

Minute: 'LaRouche inspired beam policy'

France's largest-circulation political weekly, *Minute*, published at the end of November an analysis of the U.S. beam weapon policy and the strategy for a crash program proposed by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Minute scored the French "deterrent" force as obsolete and inefficient, attacking the "Maginot Line" conception "of those who want at all costs to win the last war or one which will never take place," and who speak of "conventional build-up, smart weapons, anti-nuclear shelters. . . . Since deterrence does not work any more, we need another strategy, and we must develop the weapons for another strategy."

"The Soviets, already over-armed in the conventional and nuclear field, are preparing with a crash program the shift to another dimension of warfare, that of *beam weapons*. . . . The leading experts expect the Soviets to deploy their first global operational system three to five years from now. . . . The Kremlin could then launch a global nuclear assault behind its beam shield, with its excellent civil defense. . . . Over the last 20 years, Soviet strategists have all placed their stakes on acquiring the capability to win nuclear war."

"In short, the Soviet threat is real, immediate and extraordinarily dangerous. Moscow is getting ready to fight the star war. But on March 23, in a resounding speech systematically distorted by the media, Ronald Reagan announced that the U.S. was renouncing the MAD strategy and was going to develop, produce, and deploy beam weapons."

Minute sketched the scientific and technological background and the various systems under study or development: ground-based lasers with orbital mirrors, pop-up X-ray laser systems, terminal and point-defense, and theater beam weapons for tactical usage. "As President Reagan said on March 23, 'beam weapons hold the promise of changing the course of history.' [The President's exact formulation was: "We are launching an effort which holds the promise of changing the course of human history"—ed.]

absolute terror, the abominable sword of Damocles that can destroy mankind as a whole. The advantage goes to defense, whose weapons are faster, more mobile and powerful.

"Both during this historic speech and later in speeches by his defense minister Caspar Weinberger, Reagan had turned to Moscow and said: 'Let us develop these systems in parallel' so that both superpowers know that the 'other side' does not intend to attack but merely to defend. To that generous

offer, the Kremlin responded with lies, calumny, and hatred, accelerating its own efforts in the field, but launching all its own assets in the battle to prevent the U.S.A. from implementing the program announced by Reagan—starting with Kissinger, a sworn enemy of beam weapons and an advocate of queer arrangements with Moscow, from his pseudo-'detente' to the sharing of 'spheres of influence.'

"The inspirer of Reagan's new policy, Lyndon LaRouche, now a candidate for the Democratic nomination for president, demands a crash program like the World War II Manhattan Project or the Apollo Program. He wants \$200 billion for the program within the next ten years, and operational U.S. systems within three years. He also campaigns for cooperation between the U.S.A. and Europe to develop the project. . . .

"On the other side, the Soviet media have not cooled off, they threaten, they scream! Andropov demands a treaty. . . . the main leaders of the peace movement, from McNamara to comrade Ogarkov and the main architects of 'detente' Kissinger and Averell Harriman, are blue with rage. . . . The Russians expected—that was their very strategy—that the 'decadent' West would fall right into their claws; they thought that economic crisis would work with financial collapse, the demoralization of Western societies and Malthusianism and cultural pessimism to weaken the West, undermine it and finally destroy it from the inside."

"But far from obligingly collapsing, the West decides to launch into a technology arms race which will regenerate science, industry and technology. Just as Roosevelt's America mobilized to wage war. . . . Moscow fears the civilian spinoffs of the beam weapon program, just as NASA had effected a recovery. . . ."

Minute stressed the "enormous interest in French industrial circles" in the beam policy. "Prestigious and influential voices—the committee 'La France et son Armée,' which includes Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, Gen. Revault d'Alonnes, General Thiry, Henri Ziegler, Colonel Geneste, etc.—have been raised to make sure that France itself develops the beam weapons to protect the Plateau d'Albion [deployment site of the nuclear missile force—ed.]

submarine base. In collaboration with Germany and other European countries, we could thus keep our rank on the scale of the powers."