

•Improving means of delivery...

The main weapon for a Soviet chemical or biological attack would be the 40-tube BM-21 multiple rocket launcher. Two batteries of six launchers could lay down nearly 500 chemical warheads in a few seconds.

NATO has only a limited ability to fight a chemical war. The United States is the only country with a substantial retaliatory chemical capability but has renounced altogether the use of biological agents and weapons...

## U.S. Labor Party: Satellite Hoax Must Not Wreck SALT Talks

*The following is a U.S. Labor Party statement first published on Feb. 3 as an editorial in the USLP's newspaper New Solidarity.*

The wholly unwarranted but ever-growing furor over a piece of benign Soviet satellite debris in the northern Canadian tundra — as pointed out by columnist Joseph Kraft, long known to U.S. and Canadian authorities to be on its way — and the immediate clamor for control of satellites, and banning of nuclear power in space, make it necessary and urgent to reaffirm what the viable basis for a strategic understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union must be.

As emphasized and spelled out in the Labor Party's statement on the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT), "From Détente to Entente," released in December 1977, the sole acceptable basis for negotiations expressing the only true interests of both the Soviet Union and the United States is a SALT agreement based on collaborative arrangements in the two fields of technology which comprise 99 percent of the basis for advanced weapons systems — fusion energy and aerospace technology. We have developed the argument for collaborative efforts in advanced fusion research and the many Soviet initiatives in this direction (most recently by laser fusion specialist Nikolai Basov in Maimi, Florida) on many past occasions. In the case of space technology, information on satellite and related capabilities incidental to the "crash" actually underscores the importance of this area of research, involving not only the basic science of the earth's atmosphere, but technological applications ranging from resource prospecting to climate control.

Such a reaffirmation of the required SALT policy is necessary because it is clear that the satellite hoax and the seemingly unrelated issue of renegotiation of a Test Ban Treaty are being used to turn the present SALT talks into a replay of the 1920s and 1930s League of Nations disarmament talkathon. The only purpose for turning present articles appearing in the Christian Science Monitor: that is the attempt by the technologically most backward nation in the advanced sector, England, to

retain its strategic nuclear blackmail ability. Given the technological and scientific backwardness of "Great" Britain, it can only assure continuation of this threat by imposing its own backwardness on the community of advanced industrial nations through maintenance of technological "parity." This also explains the peculiar interest shown by Her Majesty's government in Soviet fusion disclosures to the U.S., as in the matter of Soviet electron-beam fusion specialist Leonid Rudakov, documented in the files of the U.S. Department of Energy.

### *Toward a SALT Agreement*

Initially, strategic arms negotiations must be a matter conducted *exclusively* between the United States and the Soviet Union, on the policy basis indicated. Issues relating to satellites, incidental weapons systems, and other secondary matters must be subsumed features of an overall settlement, rather than operating on separate tracks from which diversionary and destructive maneuvers can be launched against the core of the negotiations.

Second, once an understanding on the basis indicated is reached between the Soviet Union and the United States, such a *collaborative* arrangement then becomes the framework for expanded negotiations between the U.S., the Soviets, and other progress-oriented advanced sector industrial nations and Third World countries for joint development and peaceful applications of nuclear and space technology-based projects.

When one considers the high-technology, industrial-centered itinerary of the visiting high-level Soviet delegation led by Boris Ponomarev to Houston, Los Angeles, and Detroit: Ponomarev's own public and explicit linkage of progress in SALT and increased U.S.-Soviet economic collaboration, modeled on cooperation with Henry Ford and other Midwest industrialists during the 1930s; and this week's expression of support for nuclear-based space research, directly in the face of Schlesinger's campaign, by leading scientists at the Los Alamos Laboratory, it becomes clear that this SALT policy is not only necessary, but immediately feasible.