

Editorial

Stay the murderers' hands

*"Who did strike out the light?"
"Was't not the way?"*

The rampaging cultist Macbeth's hired assassins destroyed their own futures by dousing their victims' light. The blundering murderers of the industrial North's nuclear plants are doing the same.

The "advanced sector" did not gain that title by killing needed technologies. Yet outside the Soviet Union and Japan, the murderers of the North's technology have free rein. While the advanced sector dies, Third World nations such as Argentina continue to build their advanced-energy base with nuclear power—despite the efforts of the International Monetary Fund.

Even without increased energy demand, the advanced sector's power grid will sputter to collapse long before this decade is out. Already two electrical regions of the United States are operating on 3 percent power reserves. (For decades the standard for national safety has been 20 percent.) Operating overworked coal- and oil-fired plants, which continue to lose their efficiencies, means a quick end to that meager 3 percent reserve. The United States has not commissioned one nuclear plant since 1979. Since 1980, more coal-fired plants have been canceled than commissioned.

Other than the already constructed or nearly completed nuclear plants that are idle, the U.S. "electricity pipeline" is empty.

The only reason the United States is not now suffering killing blackouts, according to the National Electrical Reliability Council, is that the country has been using less and less electricity since 1980—a consequence above all of economic depression.

But the West faces a far more immediate power threat than the blackouts of the mid-1980s.

The U.S.-U.S.S.R. superpower showdown that has

been orchestrated by George Shultz and Yuri Andropov in the Middle East may accomplish this year what the murderers of nuclear power would otherwise accomplish later this decade: annihilation of the West.

The sole means for this to be avoided is for the United States to act on the Commander in Chief's new strategic doctrine announced March 23. A unified national effort to do what is necessary to develop space-based beam weapon technologies is the only two-by-four at hand that may knock some sense into the Kremlin.

The gear-up for the plasma-based industries the beam weapons require would put an end to the economic depression in the West. But, recall the the National Electrical Reliability Council: with the present electrical grid, an economic recovery will cause the collapse of our power grid.

The United States now has only 78 operating nuclear fission plants. Between now and the time we can rely on the plasma energy of nuclear fusion, America will need at least 1,000 fission plants and a comparable number of conventional-fired plants to provide the necessary electrical grid for a beam weapons technology-based economy.

Officials who are using the ruses of "evacuation procedures" and "potential internal sabotage" of nuclear plants as their latest rationale for killing atomic energy must be quarantined as menaces to national security. While the Soviet Union goes ahead full tilt with its own beam weapon development program, Yuri Andropov and Erich Honecker of East Germany have used the Western press to "slyly" hail the anti-nuclear environmentalists that are destroying the West.

A unified West can do more than merely call into question the motives of the Malthusians who have placed the U.S. superpower in its current strategic predicament with the murder of nuclear power. We can stay the murderers' hands now.