

# Who's cooking up a 'New Yalta' deal over the Republic of Korea?

by David Hammer

On March 2, 1986, only one week after the United States had executed a coup against Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos, Secretary of State George Shultz enunciated State Department policy toward another Asian ally, the Republic of Korea. Policy toward South Korea, he said, would be "the same as it had been in the Philippines." Ten days later, Gaston Sigur, director of the Sino-Soviet Institute of George Washington University, was appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern and Pacific Affairs to carry out that policy.

Shultz's Philippines policy has resulted in that nation's ungovernability, in the face of economic crisis and escalations from the New People's Army. With the murder of three American soldiers in coordinated attacks on Oct. 28, the Soviet-orchestrated war against the U.S. strategic bases at Clark Field and Subic Bay has now been declared.

As the new assistant-secretary designate from early January 1986, Gaston Sigur had been involved in the early winter operations against Marcos. "He played a key role in the Philippines thing," reports Prof. Carl Linden, Sigur's acting director at the Sino-Soviet Institute. "Very much so. He was going back and forth there, trying to get the thing through without major violence."

Sigur has played the same role with South Korea, attempting to bring down the military-backed government of Chun Doo Hwan with a media-backed campaign around World Council of Churches-funded "people's power," radical student terrorism, and demands for "democratization." Due to the deft maneuvering of the Chun government and his successor Roh Tae Woo, the government succeeded in averting a crisis in June that could have led to full-scale military intervention. Direct national elections for President are now due for Dec. 20, with the military drawing the line only against the pro-North Korean demagogue Kim Dae Jung.

As future *EIR* articles will show, the most radicalized elements of the opposition to Roh (and also to opposition candidate Kim Young Sam), are sponsored and directed from points in the United States, including the U.S. State Department.

Sigur is the point man on the case, as he demonstrated publicly in speeches during 1986-87 which extolled the fabricated campaign of "democratization" against the Korean government. At the Cincinnati World Affairs Council on May 17, 1986, Sigur declared that "historical transitions" are under way in East Asian and Pacific countries. The key element of these transitions, he said, is "internal pressures for political reform." Instability will occur, he predicted, wherever there is "resistance to popular demands for political pluralism." Sigur then proclaimed his theory of U.S. violations of its allies' national sovereignty. "Events in the Philippines had shown that the United States should never turn its back on the critical internal problems of our friends. In such situations, we remain engaged in a constructive way."

At the Foreign Policy Association in New York on July 21, Sigur stated that the United States "lends its full support—unqualified—to the Korean people and to whichever candidate they choose to be their next President in open and fair election. We are prepared to work with a fairly elected Korean government. . . . Let me be clear on this point: Anyone who claims that he has or will get the strong support of the U.S. government as a candidate is wrong; we lend our full and enthusiastic support to the process, but not to any individual or party."

When the students rioted in June, forcing the Chun government to accept direct elections, Secretary of State Shultz and Sigur warned the Chun government that it must proceed with "the transfer of power"—a backhanded, but nonetheless clear, endorsement of the opposition.

## The back-channel

Sigur's promotion of Project Democracy destabilization in the Philippines and South Korea, however, has been only a secondary mission in his current post. More importantly, Sigur has been charged by the State Department with negotiating for the U.S. side with the Soviet Union for a crisis-management resolution of the "regional conflicts" in Asia, as part of the ongoing State Department negotiations with Moscow on the INF treaty.

In September 1987, Sigur met with Soviet deputy foreign minister and Asian-hand Igor Rogachev in Moscow. Topic: the Korean peninsula.

“Democratization” in South Korea is required for a New Yalta deal with Moscow in order to secure a government in Seoul willing to compromise substantially with North Korea, and to pave the way for the eventual withdrawal of U.S. troops from the peninsula—the policy put forward explicitly by the Carter administration. Inside Korea, Kim Dae Jung is the State Department’s designated operative for this policy.

As *EIR*’s soon-to-be-released report, *Global Showdown Escalates*, demonstrates, the Soviet Union has made massive military and political inroads into North Korea over the last three years, forging a military alliance with Pyongyang which has already changed the strategic balance in Northeast Asia. Nevertheless, in April 1987, for the first time, the United States, under Sigur’s direction, established its first official channels with the dictator regime of Kim Il Sung.

