

'Shanghai Five' Summit Offers Eurasia New Strategic Outlook

by Mary Burdman

Russian President Vladimir Putin paid his first visit to Russia's strategic partner, China, on July 17-19, continuing the state and government summits between these two huge Eurasian nations, which, over the past decade, have developed into regular annual events.

This summit was complimentary to a more fundamental process going on in Eurasia, which was demonstrated at the fifth annual summit of the "Shanghai Five," held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on July 4-5. This meeting of the heads of state of China, Kazakstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, has created the potential for this group to become the first multilateral forum to promote the broad security and economic interests of Eurasia.

The Shanghai Five leaders met for the first time in Shanghai, China in April 1996, to promote mutual cooperation and lessen tensions along their borders, the longest land borders in the world. Since then, summits have been held in Moscow, Almaty, and Bishkek. Issues of mutual concern, especially separatism, terrorism, drug- and weapons-trafficking, economic cooperation, and energy development, are already on the agenda.

However, the tectonic shifts in the international situation gave a new character to this summit. As the "Dushanbe Statement," issued by the five leaders on July 5, reads: "All sides have taken notice of the political and other challenges currently confronting the world, including the attempt to change the established practice for settling international and regional issues, and stress they will unswervingly promote the strengthening of the United Nations' role as the only universal mechanism for safeguarding international peace and stability.

"All sides oppose the use of force or threat of force in international relations without the UN Security Council's prior approval, and oppose any countries or groups of countries' attempt to monopolize global and regional affairs out of selfish interests."

The nations of Central Asia, as well as China, realize that they urgently need a stable situation if they are to have any chance to develop economically. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Anglo-Americans had rushed into the region, pushing into the oil sector, and promoting the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the vast area from Azerbaijan to Kazakstan—all the way to the western borders of China. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has spearheaded this operation into Central Asia, aimed *against* the cooperation of Central Asia with its neighbors—Iran, China, Russia, and India. Recent outbreaks of this highly dangerous meddling, include not only NATO Secretary General Lord George Robertson's recent tour of the region, but also the assertion by Albright's favorite international speculator, George Soros, at the "World Forum on Democracy" in Warsaw on June 25, that Uzbekistan's Fergana Valley is a prime target (see *EIR*, July 7, p. 22).

However, as is ever-clearer in Central Asian capitals, the Anglo-Americans have not delivered, either economically, or in promoting security. These nations are looking for other solutions. Expansion of the Shanghai Five is one of them.

The 'Shanghai Forum'

Thus, for the first time, Uzbekistan, an historically and economically important center in Central Asia, was invited to be an official observer at the Dushanbe summit. India and Iran, which are both—especially Iran—carrying out very active Eurasian diplomacy, also want to participate in future summits. In addition, Chinese President Jiang Zemin made a state visit to Turkmenistan after the summit. Turkmenistan, with its rail connection to Iran, completed in 1996, is the bridge between Central Asia and West and South Asia.

The Dushanbe Statement concluded by saying that the five nations' cooperation "is not directed at other countries, and is of an open nature, and that other countries concerned

are welcome to participate in specific programs and projects of cooperation between the five countries at the state-to-state or other levels.”

A spokesman for Tajik President Imomali Rakhmonov, the host of the summit, announced on July 5 that, at Rakhmonov’s suggestion, the Shanghai Five association has re-named itself the “Shanghai Forum.” Russian President Vladimir Putin endorsed this step after the meeting, saying at a press conference that the Shanghai Five was not a “closed club,” and was open to other countries. “This organization has become a significant factor for stability in the region, and has a serious influence on the international situation,” Putin said.

Presidents Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, Jiang Zemin of China, Askar Akayev of the Kyrgyz Republic, and Putin and Rakhmonov, as well as Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov, were all in Dushanbe. The five nations’ foreign ministers also met, parallel to the summit.

An indication of the strategic thinking at Dushanbe, was the commentary by China’s national press service, Xinhua, reflecting the speech made by Jiang Zemin at the summit: “The meeting of the five countries’ heads of state held on 5 July in Dushanbe is a major event in the history of the Eurasian continent.” The Shanghai Five association has created a “useful experience for exploring a new type of state-to-state relations, a new type of security concept, and a new type of regional cooperation mode.” These new relations, establish the possibility of peacefully transcending “problems left over by history.”

“The Eurasian continent is the central stage of international politics,” Xinhua noted. “China and Russia are the two biggest countries in the Eurasian continent and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan are situated in the central region of the Eurasian continent and are also very important in geopolitics, regional economics, and strategic position. Therefore, the five countries’ maintaining and developing a good-neighborly and friendly cooperative relationship is undoubtedly of extremely important significance for maintaining peace and stability in the region and even in the world.”

A New International Order

In the Dushanbe Statement, the five leaders stated their conviction that development of the Shanghai Five’s “closer mutual cooperation on the basis of friendship and good-neighborliness, [is] in the fundamental interests of the people of the five countries and conform[s] to the trend of the times of multipolarizing the world, and establishing new international political and economic orders that are just and rational.”

