

war-ravaged economy, and the powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) opposed the economic embargo of the country. Much like Germany, Japan is seeking to counter the criticism of its inaction by offering aid to Arabs and others to help offset the losses they are suffering from the crisis. Government spokesman Taizo Watanabe on Aug. 17 acknowledged the "unprecedented" pressure on Japan, a country dependent on the Mideast for 70% of its oil. He noted the complexities involved in the expectation that Japan could politically amend its Constitution, imposed by the occupying Allied powers, so that Japan's self-defense forces could be sent overseas. There is not even agreement among the various factions in the ruling party on acting as the "piggy bank" for the Anglo-American war effort, despite the fact that both Margaret Thatcher and George Bush have personally leaned on Prime Minister Kaifu to play that role. As ruling party factions debated, the Japanese bureaucracy moved quickly to come up with extra supplies to help offset the oil losses resulting from the embargo.

The U.S. State Department's Richard Solomon was in Seoul the week of Aug. 13 to strong-arm South Korea to go along with Washington's policy against Iraq. The overriding theme of Solomon's conversations was that Korea must join in sanctions (which it eventually did). "We do not understand the U.S. request," a Seoul official said Aug. 14. "We may decide to give up our economic interests in the two countries [Iraq and Kuwait], but it is difficult to instantly accept the U.S. demand when the security of 1,300 Koreans is at stake." Asked if Korea was requested to join in the multinational operation to blockade the Gulf, the same official was quoted, "The U.S. would not ask that. If it did, we would reject it out of hand."

Solomon's second "message" to Seoul was U.S. concern over the expansion of the economic contacts between South Korea and the Soviet Union—contacts initiated by Seoul as part of its diplomacy to reunify the Korean Peninsula. Speaking frankly in response to U.S. criticism of Seoul's inaction in the Gulf crisis, President Noh Tae Woo was quoted by the *Korea Herald* Aug. 21: "We are not in a position to offer military support for the sanctions. We are facing a more urgent task of firmly establishing peace and security on the Korean Peninsula."

### **Emergency in Taiwan**

There are rumors in Taiwan that Iraq has decided to purchase non-strategic materials from the Republic of China. The Taipei government denied the reports Aug. 17, but the government spokesman made clear that if Iraq makes a business deal with a Taiwan businessman, that is private business outside the control of the ministry. Taiwan depends on the Mideast for the 31% of its energy that comes from oil. Fuel has now been rationed, and plans for a fourth nuclear plant in the country by 1998, delayed since 1983 by environmental resistance, have been dusted off.

## **Turkey squeezed in strategic vise**

by Joseph Brewda

The announcement by Turkish President Turgut Özal on Aug. 23 that his government was "reconsidering" its previous rejection of a U.S. demand to provide soldiers to supplement U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, has grave implications for Turkey's future. Speaking on the MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour on the Public Broadcasting System, Özal said that it might be in the "best interests of Turkey" to deploy the troops, despite the fact that Turkey "would like to have good relations with the rest of the Arab countries." In fact, as Özal well knows, to have Turkey seen as complicit in the colonial oppression of Arab states that it once ruled as the Ottoman Empire, would be one of the worst disasters that could befall his state.

That Anglo-American planners long had their sights on Turkey as a key supplier of NATO "out-of-area deployments" has long been apparent. In fact, some Turks quip that that phrase really means, "Turks killing Arabs." Yet while the Anglo-Americans are not adverse to having Turks die for their adventures, they will never accept Turkey's longstanding ambition to be considered a European state. Last spring, the British spearheaded the racially motivated rejection of Turkey's application to join the European Community, with the argument that the swarthy Turks have a high birth rate.

### **The oil lifeline is cut**

Turkish compliance with other key Bush demands has already wreaked havoc. Through U.S. pressure, Turkey has closed down the Iraq oil pipeline through its country, which had pumped 1.3 million barrels, or 50%, of Iraqi oil a day. Turkey did not merely receive \$300,000 a day in user fees from Iraq for this service; it also had a guarantee whereby it could draw as much oil from the pipeline as it needed to supply its own needs, and could purchase that oil through barter trade rather than hard-earned foreign currency. Now Turkey will have to purchase foreign oil with cash. Turkish agreement to embargo goods to Iraq has already led to high unemployment among transport workers.

From a strictly military point of view, Turkey could suffer grave damage by Iraqi forces if the Turkish military enters on the side of the Anglo-Americans. The Turks are concerned that the recently completed Ataturk Dam, which the Anglo-Americans had always opposed because it would dramatically increase Turkish food production, would be one Iraqi target.

## Bush administration dumps Turkey

Shortly after the December 1989 Bush-Gorbachov summit which established the terms of the "post-Cold War world," the United States made clear to Turkey that it was no longer required as a U.S. ally. On Feb. 7, U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney released elements of a new classified defense policy guidance which ceded Iran—and by implication Turkey—to the Soviet sphere of influence, saying that the entire region was no longer defensible. The language reminded observers of that used by then Secretary of State Dean Acheson about Korea, immediately prior to the Korean War. The new doctrine was issued in the same period that the Bush administration openly blessed the Soviet invasion of the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, a Turkish-speaking state bordering Turkish territory.

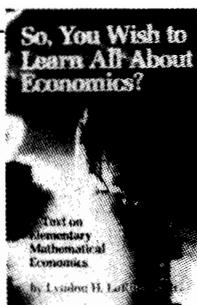
In the same period, the Anglo-Americans launched a new campaign to destabilize Turkey, including sparking ethnic riots against Turks in Greek Thrace beginning in January. The assassination of Turkish bar association president and prominent leftist Mumamar Aksoy that month, kicked off a new period of political assassinations of Turkish citizens. On top of that, the British intelligence-controlled Kurdish PKK terrorist organization held a press conference in Cyprus on Jan. 29 announcing a new campaign against Turkey.

In March, the United States signed a defense cooperation agreement with the new Greek government, a government

believed to have been put in power by U.S. intelligence services. The agreement provided for U.S. military assistance to Greece, a member of NATO, in the event of a war with Turkey, also a NATO member.

At the same time, the Bush administration initiated an intentionally provocative campaign to formally condemn the Turkish state for genocide against Armenians allegedly conducted during World War I by the Ottoman Empire. Despite the fact that the U.S. Senate rejected one declaration, Bush signed his own condemnation in April. The campaign predictably inflamed Turkish passions against the United States, which the Bush administration was not adverse to, and led some Turks to assume that the United States was preparing the internal climate for a new U.S.-directed military coup.

The "alternative" to this pressure had already been made clear at a "Friends of Turkey" meeting held in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 1, at which a Bush spokesman, retired U.S. Gen. James Vaught, proposed that Turkey accept U.S. ground troops on its soil. Turkey had always heatedly opposed such proposals in the past, because of its bitter memory of European occupation of its territories following World War I. Turkey also knew such troop presence would implicitly redefine Turkey as an Anglo-American military satrap against the Arabs. That redefinition of Turkey's role is now being implemented.



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