

Editorial

March 23rd: seven years later

The announcement by President Reagan on March 23, 1983, of the policy to become known as the Strategic Defense Initiative, created a shock felt around the world. It appeared that, finally, Henry Kissinger and the evil policies which he represented would be eliminated from U.S. government. In place of Mutually Assured Destruction—the lunacy of a Dr. Strange-love—the U.S. President called for a mutual survival pact between the two adversarial superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union.

Perhaps one of the greatest shocks caused by Ronald Reagan's announcement was the widespread realization that the policy which he advocated had been formulated by Lyndon LaRouche, with active support from the Fusion Energy Foundation. LaRouche had been arguing for such a shift in defense policy since the mid-1970s, when it became clear that the Soviets were well in advance of the United States in developing an anti-ballistic missile defense based upon advanced physical principles involving lasers and electron beams.

Over the years, LaRouche sponsored a project to explore the feasibility of multi-layered Western strategic and tactical ABM defenses, based upon directed energy. He dealt with the strategic fallacies in Kissinger's balance-of-power Metternichean games, and perhaps most important, he pointed out that his proposal for the SDI (as it became known) would act as a science driver for the whole economy, on a larger scale than, but comparable to, NASA's Apollo program.

Another significant aspect of the LaRouche proposal was that the United States should be prepared to bring the Soviets in on technological developments and deployment of an advanced ABM system, to avoid any fears on their part that this would be an offensive rather than a defensive deployment. The thinking behind this was that the superior Western cultural potential and technological basis would mean that with the appropriate, Manhattan Project-style crash effort, the United States would overtake any existing Soviet lead in ABM systems, in short order.

The Soviet response to the program, after it was

adopted by President Reagan, was hysterical rejection. They were joined in the West by the pro-Soviet peace-nik lobby, including a gaggle of dishonest scientists who pretended that an SDI based upon directed energy could not work. Time has proven them wrong conclusively; however, in the meantime, rather than weakening, the Kissinger gang's hold over the U.S. government has strengthened, and the SDI as an effective policy has been killed.

Dr. Edward Teller, and his associate Lowell Wood, were associated in the same effort as LaRouche, to push an SDI based upon advanced physical principles. Unfortunately, perhaps in an effort to salvage some effort to bolster U.S. defenses in the face of what is in general a debacle, both Wood and Teller have endorsed a substitute proposal now getting military endorsement and great media play in the United States.

The idea is launch light-weight, 100-pound missiles into space, which would be equipped with sensing devices and would be capable of choosing, and presumably destroying, intercontinental ballistic missile targets. Reportedly, this system is now under discussion with the Soviets. It is being touted as a limited capability which can be conjointly developed by the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. to deal with third nations such as Libya or Pakistan.

Thus the SDI has supposedly been transformed from a defense against Soviet attack, and is instead vectored toward smaller-scale wars against the developing sector. More likely, the SDI, as it is being presently reshaped, is a crumb from the table being offered to a section of the military and military strategists, who have not completely deluded themselves about the reality of the Soviet threat. In return they are being asked to accept the retooling of the U.S. defense capability to the mission of fighting small-scale wars against the developing sector, on the model of the infamous Panama adventure.

Such a rotten compromise should not be confused with the LaRouche proposal or the kind of policy which Dr. Teller supported in his better days, along with Ronald Reagan.