

to speak. First of all, it was the period during which Mikhail Gorbachov had disappeared from public view. As a matter of fact, Gorbachov never once, even after he resurfaced after his mysterious absence, had anything positive to say about the Shultz-Shevardnadze "agreement-in-principle." In fact, after his disappearance, he ostentatiously ignored the "diplomatic progress" in the area of arms control, and went straight to the naval base of Murmansk to exploit "photo opportunities" on board nuclear submarines and to make tough public speeches about the need to strengthen Soviet defense commitments and the need for civilian austerity in the years to come.

Another significant early "cloud in the silver lining" was the fact that the day preceding the September Shultz-Shevardnadze "agreement-in-principle," the SDI Organization submitted its *Report to Congress*, mandated by law, recommending a shift from the "restrictive to the broad" interpretation of the ABM Treaty during "fiscal year 1988," which places the decision before April of 1988. The day following the Shultz-Shevardnadze "agreement-in-principle," the secretary of defense awarded no fewer than six SDI contracts, all involving projects based on the "broad interpretation" of the ABM Treaty, and most of them meeting March 1988 deadlines.

The Russian High Command, during Gorbachov's mysterious absence, had every reason to believe that the United States was preparing for a restructuring of its SDI program to fit the "broad interpretation," during the spring of 1988.

Such a U.S. shift during 1988 would imply a preliminary first phase of SDI and Tactical Defense Initiative (TDI) deployments in Europe beginning in 1991, approximately the time of anticipated Euromissile removal, in the event an INF Treaty were to be signed and ratified.

One theory, therefore, suggests that potential SDI developments in the U.S.A. were leaving the Soviet command no other choice than to embark on a hard-line course, of the kind displayed by Gorbachov vis-à-vis Shultz.

A second theory suggests that the Soviet command, in the aftermath of the stock market collapse, evaluated President Reagan's political position as so extremely vulnerable, that he could be forced into further concessions. The President, however, does not seem to be inclined to make concessions on the SDI.

For practical purposes, it makes no difference which of these theories is closer to the truth. The fact of the matter is that there is a dramatic industrial, economic, and financial crisis in the United States, and simultaneously, a rapidly escalating East-West confrontation now. As Admiral Crowe, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs lectured a Wall Street audience on Oct. 19, the national security of the United States cannot afford another 1929-33.

It may be that Moscow is calculating that President Reagan lacks the economic policies required to avert a 1929-33 kind of economic calamity.

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## Interview: Gen. (ret.) Paul Albert Scherer

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# LaRouche's defeat all who resist Soviet

*Nicholas Benton of EIR's Washington bureau interviewed Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Paul Albert Scherer, the former chief of military intelligence for the West German Bundeswehr, on Oct. 22 in Washington, D.C.*

**EIR:** General Scherer, recently you were in Paris, where you spoke at the meeting held there by the international Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations, and now you have come to the United States, where you participated in a meeting of the same Commission in Boston, concerning the upcoming trial of U.S. political figure Lyndon LaRouche. What is your particular interest in the trial of Mr. LaRouche?

**Scherer:** I was interested in coming to observe this trial, because after having appeared for many years before German courts and parliamentary committees in my capacity as an expert on questions of espionage, sabotage, infiltration, penetration, etc., this particular case seems to me to have very marked features going in that direction.

Judging from my observations over the past few years, LaRouche has, in my view, become a first-class target of Soviet psychological warfare, because he is one of the few politicians in the West—and certainly one of the very few in the United States—to show his true colors, without any regard for his own personal safety and security, to the effect that Soviet infiltration of the Western world, and the attempts and successes of Soviet disinformation, will lead to a complete softening and decadence within Western civilization.

**EIR:** Can you tell me what in your opinion motivates this trial against Mr. LaRouche?

**Scherer:** Since I am a guest in your country, I can only express myself carefully. As is the usual practice in psychological warfare and disinformation, certain intelligence and information must have been placed into the hands of federal agencies, causing them to view LaRouche within a criminal context, so that criminal proceedings had to be initiated against him.

**EIR:** What, in your view, is the significance of the role of

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# would be a loss to offensive

Mr. LaRouche in shaping important policy questions for the Western Alliance?

