

London says let North Korea starve, blocks food relief

by Kathy Wolfe

The British government of Prime Minister Tony Blair is behind the criminal idea that no emergency food aid should be sent to North Korea, where some 5 to 10 million people are about to die of famine, an *EIR* investigation shows. "There is no evidence of a famine. . . . There is by no means a crisis," J. Hughes, of the Korea desk at the British Foreign Office in London, lied to a reporter on June 30. Therefore, he insisted, no major food aid effort need be mounted. "Three-fourths of the aid that the UN World Food Program has said would be needed, is already provided," Hughes lied. "There is sufficient food to get them through to the next harvest."

The Blair official said he was directly in touch with South Korea's Kim Young-sam government, which has publicly appeared to have taken the lead in objecting to aid. On July 1, Kim's government announced for the third time in three weeks, that no food should be sent to North Korea. North Korea has a secret 1.2-million-ton food reserve, the Kim Unification Ministry lied, therefore "an extreme crisis can be avoided."

Blair and President Kim also agreed at a private meeting in New York on June 23, that South Korea will increase investment in Britain to \$4-5 billion, and Queen Elizabeth will visit South Korea in 1999.

International Red Cross official Ole Gronning directly contradicted such lies, declaring in Geneva on June 20 that "a bit more than 5 million people are in such a bad situation, that they will die shortly, if they don't get food now."

The CFR chimes in

The British-run world media meanwhile went public on July 3 with demands that North Korea be denied food. After months of press blackout of the hideous famine, *Foreign Affairs* magazine, the flagship journal of the U.S. "East Coast Establishment," wrote in its latest July/August issue that there is no famine, just killing by North Korea's own regime — and so no food should be shipped.

"Survival requirements can be maintained" in North Korea "with little or no external support," writes Marcus Noland, in his article "Why North Korea Will Muddle Through." Worse, Noland lies that the Pyongyang government is deliber-

ately starving a segment of its own population in rural areas, so that "if catastrophic famine does occur, it will be due to political decisions made in Pyongyang, not shortages of food."

Foreign Affairs is published by the New York Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) — founded in 1922 as the Manhattan branch of the Royal Institute for International Affairs (RIIA) in London. It is the most influential magazine for policy-makers in the United States, to this nation's disgrace. The rag's previous issue featured "The Coming Conflict with China," which almost destroyed America's relations with Beijing (see *EIR*, March 11, 1997).

All talk, no food

Meanwhile, the United States and the two Koreas jointly announced on June 30 that North Korea has agreed to join "preparatory" talks for President Bill Clinton's Korean peace plan, to begin on Aug. 5 in New York. China will attend for the first time, so that Clinton's idea of a four-party summit later in the fall can be discussed. Clinton wants the four to finally work out a peace treaty to end the 1950-53 Korean War, which was concluded by armistice, with no peace treaty ever having been signed.

While the new talks are a hopeful sign, there is no date, city, or agenda yet for the actual four-party summit.

Worse, Anglophile circles in the U.S. State and Defense departments are working overtime with London to make sure no food gets to North Korea — designed to ensure diplomatic disaster for the United States, as well as for genocide.

"There will be no large food aid" as a result of the June 30 talks, or even as a result of the Aug. 5 talks, the State Department's Korea desk in Washington told *EIR* on July 1. "We've made it clear to the North Koreans that this is not connected to food aid." While the United States may continue small-scale "humanitarian" assistance in the 10-50,000 ton range, he said, the larger amounts actually needed to stop the dying, in the 500,000 to 1 million ton range, would be "political" aid, and won't be given.

The rest of the U.S. press has also come out with the same line as London's *Foreign Affairs*, starting with Henry

Kissinger's good friend William Taylor, director of Asian Studies at Georgetown University, in the July 6 *Washington Times*. North Korea "is a classic communist dictatorship" whose leaders "live in luxury while the people eke out a meager existence or starve to death," wrote Taylor. "Providing rice and other humanitarian aid . . . perpetuates a communist government which imprisons, maims and kills its own people, who have no recourse to a system of justice."

Ironically, Rep. Tony Hall (D-Ohio) and all those who

visit North Korea report that the truth is diametrically opposite of London's lies. Under Pyongyang's ultra-egalitarian philosophy, food is being consumed in tiny 100-gram-a-day rations, shared equally by the entire population. Unlike most famines, in which the poor die early, which sets off alarm bells, the *entire population* of North Korea is growing weaker and weaker, UN WPF official Tun Myat said recently. "When the dying begins, it will be too late, on a scale never seen before," he warned.

Senators grill 'Asia hands' on Korean famine

Top officials of the U.S. Defense Department and State Department, responsible for Asian affairs, lied brazenly to the Senate in hearings on North Korea on July 8, saying that it is the North Korean military which is the problem, not a real famine, and that the United States has already sent significant aid and done everything possible to work with North Korea. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Kurt Campbell, and Assistant Secretary of State Charles Kartman, both of whom have been identified by *EIR* as repeating the British line, testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

They were responding to very serious questions by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), and others, who demanded to know why the United States has done so little to help the victims of the famine. "It's my understanding that our commitments have been very small indeed," Senator Feinstein insisted, after repeated obfuscation by the two officials of her direct questions as to how much grain has been sent. "And, notwithstanding your comment, what I have heard is that our commitment of food is based on certain other commitments [i.e., to Seoul and London—ed.], and, therefore, we have been very reluctant to commit food, which to me is a position to which I do not subscribe. It seemed to me that when children are starving and adults are starving, that we should contribute some of our loaded grain silos and help people out."

"The problem has been the lack of transparency in North Korea," Kartman claimed, meaning that North Korea has refused to allow foreigners to trample on their national sovereignty. "We've been very generous," he insisted—despite having to eventually admit to Senator Feinstein that the need is for millions of tons of grain, and the United States has sent a measly 77,000 tons.

The Pentagon's Campbell, who took his doctorate at Oxford University and was a fellow at the London Royal Institute for International Affairs, then practically accused Senator Feinstein of backing a North Korean invasion of South Korea. "Last year, we saw virtually no military training at all," he said. "Now, it's ironic. This year, beginning in January, for a four-month period, we saw extensive and intensive military training in North Korea. . . . It's extremely expensive, both in terms of food and fuel. . . . We have to acknowledge that we have a very large army that is also training to fight against us, at the very time that they have people in their country that are starving. The choice that North Korea has taken is a systemic choice about how they want to use their resources. And that puts us in a very difficult position, and that's why our diplomacy has to be very careful."

Senator Kerry also insisted that Kartman and Campbell's units, which are in charge of U.S. negotiations with North Korea, have not really been acting in good faith in the negotiations. "You say in your testimony," Kerry said to Kartman, that 'our goal is to make every effort to engage the D.P.R.K. [North Korea] so that tensions will be reduced and dangerous scenarios are avoided.' I must say to you, frankly, it's my perception that we're not making every effort to engage them."

"The problem is that the dance partner here doesn't seem to want to step onto the floor," Kartman replied. "I would really look more to the North Korean side than to our own willingness to engage," he went on, ranting about the North Korean submarine which was beached off the coast of South Korea a year ago.

Clearly there is an awareness dawning by some in Congress, that they ought not to let 5 to 10 million human beings starve on their watch. Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp LaRouche, in a statement on June 13, called for a worldwide mobilization to feed the hungry in North Korea. In response to this appeal, many Americans have urged their Congressmen to take action. Further efforts will be necessary, however, to achieve victory over the British geopoliticians and their American assets.

—Kathy Wolfe