

# Moscow keeps up pressure on Japan

by Linda de Hoyos

Although Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe has made public statements on his hopes of meeting with his Soviet counterpart Andrei Gromyko, and although Prime Minister Nakasone has recently reaffirmed that one of Japan's primary goals for the new year will be nuclear disarmament, Moscow has come forth with no reciprocal encouraging signs on these issues.

To the contrary, the Soviet Union has not let up on the pressure campaign against Japan that began with the Sept. 1 downing of the KAL-007 airliner. The Soviets have adopted a habit of reminding the Japanese people that Japan could be quickly obliterated by nuclear weapons. Nearly every day, a squadron of up to 10 Soviet Backfire bombers armed with nuclear warheads flies right to the edges of Japanese air space and skirts the coast of Japan. On some days, the Backfires violate Japanese air space, and the Japanese have been forced on several occasions to scramble the fighter planes to chase the Soviet bombers off. The intended effect of these sorties is to terrorize the Japanese, whose memories of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have been used to create a deep strain of pacificism within the population.

The Soviets are not taking this belligerent posture in answer to provocations coming from Japan. The goal is to prevent an upgrading of the U.S.-Japanese alliance in which the Japanese would more actively contribute to their own defense, especially if that defense is based on high-technologies that leapfrog current conventional modes. President Ronald Reagan's trip to Japan on Nov. 9-12 significantly increased this potential. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Nakasone, Japan tightened its security ties to the United States and with South Korea, and Nakasone agreed that Japan would increase its defense spending.

## Kissinger no-defense policy

Moscow would prefer that the Japanese revert to the policy dictates of Henry Kissinger. In a speech to the Hong Kong Trade Fair in late October, Kissinger declared that the United States could rely strictly on the People's Republic of China for a deterrence in Asia and that Japan should under no circumstances rearm, since that might revive Japan's World

War II militarism. Japan should instead rely on South Korea as the front line of its conventional defense and upon the U.S. nuclear umbrella, an umbrella everyone admits is full of holes.

The elections of Dec. 18 for the Lower House of the Diet, resulting in a loss of seats for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to such an extent that the party could not on its own hold a majority, have served Kissinger's purpose. Although Nakasone has declared his intentions to seek re-election as the LDP's president in November 1984, making him prime minister automatically for another term, it is generally considered that he will be replaced. His most likely successor is Ichi Miyazawa, leader of the Suzuki faction who is known to be a Kissinger man and a "dove." In the meantime, Nakasone has been forced to check his policies much more closely with the other contending factions in the LDP.

Within a week after Nakasone had chosen his new cabinet at the end of December, his reappointed foreign minister Abe, considered the "crown prince" of the LDP faction led by Takeo Fukuda, declared that Japan would set as a priority for the new year the seeking of closer ties with the Soviet Union. Following in step with the U.S. State Department, Abe further let it be known in party conversation and to the press that he wanted to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko at the nearest available opportunity, probably in a third country.

There is now talk in Japan that the increase in defense spending for 1984 will be the lowest in nearly 20 years, despite Soviet provocations in the area that include increased deployment of SS-20s and the build-up of Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam into a major Soviet air and naval base. By constitutional law, the Japanese have limited themselves to building up forces for strictly defined self-defense purposes, and the government has held spending on defense to under 1 percent of the country's GNP. This year's request of the Japanese Defense Agency for a 6.9 percent increase in spending has been knocked down by the Finance Ministry, which is demanding an increase of only 4 percent. The predictions are that the increase will come in under 6 percent—for the first time in two decades.

In addition, recent polls show that although 90 percent of the Japanese people view the Soviet Union as their number-one hated enemy, a full 75 percent of the population would rather be "red than dead." In large part, this is an attitude borne of defeatism, of the belief that Japan is indefensible militarily.

## Beam weapons: the real issue

The only sane defense policy for Japan is not an upgrading of its conventional forces, contrary to the prescriptions coming from the Heritage Foundation, but the joint development with the United States of defensive-beam weapons. Given its advanced technologies, particularly in the areas of fifth-generation computers that would be required for the

successful targeting of incoming missiles by beam weapons and its advanced laser system, Japan would be one of the most important of the American allies to join in the cooperative development of such systems. In addition, given that beam weapons are purely defensive systems, their development in Japan—unlike the procurement of nuclear weapons—in no way violates the Japanese constitution. A potential avenue for collaboration in these areas was officially set up the day before President Reagan arrived in Tokyo with the formation of a joint U.S.-Japan Military Technology Transfer Commission. While the details of what the United States, who pressed for the commission's formation, may be particularly interested in have not been revealed, it is known that the Japanese have developed highly sophisticated defensive technologies that would revolutionize the battlefield.

