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## Interview: Gen. Giulio Macri

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# 'Beam-weapons program essential for Italian national security'

General Giulio Macri is a general in the armored armed forces of the Italian Army. He was commander of the drill center of the armored units of the Italian Army at Cape Teulada in Sardinia, where there was also an alternating influx of other NATO forces (U.S. Sixth Fleet, British, and West German). He was the office chief of the Italian military delegation in Paris to the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Forces in Europe (SHAPE) and for about six years, in the rank of colonel and then general, was chief of the First Detachment of the Central Military Preparations Office of the Italian Defense Ministry. Macri attended Nunziatella Military College in Naples and the National Military Academy in Modena, the Italian War School, the U.S. War College at Fort Leavenworth (Kansas City, Missouri), and the course on Special Weaponry in the U.S. school at Oberammergau in West Germany. The author of numerous articles on operational, technical, and historical questions in specialized reviews—*Rivista Militare*, *Rivista Aeronautica*, *Difesa Oggi*, *Aviazione*, *Aspis*, and *Quadrante*—General Macri is an expert in advanced military applications. He was a pioneer in Italy in spreading the idea of the military possibilities inherent in the use of satellites and other types of military technology in space. He has participated as a representative of the Italian Defense Ministry in numerous NATO working groups for researching the development and application of equipment and material for possible common adoption by two or more armed forces of NATO (co-production, memoranda of understanding, joint ventures). Married, the father of three daughters, he has been in the Reserve for four years, and continues intensive study, research, and publication in his specialized fields of competence.

General Giulio Macri is a candidate in the slate of the Partito Operaio Europeo (European Labor Party) in the Rome and Milan districts for the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament. He was interviewed by Giuseppe Filippini in Italy on May 16.

**EIR:** Many campaigns have been carried out in the recent period in Europe and in Italy on pacifist and anti-militarist themes; how has this propaganda been received inside the armed forces?

**Macri:** For a military man, today as in the past, the golden principle should always hold: *se vis pacem para bellum* [If you want peace, prepare for war]. Unfortunately in the Italian

armed forces, it is not clear whether consciously or unconsciously, the predominant principle seems to be "*se vis pacem nega bellum*" [if you want peace, negate war]—with all of the consequences that derive from that, from the juridical recognition of the conscientious objector, to the issuing of the new disciplinary rules, to a widespread and deepening pacifism inside the majority of the various armies. If we did not want to speak of extreme pacifism, then we would have to speak of that insidious and corrupting worm of neutralism. There is no need to waste a lot of words to understand how pacifism and neutralism are empty of content. One need only look at the two most blatant situations we have before our eyes, Lebanon and Southeast Asia. Those countries have been neutral and pacifist to the degree that internal and external forces have wanted it that way, and have been shaken by terrible conflicts the minute [those forces] have not wanted it.

**EIR:** How can a country like Italy, which is not a great power, guarantee itself an adequate security?

**Macri:** The adequacy of the national security of a middle-sized power like Italy can not be guaranteed except in three ways: 1) by inserting itself into a big alliance which can make up for the limitations inherent in the reduced economic scale of its own factors of power; 2) with the exercise of foresight in regard to the most advanced present technologies which seem to allow a total change in present strategic and operative concepts in the military sphere; 3) naturally the high costs of research and development for these advanced technologies make it more and more necessary to hook up our country with the economically stronger and technologically more advanced countries like the U.S.A.

**EIR:** How do you evaluate, then, the speech made by U.S. President Ronald Reagan last March 23, where he announced the program of developing an anti-missile defense system based on lasers or particle beams?

**Macri:** In my series of articles which appeared in *Rivista Aeronautica* already at the end of 1978, I hinted various times at possible weapons systems based on lasers and particle beams, that is directed-energy weapons systems. In particular, I was struck at the time by the resignation of General Keegan as head of U.S. Air Force Intelligence, in relation to the development that such weapons systems would have al-

ready had in the Soviet Union. Through the publications of the European Labor Party and the Fusion Energy Foundation, moreover, well before Reagan's speech, I became aware of the proposals of the U.S. political figure Lyndon LaRouche in favor of a massive development program of such weapons systems.