They declared themselves “deeply satisfied” with the development of mutual relations. The Shanghai Five, which embodies a “new security view that is built on mutual trust, equality, and cooperation,” opposes “any conflicts, threats, and external interventions that may complicate the situation in this region.”

The Dushanbe Statement calls for increasing mutual secu-

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rity activities, especially against separatism, international terrorism, religious extremism, and drug- and weapons-trafficking. This will include “joint exercises and drills on preventing dangerous military activities,” and meetings of defense ministers and institutions.

The five indicated that “they will never allow the use of their own territory for carrying out any actions detrimental to the sovereignty, security, or social order of any of the five countries.” In a direct counter to Anglo-American geopolitical operations, the five opposed the use of alleged “humanitarianism” and “protecting human rights” to intervene in another nation’s affairs. They sharply denounced U.S. efforts to unilaterally set up a theater missile defense system in the Pacific, and stressed the “time-tested” importance of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, as the cornerstone of global strategic stability.

The Silk Road

The construction of the Eurasian Land-Bridge, the modern Silk Road, a project which had been consigned to the back burner by regional leaders in the last few years, is now being

pulled to the front again. Economic and trade cooperation were discussed as intensively as was security cooperation.

Kyrgyzstan President Akayev proposed that all the governments contribute, so that a unified communications network could be built more rapidly, and joint development of energy resources be carried out. In his speech, Jiang Zemin called for the "active participation of Russia and the various Central Asian countries in the development of China's western region," a vast project of top national security importance for China. Presidents Jiang and Rakhmonov also discussed a joint "transport corridor." Tajikistan has recently completed a highway to the east from Dushanbe, to within 30-40 kilometers of the Chinese border, and the two leaders discussed extending the road over the mountains to China. Russia is reportedly also interested in this project.

The Silk Road was also at the center of discussion when Jiang Zemin paid the first visit of a Chinese head of state to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on July 5-7. In their joint statement, Jiang Zemin and Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov agreed on the "enormous potential" for economic cooperation. This included potential construction of a natural gas pipeline linking Turkmenistan and China, which would have to involve Uzbekistan and possibly other Central Asian nations.

The statement described the "important role" of the "ancient Silk Road . . . [in] the exchanges between the Eastern and Western civilizations. The revitalization of the Silk Road will help promote friendship, exchanges, and cooperation between countries along it and conforms to the common interests of various countries of the region."

At a press conference with Niyazov on July 6, Jiang said that China wants to increase its cooperation with Central Asian nations, and encouraged all parties to take advantage of the Eurasia Land-Bridge, the intercontinental rail system running from Lianyungang on China's east coast, to Rotterdam, Holland, as well as the existing interstate highway system, for "the revival of the ancient Silk Road."

Regional Security

Security was the other burning issue at Dushanbe. Russia, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan have all been engaged in bitter fights against insurgencies, which are also of concern to China and Kazakstan. The disastrous situation in Afghanistan was singled out as "a serious threat to regional and international security."

Uzbek President Karimov told the summit: "We are impressed with the fact that the Shanghai Five's activity today goes beyond border settlement issues to security matters." But, he warned, as long as the conflict in Afghanistan continues to spawn new generations of terrorists and extremists, "we cannot be guaranteed against the aggressive aspirations and the creeping expansion of terrorism and religious extremism." Karimov called upon the Shanghai Five to support Uzbekistan's initiative to set up an international anti-terrorism center under the United Nations.

The Dushanbe Statement commended the process of national reconciliation within Tajikistan under Rakhmonov's leadership, and Kyrgyz President Akayev thanked the other nations for both moral support and military and technical assistance after international terrorists had invaded southern Kyrgyzstan in August 1999. He also proposed establishing an anti-terrorism center for Central Asia in Bishkek.

After his return home from Dushanbe, Kazak President Nazarbayev summed up the summit. With Russia and China at its core, the Shanghai Forum has "huge potential" for providing regional security, he said. The Shanghai Forum is "a comfortable association for Central Asia. . . . Everyone here favors moderateness and evolution." These nations' population of 1.5 billion people, is a huge market. The nations "need not go anywhere and [can] resolve all issues right here." Now, the Shanghai Forum must cooperate economically, and against terrorism and drug trafficking, to become "an association providing security in the huge Asian region."

Sino-Russian Summit

Russian President Putin went to Beijing on July 17-19, following his talks with China's Jiang Zemin in Dushanbe. There are indications, that the Eurasian orientation of Russian policy, the policy direction of former Foreign Minister and Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, is re-emerging. Even more of a "political sensation," as the Russian "old China hand" Vsevolod Ovchinnikov wrote in a commentary in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* on June 28, will be Putin's visit to North Korea, the first Russian Presidential visit to that country, in the wake of the historic Inter-Korean Summit of June 13. Putin is to make a state visit to Japan, likely in September, and is to visit India in October. Also, on July 10, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov issued a new Russian foreign policy document, which emphasizes "the development of friendly relations with the key Asian states, primarily China and India."

