

Bush blockade set to blow up Korea

by Kathy Wolfe

A de facto blockade of North Korea, organized by friends of Baroness Margaret Thatcher, Sir George Bush, and their U.S. Republican Party assets, has pushed that country into economic disintegration. Now that South Korean President Kim Young-sam, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, and their controlled press in Seoul, acting for the Anglo-Bush crowd, have blocked famine relief for the North, South Korea is also blowing up. Seoul has been wracked since the beginning of June by suspiciously violent riots. The whole Korean peninsula, which had been on the brink of peace, could soon go up in flames. It all fits London's plans for chaos on the borders of China, and the destruction of President William Clinton's Asia policy.

North Korea will run out of food supplies by June 20 and "millions face starvation," Catherine Bertini, director of the UN World Food Program (WFP), said on June 4, while introducing the WFP's Annual Report at UN headquarters in New York. Five North Korean government distribution centers already ran out of foodstuffs in May, and the remaining five will do so by June 20, according to the report. Bertini said that North Korea requires immediate foreign assistance of 1.8 million tons of grain to avoid large-scale starvation. The WFP this year has appealed for 200,000 tons of food, or about \$95 million, only 72% of which has been raised, Bertini said.

North Korea is on the verge of "a major humanitarian crisis," Peter McDermott, Unicef's deputy director of emergency programs, said on June 5 after a 10-day trip there. McDermott warned that 2.6 million children under six may die of malnutrition this year. At one orphanage he visited, McDermott said, 60 children out of 270 had died this year. Children's growth is being stunted by chronic hunger, three-year-olds cannot walk, and rickets and scabies are rife, he said.

Beyond the food crisis, North Korea's entire economy is nearing paralysis, as malnutrition grinds work sites to a halt and all available import cash goes to pay for food—cutting off fuel supplies. North and South Korean sources confirmed on June 6 reports from Cargill, Inc. that Pyongyang has been forced to cancel a zinc-for-food swap deal; it would have been the first trade with the United States since the end of the Korean War in 1953. Workers are too weak from malnutrition to work North Korea's rich zinc, coal, and other mines; zinc

output, for example, is down from 8,500 tons a month to under 1,000 tons a month.

North Korea can't run its mines and refineries, or even transport minerals to port, because its electricity and transportation grid are also paralyzed. In addition to the physical collapse of the workforce, the fuel supply has dried up. Coal mines and refineries are at a halt, and there is no cash to import oil—so power plants cannot function. "The health care system is on the verge of collapse, fuel is scarce, and infrastructure is breaking down," McDermott said. "We have reached the critical juncture."

Japan's 2-million-ton strategic rice reserve, and reserves in Thailand and elsewhere that are on the Asian scene, should be immediately mobilized for emergency shipments in excess of 1 million tons—there is no time to ship the food from the West. America and Europe must then commence shipments to reimburse their Asian allies, who need to maintain their strategic food reserves.

WFP director Bertini on June 4 criticized South Korea's Kim Young-sam regime, which has discouraged other nations from donating food. Seoul has spread the false rumor that the North Korean military would steal any food relief. Yet, on June 6, Kim's Unification Ministry repeated earlier statements that there is not even any food crisis at all—in direct rebuke to the UN's call for a famine-relief mobilization. "North Korea is forecast to tide over a food crisis," the ministry said. "We cannot rule out the possibility that the North Korean government deliberately discloses exaggerated data, to attract food aid from the international community."

Lady Thatcher's 'flash point'

The morally challenged Kim government, however, is just the local front for a wider policy to destabilize Asia, which is made in London, Anglo-American policymakers admit. Baroness Thatcher and the "old guard" of the U.S. Republican Party, including Kissinger Associates board members Brent Scowcroft and Lawrence Eagleburger, are pushing the confrontation in Korea to a "flash point," an analyst at *Jane's Intelligence Review*, a British military journal, told a journalist recently. "All through the U.K. elections, and despite the results, Lady Thatcher has been stressing this North Korean threat," he said. "The danger is that Pyongyang's military

regime will become more belligerent. They have nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons and they will use them on South Korea, and likely on Japan.”

The line that “there is no famine” in North Korea, is coming straight from London, the *Jane’s* man made clear. “My sources say it’s not nearly so bad, perhaps only 10% of the population are malnourished, rather than 40% as the UN says—but there’s no great famine,” he said. “The UN tends to exaggerate. My South Korean people and I are not convinced about the high numbers of people at risk. . . . And who would get the benefit of large-scale food aid? Just the North Korean military.