The thing which struck me most in LaRouche's proposals was his analysis of the links between the development of military technology, in particular that which is needed to develop laser and particle-beam weapons, and the spin-offs in the civilian economy as an element of [economic] development. I also participated in a press conference organized on this subject by *Executive Intelligence Review* in Rome, because I maintain that this viewpoint is profoundly correct.

Therefore I was not surprised by President Reagan's announcement March 23 about the technical possibilities he mentioned for developing a directed-energy antimissile system. Above all, I was very interested in the President's statement about the almost exclusively defensive nature of these new weapons. This was in turn confirmed by the speech of Defense Secretary Weinberger last April 11, to the point that the Secretary even expressed hope for cooperation with the Soviet Union.

The fact that Andropov's U.S.S.R. has preferred to respond with strategic provocations to these U.S. offers on antimissile weapons has shown that the U.S.S.R. in reality does not want peace but a confrontation. This is a very dangerous situation. The program for realizing laser or particle beam weapons must become operative right away, because in this way it will become evident that the false pacifism of Andropov and his threats don't work, and thus the U.S.S.R. will have to change its policy.

**EIR:** Various military and political circles in Europe have attacked the perspective opening up for directed energy weapons. But would collaboration on this project be possible, by Europe, and Italy in particular?

**Macri:** I think that many political and military circles did not understand the scientific importance and the military and economic consequences of the directed-energy weapons, or that they were taken by surprise by a perspective that they think is in the future even though it may be fascinating. The people currently in charge of the military policy of Europe, and Italy's in particular, feel they have their feet on the ground if they talk in terms of counterbalancing strategy, and of the possibility or impossibility of limited war or total war. They do not feel the responsibility of thinking about anything else for the near future, so they go right on being in the field of Mutually Assured Destruction, and they do not want to think about a possible form of Mutually Assured Survival.

Thus they think they have their feet on the ground, in reinforcing conventional forces, and imagining limited warfare scenarios with or without a limited use of nuclear explosives. They do not realize that they are further and further from a reality which instead they ought to face very fast. I

think, instead, that Western Europe as a whole and Italy should immediately and urgently give political support project that President Reagan announced last March 23 and which was reaffirmed by Defense Secretary Weinberger, so as to support him also in the present battle in the U.S. Congress and Senate to pursue the research and development efforts of laser and particle beam weapons as essential components of a valid antimissile and nuclear defense. In the light of such prospects, I would see a further step forward by the European powers and Italy toward forms of cooperation and collaboration at all levels, the scientific one of research and development and the applied one of the technical services of the armed forces [working] with the similar U.S. technical services.

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The involvement of the interested industries would come as a consequence, producing an economic and productive spin-off whose breadth could be compared to the Manhattan Project, the Atoms for Peace policy, and the Apollo Project which put the first man on the moon.

**EIR:** What are the particular types of directed energy weapons in which Italy and Europe would be most interested?

**Macri:** From the information which I have available to me, there is no reason to think that Italy cannot participate right from the R&D phase in the five types of directed beams weapons systems currently under study both in the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union.

These five types of directed-energy weapons system are, as is known: laser beams, particle beams, microwaves, plasmas, and electromagnetic impulses. Each system is in principle capable of generating the required potency and energies to reach and disarm a target. Such a weapons system, commonly called "beam weapons," effectively disarms a nuclear warhead by neutralizing it or destroying it. It is hardly nec-

essary to remember that a hydrogen bomb can be detonated only by a powerful initial atomic bomb explosion which can spark a chain reaction in the lithium and deuterium mixture. The weapons system commonly called "beam weapons" prevents the initial explosion and substantially transforms the warhead or explosive nose cone into a dud. The missile, like a satellite, may fall to earth's surface, but it can no longer explode. Scientists agree that the emplacement, for example, of defensive lasers on the battlefield, even at the lowest level of technology, could be defended from other similar weapon systems, whereas a missile cannot be effectively defended from a laser beam or particle beam without a massive protection which would cause it to lose both its range and its necessary velocity.