In May 1987, Sigur helped to preside over a series of roundtable discussions on “security and economic development” in Tokyo with representatives from the Soviet Union, the United States, Japan, the People’s Republic of China, South Korea, and North Korea.

The Tokyo roundtable was co-sponsored by the Institute for Sino-Soviet Studies—of which Sigur is still officially the director. One agenda item was reportedly various proposals for the reunification of the Korean peninsula. “The North Koreans came for the first time. We were quite delighted,” reported the Institute’s acting director Carl Linden. The organizer of the Tokyo roundtable was Prof. Y.C. Kim of the Institute. Most of the key North Korean contacts are handled by Kim, reported Linden. “He’s traveled there, quite a few times . . . quite recently, within the last year. He was supposed to have an interview with Kim Il Sung, but it hasn’t come off yet. He knows the internal situation in Korea very well.”

The Institute has also been involved in directing the opposition to Korean President Chun Doo Hwan over the last years. Hanging on a wall at the Institute is a plaque given by the opposition New Korea Democratic Party (it has since split and been renamed). “The New Korea Democratic Party presents this plaque of appreciation to the Institute for Sino-Soviet Studies at George Washington, in recognition of the Institute’s concern for the restoration of democracy in Korea.” The Institute had sponsored a trip to Washington of various opposition leaders.

In 1986, while already assistant secretary of state, Sigur arranged the stay at the Institute of one of the South Korean military’s most bitter critics, Kwan Sang Park. Park, who stayed there from Sept. 13 through late November under Asia Foundation funding, was the editor-in-chief of the *Dong A Ilbo* newspaper, the flagship newspaper of South Korea’s old-time aristocracy, the *yangban*, which stands opposed to the military and to the “Korean economic miracle.”

Such meddling by an assistant secretary is definitely not customary, as Linden explained. “It was very clear to me he was invited by Gaston. In fact, he told Gaston upon his leaving, that the government would use this as a pretext for giving me a hard time. Gaston has thought in terms of making these kinds of contacts.”

### The Irangate nexus

Negotiations on Asia through the Sino-Soviet Institute are proceeding. As recently as October, the Institute held a seminar on Asia in Washington with officials, led by O.N. Bykov, of the Russian Institute for Economic and International Relations (IMEMO), a key back channel from Moscow’s side.

The Sino-Soviet Institute’s prominent role in the striking a U.S. sellout of South Korea and other Asian allies is not unexpected. The Institute has been one of the key back channels of the Eastern Establishment to the Soviets, as well as to the Chinese, over the past decade.

In 1979, Sigur set up a series of regular seminars, held in alternate years in Washington and Moscow, with the cream of the Soviet elite, in particular with the Soviet Far Eastern Institute, formerly run by key Soviet negotiator Yevgenii Primakov.

The seminars have been funded by the New York City-based organization International Research and Exchange (IREX). Since the 1960s, IREX has been the key coordinator of all U.S. academic and cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union—that is, at the most sensitive point of U.S.-U.S.S.R. back-channel relations.

The other funder of the Sino-Soviet Institute’s seminars is the Mellon Foundation. Mellon has also poured \$5 million into the National Strategy Information Center (NSIC) of Frank Barnett and Roy Godson. The NSIC published Sigur’s book (written in collaboration with Franz Michael), *The Asian Alliance: Japan and United States Policy*. Both Barnett and Godson are “old friends” of Sigur, according to Linden.

This connection places Sigur right in the middle of the Irangate networks of Lt. Col. Oliver North. Godson trained under and collaborated with in the International Department of the AFL-CIO under Jay Lovestone, former head of the Communist Party, U.S.A. As a consultant to the National Security Council, Godson was involved in setting up shells and funneling money for North’s Irangate operations, and was involved in drafting Executive Orders 12333 and 12334, under which the “secret government” that carried out Project Democracy’s operations was created.

Sigur himself is now revealed to be a full member of that “secret government.” During his own tenure at the NSC in 1985, Sigur raised money for North’s projects from Taiwan, for which he was brought before the congressional Irangate hearings in spring-summer 1987.

But so far, he has been left unscathed, free to execute Project Democracy’s sell-out of America’s Asian allies.