

Putin's Russia Offers Cooperation in Space

The first publicized offer from the Russian government for revival of the idea of strategic defense cooperation between Moscow and Washington came from President Boris Yeltsin, in his visit with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Vancouver, B.C., in the Spring of 1993. This was not followed through—and, as Lyndon LaRouche has recently pointed out, the portfolio for Russia was given to Vice President Al Gore, with known results.

The next offer came following the accession of Vladimir Putin into the Russian prime ministership (in 1999), and then as President, in the wake of the 2001 terror attack on the United States.

Russia Responds to 9/11

September 2001: President Putin acted to protect world security on Sept. 11, 2001. As the first foreign leader to contact President George W. Bush on the day of the attack, he was informed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that U.S. nuclear forces were on high alert. “We already know,” replied Putin, “and we have cancelled our exercises and brought our alert levels down.”

[Nonetheless, three months later, Bush gave Russia notice that the U.S.A. was withdrawing from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The British-groomed U.S. war party of Vice President Dick Cheney took the long-since diluted remains of President Reagan’s SDI program, and turned them into today’s attempts at building a global BMD system based on anti-missile missiles, behind whose protection nuclear-missile attacks on Russia and China might ultimately be attempted.]

Sept. 25, 2001: In a speech to the German Bundestag in late September, Putin offered the basis for international cooperation and war avoidance, based on rejecting the axioms of the clash of civilizations and geopolitics (Oct. 5, 2001 *EIR*).

[One week later, the U.S. went to NATO for invocation of Article 5, and launched the war in Afghanistan.]

February 2007: In Munich, Putin blasted the attempts to solve world crises by force, and stressed the

need for economic development as a prerequisite for world stability, implicitly offering Russia as a partner in such development. He favorably cited the model of Franklin Roosevelt, and attacked the plans for BMD in Europe as not serving the defensive purposes stated.

July 2007: Putin met George W. Bush in Kennebunkport, Maine, and put a proposal on the table for collaboration on strategic missile defense. This included the offer of the joint use of the Russian-owned Gabala radar station in Azerbaijan for missile defense.

January 2008: Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reiterated Putin’s offers from Munich.

October 2008: Lavrov offered cooperation with the U.S. in an article in the monthly magazine *Profile*, noting that the world needs the U.S. of Presidents Kennedy and FDR. LaRouche welcomed this statement (Oct. 24, 2008 *EIR*).

March 2009: During the first major meetings between incoming Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Lavrov, the offer of joint work on missile defense was put on the table (part of the U.S.-Russia “reset”).

July 2009: In the context of Obama’s trip to Moscow, Lavrov reiterated the Putin offer from Kennebunkport (2007), for cooperation on missile defense. Discussions on the topic were to be started under the U.S.-Russia Bilateral President Commissions.

Aug. 26, 2009: The only known U.S. offer to Russia (!) on space work, came from a NASA official in Moscow, who, in the course of discussions on cooperation on the International Space Station, proposed work on a joint flight to Mars.

May 14-17, 2010: Sergei Ivanov, Deputy Prime Minister for Defense and the Defense Industry, traveling to the United States with Anatoli Perminov, the head of Roscosmos, the Russian space agency, called for cooperation between the U.S. and Russia on travel to the Moon, Mars, and other planets.

April 2011: Perminov, in an interview with *Russia Today*, called for a global space security monitoring system, which would warn of natural disasters (this was in the wake of the devastating Japanese earthquake and tsunami at Fukushima).

October 2011: Then-Russian envoy to NATO, Dmitri Rogozin, as reported in the Russian paper *Kommersant* Oct. 18, called for international cooperation, under the auspices of the UN, for Strategic Defense of

Earth, “an integration of anti-aircraft, missile, and space defenses.”

Medvedev on the BMD Threat

Nov. 23, 2011: Then-Russian President Dmitri Medvedev addressed the Russian nation, reiterating offers of cooperation on joint missile defense with the U.S. and West, even as he outlined the military measures that would have to be taken if the BMD strategic threat continued to be pursued by NATO.

Jan. 20, 2012: Igor Ivanov, a former high-level Russian official and still influential figure in the Russian foreign policy establishment, in an article in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, laid out proposals for cooperation on missile defense and development of the Arctic, with the U.S.

April 28, 2012: Roscosmos Deputy Director Vitali Davydov, at a Russian Security Council Conference, called for a Russian national program on the threat to Earth from asteroids, noting that this requires “a joint effort by all nations.”

May 3, 2012: Russia hosted a U.S.-Russian conference on missile defense, during which Russian general staff officers presented the threat to Russia’s security

from the planned European BMD program of the U.S.A. and NATO, while emphasizing the superiority of a full-fledged cooperative Russian-American program, including against third-party threats.

June 9, 2012: Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev, at the conclusion of a global security forum held in St. Petersburg, called for international cooperation on readiness and potential deflection of the “space threat from asteroids.”

Feb. 16, 2013: Russian Deputy Prime Minister Rogozin reiterated his 2011 call for U.S.-Russian collaboration for a Strategic Defense of Earth, in the wake of the Chelyabinsk meteorite explosion of Feb. 15.

Feb. 21, 2013: According to the Russian daily *Izvestia*, Rogozin wrote to Prime Minister Medvedev proposing that Russia join with other countries, especially the United States, in establishing “an international system of anti-asteroid security for the planet.”

Feb. 26, 2013: Russian Security Council Secretary Patrushev took the occasion of a conference on fighting illegal drugs, in Yekaterinburg, Russia, to reiterate his call for “interagency cooperation among nations” against the asteroid-comet threat to Earth.