**EIR:** What are the systems whose technology is most within reach for possible military applications?

**Macri:** Laser beams, particularly chemical ones, will be the first usable developed systems. Such coherent light lasers of single wavelength can easily be focused with great precision at present, and there is no reason to believe that the U.S.S.R. is doing anything else. These systems are being intensely studied. Theoretical and applied research, however, is being carried out on all the five types of directed energy systems both for possible military applications and for research on thermonuclear fusion. There already exist lasers of several megawatts, and a chemical laser with enough power to be utilized for significant military jobs like knocking out intercontinental ballistic missiles in flight could be put up in five years. Such lasers would use as their active medium a gaseous compound of fluorine and either ordinary hydrogen or deuterium, whose chemical reaction emits laser light. For more limited military purposes that require less power, lasers could be developed in even less time.

The U.S.S.R. already employed a chemical laser in 1981 in an experiment in which a ballistic missile was shot down. In 1972, in the U.S. military program Eight Card, some wood slabs were ignited at two kilometers distance with a gas laser of 60 kilowatts power. The same laser drilled a hole in a moving target of very small size. In 1976, a U.S. high power laser shot down a drone aircraft from a land-based position. In 1978, the U.S. Navy destroyed a high velocity antitank missile of the TOW type with a chemical laser, and in February 1983 a land-based Soviet laser irreparably damaged a U.S. satellite.

While I am not acquainted with experiments which use directed energy weapons systems other than lasers, I can say from a technical standpoint that particle beams make ideal weapons because they destroy the target like a heavy, very powerful little hammer. On the basis of these considerations and experiences, we can say that anyone who says these weapon systems are 20 years in the future does not have his feet on the ground. By experience I know that technical problems get resolved in the process of posing them. The important thing is political will.

## Reagan presents his to the West German

*In an interview published May 11 in Bunte Illustrierte, one of West Germany's leading family magazines, with a circulation of several million, President Reagan explained to a European audience the concept of the anti-ballistic missile defense that he had announced on American television March 23. Reagan's interview, titled "President Reagan's message to the Germans," is excerpted here in a re-translation from the German.*

**Bunte:** In October it will be exactly 300 years since the first Germans immigrated to America. In your view, is there a special German element in American history? Which Germans do you most admire?

**Reagan:** Over 60 million Americans are of German descent. This heritage has a great influence on our national character. The strong hands and good hearts of the industrious German forefathers helped to build a strong and good America. Germany sent us heroes for our revolutionary war, like Baron Johann de Kalb and Baron von Steuben, politicians, scientists and engineers—including Einstein and Roebing, whose 100th birthday is being celebrated this year; also artists, composers, theologians, businessmen, entrepreneurs, and great sportsmen like Babe Ruth. It is almost impossible to say who among them I most admire. German names fill our history books, appear on our maps and in the family trees of our family Bibles. . . .

**Bunte:** You have recently developed the idea of securing world peace with unconventional weapons. Can you explain this further? Critics fear that this will extend the battlefield of the earth into space.

**Reagan:** When I spoke about a strategic defense initiative in my speech of March 23, I indicated that during the past decades American deterrence policy has relied strongly, even exclusively, on offensive nuclear weapons. This deterrence concept is based on the premise that neither side would risk an attack due to the catastrophic consequences it would have. The price of such an attack would far exceed any conceivable gains. This concept has led on both sides, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, to the development of offensive nuclear weapons. I see the day coming when our trust in our offensive power fades and we recognize the possibility of an effective defense. Inter-continental missiles are the most threatening