

The Extraterrestrial Imperative

When the Soviet Union launched its first manned space flight 50 years ago this week, it launched a new era for all mankind. Only weeks later, President John F. Kennedy announced the crash program for the United States to land on the Moon, and a major mobilization of scientific capacity began—which, although the ultimate goal of the Moon landing was achieved, was tragically cut short by the assassination of Kennedy himself.

Since that assassination, the world has gone into a descent toward a New Dark Age. Despite the launching of the U.S. Space Shuttle program, and the International Space Station, there has been no ongoing cooperative mission by the planet's major nations to explore and colonize space. The greatest opportunity for such international collaboration for the "common aims of mankind" came with President Reagan's proposal for the Strategic Defense Initiative in 1983—but that too was crushed in the cradle, this time by de facto British agents in the Kremlin.

As the British imperial financial system tightened its grip on the world, science itself was targeted for extinction.

Today, the scientific demand for reviving a crash program of space exploration has revived with spectacular drama. The fragility of life on Earth, in the face of powerfully destructive forces such as earthquakes and tsunamis, has been pressed home by the horrendous destruction in Japan—and the prospect of more, and worse, to come. All reasonable statesmen and scientists agree with Lyndon LaRouche that a problem of this magnitude requires an extraordinary mobilization of every scientific capacity available, emphatically including space science, the main discipline available to look at the solar and galactic forces which play an indeterminate, but obviously

decisive role, in this process.

How then is it possible for Americans to tolerate a President of the United States who not only has trashed the legacy of President Kennedy, killing the manned space program of the United States, but who clearly is serving his British masters by destroying vital scientific capabilities en masse?

Fortunately, other nations are not so stupid. Take the outlook expressed by Georgi Grechko, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the maiden space flight by Yuri Gagarin. Grechko, is a Russian physicist and cosmonaut, twice named Hero of the Soviet Union, who went into space many times; he was the first to carry out extravehicular activities (EVA). The 80-year-old Grechko told the business wire service RBC.ru in an exclusive interview issued April 12:

"Even if flying to Mars were forbidden, people would still be found who would fly there. Man always overcomes difficulties and goes beyond the horizon. He came out of the caves, and that wasn't enough. He crossed a river, and that wasn't enough. He went from one continent to another across the Bering Strait, and crossed the oceans, but again, that was not enough. He flew across the Atlantic Ocean in a single-engine plane, and again, it was not enough. Man is man, because he is always drawn to go beyond the horizon. And thereby he expands the horizon for all humanity. If an animal has food, warmth, and a mate, it doesn't need anything more than that. So, we either remain human and fly to Mars, or we will be animals."

Grechko puts the issue clearly on the table. The only thing that could be added is that, should man *fail* to fulfill his higher nature, he may well be facing extinction. The time to fulfill our extraterrestrial imperative is now.