

they would be forced to look to Europe and the Soviet Union for the defense technology which they have been denied.

Secretary Cheney made no concessions on the issue of technology transfer, in keeping with the Bush administration policy of “technological apartheid” against the Third World. But Cheney did announce the postponement of the scheduled U.S. troop withdrawal from the U.S. bases in South Korea, calling the North’s nuclear research “the most serious threat to peace and stability” in the region. He accused the North Koreans of “40 years of aggression, terrorism, and irresponsible weapons sales.” Japan joined the attack, calling the North Korean nuclear program “our country’s foremost security threat.”

North Korea announced in its official newspaper *Rodong Sinmun* that Cheney’s new arrangement with the South made a “provocation of an adventurous war against the North a *fait accompli*.” Sources in the U.S. intelligence community say that North Korea officials warned the Soviets last year, when Mikhail Gorbachov moved to establish relations with South Korea, that they would be forced to develop an independent nuclear weapons capability if they were to lose the Soviet nuclear umbrella. Facing the massive U.S. nuclear weapons deployment in the South, they may well have made such a decision. On the other hand, since the fall of the Soviet Communist Party, they have moved to establish relations with Southeast Asian nations and to talk to the South about reunification. They deny any ongoing or planned development of nuclear weapons, and have agreed to allow the inspections on the condition that the peninsula be made into a nuclear-free zone—i.e., that the U.S. remove its nuclear weapons—and that inspections in the South take place simultaneously. Bush has announced the removal of all tactical nuclear weapons (the U.S. previously denied that it even had any such weapons in Korea), while not mentioning strategic nuclear weapons.

The primary factor, however, is not the nuclear issue, nor even the instability of the North Korean regime and its Chinese allies—but the insanity of President George Bush. Faced with the collapse of the U.S. economy, along with his paper-thin “popularity” at home, Bush appears ready to launch another military adventure to attempt to cover over the economic debacle. In late November, the administration announced possible military operations against Libya and stepped-up efforts against Iraq. That Bush believes that a military adventure in Asia would function as it did in the Middle East is indicated by the repeated comparisons between Iraq and North Korea (see *EIR*, Nov. 22, p. 53) by U.S. officials. The London *Economist* carried an editorial entitled “Be as Tough on North Korea as on Iraq.”

Thus far, the administration has insisted that only “diplomatic” measures are being planned. But such “diplomatic” measures have increasingly included economic sanctions leading to force, as the cases of Panama and Iraq demonstrate, and as is now threatened in Haiti.

## Indonesia targeted over East Timor

by Lydia Cherry and Mary Burdman

Indonesia is facing the worst crisis over the annexed region of East Timor in several years, following an incident Nov. 12 in which Indonesian Armed Forces shot into a crowd of approximately 3,500, killing at least 19 people and perhaps more. Uncertainty remains as to exactly what happened; whether troops were told to shoot or not; whether the crowd, gathered to attend a memorial mass for an East Timor youth killed two weeks before, was orderly or unruly. The Indonesian government has stated that it “deeply regrets the loss of lives from this incident” and has established a high-level National Commission of Inquiry to be chaired by a Justice of the Supreme Court. Whatever the exact circumstances of the tragedy, it has provided a pretext for a clearly orchestrated campaign against Indonesia, spearheaded by Australia and Portugal and backed by Britain.

The incident in the East Timor capital Dili occurred the same day that Indonesian President Suharto began a 26-day tour of the Third World as the next head of the Non-Aligned Movement. The focus of the tour, which is taking place in spite of the incident, was planned to be on economic cooperation between developing nations.

An indication that East Timor was to become an international flashpoint was signaled by a London *Times* editorial last April 20, which demanded that Indonesia be treated vis-à-vis East Timor as Iraq was treated vis-à-vis Kuwait. Indonesia is vulnerable to pressure, the editorial stated, especially with its large debt. “It needs western goodwill. . . . Both military and economic sanctions would be perfectly in order. . . . If the new world order means anything, East Timor should return once again to the U.N. agenda.” The editorial also attacked the Vatican, claiming it was more interested in Indonesia’s 20 million Catholics than the Timorese.

The same month, Tiny Rowland’s London *Observer* on April 8 had spouted the same theme, attacking the “brutal Indonesian dictator General Suharto” and warning that “his increasingly fractious empire of islands” could disintegrate. “If occupied East Timor were to go, the future of the world’s fifth most populous country could be nearly as precarious as the U.S.S.R.’s.” These same London circles, such as Britain’s Lord Avebury, chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, are deeply involved in targeting India around the Kashmir dispute with Pakistan.

