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## Beam Defense

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# Anti-'Yalta' faction surfaces in Europe

by Susan Welsh

Despite intensive pressure from the Soviet Union and Henry Kissinger for Western Europe to "decouple" from the United States, a minority faction of European political leaders is insisting that if Europe does not support the U.S. beam-weapon defense policy, Western Europe will become a Soviet satrapy in short order. This faction has rejected the "New Yalta" deal that Britain's Lord Carrington, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, et al. are angling to achieve with Moscow.

The pro-beams faction is strongest in France, where the government has launched its own research and development program for directed-energy antiballistic missile defense, and where Jacques Chirac, the head of the opposition RPR party, is on record in favor of Franco-German collaboration to support the U.S. beam-weapon program. Col. Marc Geneste, a leading strategic analyst, known as the "father of the French neutron bomb," toured the United States at the end of April to rally support for the U.S.-European alliance and for beam defense.

### *Courrier du Parlement*

Journalist Philippe Conrad, writing in the influential Paris newsletter *Courrier du Parlement*, defended the U.S. defense program against Henry Kissinger and his "suicidal" doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD):

"The present implementation of power-laser weapons opens up extraordinary possibilities. . . . Lasers capable of destroying objects moving in space may well rapidly transform traditional strategies. . . . With the new technology, we can escape the suicidal doctrine of MAD that had become the gospel of so many American officials since the early '60s. . . . The Soviet effort has not let up for the last quarter century, while American research has lagged due to the ABM Treaty of 1972. . . . The American lag can be estimated at three to four years, and this American lag is essentially due to Henry Kissinger's policy and that of the Carter administration. Everything changed with the March 23, 1983 speech of President Reagan."

Conrad quoted at length from U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's March 28 press conference defending

the Strategic Defense Initiative. Because five or seven years is what it will take to deploy an operational first-generation system, the urgency is obvious, he wrote, especially since the French "deterrence" strategy has been upset. "The choice remaining to France if she intends to preserve her national independence is a simple one: France must resolutely commit herself to beam-weapon research, in collaboration with the U.S.A. and by exploiting her own considerable technological resources. On a European scale, the deployment of such systems could be the result of a close cooperation between France, Germany, and Italy. . . . Our 'Maginot Line' based on nuclear deterrence will be obsolete ten years hence, so our leaders must understand the decisive strategic shift introduced by beam weapons."

### *La Vie Française*

Another leading French magazine, the business weekly *La Vie Française*, reviewed at the end of April the advances made in the beam-defense program since President Reagan first launched it one year ago. The article reported the technological breakthroughs such as the downing of five Sidewinder missiles by the USAF airborne laser and progress in the x-ray laser field, as well as the political debate around the beam-weapon policy—the early Soviet rejection, Dr. Edward Teller's challenge to the Soviet delegation at a conference in Erice, Italy in August 1983 to undertake joint efforts for a Mutually Assured Survival program, and Soviet attacks on U.S. beam-weapons advocate Lyndon H. LaRouche.

"The wrath of the Kremlin is now boundless," the magazine reported. "After a conference held in Paris on March 23 of this year, *Literaturnaya Gazeta* called its sponsor, the American statesman Lyndon LaRouche, a 'neo-Nazi Führer.' On April 2, *Pravda* published an article by Soviet Peace Council head, Central Committee member Yuri Zhukov, who recounted in his own way the proceedings of the conference, in which Colonel Geneste and General Copel participated, under the headline 'A Colloquium of Assassins.' In the United States, Henry Kissinger has lashed out against beam weapons and the 'Mutually Assured Survival' policy, which has become the major stake in the Presidential election."

In West Germany, the political climate is chiefly one of appeasement—of the Soviet Union and of the "New Yalta" crowd in Hans-Dietrich Genscher's foreign ministry. Defense Minister Manfred Wörner, who takes his orders from Genscher, has been waffling on the beam-weapons issue, and finally decided April 20 to adopt the position on beams of Kissinger and the Scowcroft Commission, rather than the slightly more extreme stand of the Soviet government press. Wörner declared that a U.S. research program could be considered "legitimate" in view of Soviet advances in this area, but raised what the daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* called "skeptical questions concerning the case in which the West acquired such systems first."