

Editorial

On the anniversary of March 23, 1983

Eight years ago, on March 23, 1983, President Reagan announced his policy for a U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative. That seemed to mark an inflection point, not only for the United States, but for the rest of the world as well: a new era of technological expansion which would spill over from the military to the civilian economies of the world, an era of hope, particularly for the nations of the "South," already suffocating under a load of unpayable debt.

Instead, a malthusian cabal under the leadership of then-Vice President George Bush and Henry Kissinger took over the second Reagan administration and shaped it. The SDI was sabotaged, and military policy was vectored to serve Anglo-American imperialist designs, as was the case in the war against Panama last year, and Iraq now.

The transformation of the second Reagan administration began to be obvious in 1986, when the New Age "postwar era" was negotiated by Reagan, Thatcher, and Gorbachov. Starting in 1983, the Project Democracy crowd, who ran the dirty Iran-Contra operation, became the hands and feet of the Reagan administration, creating an absolute disaster in terms of true U.S. national interest. Not only has the United States betrayed friendly governments in the Philippines, in Panama, and now in Iraq, but we are turning against such staunch pillars of the Western alliance as Germany and Japan. Surely this is madness.

It is ironic, looking at the illusions of "America firsters" who believe the military destruction of Iraq has somehow reestablished American *honor*, that, increasingly, policy shots since the second Reagan administration have been called from London. As Mrs. Thatcher bragged in her recent visit here, the U.S. is expected to provide the muscle and the heart in the Anglo-American alliance—the British are prepared to do the thinking.

This does not let the United States off the hook. It is clear that the present fascist consensus was shaping up even before Reagan left office; it was then that the plans were made for the kind of genocidal offensive

which the United States is still waging in the Gulf, with its ongoing efforts to dismember Iraq, and its failure to come to the relief of the destitute people there who now face famine and unchecked disease.

Even so, this Bush presidency is unique in the history of the world. We now have a lunatic as President of the powerful United States, a man capable of inflicting worse atrocities on defenseless women, children, the elderly, and on soldiers who were trying to withdraw, than Adolf Hitler did over any comparable time period. Already, probably more than 300,000 Iraqis have been murdered, in a period of about one month.

But George Bush is not responsible alone. The applause which his speech received from the joint session of Congress—a speech which can only be compared to Hitler's infamous Sports Palace address—is a measure of the willingness of the American people to accept his barbarity in Iraq. Nonetheless, George Bush is not a shoo-in for a second term as President. For one thing he is facing a mammoth domestic economic crisis, for which he has no remedy.

The economic crisis is real: Both the United States and Britain are bankrupt due to the same free market economic policies which they are trying to impose on the rest of the world. We have just seen what happened in a by-election in England, where Mrs. Thatcher's party went down to defeat in a traditionally strong Conservative area. Essentially, Mrs. Thatcher got the same treatment given to Winston Churchill at the end of World War II. The economic issue is making Mrs. Thatcher's party very unpopular. She, like Churchill, appears to be much more popular in the United States than at home. Bush may find the same phenomena working against him, as war fever calms down and domestic realities reassert themselves in the popular mind.

George Bush must not be reelected, nor can we accept a substitute for him such as Sam Nunn—the same evil wrapped in a slightly different package. Lyndon LaRouche should be in the White House, so that the hope for humanity represented in 1983, may be finally realized.