clash between Dr. Edward Teller and J. Robert Oppenheimer, was spiced with an impressive outbreak of real and imagined "atomic spy scandals" and finally, during the early 1950s, determined the broad outlines of both foreign policy and science policy which were carried out until the death of President John F. Kennedy.

Truncated and distorted by the vise of McCarthyism, the policy that emerged out of the science/foreign policy debates of the early fifties was 1) a national commitment to develop a broad-based nuclear energy industry not only within the United States, but also throughout the world, the Eisenhower "Atoms For Peace" program; 2) to selectively encourage the rapid industrialization of American allies in the Third World, such as Taiwan, South Korea, Venezuela, Thailand, Greece, Iran, etc.; and 3) to compete with the Soviet Union in scientific and technological achievement in order to keep America ahead at all times. As a policy perspective, it was incomplete; its implementation was further truncated and distorted by exaggerated ideological reactions in matters of foreign policy. Be that as it may, the pronuclear, prodevelopment

stance of American foreign policy during the Eisenhower and JFK administrations, was, in the absence of greater achievements, the crowning glory of post-war American history.

After Kennedy's assassination, the Lord Russell-Oppenheimer school of thought in science and foreign policy made a comeback by means of a vindictive application of their idea of "nuclear non-proliferation." The resurgence of the Baruch tradition of hostility to nuclear development was again accompanied by a series of spectacular spy scandals, virtually all of them associated with the notorious case of British spymaster H. A. R. "Kim" Philby, the purported "defector" to the Soviets.

By 1966-67, the New York-Washington foreign policy establishment, then led by ex-NSC director William Bundy, NSC-director-to-be Zbigniew Brzezinski, Ambassador Harlan Cleveland and others, made a historic decision to shut down our NASA program, to gradually undermine our nuclear energy industry, and to systematically narrow the scientific educational base of young Americans. These policymakers determined that they could get away with their basic anti-science orientation only if they succeeded in imposing a U.S. foreign policy such that it could succeed in 1) persuading the U.S.S.R. to follow, by means of SALT, détente and similar institutions, a similar anti-science orientation within the Soviet Union, and 2) impose the perspective of "nuclear nonproliferation" as the overriding policy guideline vis-à-vis the Third World, under whose cover these gentlemen would effectively oppose and discourage the developing sector's efforts to industrialize. This policy perspective was implemented, and as usual, it was accompanied by mutual convenience arrangements between United States and Soviet intelligence organizations, such as IMEMO, the U.S.-Canada Institute, and other "Kim" Philby-dominated outfits, with the consent of both governments.

This science/foreign policy configuration had collapsed as of December 1979, when the Soviets formally announced that they wouldn't play anymore. They will continue to move full steam for scientific and industrial development. The "non-proliferation" imbeciles on our side, however, refuse to take the hint and continue to try and manipulate the Soviets into sterile paths.

This past week, an exceptional memorandum addressing the United States Congress on this matter has been put in circulation by the National Democratic Policy Committee. It is entitled "National Security Doctrine for the Philip Agee Case," and its author is Lyndon LaRouche, the former candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination and now Chairman of the Democratic Policy

Committee's advisory board. Mr. LaRouche's memorandum is addressing both the embarrassing spectacle of recent puerile "spy scandals" and "KGB mole" stories circulating in Congress, and the deeper, more relevant issue; namely, what are the criteria for competent, professional intelligence activities that the interests of the United States require at this time, and the scientific foundations upon which such serious national intelligence functions must be based. We publish Mr. LaRouche's memorandum in full on page 48. The memorandum stresses the kind of science track we require to match and exceed Soviet physics research: training based on the conceptual tradition of Leibniz, the Ecole Polytechnique, Göttingen University, and Riemannian geometry.

'Now we can move forward'

On Oct. 7, the McCormack fusion bill was signed into law by President Carter, thereby committing the United States to demonstrating the commercial feasibility of fusion energy by the year 2000. The bill provides the initial levels of funding needed to launch engineering and design efforts on a significant scale over the next three years.

We reprint here a statement released by Cong. Mike McCormack (D-Wash.), the initiator of the legislation.

President's statement

I am excited and very pleased that the President has signed the fusion bill. There is no doubt in my mind that this is the most important energy project ever undertaken by anybody, anywhere. This is the nearest thing to landing a man on the moon that the country has undertaken since the Apollo Project. The new law establishes a national commitment to fusion energy as a mainline energy

source of this nation in the 21st century, and sets a goal of having a magnetic fusion electric generating demonstration plant operating successfully by the year 2000.

The fuel for fusion energy is cheap, universal and easily obtained because it comes from the water of the ocean. It will produce an absolutely unlimited amount of cheap, clean energy for all mankind forever. For 25 years, scientists all over the world have been involved in research programs to understand how a fusion reaction will work under controlled conditions and how to build a machine to successfully transform the tremendous amount of energy released in a fusion reaction into useful electricity.

The McCormack bill recognizes that we now know what to do and that we can move forward aggressively with an energy program to accomplish the all-important goal of controlled energy production.