

# ARIZONA NEWSLETTER Doctors for Disaster Preparedness

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## THE DISINFORMATION LASER

In analyzing how the public became indoctrinated in the web of falsehoods and half-truths that have become the anti-SDI "wisdom," Simon P. Worden describes the disinformation laser.

To make a physical laser, atoms in an excited state are placed in a container with mirrors at each end. Light of exactly the right color is bounced back and forth between the two mirrors. With each bounce, the light beam picks up a little more energy from the excited atoms until it is strong enough to break out of the container through the mirrors. The amplified light beam can then do its intended work.

The disinformation laser works in an analogous way, amplifying anti-SDI propaganda that originates in the Soviet Union. Soviet publications or Soviet scientists pick up some obscure analysis by Western anti-SDI authors, or sometimes plant ideas at international "peace" conferences. Once introduced into a politically charged environment, ideas bounce back and forth between Soviet disinformation artists and Westerners who sympathize with Soviet positions, gaining a little more strength and political credibility with each bounce. Finally, the disinformation emerges as a fully credible accepted "fact," ready to work its political mischief.

The Soviets have used their political laser with devastating effectiveness against SDI. Their very first use was to spread the trillion dollar cost estimate for a deployed system. Within a week after the President's March 23, 1983, speech launching the program, Soviet Academy of Sciences head Velikov said a deployed missile defense would cost between one half and one trillion dollars. He was quoted in the *Los Angeles Times*. Throughout 1983, other press reports merely cited "defense experts" as the source of the cost estimate. The anti-SDI Union of Concerned Scientists published a report in March, 1984, asserting a cost of "trillions." Soviet disinformation had become a "fact." (The UCS's weapons numbers were off by factors of 25 to 50, but the media moguls don't care.)

Another case study of the Soviet technique in action is shown by retired Air Force Lt. Col. Robert Bowman. Colonel Bowman is probably the most widely traveled SDI opponent. There is scarcely a college in the United States that has not received a dose of Bowman's views of SDI (as has the University of Arizona and its "public television" station, under the sponsorship of Physicians for Social Responsibility, among others). Unfortunately, this has been the only view most have heard of SDI. Bowman is a bit of a disinformation artist himself. His literature presents him as "the former head of 'Star Wars'." In fact, he ran a small office at the Air Force

Space and Missile Systems Organization in Los Angeles during the late 1970s, just before he retired. His office channeled some of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency laser research money to contractors. Lasers now account for about 10% of the SDI budget, the rest being allocated for sensors, battle management systems, space launch, and kinetic energy weapons. Bowman could scarcely call himself the previous head of SDI, even if one accepts the bizarre prospect that a lt. colonel preceded a lt. general as SDI program director.

In his own publication *Space and Security News*, June, 1988, Bowman presented a rebuttal to the update on SDI that appeared in the May issue of *National Review*. In one of his major arguments, Bowman claims that if we were to intercept ballistic missiles (even a single one), plutonium in the intercepted warheads would itself poison and kill every person on the planet. This line of attack apparently began in February, 1987, with an article in the *Moscow News*, a Soviet propaganda publication distributed to tourists. Bowman reflected it and enhanced its credibility. At a senior academic conference in St. Catherines, Canada, in July, 1988, this plutonium doomsday possibility was raised as a principal objection to SDI. The disinformation laser is clearly powering up for another strike.

The facts of the matter flatly contradict this doomsday scenario. Detailed calculations of plutonium release from the burn-up of a nuclear reactor reentering from space (containing about the same amount of radioactive material as an ICBM) were motivated by concerns about the U.S. Galileo planetary probe, which is powered by plutonium. The worst case would be a few thousand cancer cases over several decades. Calculations done by the Defense Nuclear Agency in response to Bowman's charges show that the maximum US population dose of radiation from intercepting 1000 warheads would be below current OSHA standards for radiation exposure to nuclear power plant workers. Yet Bowman asserts that it would be preferable to have 1000 nuclear warheads exploding on their targets!

In an article published by TASS in August, 1988, the Soviets reassured the world that the reactors in their Radar Ocean Surveillance Satellites (RORSATS), which -- like an ICBM -- contain considerable radioactivity, could burn up in the atmosphere without causing a significant increase in the natural level of radiation. Possibly the Soviets haven't told Bowman all they know about radioactivity in the atmosphere.

Watch for the full text of Worden's answer to Bowman in Fort Freedom (see enclosure).

## ARIZONA CALENDAR

**September 30.** "Sharing" with four physicians from the USSR, Mayor Tom Volgy, Physicians for Social Responsibility, etc. See your local "peace" calendar, the newspaper, or posters at the hospitals for the various times and locations.

**October 19.** Antidotes. Yuri Bezmenov, former Soviet disinformation agent with Novosti Press Agency, tells how he duped the Western tourists (on videotape). Also the first installment of *Nuclear War Survival Skills*, starring Cresson Kearny. 7:30 p.m., 3615 E. Fifth St. (Tapes may be borrowed.)

## PREPAREDNESS TODAY -- PEACE TOMORROW

The annual DDP/TACDA meeting convenes in Salt Lake City, October 22-23. Among many outstanding speakers, Dr. Edward Teller will discuss "SDI: A Bipartisan Issue"; Dr. Russell Seitz of the Harvard Center for International Affairs will speak on "Nuclear Winter and the American Medical Association: Manifestations of Psychic Numbing and Denial"; and Dr. Arthur Robinson, author of the Republican platform plank on civil defense, will prognosticate on "USA 2000: Remnant or Republic?" The featured banquet speaker will be Dr. Petr Beckmann (see enclosure) on the subject of "Science as a Political Football." Topics of highly practical interest include nutrition in time of national emergency, preventing an American Bhopal, citizens' first aid, and shelter construction.