“The real alarm should be: Will they do something rash?” the Brit went on. “I was at a U.K. Defense Ministry briefing just last week, where it was said that the number-one Asian flash point has now moved, from the South China Sea or Kashmir, to the Korean peninsula. The problem is that we can’t put sanctions on them and openly say, ‘Starve them into submission,’ or we’re increasing the risk of war.”

Asked who in Washington are proposing to “starve North Korea into submission,” he replied, “You have two types. You have the old Republican Party guard, Scowcroft, Eagleburger, Jesse Helms, the people who wanted a sharp confrontation over the Yongbyon [plutonium] reactor in 1994.” Former U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, with his recent book touting North Korea as a “rogue state,” is part of this grouping, he said.

This argument has been used by the Anglophile current in the U.S. State Department to block anything more than token food shipments from America. “No way are we going to put into North Korea billions of dollars . . . to subsidize a communist system,” as State Department spokesman Nick Burns put it on May 8.

Danger of coup in Seoul

Meanwhile, during the week of June 1-6, South Korea was beset with riots against President Kim Young-sam, by tens of thousands of firebomb-wielding students chanting, “Bring Down Kim Young-sam,” and “Reveal the Election Funds.” Seoul newspapers have been filled with photos of students burnt to death by their own Molotov cocktails, after police picked up several unexploded bombs, thrown by the students, and tossed them back into the crowd.

Indeed, President Kim was about to be ousted in mid-May, by patriotic Koreans who are demanding urgent food shipments to the North. The entire population of South Korea was provoked by Kim’s arrogance when he went on TV on May 30 to apologize for his corruption, since a half-dozen of his ministers and two of his sons have been arrested for taking illicit funds. Instead, however, Kim threatened to reveal the campaign irregularities of the opposition parties, and to send every leader in the country to jail.

Then, just as it seemed Kim would be forced to resign, the left-wing Hanchongryon student group went wild. Yet,

they said not a word about the real issue of genocide in the North, but only whined about campaign finances. The government has now ordered a total crackdown on the students and the arrests of thousands, as a “North Korean-run threat” to democracy.

“This kind of violence could provoke exactly the opposite of what we want to see,” a Korean patriot told *EIR*, speaking of the riots. “The danger is that, with enough violence, it is possible” that the worst anti-communist Thatcher-Bush elements of the South Korean KCIA military might try to seize power, the source said.

There is a long history of the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy, which was run for years by Thatcher’s servant Sir George Bush, having deep penetration into the South Korean student movement. “The military could try to blame North Korea for the violence,” the source said. At that point, tensions between the two Koreas would blow sky-high.

Britain’s ‘ring around China’

Thanks to such “games” played by Bush, *EIR* Founding Editor Lyndon LaRouche said in a June 4 radio interview with “EIR Talks,” President Clinton’s plan for a four-power conference of the U.S., China, and the two Koreas to “co-sponsor a process of unification,” is now, tragically, “pretty much shot . . . as a result of games played by George Bush, and the British, and the International Republican Institute, in Asia, especially Bush and the Moonies. They have disrupted the process of reunification.”

This, LaRouche pointed out, is “part of the greater British operation on their China policy” of creating a ring of wars and genocide around China, to attack the Eurasian Land-Bridge policy, and Clinton’s China rapprochement. “Of course, the Republicans around Bush and Kissinger, and that crowd, are supporting the British fully, against the United States,” he said.

“Obviously the United States should see to it that famine of the proportions now ongoing in North Korea is *stopped*,” LaRouche emphasized. “The deaths, or near-deaths, of million of Koreans would create an instability in the region, which would make it very difficult to conduct policy. We don’t want that, and therefore, the food has to go in, despite George Bush’s friends’ opposition to getting food in there. . . .

“At the same time, there is an element of instability that’s been created in South Korea, which these large demonstrations reflect. . . . There’s a great discontent, together with a big financial collapse, a crisis, in South Korea. This is not to our liking in the United States. . . . We have to bring some stability to this area. And, someone has to get out and describe exactly what George Bush and his friends, including people who are in his secret government operation, during the 1980s, who have a very powerful influence in South Korea, and these guys ought to be *exposed*, and George ought to be slapped down, and slapped around a bit, publicly, in the press, by a few political voices, and that might improve it.”