**Scherer:** Fundamentally, his ideas in opposition to a withdrawal of American troops from Western Europe; his opposition to eliminating the SDI as a counterweapon against the already existing Soviet SDI; his factually well-informed, ongoing interpretations of global economic conditions, which are currently making our lives very difficult—these, for me, are statements coming from an outstanding politician.

**EIR:** What kind of signal do you think it would send to the world, if the operations to suppress the efforts of Mr. LaRouche succeed?

**Scherer:** We already have much too much pessimism in the West, and we tend to overestimate the Soviet Union's so-called peace and disarmament offers. LaRouche's political defeat or demise, effected through Soviet disinformation, would be a loss for those forces who still want to put up moral and spiritual resistance [to those offers], and who believe in a renaissance of moral and cultural values in our advanced civilization.

**EIR:** What are the main threats that you see today to the future of the Western Alliance?

**Scherer:** To answer that, I must make an historical digression. Following World War II, Western Europe has remained as a bridgehead for the interests of the West and of the United States. For, a maritime power such as the United States can not hold its own against the Soviet Union's striving for world revolution, once the opposite coast of the Atlantic ceases to belong to its realm of potential. Europe's intelligent and industrious skilled workforce would then be forced to be a Soviet satrapy and to work for the expansion of Soviet potential.

Secondly, the Russians view Europe's engineers and technicians as some of the world's most skilled workers in arms technology, on up through the high-technology fields. And to that extent, following a withdrawal of American troops from Germany and Great Britain, the Soviet Union, without firing a shot, would be able to occupy this bridgehead and

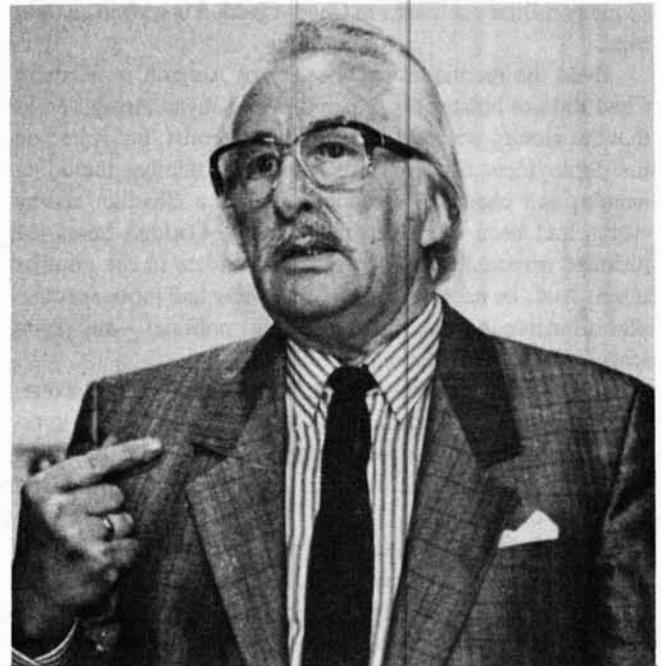
take it over; and thus, in my view, it is absolutely clear that it would necessarily belong to the dominant Soviet power.

I might add, that in this time of great psychological danger for all of us in open and free constitutional societies, the West is developing far too little energetic leadership capability in order to give a responsible and well thought-out response to these challenges. I am extraordinarily concerned in this regard.

If you take a map and consider the Atlantic Ocean as an extension of the Mediterranean, the situation of the ancient Roman Empire is a typical example of what confronts us today. Carthage, a land-based power, attempted to obliterate Rome in the course of three bloody Punic Wars. Hannibal had both the opportunity and the ability to move his troops, on elephants, over the snowy Pyrenees and the blockaded Alps and into Rome, where he virtually forced Rome's demise. The gauntlet thrown down by the Soviet Union (to return to modern times) is comparable to this Carthaginian challenge. If we today do not understand this, we are going to fail.

**EIR:** What kind of President do you think needs to succeed President Reagan in the White House?

**Scherer:** As a currently active representative of the NATO conception, and of the effort to stem Soviet imperialism, I would like to see in the White House a President and an administration, who sees this world-strategic question from the same standpoint as I and many other soldiers in Western Europe do.



*Brig. Gen. Paul Albert Scherer (ret.) speaks at a meeting of the international Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations, in Boston, Massachusetts on Oct. 20, 1987.*