Plan to arrive a day early for a High Frontier seminar on strategic defense and a hospital disaster planning workshop, which will include information on the Packaged Disaster Hospital program.

Send in your registration today -- form is enclosed.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Strikes in Managua.** After signing a truce with the freedom-fighters, President Daniel Ortega continued to face opposition from Nicaraguan Communist and Socialist parties. The Confederation of Independent Workers, which has 14,000 members including most of Nicaragua's skilled workers, called a hunger strike, proclaiming "We prefer to die of hunger with dignity than to die of hunger working as slaves" (*Third World Week* May 6, 1988).

**Increased Booby-Trap Injuries in Afghanistan.** Soviet troops leaving Afghanistan are reportedly scattering millions of mines. The most insidious are light camouflaged explosives called butterfly mines whose only purpose is to maim civilians. Physicians report that their caseload of mine injuries is growing, while gunshot wounds are less frequent. Bunair, a 25 year old self-taught expert on decommissioning mines, recently lost a leg, but intends to return to his work if he can find a prosthesis. In seven years, he has destroyed 500 mines. Only about 4,999,500 to go (*Wall St J* Sept 1, 1988).

## SOVIET ABM SYSTEM PROGRESSES; VERIFICATION DIFFICULT

While Gorbachev offers some reassurances on the Krasnoyarsk radar (which do *not* involve dismantling this facility that violates the ABM Treaty), little-publicized advances in Soviet missile defense continue.

The Air Force Intelligence Service has discovered secret underground silos believed to be for antiballistic missile radars and interceptors that are banned under the ABM Treaty. These are located throughout the Soviet Union, near command bunkers, nuclear weapons storage facilities, and other strategic sites. The Soviet ABM plant near Tyumen has recently doubled in size. It is believed that as many as 3,000 SH-08 and SH-04 interceptors will be produced there -- far more than the 100 that are allowed by treaty. In addition, electronic monitoring of the Soviet nation-wide network of phased-array radars revealed testing related to battle-management capabilities (*Washington Times* Mar 10, 1988).

A crude Soviet boost-phase defense is thought to have been tested over the South Atlantic in 1980, when there was speculation about a South African test of a nuclear weapon. This nuclear shrapnel defense utilizes a small nuclear weapon to propel millions of tiny steel shards, forming a cloud designed to damage any spacecraft that might try to travel through it. Another test of such a system might have caused the "dome of light" observed over Finland late in October, 1985 (*Washington Inquirer* Apr 1, 1988).

According to an unidentified official, the Soviets are building a floating Krasnoyarsk, possibly intended for tracking submarine-launched missiles. Norman Friedman, an authority on defense electronics, was skeptical, saying that it would be difficult to integrate a large battle-management station at sea with land-based interceptors. He noted that the most sophisticated Soviet phased-array radar yet put to sea is "rather unimpressive" compared with the American Aegis system (*Washington Inquirer* Aug 19, 1988).

Some intelligence agencies are skeptical about an impending Soviet breakout from the ABM Treaty because they believe the evidence is equivocal. One problem is limitations in satellite verification capability. Only two advanced photoreconnaissance satellites (called KH-11) are now in orbit, possibly about half the bare minimum needed. One is long past its design life. A replacement was reportedly destroyed in the Challenger explosion (*Washington Inquirer* Aug 12, 1988). In an 18-month period, there were five satellite launch failures.

In satellites for surveillance and defense, the USSR is said to have a tenfold advantage. When trouble flares, the Soviets frequently launch one or more surveillance satellites within days, while it takes the US at least six weeks to plan a new space flight. Development of Soviet antisatellite weapons continue. Space-based lasers may be deployed in the 1990s, and ground-based lasers may be capable of blinding US satellites in low earth orbit even now (*Wall St July* 12, 1988).

**REGISTRATION -- DDP/TACDA SEMINAR 1988 SEMINAR, OCT. 22-23**

Registration -- \$148 (after October 14, 1988)

Includes: two luncheons, one banquet, two receptions, and coffee breaks.

TO: TACDA/DDP  
PO Box 1057  
Starke, FL 32091  
Telephone: 904-964-5397

Enclosed \$148

Please send me a complete schedule

Sorry, I can't attend the seminar, but would like to make a contribution to Doctors for Disaster Preparedness.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Seminar will be held at the Airport Hilton, 5151 Wiley Post Way, Salt Lake City, UT 84116. To reserve a room (\$48), call 800-HILTONS.

**HIGH FRONTIER SDI CONFERENCE**

Topics include:

- The Case for Strategic Defense
- SD-3: Strategic Defense, Development, and Deployment
- Soviet SDI: the Red Shield
- Economic Benefits: the Strategic Bargain

Registration -- please return to:

High Frontier, 2800 Shirlington Rd. (Suite 405A),  
Arlington, VA 22206

- Full registration -- \$25
- Student registration -- \$15

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**HOSPITAL DISASTER PLANNING CONFERENCE**

- The Hospital Disaster Committee and the Disaster Manual
- Hospital Disaster Planning -- Pitfalls
- Improvising Hospitals in Disaster
- The Role of the Community
- Legal and Moral Implications

Registration: Please return to

DDP, PO Box 1057, Starke, FL 32091.

- Fee included in DDP/TACDA registration
- \$50 for disaster planning conference only
- \$25 for students

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_