East Timor, a former colony of Portugal, is located in the strip of 13,677 islands that stretch 3,200 miles across the Equator that compose the Republic of Indonesia. In 1974, a new government in Portugal permitted the population to set up political parties in order to decide their political future through a referendum. Five political parties were formed; four of these parties opted for integration with Indonesia. The fifth party, Fretilin, opted for East Timor's independence and was heavily armed by Portugal's colonial army. Fretilin reportedly refused to cooperate with a settlement. The issue was not settled peacefully and a civil war ensued. East Timor was annexed by Indonesia in 1976. It has remained heavily Roman Catholic.

### **Indonesia development efforts**

Even Indonesia's detractors acknowledge that the Suharto government has put significant effort into developing East Timor. Illiteracy, which was estimated to have been 93% during the Portuguese colonial era, has been reduced drastically. There were 47 primary schools and only two high schools during the last days of colonial rule. Today, there are 565 primary schools; 90 junior high schools; 33 high schools and several universities. In spite of economic problems in the country as a whole—with the biggest problem being a shortage of energy—the central government's budget for the province of East Timor is far higher per capita than for any other province in the country, according to government reports.

In spite of the development of the area, unemployment and economic problems remain. As the Portuguese-backed grouping Fretilin increasingly became "troublemakers" for the Indonesian government, some of this grouping relocated and ran operations out of Australia's Northern Provinces.

### **Portugal, Australia take the point**

The Indonesian government has cited an "extremely slanted" foreign press campaign, and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas Nov. 26 said he deeply regretted the premature cutoff of aid to his country by the Netherlands and Canada. "Aid donors should not take positions based on press reports, he insisted. "They should wait for the investigation." The wife of Portuguese President Mario Soares has been addressing anti-Indonesian demonstrations in Lisbon calling the incident "a crime against humanity," calling for United Nations action and the independence of East Timor. An official at the Indonesian Foreign Ministry, Hadi Wayarabi, in turn has accused Portugal of provoking the violence by setting up an organization in the territory to oppose rule from Jakarta and by pitting East Timorese against each other.

It is the Hawke government in Australia, however, that is clearly being called on to take the point against Indonesia. Ironically, the Gough Whitlam government—the last Labor Party government before Bob Hawke's—is known to have supported Indonesia in dealing with East Timor in the mid-

1970s, shortly before he was ousted with the help of the U.S. CIA. Whitlam had sought good relations with his Muslim neighbors, but it was a very different Labor Party that returned to power under Bob Hawke, who is very close to Israel.

The London headquarters of Amnesty International has contacted the Australian prime minister, an Amnesty spokesman told Radio Australia Nov. 25. "We told him we welcome his strong statements but that we need him to do more. . . . The United Nations must be brought in." Amnesty has been a major player in insisting that the information being released by the Indonesian government is a whitewash.

But, as an official history of the human rights organization written by Jonathan Power makes clear, Amnesty is selective in choosing whose human rights to be concerned about; it never took on the Nelson Mandela case, for example. According to Power, it was the "seemingly endless supply of money" for Amnesty's operations in former Rhodesia that "confirmed the suspicions" of Amnesty's founder, Benenson, "about British intelligence's infiltration of the organization's leadership," and led to Benenson's resignation from Amnesty in 1967. Recent history leads to the conclusion that little has changed on this point. British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, for example, on Nov. 26 paid tribute to Amnesty on the 30th anniversary of its founding, noting that Amnesty had put human rights "at the heart of our work."

Prime Minister Hawke announced Nov. 26 that since "it is clear that the Indonesians have not won the minds and hearts of the Timorese," Australia must explore a role for the United Nations in East Timor. Earlier, Hawke insisted that the reported comments by Indonesia's Armed Forces commander justifying the Nov. 12 massacre were "repugnant in the extreme." At the time of this writing, there have been non-stop demonstrations outside Indonesian consultates in the Northern Territories capital Darwin, and in the Australian capital of Canberra. Indonesian Security Minister Sudomo said in a statement Nov. 26 that Indonesia would recall its ambassador if the protests become more dangerous. He noted that protesters outside the Darwin consulate, which include Australian-based representatives of the East Timor Fretilin resistance movement, had forced the Darwin mission to use the Indonesian consul's residence as a temporary office.

Meanwhile, Indonesian young people have been demonstrating outside the Australian capital in Jakarta. Members of the Indonesian Democratic Youth, waving red and white national flags, on Nov. 25 condemned Australian trade unions for picketing Indonesia's embassy in Canberra. "The Australian government must apologize to Indonesia for the embassy blockade and the burning of our national flag in Adelaide," said protest leader Rudianto Brotosayogyo. The demonstrators sang the national anthem and put posters along the fence of the embassy saying, "Australia Get Out of My Country," and "Stop Meddling in Indonesia's Internal Affairs."