

Editorial

An American 'Plan B'

Although most Americans do not know it—and thanks to the State Department, neither does the President—the Soviet Union is now engaged in a war-scale mobilization of its economy and armed forces, of the form identified in *EIR's Global Showdown* report as “Plan B”—maximum possible emphasis on the most advanced technology. Moscow is engaged in *crash* production and deployment of new offensive weapons, and a *crash* development of so-called Star Wars technology, which may have already passed from the “research” stage into prototype development.

The Kremlin has militarized all Soviet industry. Its current mobilization is comparable to what the United States undertook in the 1939-43 period.

No “arms talks” in Geneva, no amount of appeasement from the State Department or *Time* magazine, will be permitted by the Kremlin to alter the scope and pace of this build-up. At the point that, given an already consolidated offensive superiority, the Soviets were to deploy even a crude first-generation beam-weapon anti-missile defense, Russia “wins World War III.”

EIR published *Global Showdown* to make this “Russian Imperial War Plan for 1988” known, and to have President Reagan respond in kind, with an emergency U.S. defense mobilization, an American “Plan B.”

But to date, the United States continues in the exactly opposite, “post-industrial” direction. The United States is not merely lagging behind a Soviet build-up, it is engaged in an accelerating build-down of military and economic capabilities under the yoke of usury imposed by Paul Volcker’s Federal Reserve and his rentier-financier friends in New York and abroad.

- U.S. military spending is now well below Carter levels, inflation considered; the U.S. Congress, back from its August recess, is pledged to attempt another \$10-20 billion in cuts. Meanwhile, the economic foundations of military strength are nearly gone:

- What remains of U.S. steel production, after the Morgan-controlled industry has finished blowing up its

blast furnaces, is largely based on recycling of scrap, not new steel production. U.S. iron-steel output is now below the levels of 1900.

- The United States now produces only one machine-tool for every five produced in the Soviet Union—fewer machine-tools than the relatively backward Soviets produced in 1937.

Compare this last fact, to Soviet boss Gorbachov’s April 23 Central Committee address on war mobilization, where he announced “revolutionary changes . . . modernizing every industry, on the basis of the latest scientific and technical gains, and reaching the highest world levels in labor productivity.” He then added: “The decisive say belongs to the machine-tool sector.”

Of course, the United States must begin producing MX missiles in droves, and put the Strategic Defense Initiative (“Star Wars”) on a crash basis. But it must drastically alter current economic and financial policies to permit this build-up, based on rapid introduction of the most advanced technology.

It is *EIR's* calculation, for example, that the U.S. deficit in machine-tool production, were it to be met on the basis of existing technology, would require investments totaling \$600 billion. In short, we require the fastest possible introduction of laser machining—precisely the technology otherwise under development for anti-missile systems—first throughout the machine-tool sector, and then, all basic metalworking industries critical to national defense and capital-goods production. Franklin Roosevelt would have known how to do it.

There are those who will oppose the necessary measures. They will come from the ranks of those responsible for the present economic collapse of the West and massive Soviet military advantage, and from those, including in the Congress and the State Department, who have already determined to make their peace with the Russians, on Russian terms. But if the nation is to survive, we must shake off the principles of appeasement now dominating our foreign and military policy making, and ride roughshod over the principles of usury now dominating our economy.