This potentiality has not gone unnoticed by the Soviet Union. On Jan. 18, *Pravda*, laying bare the real content of its military incursions and threats to Japan, warned that if Japan helps the United States develop laser defense systems, it will face dire consequences.

Meanwhile, the Soviets intend to continue their provocations, operating through the North Korean regime of Kim Il-Sung. Despite Kim's strong ties to China, it is the Soviet Union—not Peking—that backed up the North Koreans 100 percent in the aftermath of the Rangoon bombing. This week the press played up a peace offer from the North Korean government for tripartite talks between the United States, and the two Koreas for the reunification of the peninsula. Not mentioned in the U.S. press, but noted by the Japanese Jiji wire service, is the fact that the condition for the talks is the United States' withdrawal of its forces from South Korea—the same “You get out, then we'll negotiate” that Soviet surrogates have taken in the Middle East.

The North Korean “peace offer” could also be a prelude to further provocation on the ground. The North Koreans first made their offer on Oct. 8, when Kim Il-Sung asked China to deliver the proposal to President Reagan for him. The next day, 17 officials of the South Korean government, including four cabinet members, were murdered in the bomb explosion at Rangoon. This fits with traditional North Korean patterns of behavior. One week before its invasion of South Korea in 1950, the Pyongyang regime had made headlines with an offer for reunification talks.

If the North Koreans move militarily now, they will use as their pretext the “Team Spirit '84 exercises” involving South Korea and the United States, with limited observer involvement from Japan, scheduled to begin Feb. 1. Echoing the global propaganda line emanating from Moscow, the North Korean press has charged that “nuclear war for Korea” is the policy of President Reagan, and that the “Team Spirit exercises” are the “nuclear rehearsal” for such a war. This is a signal that the Soviets are holding open the option of a preemptive move into South Korea. That in turn would put Japan to the decisive test.

# Libya attacks LaRouche

by Mary McCourt

The military leadership in Moscow has used its primary terrorist asset, Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi, to threaten President Ronald Reagan and Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination. In a partly incoherent commentary Jan. 9, Qaddafi's Libyan news agency charged Reagan with launching an anti-Libyan campaign in Italy, financed by “American businessman Lindon Larussin [sic]” on a recent visit to Italy. Qaddafi's statement, intelligence sources told *EIR*, was the initial step of a known Libyan *modus operandi*: first naming an intended target and then attempting an assassination.

Qaddafi's threat was ordered by Soviet and East German intelligence, analysts in France, Britain, and North Africa stated. “The Russians are using the Libyans to do this; the Libyans were tipped off by the Russians, they would not have done this otherwise,” one told *EIR*. LaRouche has been Moscow's “Public Enemy Number One” since he initiated the strategic doctrine of “Mutually Assured Survival” with the development of antiballistic missile defense systems, which the President adopted in his historic speech on March 23, 1983. The Soviet response to the President's offer has been a drive for thermonuclear showdown.

LaRouche's trip to Rome was in fact to keynote an *EIR* conference on “Beam Weapons: The Implications for Western Europe,” on Nov. 9, 1983. Six days after the conference, the Soviet daily *Izvestia* published an article calling LaRouche and other participants “troglodytes” for saying the Soviets had outstripped the United States in space weaponry and for calling for an adequate defense of the West.

## Qaddafi's threat

Qaddafi's threat ran: “Preparations are currently underway in Italy for an intensive propaganda campaign against the Jamahiriyah [i.e., Libya], to be financed by the head of the U.S. administration himself with the aim of stepping up psychological pressure on the Libyan Arab people by leveling false accusations and using fabricated allegations.

“American central intelligence services are preparing to launch this blatant campaign, which is in harmony with U.S. terrorist policies against Libya, firmly opposed to America's hegemony and endeavoring to bravely confront and thwart all American conspiracies.

“According to reliable facts from the Italian capital of Rome, it was learned that American businessman Lindon