

Koreans Continue Peace Drive Despite Wall Street Provocations

by Kathy Wolfe

North Korean National Defense Commission Vice Chairman Cho Myong-nok visited Washington on Oct. 9-12 as a personal envoy of his head of state, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (D.P.R.K.) Chairman Kim Jong-il. There, he delivered a letter from Kim to President Bill Clinton outlining Kim's proposals for cooperation, and held a series of positive meetings with Clinton and other officials.

The two sides issued a joint communiqué calling for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, the re-opening of four-party talks between the United States, China, and the two Koreas on a peace treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War, and the creation of mutual diplomatic missions as soon as possible.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who was remarkably friendly in her toast at the Oct. 10 dinner she hosted for Vice Chairman Cho, said that she would be accepting his invitation to visit Pyongyang soon. In an Oct. 12 press conference, Albright added that President Clinton might also visit Pyongyang by year's end, but that the United States was not, at this time, removing North Korea from its list of "states of concern" which allegedly support terrorism.

According to Seoul's leading newspaper, *Chosun Ilbo*, Cho also brought President Clinton details of Kim Jong-il's plan, introduced at the Okinawa Group of Eight summit on July 21 by Russian President Vladimir Putin, to abandon North Korea's long-range Daepodong missile project, if the United States, South Korea, and their allies would provide financial assistance to launch Pyongyang's satellites in other countries. Arriving at the White House in full military uniform, Cho said that he was doing so to demonstrate the agreed support of North Korea's military for better relations with the United States. At this "historical moment . . . I am here as the special envoy of Gen. Kim Jong-il," Cho said. "We will do our best to have frank discussions with the American leadership so as to remove deeply rooted and age-old distrust and make an epochal change in advancing the relations between our countries to a new stage."

Cho's visit followed a remarkable "Joint U.S.-D.P.R.K. Statement on International Terrorism," issued on Oct. 6 after a week's talks at the UN. The two sides "agreed that interna-

tional terrorism poses an unacceptable threat to global security and peace, and that terrorism should be opposed in all its forms," the statement said. "The D.P.R.K. affirmed that, as a matter of official policy and as its government has stated previously, it opposes all forms of terrorism. . . . Taking account of the D.P.R.K.'s opposition to international terrorism, the United States noted that, as the D.P.R.K. addresses the requirements of U.S. law, the United States will work in cooperation with the D.P.R.K. with the aim of removing the D.P.R.K. from the list of state sponsors of terrorism." This is a step toward tackling the issue of the Japanese Red Army provocateurs who were granted asylum in North Korea during the Cold War after hijacking a Japanese plane to Pyongyang, which Japan naturally wants resolved.

Going Ahead No Matter What

The fact is, that South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, who initiated the current quick-moving phase of peace talks, and North Korean Defense Chairman Kim Jong-il, who has forcefully brought his military behind this move, are in control of this process. President Clinton has striven for peace in Korea since he took office, but has been ineffective on foreign policy since his impeachment. The explanation for the oddly cooperative behavior of Albright, U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen, and their bureaucracy, during the Cho trip, is that the South and North Korean leaders are going ahead no matter what Washington does, and Cohen and Albright recognize that they had best go along.

With the dollar and Wall Street about to collapse, and U.S. elites hysterical about it, there is little Washington can do to stop any strong action by Asian leaders—a fact those considering an "Asian Monetary Fund" should urgently realize. Kim Dae-jung, for example, won "full support" for his peace initiative from Japan after his Sept. 24-25 summit in Atami with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, *Chosun Ilbo* reported. "During the meeting, the Japanese government actively supported the South-North dialogue and our stance," Kim told a joint news conference with Mori.

Shortly after the Atami summit, Seoul and Tokyo each

announced they will be sending 500,000 tons of rice (a total of 1 million tons) to North Korea, almost one-third of the country's annual consumption requirement.

"Kim Dae-jung sent a very clear message today to the United States and Japan that South Korea is now playing the main role," Pyon Jin-II, publisher of the Tokyo-based *Korea Report*, told Agence France Presse. "Kim has taken the initiative for the détente since the Inter-Korean Summit. He now wants Japan and the United States to follow."