On July 18, Jiang and Putin issued a "Beijing Declaration," reaffirming the policies developed in the recent years' summits between Jiang and former Russian President Boris Yeltsin. However, the only really new statement to emerge after their meetings, was their harsh, specific condemnation of the U.S. commitment to develop both National Missile Defense (NMD) and Theater Missile Defense (TMD) systems.

In the Beijing Declaration, Jiang and Putin said that their nations will strictly abide by previous documents signed by their governments. The Declaration states the two Presidents share the view that China and Russia should "further increase cooperation, jointly maintain the authority of the UN Security Council and the basic norms of international law, oppose hegemonism and power politics, and push forward the multipolarization of the world and the establishment of a new world order." After their meeting, Putin told the press: "Our two countries presently share a common position on global security balance," but they must improve economic relations.

Putin and Jiang signed a separate joint statement, on the importance of maintaining the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, and calling on the international community to take "all necessary measures" to oppose U.S. unilateral development of the NMD and TMD systems.

"The American plan is a source of enormous concern. Russia and China believe the aim of this plan is to achieve unilateral superiority in military and security matters," the statement read. Violation of the ABM Treaty, "would lead to a new arms race, a 180-degree about turn from the general trend of international politics since the end of the Cold War." The U.S. plans are making people "deeply worried." China and Russia believe that the nature of NMD "is to seek unilateral military and security advantages," which will "pose the most grave adverse consequences not only to the national security of Russia, China, and other countries, but also to the security and international strategic stability of the United States itself."

The correct way to adapt to the new challenges in international security, safeguard peace, and protect legitimate national security interests, is not to undermine the ABM, but to push forward the establishment of a just and rational international new political order, and strengthen regional and global security, the Presidents said.

The Unrealized Potential of Novosibirsk

The critical problem between these two nations, is the lack of strategic economic cooperation. Although Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said that Sino-Russian ties had "entered a new phase," the kind of economic cooperation which President Jiang had proposed to Russia, in his historic speech at Novosibirsk in November 1998, has not yet been realized. There, Jiang had outlined the potential to use Russia's unique advanced achievements in science and technology, for international economic development. Such cooperation could play a critical role in meeting Asian nations' great need for machine tools and other productive technologies.

Such discussion would appear to have been lacking at the current summit. The two countries did sign inter-government agreements on joint energy development and the construction and operation of a fast neutron experimental reactor. And they agreed to carry out a feasibility study for a natural gas pipeline from Siberia to China.

In addition, trade between the two nations remains very low. Mutual trade crashed in 1994, and has not recovered since. Trade had been worth \$10 billion before 1994, but fell so low that trade for the first six months of this year, which rose 31% over the same period last year, was still only worth \$3.56 billion. Chinese trade with Japan in the same period was worth \$25 billion, and with the United States, \$21 billion. In previous summits, both governments had committed themselves to increasing joint trade to \$20 billion by 2000. The great potential of the Novosibirsk meeting, has yet to be acted upon.

Missing Bach Scores Are Found in Kiev

by Steven P. Meyer

A treasure of Bach family music scores, some of which have never been published and others which have never been studied in more than a half-century, will soon be available to researchers from around the world. Last June, the musical estate of Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714-88), called the "Old Bach Archive," which includes works of his father, J.S. Bach, and by many of his father's ancestors, was found in Kiev, Ukraine; it had disappeared during World War II. The manuscripts are a portion of the archives of the Berlin Singakademie, which, in 1943, were removed by the Nazis for safekeeping to a remote castle in Silesia to escape Allied bombing.

A year ago, Harvard Prof. Christoph Wolff, historian of music and Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, located the Singakademie archives in the state museum in Kiev. Wolff's find culminated more than two decades of searching, which began when he was a music student in Berlin hoping to write his graduate thesis by constructing the first catalogue of J.S. Bach's entire works. To complete his thesis meant finding the Bach manuscripts which were known to be part of the Berlin Singakademie archives.

The Singakademie was founded in 1791 as a choral society by Karl Friedrich Christian Fasch, whose father had been a close associate of J.S. Bach. Fasch was sent by his father to C.P.E. Bach to study music, and became committed to Bach's musical outlook, as did his successor at the Singakademie, Karl Friederich Zelter, who was trained by another of J.S. Bach's students, Johann Philipp Kirnberger. Through Fasch and Zelter's relationship to the Bach sons and their associates, the Singakademie became one of the main repositories for the autograph holding of Bach family music manuscripts. In 1807, the Singakademie added an orchestral training school. Under the direction of Fasch and Zelter, which lasted until 1832, the Singakademie performed some of J.S. Bach's choral and instrumental works. It was the Berlin Singakademie which performed J.S. Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, in 1829, under the baton of Felix Mendelssohn. That historic concert, performed on the centennial of its premiere, launched a major Bach revival.

Because it had never been documented that the Singakademie archives had been destroyed during the war, Wolff continued his search with the hope that they lay somewhere in the East. It was Wolff's passion for Bach and Classical music that kept the decades-long search for the Singakade-