

Develop Beam Weapons To Stop Nuke Threat

Thirteen months before President Ronald Reagan delivered his nationally televised address proposing the United States and the Soviet Union jointly develop what he called the Strategic Defense Initiative, Lyndon LaRouche addressed an EIR conference on the strategic crisis, in Washington, D.C. The following are excerpts of his Feb. 17, 1982 presentation. The entirety of LaRouche's presentation was originally published in the book, A Program for America.

...Turning to the question of the strategic arms debate itself. We have an insane policy, totally insane. . . .

It has been calculated that a 10% exchange of thermonuclear capabilities between the two superpowers would mean a fall-out in long-lived radioactive isotopes which would swirl around the world to the effect that no warm-blooded animal life will exist two years after that exchange. So what the devil is the sense of even talking about reducing the number of missiles?! That is no solution to this problem. You want to go in the direction of a showdown, with a weapon you can't use! But you might use it, and therefore you live under the threat of nuclear suicide.

How do you get out of this? It's elementary. If I put into space orbit a number of platforms with particle relativistic beam weapons, chemical-powered x-ray or not, which can target any missile in mid-flight, and I proceed to develop that system of detection, I can kill the proverbial 99% of missiles and aircraft carrying nuclear weapons in mid-flight.

You can't do it with laser weapons because they have problems, but with relativistic beam weapons which deliver a relativistic shock to a missile, you can fire as if with bullets and kill these things in mid-flight. That is the only solution to the nuclear weapons problem.

Then, why the hell don't we develop it!

Cooperate With Moscow

Why don't we sit down and agree with Moscow to develop these blasted things? Because they are important to both the United States and the Soviet Union for the mutual defense of each nation from the sword of thermonuclear Damocles. . . .

We have a problem. Not only do the superpowers have thermonuclear capabilities, but many nations wholly out of our control are increasingly coming into possession of nuclear

weapons and access to missile delivery capabilities—we have a problem of third powers which could engage in nuclear war becoming the trigger for nuclear power between the superpowers.

Therefore, we must have the ability that, if East Podunk decides to have a nuclear war and shoot off missiles, we'll damn well shoot them down. We must have a policy that we will not tolerate the actual deployment of thermonuclear missiles against any target on the face of the Earth by any nation.

And we must agree with the Soviet Union on that question. We must agree that we will agree to destroy anybody's thermonuclear missile or airplane carrying a missile which goes up into the air. We've got to make this planet safe.

The idea that we can hold back weapons development, the idea that we ought to have as an objective holding back technological progress in arms and warfare, is sheer idiocy. It always has been idiocy.

The only solution is to organize our civilian basis to expand our economic power, to funnel credit selectively into the places that will restore our economic power, and to follow a foreign policy based on credit for viable infrastructure projects for developing nations; to expand especially our Corps of Engineers to do such things as to build a high-speed railroad from the Atlantic Coast across the Sahel region of Africa; to build a large water-system between the Congo watershed and Lake Chad region of Sahel.

Our aim is to strengthen the stability of nations through an outpouring of American economic power and American technology in cooperation with each nation.

At the same time, we must have an orderly national defense and a policy of agreeing with Moscow, since we're both going to be around, we presume, for a long time to come, that we shall both insist on full-speed ahead arms-race development of relativistic beam weapons.

If we do this, particularly if we proceed in the totally opposite direction from the austerity policy, and the kinds of economic and monetary policy of the founding fathers of this nation are adopted, a dirigistic system of credit, promoting the development of high-technology agriculture, high-technology manufacturing and infrastructure, extending the same policy as a matter of relations to the developing nations—then we can eliminate or solve the kind of crises we face in the April-May period.

If we do not, but continue in this utopian nonsense which McNamara and Henry Kissinger typify over the recent period, or we proceed with such sheer idiocy as the China-Korean-Taiwan cooperation around a presumably sunken oil deposit in the China Sea—that kind of nonsense—or proceed with the Seaga-centered Caribbean Basin project the way that idiot David Rockefeller wants to do this, and continue to tolerate Volcker—we shall not survive because we have lost the moral fitness to survive, by refusing to make the kinds of policy shifts I have indicated.