More Provocations

The only cards that Wall Street and its hired guns in certain Pentagon offices can play now are pure provocations, such as that in the Frankfurt Airport on Sept. 4, when "U.S. air security agents" attempted to strip search North Korean President Kim Yong-nam and his delegation, who were en route to the UN Millennium Summit in New York. Albright was forced to publicly apologize to Pyongyang for the incident, but *EIR*'s investigation showed that the FBI, the Department of Justice, and a related faction of the U.S. military were behind the affront. The fact that North Korea remains on the State Department's "states of concern" list made this incident possible, and makes further such incidents possible as well.

No sooner was the ink on Albright's apology dry than the same wing of the Pentagon was at it again. On Sept. 22, the Defense Department released a report stating that "North Korea remains the major threat to stability and security in Northeast Asia and is the country most likely to involve the United States in a large-scale war."

"Here we have peace breaking out in Korea," as Asian specialist Chalmers Johnson told *EIR*, "and it's the U.S. military which insists on acting like a 'rogue state,' or surly at best."

"There is little or no evidence of economic reform, or reform-minded leaders, reduction in military forces or a lessening of anti-U.S. rhetoric," the Pentagon report went on. The 30-page document, entitled "2000 Report to Congress: Military Situation on the Korean Peninsula," dated Sept. 12, was written in response to Congress's fiscal year 2000 National Defense Authorization Act (Section 1233), which requires the DOD to submit a report "on the security situation" in Korea.

The report focusses on the North Korean threat to the Republic of Korea. "A decade of steep economic decline has not deterred the North's leaders from allocating precious resources to improving their military forces. The D.P.R.K. maintains a dogged adherence to a 'military first' policy even against the backdrop of a nation facing severe economic and social challenges," the report says. "If economic conditions worsen, we must consider that the North Korean economy could break down completely, precipitating social chaos and threatening the existence of the regime itself. We should

anticipate a flood of refugees, humanitarian needs, and the potential for chaos, a military coup, or the devastation of civil war."

On the other hand, "North Korea possesses weapons of mass destruction," including not only nuclear weapons, but enough anthrax, smallpox, bubonic plague, and other biological-chemical warfare agents to kill every man, woman, and child in South Korea, the report details.

The report attacks the concept of rebuilding the Korean peninsula's rail, road, and power infrastructure, which is a major node in the much-needed Eurasian Land-Bridge, or New Silk Road, between Asia and Europe. Seoul's "promises of massive road, rail, and electrical infrastructure improvements pose a dilemma" for South Korea, the DOD document states. "Without any simultaneous reduction in the D.P.R.K.'s conventional military capability, such infrastructure improvements enhance the North's ability to rapidly mobilize and invade south with minimum warning."

The Pentagon report was also held for specific release during Cohen's Sept. 15-24 nine-day tour of Asia. "Secretary Cohen hinted at U.S. impatience [with North Korea] in Tokyo Sept. 22," the DOD's American Forces Press Service (AFPS) reported in a Sept. 29 feature on Cohen's Asia tour. "You cannot have a situation where all the economic aid flows into the North and they continue to build up the military," Cohen told the Japanese Diet (parliament). "The United States is committed to the Asia-Pacific region and will remain engaged in helping solve the region's problems."

Threat of Economic Warfare

During his trip, Cohen repeated an implied linkage between acceptance of U.S. military superiority in Asia, and a threat of U.S. capital flight out of the region should Washington's dominance be challenged. "At the center of Cohen's trip was the idea he called the 'virtuous circle,'" the AFPS article notes. " 'Where there is security and stability, then investment flows,' he said to the [Japanese] lawmakers. 'If we have investment flowing in, then we have a chance to produce prosperity. Prosperity in turn promotes more security and further democracy. The moment there is an area of insecurity, investment flows out. Then you have all the social problems that are attendant to that.' "

Cohen's statement was seen by some as a veiled threat that East Asia ought not strike out on its own financially with an Asian Monetary Fund independent of the International Monetary Fund, which is controlled by the City of London and Wall Street. Just as certain Wall Street-dominated offices in the Pentagon would like to deny that "peace is breaking out" in Korea, however, this is another form of wishful thinking from Washington. As the Korean situation shows, should the leadership of Asia move strongly to create an independent AMF, there would be very little the Anglo-American elite could do to stop it.