

U.S. defense policy back to Schlesinger's 'aura of power'

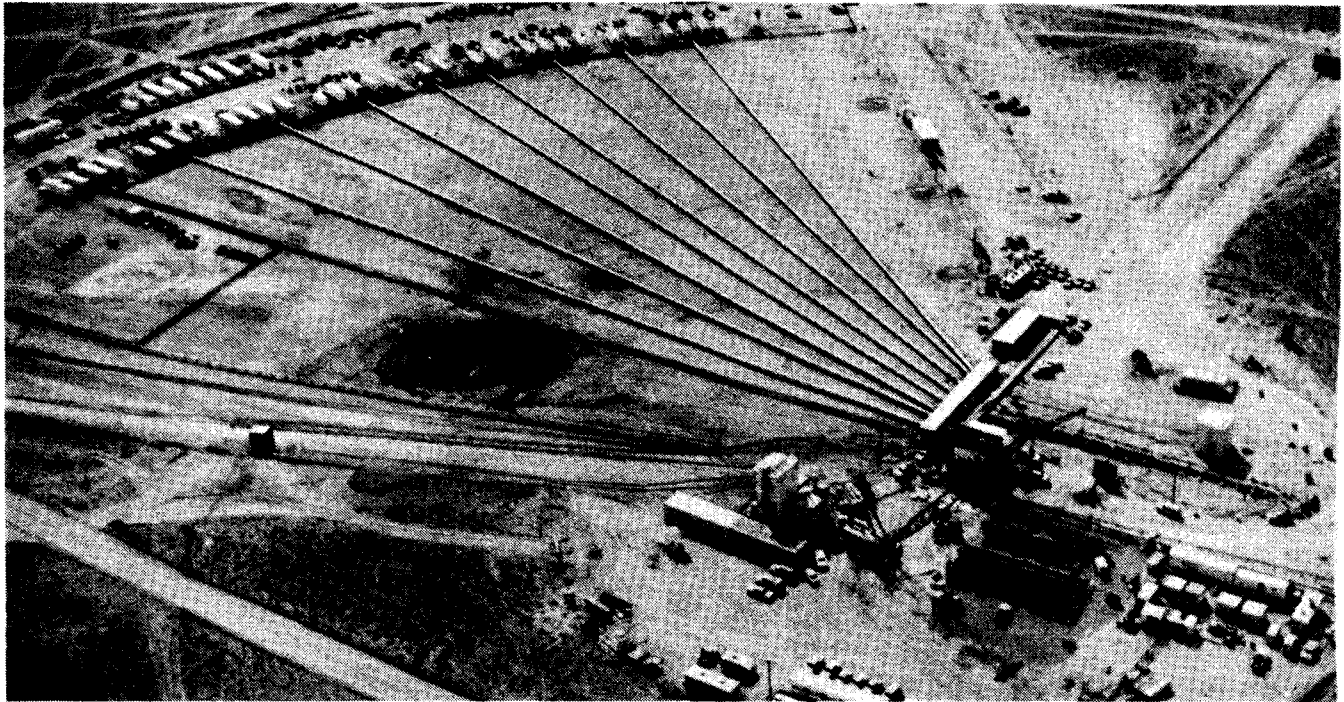
by Criton Zoakos, Editor-in-Chief

The strategic imbalance between the United States and the Soviet Union is no longer a theoretical issue feeding a pathetic "great debate," so-called, on the pages of leading weeklies and in the halls of Congress. Since the dismal French presidential election of last May, the consideration of the existing strategic imbalance has fed into a policy in Washington leading toward a strategic calamity which may occur at any time between now and the end of 1982.

The world has in fact entered a phase in which every single political development is dominated by calculations respecting this strategic imbalance between the two superpowers. This publication was among the first to point out the flaws of U.S. strategic policies during the tenure of James R. Schlesinger, Jr. as Defense Secretary during the 1974-75 period. Over a year ago, *EIR* conducted detailed comparisons between American and Soviet scientific, industrial, manpower, and doctrinal potentials whose results we published with the hope that the absurd methods of "postindustrial society" planning and "futurology" studies responsible for these imbalances would be jettisoned from policy-making bodies and a sane climate of scientific, technological, and industrial revitalization would ensue, which alone could redress the dangerous imbalance.

That hope has apparently been dashed for the time being. A deeply entrenched network of "futurologist" mentalities has emerged dominant in the defense-related policy-making areas of the Reagan administration, working with the cost-cutting "supply-side" maniacs who administer economic policy. Intelligence "leaks" in the daily press and high-grade information through private channels have confirmed the following developments:

- A plan has been activated by Pentagon leaders including Secretary Weinberger, Fred Iklé, Frank Carlucci, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on how to cope with the "window of vulnerability" which, as a result of the strategic imbalance, is now about to threaten the United States. This plan involves a posture of attempting to throw the Soviets "off balance" by means of successive "first-strike" types of deployments, such as Pershing II missile



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Lawrence Livermore Laboratory's underground nuclear test site: will the U.S. pursue bluff or war-winning capacity?

stations in Western Europe. The ostensible purpose of this "aura of power" policy is to force upon the world and upon the U.S. population and its institutions a "Pearl Harbor" type of crisis which will then be exploited to launch a national defense mobilization that could absorb up to 50 percent of the GNP.

- The Soviet leadership has also activated its own appropriate response to this strategy of Washington's. Whatever the tactical operational details of the Soviet response, it includes the following key features: a) the U.S.S.R. shall not under any circumstances permit the deployment of Pershing II missiles on Western European territory; b) the Soviet economy has been deploying the entirety of its reinvestable surplus for defense production, and has motivated its population to accept the accompanying sacrifices; c) utmost emphasis has been placed on the advanced research and engineering effort of Soviet science under qualified military leadership.

- Western Europe has been implicitly put on notice that it cannot rely on the American nuclear umbrella, that it must accept its role as a tactical nuclear battlefield and that it must now move in the direction of totalitarian domestic regimes as presaged by the national-socialist regime of François Mitterrand in France.

- As of the Ottawa summit, the central banks of the major Western industrial nations have been given authorization to override their national governments on behalf of budget-cutting, credit-tightening, depression-inducing policies dictated by the Bank for International Settlements, the IMF, and the OECD.

- This last set of measures is understood to mean that

no economic policies will be permitted which might help reverse the existing strategic imbalance. Furthermore, Western planners now look to the prospect of a world financial collapse during the September to October period. *October 1 is one deadline toward world disaster.*

- Arrangements between the United States and its West European allies indicate that the placement of the Pershing II in Europe is to commence no later than the end of 1982. *December 1982 is the second ultimate deadline toward world disaster.*

- These deadlines, however, are known among governments West and East, and as such have themselves become decision-making factors with a determining influence on world developments tending to shorten the already very short fuse which threatens world detonation.

Either these deadlines themselves are cancelled, or the descent to Inferno seems assured. Cancellation is possible if policy-makers comprehend certain very simple arguments demonstrating that their present course of action will lead to disaster, including especially their own disaster, and further understand the simple steps required for an effective policy, primarily economic policy, which will ensure emergence of a competent military policy.

The entirety of strategic alternatives represented within the Departments of State and Defense, and their "think tank" adjuncts is incompetent, because the shared premises are virtually infantile. What the country needs is a restoration, in the public debate, of the classical military-economic assumptions that once led to pre-eminence.