honored—and clear indications of the Obama-British encirclement policy against Russia and China—the Russians have no reason to believe them, and no intention to go along with the NATO game.

“In fact, we have no desire at all to disturb global strategic stability,” Alexander Vershbow, the Deputy Secretary General of NATO, told the conference. “Quite the contrary: NATO missile defense will be capable of intercepting only a small number of relatively unsophisticated ballistic missiles. It does not have the capability to neutralize Russian deterrence.”

Madelyn Creedon, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Strategic Affairs, claimed that Russian virtual modeling that shows Russia as the only possible target of the NATO system is wrong, because it is based on the assumption that the system is activated immediately on launch, when in fact there’s a delay before it is activated. A Russian missile could hit Seattle or Washington, but the delay would not prevent intercept of more primitive missiles. These comments inspired the headline in one Russian newspaper, “NATO says Euro ABM can only intercept substandard rockets.”

The notion that Iran is even the threat to Europe that NATO claims it is, was itself challenged at the conference. According to Russia Today, political analyst Vladimir Orlov told the conference that the threats that NATO claims to be worried about are greatly exaggerated.

Dmitri Rogozin, then Moscow’s envoy to NATO, and now deputy prime minister, proposed in October 2011, that the deadlock over the stationing of a U.S. missile defense system in Eastern Europe could be broken with an alternative plan, providing for a joint system capable of protecting the planet both from missile threats and from threats coming from outer space, such as asteroids. His views were reported in the daily Kommersant on Oct. 18, and the story was widely covered in other Russian media.

The proposal, dubbed the Strategic Defense of Earth (SDE), would tend in the direction envisioned by Lyndon LaRouche in 1982 and earlier, in his plan for U.S.-Soviet cooperation in bringing an end to the era of Mutually Assured Destruction. The Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) adopted by Ronald Reagan in March 1983 embodied LaRouche’s proposal, but was rejected by the Soviet Union and sabotaged from within the United States.

According to coverage in the Oct. 18, 2011 Russia Today, the point of the current Russian initiative “is to focus on fighting threats coming from space rather than just missiles…. It would be an integration of anti-aircraft, missile, and space defenses.

“The system would be targeted against possible threats to Earth coming from space, including asteroids, comet fragments, and other alien bodies…. The system should be capable of both monitoring space and destroying any dangerous objects as they approach our planet.”

According to Kommersant’s sources, “one of the key elements of the Russian proposal is that the new Strategic Defense of Earth concept would have to be under UN control. The reason for this is obvious. Russia, as one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, has veto power, and would therefore be able to fully monitor the project’s development and prevent its transformation in an undesirable direction.”

Russian President Dmitri Medvedev expressed interest in the proposal, and instructed one of his aides, Sergei Prikhodko, to work with Rogozin on it. The English-language cable TV program “Russia Today” commented on Oct. 18: “The package of proposals has yet to be formalized. The idea has been nicknamed Strategic Defense of Earth, as an allusion to the Strategic Defense Initiative…. The concept gives an opportunity to propose [to the U.S.] an even more global task to save the world. And also do it together with us rather than on their own, Kommersant’s informant noted.”

On March 5, 2012, Rogozin, who was by then deputy prime minister, said at a meeting with space experts in Korolyov that whereas presently there is no immediate danger posed by asteroids, “We have to imagine that our planet could collide with other celestial bodies, such as meteorites, sometime in the future.”