

Editorial

The United States needs more patriots

Recently Lyndon LaRouche quipped to a friend, "If the United States had more patriots, I would be in the White House."

The ironies in his little joke are manifold. First there is the fact that the stocks of Patriot missiles are so low, that European defenses are being stripped in order to support the Bush-Thatcher Gulf war. This, while the Soviets are reestablishing their military occupation of the Baltic republics and the other Soviet republics, and implicitly threatening the newly liberated nations of Eastern Europe as well.

The bloom has worn off the Bush-Thatcher romance with Mikhail Gorbachov, and even the worst fools in London and Washington are being forced to recognize unmistakable signals from the Soviets that the Cold War is by no means over, and the series of blunders which have characterized Anglo-American policy is being mercilessly exposed.

There is another irony. The Patriot missile is manifestly not a good tactical defense weapon with which to guard a populous area from missile attack. Had the United States adopted LaRouche's program for the development of a laser defense system based upon the most advanced physical principles—the initial conception of President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative—this problem would never have arisen.

This is so, not because the "coalition" would have had an appropriate anti-missile defense system on hand, one which could have provided a virtually fail-safe defense (which is true), but because the present war would not be being fought. A United States which would have gone with a crash program to develop the SDI along the lines specified by LaRouche would now be benefiting from a massive infusion of technology to its civilian economy.

It would have no need to view the more productive German and Japanese economies as rivals—to be destroyed. It would not need to use oil and food as weapons in such economic warfare. It would not be aligning with the British to impose Anglo-American imperial rule over the rest of the world.

Over the past decade, LaRouche has been warning

that while the Soviets attacked any moves by the U.S. to implement the SDI, they themselves were developing advanced defense systems along these lines, as well as highly mobile radio frequency devices which could be used under battle conditions. Now it appears possible that the Iraqis have been provided with such weaponry.

The Brazilian newspaper *O Globo* carried an article on Jan. 24 reporting that Marco Bini, a professor at the Electromagnetic Wave Research Institute in Florence, Italy believes that the Iraqis have been creating artificial magnetic storms which have been used to down Tornado aircraft. He claims that this technology has fooled the radar of the planes and also has been used by the Iraqis as a substitute for radar detection of incoming targets.

The problems with the Patriot missiles as an area defense system are coming to public notice. According to Pentagon releases, Scuds cost on the order of \$400,000 apiece, while Patriots have a \$1 million price tag. Apparently, under present battle conditions, it takes two Patriot missiles to down one Scud.

Not only does debris from the strike rain down on the civilian populations in Israel and Saudi Arabia, but a Patriot which does not hit its target will return to earth to do damage. It is also the case that Scuds have released their warheads despite the fact that they were destroyed by a Patriot.

The problem lies in the fact that the Patriot was designed for a particular, restricted mission. It was intended to defend missile sites which usually are situated in isolated areas. In such a case, if the incoming missile is deflected from its target and then hits the ground, this is counted a success. Obviously, just the opposite is the case in an urban setting.

However, Iraq is not really the issue. We are presently in the early stages of a global war, which could involve 800 million members of the Muslim faith—and this is only the beginning. Now, if ever, is the time for real patriots to come to the fore: Americans who, like George Washington, are willing to risk all, to fight to defend republican principles, and defeat the evil British oligarchy and its domestic supporters.