

“Conversion” might seem to be a laudable effort, if it means making tractors instead of missiles, or televisions instead of fighter aircraft. But in the real economy the precise opposite of such noble intentions is the result, because the average level of productivity is lowered technologically.

The cooperative development of SDI technologies based on “new physical principles,” strengthens the scientifically and technologically high quality of the military-industrial complex, but not the mass production of “conventional” standard weapons. The aim is to achieve a lasting increase of the total economic productivity level. Still more important, with the development and production of beam weapons for anti-missile defense, these technologies become available, practically automatically, to revolutionize the structure of production of the civilian economy. The proposed concrete project for joint development of plasma weapons demonstrates, that Russia’s military-industrial complex does in fact have a leading position, worldwide, in fundamental and crucial areas of science and technology. The cooperative SDI effort would thus not only constitute a crucial contribution to the economic reconstruction of Russia, it would also allow the development of new pioneer technologies in the world economic context, technologies for which there is often no real scientific-technological base as yet. The potential contribution which the Russian military-industrial complex could make in the areas of laser applications, plasma technologies, nuclear fusion, new materials, space travel, etc., is enormous.

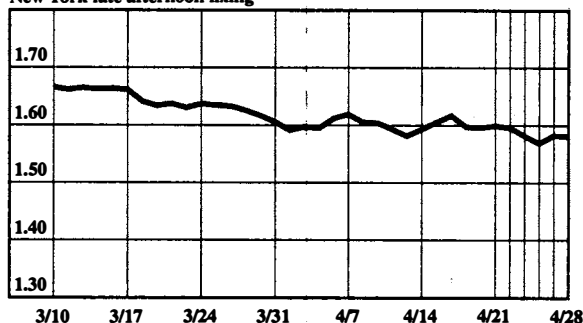
What is at stake?

Should the West either reject the Russian offer for cooperation on SDI categorically, or seek to stall it out, then those forces in Russia will inevitably gain the upper hand, which are in general hostile to a policy of cooperation with the West. The expectation then would be that particularly the Civic Union, which represents the Russian military-industrial complex politically, would be driven into the arms of the restorationist, Great Russian anti-western forces. The military-industrial complex would then probably fall back into its traditional role and would once again, cut off from the general economy, become the logistical base for the Russian military apparatus. A dictatorial Great Russian regime would view the Russian military apparatus, including the military-industrial complex, as the primary instrument of power domestically and to the outside. Under conditions of dictatorship and civil wars domestically, and military aggression toward the outside, it would be highly improbable that the personnel and technological potentials of the military-industrial complex would be employed for reconstructing the Russian economy at a higher technological level. That in turn would mean that the chance had been missed to exploit the potential of the military-industrial complex productively, to contribute to the economic and thus political stabilization of Russia.

Currency Rates

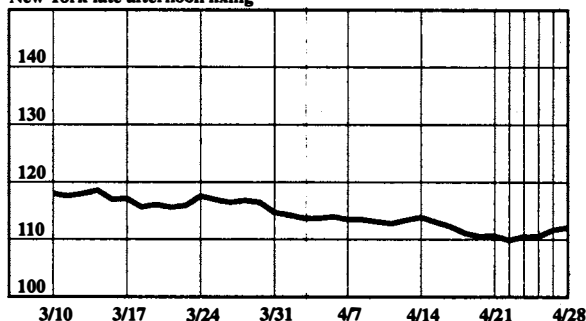
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



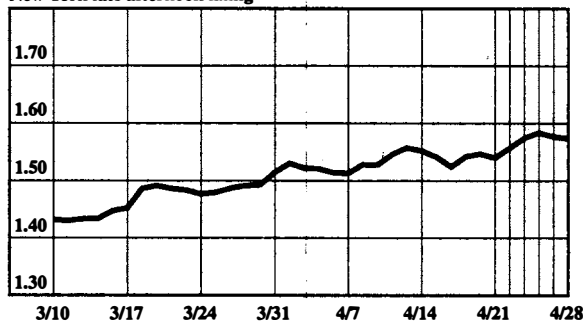
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

