

Carrington men hit U.S. 'Star Wars' plan

by Luba George

Now that Lord Peter Carrington has been officially installed as NATO Secretary General, the British government has thrown diplomatic caution to the winds and come out openly against President Reagan's program to develop a defensive energy-beam antiballistic-missile defense system. Carrington, the former British foreign minister and a business partner of Henry Kissinger, is a top European advocate of a "New Yalta" deal with the Soviet Union which would split Western Europe from the United States.

On June 25, the day that Carrington assumed his new post, the *International Herald Tribune* reported that "Carrington will focus allied effort on developing practical, affordable weapons rather than development of the more futuristic systems" like beam weapons. "Lord Carrington is known to favor strengthening the European side of NATO through greater defense cooperation" and "will emphasize the need for more conventional defense efforts." These innocuous-sounding phrases thinly veil the real intent of the Carrington plan: to remove the U.S. nuclear umbrella from Europe, withdraw American ground forces, and sabotage the beam-defense policy. Henry Kissinger and Sen. Sam "Red" Nunn (D-Ga.) are trying to implement exactly this decoupling program through legislation introduced in the U.S. Congress.

During a House of Commons Defense debate on beam weapons at the end of June, Michael Heseltine, Britain's defense secretary, said that "the space-based system is very much a research project and nobody knows if it is technically feasible or will enter service. We cannot base a defense strategy on that hypothesis."

Tory "traditionalist" Francis Pym, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's former defense secretary, has also officially joined the anti-beam lobby. Speaking to the annual conference of the Royal United Services Institute for Defense Studies, Pym bitterly denounced the U.S. beam-weapons program and ran through an analysis of East-West policy and his proposals for what he termed the three Ds—dialogue, defense, and deterrence. President Reagan's "Star Wars" arms build-up in outer space, he said, was so "horrendous" as to be impossible for the NATO allies to accept. It is a "new concept" which "disturbs everyone and can undermine con-

fidence in existing weapons and deterrence strategy," he said.

"There will be no forgiveness on the part of mankind for any failure by the superpowers to stop any developments in the stratosphere that are not beneficial to mankind," said Pym.

The statements by Heseltine and Pym followed a heated debate over the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative which appeared in the British press, beginning with a London *Times* editorial endorsing the Reagan program. A minority in the British oligarchy is alarmed by the Carrington policy, in the face of Soviet expansionism.

In the Chamberlain tradition

But the government's alignment behind the anti-beam campaign is occurring in a climate of growing appeasement, reminiscent of the era of Neville Chamberlain, the conservative prime minister who agreed to throw Europe to Hitler.

The day after Defense Secretary Heseltine denounced beam weapons, he called on the West to appease "Soviet expansionist behavior" by helping the Kremlin leaders to "strengthen their sense of security." Moscow has been telling the world for nearly a year that its "security" will improve only if the West abandons plans to defend itself against missile attack with beam weapons.

Heseltine's speech on "Russia in Historical Perspective" was delivered in the Conservative Party Bow Group at the House of Commons, after a first airing at a private meeting of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in May.

"Soviet expansionist behavior," said Heseltine, "has come about because the concept of 'Holy Russia' has now been replaced by an atheistic ideology which provides a convenient political justification for permanent expansion." Therefore, "*The West's long-term interest must be to encourage an increased sense of security in Moscow*, in the hope that the Soviet leaders would direct more of their resources to the genuine interests of their people and their society."

Heseltine shares with Lord Carrington the delusion that presumed fissures in the Russian Empire will lead to its demise, to the benefit of the Western oligarchy. "There are already signs of a backlash in the European republics. . . . Muslim fundamentalism and nationalist sentiment. . . . The leadership faces the classic problem of all empires. . . ." The West is witnessing the beginning of "the disintegration of monolithic Communism," said Heseltine.

The British government's "appeasement" message was scheduled to be delivered to the Russians directly by Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe. On the eve of his July 1 visit to Moscow, Howe addressed the Welsh Conservatives' annual Conference in Porthcawl, and stressed the importance of negotiations with the Soviets: "We are ready to take every opportunity for talks with Soviet leaders. . . . Greater trust and confidence between nations is the vital basis for new agreements."