



The legislation drawn up by the Soviet embassy in Washington

by Kathleen Klenetsky

Much of the anti-defense legislation—particularly that targeting U.S. efforts at developing a strategic defense system—which has been introduced into Congress in recent months has been sponsored by individuals affiliated with the Space Policy Working Group, an informal Capitol Hill caucus set up by KGB go-between Carol Rosin of the Institute for Security and Cooperation in Outer Space (ISCOS) for the purpose of influencing U.S. strategic policy. We itemize here the more important pieces of legislation identified with this group.

House Joint Resolution 120 (Senate Joint Resolution 28)

This resolution was introduced in the House on Feb. 2, 1983 by Rep. Joseph Moakley (D-Mass.) and in the Senate on Feb. 3, 1983 by Sen. Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.). It calls for “immediate negotiations for a ban on weapons of any kind in space.” The text reads in part:

Whereas an international agreement to prohibit the introduction of weapons of any kind into space is needed in order to avoid the financial, social, and human costs that could result from such an arms race: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that a) the President shall resume immediately bilateral talks with the Soviet Union for the purpose of negotiating a comprehensive treaty prohibiting:

1) the testing, production, deployment, or use of any space-based, air-based, or ground-based weapons system which is designed to damage, destroy or interfere with the functioning of any space craft of any nation; and

2) the stationing in orbit around the Earth, on any celestial body, or at any other location in outer space of any weapons which have been designed to inflict injury or cause any other form of damage on the Earth, in the atmosphere, or on objects placed in space. . . .

b) The President shall request that the United Na-

tions take the necessary steps to bring about multilateral negotiations aimed at an extension of Article IV of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 to include a ban on all kinds of weapons from space—including all weapons based in space for use against any target and all anti-satellite weapons regardless of where they are based.

H.J. Resolution 120, which has 128 co-sponsors, is expected to be reported out of the House Foreign Relations Committee in late July or early August. The Senate version, which had eight original sponsors including Sen. Gary Hart, was subsequently merged with Sen. Larry Pressler’s S.J. Resolution 43, which urged a negotiated, verifiable ban on anti-satellite weapons, as a first step toward prohibiting all space-based and space-directed weapons.

Senate Joint Resolution 129

A “compromise resolution” formulated by Sen. Larry Pressler (R-S.D.) and Sen. Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) was reported out of Committee last summer. It states in part:

Resolved that it is the sense of the Senate that:

a) The President should immediately prepare a proposal and invite the Soviet Union to negotiate a verifiable ban on the development, testing, production and deployment of anti-satellite weapons as a first step toward prohibiting all space-based and space-directed weaponry.

b) These negotiations should also seek to restrict to the extent consistent with U.S. national interests, the deployment of hazardous objects and materials, such as nuclear material in outer space.

S.J. Resolution 129 has 28 co-sponsors. It is tentatively scheduled for debate by the full Senate in June. On May 25, Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.) introduced an amendment to S.J. Resolution 129 aimed at countering the Reagan administration’s contention that to negotiate an ASAT ban with the Soviets would be useless, since it could not be verified. Percy says his amendment “reflects our commitment to take all concerns in this area into account, especially

those relating to the verifiability of an ASAT ban or restriction.”

The amendment calls for an “immediate resumption of negotiations on a mutual and verifiable ban or strict limitations on the testing, development, deployment, and use of anti-satellite weapons”; the institution “of a mutual and verifiable moratorium on testing in space of anti-satellite weapons during the period of negotiations”; and the seeking “on an urgent basis” of “a verifiable treaty restricting the testing, development, deployment, and use of space-directed weapons systems, and prohibiting the testing, development, deployment, and use of space-based weapons systems if such systems are designed to inflict injury or cause any other form of damage on the earth, in the atmosphere, or on objects in space.”

House Joint Resolution 531

Introduced on March 28, 1984 by Reps. Mel Levine and George Brown, both California Democrats, this resolution calls for the United States to maintain its commitment to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. It was unveiled at a press conference on March 28, 1984, the same day that Brown announced the formation of a Coalition for the Peaceful Uses of Space. The Coalition includes Sen. Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) and a number of other congressional members of Carol Rosin’s Space Policy Working Group, including Reps. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.) and Larry Coughlin (R-Pa.).

Other members of the coalition include anti-beam scientists Carl Sagan and Richard Garwin; Dr. Herbert Scoville of the Arms Control Association; the Council for a Livable World; Rosin’s ISCOS; the Union of Concerned Scientists; and the Communist Party front group, Women’s Strike for Peace.

At the press conference, Brown said:

The public is being presented with the dangerous illusion that the escalation of the arms race into space can solve our problems here on earth. However, a careful analysis of Star Wars technologies reveals that these exotic space weapons . . . will decrease our national security.

Brown accused the Reagan administration of “threatening the only strategic arms treaty ratified between the United States and the Soviet Union with its ‘Star Wars’ fantasy,” and said that his “legislation calls for the United States to maintain its commitment to the ABM Treaty, and to refrain from activities which could threaten or undermine it.” Brown added:

Most disturbing about the President’s Star Wars proposal is the certainty that testing and deployment of ballistic-missile defense technologies would violate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty negotiated and ratified under the Nixon administration.

House Joint Resolution 536

Sponsored by Reps. Mel Levine and George Brown, H.J. Resolution 536 was introduced on March 29, 1984, and has 57 original co-sponsors. It calls on the Soviet Union and the United States to renew their participation in cooperative space ventures. A similar measure, S.J. Resolution 236, was introduced by Senators Pell and Matsunaga in February.

In a press conference, Levine motivated the resolution with an attack on beam weapons:

We are approaching a crossroads in the direction of the space program. . . . In recent years, there has been an increasing emphasis on military uses of outer space. The Reagan administration plans to establish a ‘Star Wars’ anti-missile defense system, deploy new weapons to destroy Soviet satellites, and increase use of the space shuttle for military missions, all of which threaten to trigger an arms race in outer space. . . . We must end the arms race in space before it becomes as uncontrollable as the arms race here on Earth. . . . We cannot allow the shortsightedness of the present generation to transform outer space into a staging ground for the next, and final, war.

The Coughlin-Brown amendment

Reps. George Brown (D-Calif.) and Larry Coughlin (R-Pa.) submitted an amendment to the FY 1985 Defense Authorization Bill banning further testing of U.S. anti-satellite weapons. It was passed by the House on May 23, 1984:

No funds appropriated pursuant to authorizations of appropriations in this Title may be used for testing of the space defense system (anti-satellite weapon) against an object in space unless and until the President certifies to Congress that the Soviet Union has conducted, after the date of enactment of this act, a test of a dedicated anti-satellite weapon.

In announcing his intention to introduce this amendment, Brown had said that the ASAT moratorium “would continue as long as the Soviets continue to abide by their own declared moratorium.” The congressman charged that “ASATs and ‘Star Wars’ technology are inextricably linked,” and “if we decided to proceed with ASATS, we will have taken the first step towards an arms race in space . . . which will, in turn, set off a new round in the arms race on Earth.”

Rep. Norm Dicks (D-Wash.) has recently introduced two related pieces of legislation. H.J. Resolution 523 urges the President to seek an agreement with the Soviets to declare an “immediate, mutual and verifiable moratorium” of limited duration on the testing in space of ASATs, and to “immediately resume negotiations on a mutual ban on the testing, production and development of such weapons.” H.J. Resolution 524 calls on the President to seek, “on an urgent basis,” a comprehensive treaty on any space-directed or space-based weapon.