

Anglo-Americans Move To Disrupt East Asian Ties

by Kathy Wolfe

Following a number of highly successful talks among China, South Korea, and Japan on international monetary and Eurasian Land-Bridge affairs, a campaign led by the Anglo-American media, and networks in each country which have Wall Street interests, has gone into gear, to bring back Cold War-era animosities. During the first week of June, it was reported that China will cancel a planned Beijing summit with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi; that pro-China Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka will either soon be fired or will resign; that China and Japan will slap on huge trade barriers against each other; and, that the next summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus China, Japan, and South Korea (ASEAN-Plus-3) heads of state later this year, may be cancelled. None of these reports may be true, but that doesn't stop the press.

President Minister Koizumi, in a letter to Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, has proposed to visit China, the Tokyo Foreign Ministry said on June 2, and has begun discussing with China his election campaign promise to visit the Yasukuni Shrine to Japan's war dead. During the Cold War, such visits were taken as a sign of hostility toward China, because officers held responsible for World War II are buried there. But, the shrine was built by Emperor Meiji in 1869, and failure to visit it has been seen more recently as a failure to honor Japan's national sovereignty, due to pressure from Washington. Since Koizumi has made it clear that strengthening relations with China is a priority, has appointed the pro-Chinese Makiko Tanaka as Foreign Minister, and has consulted Beijing on how to arrange the shrine visit, Tokyo sources told *EIR*, the Chinese government has been considering how to accommodate him.

Yet, Agence France Presse on June 6 found an unnamed Chinese official in Tokyo who said that "if Koizumi visits Yasukuni, it will be difficult for him to visit China . . . and his visit might be scrapped."

Another conflict arose earlier this year when an anti-China clique of Tokyo professors linked to anti-China circles in the United States, inserted language offensive to China and other neighbors into new Japanese textbooks. Demonstrations against this in China and Korea have been intense, and now Japanese women's, educational, and Christian civic groups plan an "Asian Solidarity Conference on Textbook Issues" demonstration in Tokyo on June 10-11.

After travelling to Beijing on May 25-27 to repair Sino-

Japanese relations, Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka has become the next target for resignation, by the Japanese media, following the media campaign which drove Prime Minister Yukio Mori from office earlier this year.

Downer vs. Tanaka

Tanaka's criticism of Bush's missile defense program as a provocation, and of undue influence on Bush by "oil industry people in Texas," was garbled into paranoid John Birch-esque language and reported by Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer to *Mainichi Shimbun* on June 1. While some Japanese press claimed that the leaks were from Tokyo Foreign Ministry bureaucrats who resent Tanaka, Downer's role became clear.

Yomiuri Shimbun and *Jiji Press* quoted Downer on June 2 as warning Tanaka that she was harming U.S.-Japan relations. Next, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda told a press conference in Tokyo on June 4 that he had confirmed the incident with former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. Hashimoto told Fukuda that Australia's Downer had complained about Tanaka's remarks when Downer met Hashimoto in Tokyo on May 29. Hashimoto further said that he had asked Downer to let it go, but that Downer had refused, "saying he had no choice but to pass on a remark of such gravity considering the mutual trust between his country and the United States." Later on June 4, Downer issued a statement from Australia's embassy in Tokyo, dismissing Hashimoto's report. "Any suggestion that I told Mr. Hashimoto that Australia would be passing information on my discussion with Ms. Tanaka to the United States is a complete fabrication," Downer said.

Who is lying—Hashimoto, or Downer? The Japanese press played it as petty infighting between Hashimoto and Tanaka, but it is more likely that Downer has engaged in a most remarkable British Commonwealth interference into Japanese internal affairs, to discredit a pro-China official.

The controlled Japanese press has now gone on to scandalize Tanaka about anything she does, important or petty. Tanaka is being attacked for telling Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan that Tokyo would not allow former Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui to visit again—a perfectly reasonable position. She is also being scandalized for cancelling a hotel room in Beijing and for refusing use of a young female translator.

Tanaka had planned to visit Washington to prepare a U.S.-Japan summit for Bush and Prime Minister Koizumi on June 30, but on June 5, *Jiji Press* quoted an unnamed Liberal Democratic Party source as saying that "this has become difficult." On the same day, *Asahi Shimbun* reported that "a senior official of Prime Minister Koizumi's party" said that Tanaka "is not the right person" for her post. Finally, major newspapers reported on June 6 that Tanaka is about to resign. Tanaka denied this in the Diet (Parliament) on June 6, but the attacks continue.