

For the 'Common Aims of Mankind'

A Strategic Defense of Earth

by Benjamin Deniston

The surprise Chelyabinsk asteroid impact on February 15, 2013 was a warning to mankind: *either progress, or face extinction.*

Today we have discovered fewer than 1% of the near-Earth asteroids orbiting the inner regions of the Solar System, and we know far less about the long-period comets lurking in the farther depths of space.¹ Since it is a certainty that the Earth will be struck again in the future, the only real questions are two:

First, when might the next major impact occur?

Second, will mankind be prepared to stop it?

In 2011, high-level officials of the Russian government addressed this challenge in a critical offer to the United States, proposing the two nations move beyond the dangerous standoff over the forward placement of anti-ballistic missile systems by pursuing a joint program in which both nations could openly collaborate to overcome common threats: both defending against thermonuclear missiles and protecting the entire planet from asteroids and comets.²

Carrying the name "Strategic Defense of Earth," this Russian proposal clearly implied an upgraded re-offer of Lyndon LaRouche's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) proposal of the 1980s (a program which was avidly promoted by both President Reagan and Dr. Edward Teller at the time).³

The Strategic Defense of Earth is one of the most important issues facing humanity at this historical juncture.

The Fusion Driver

To achieve this, a shift in the strategic relations among leading nations is required. With the development of thermonuclear weapons, mankind can no longer tolerate even the possibility of global conflict among major pow-



ers. Policy must be based on the shared interests and the shared defense of all involved.

Since no one nation currently has the ability to defend the Earth from future asteroid or comet impacts, a global effort is needed. The United States, Russia, and China are the critical powers that must come together in a joint effort, sharing existing scientific and related resources, while initiating a crash program for the development of new capabilities.

It is an easily recognizable fact that the comprehensive defense of Earth requires a controlled use of thermonuclear power.⁴ Whether in the form of explosives to blow apart or push away an asteroid, or in the more elegant form of advanced propulsion systems enabling faster intercepts, the energy flux densities made possible with controlled fusion reactions raise mankind above the critical planetary threshold, moving from a class of helpless inhabitants of a planetary body, to active defenders and organizers of the entire territory of the inner solar system.

1. For a detailed overview see the Fall-Winter 2012-2013 issue of *21st Century Science & Technology*, dedicated to Planetary Defense.

2. See "The Thermonuclear Option: Extinction or Existence," *EIR*, May 25, 2012.

3. See "The Power of Ideas: SDI Changed the World," by Jeffrey Steinberg, *EIR*, February 16, 2007.

4. See "Planetary Defense: Deflection and the Energy Flux Density Factor," in the Fall-Winter 2012-2013 issue of *21st Century Science & Technology*.