

# China-India Ties Grow In Face of U.S. Imperium

by Mary Burdman and Ramtanu Maitra

Even as India, China, and other nations in Asia are maintaining relatively courteous relations with the United States in public, senior policy-making circles throughout the region are furious at the drift of U.S. policies and actions around the world, one veteran of policymaking circles on the Indian Subcontinent told *EIR* on April 3. Within the strained world situation, it would seem that “it is every man for himself,” in terms of relations to the sole “hyperpower” run by the George W. Bush Administration. Yet, just below the surface, he said, “a tremendous confrontation of interests is lurking.”

The question every nation is asking, is how long the American economy can hold on. As long as it can be maintained, U.S. power can continue. But as it goes under, “There will quickly be big strategic realignments in the world. . . . I personally agree with [Lyndon] LaRouche’s view, that America is a giant standing on feet of clay.”

This analyst emphasized the “new imperialism drive of the Anglo-American oligarchy,” which is using “vassals around the world, and the methods of the old British Empire. . . . Here in India, we know that the Americans are using Pakistan and Kashmir as points of pressure on us, and *we do not like it*,” he said.

In this situation, there have been some notable moves toward improving relations among Asian nations, especially China and India. From March 29 to April 2, Indian External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh was in China, with his visit yielding important results. Singh visited Beijing; Taiyuan, capital of the western Chinese province of Shanxi; and Shanghai, China’s rapidly developing economic center. He discussed follow-up to the official visit of Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji to India in January, and the visit of Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to China, scheduled in October.

## More Achieved in This One Visit . . .

As Singh left China for South Korea, the next nation on an itinerary that also takes him to Myanmar, members of his delegation told India’s national daily, *The Hindu*, that “more has been achieved in this one visit” than in the recent engagement between the two countries.

Also notable, was that the Chinese Foreign Ministry confirmed on April 3, that Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes will be welcome to visit China “at a time conve-

nient to both sides.” In 1998, amid tensions surrounding Chinese protests over the Indian nuclear tests, Fernandes, in an outburst, had called China “India’s potential enemy number one.”

*The Hindu* also quoted Shen Dingli, deputy director of the Center for American Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai, as saying, “There is no reason why India and China should not have some bilateral defense engagement.” It is imperative, Professor Shen said, that the world’s two largest countries initiate a defense dialogue.

There are plans for a series of seminars at Beijing’s National Defense University, and its Indian counterparts, on security issues. There was also discussion of setting up a mechanism for bilateral consultations on international terrorism.

Another important development, is that both sides agreed to an accelerated completion of delineation of the Line of Actual Control of the joint border. One section, at least, should be finished by year-end. Disputes over the border—which date back to early-20th-Century British imperial “forward school” operations (including outright deception), which used Tibet to fuel tensions between India and China—have held back Sino-Indian relations for 50 years, and led to the short, but sharp, border conflict in 1962. However, in the context of India-Pakistan border tensions, where 1 million troops have been on full alert since December, and the grave regional dangers posed by the disastrous situation in post-U.S.-invasion Afghanistan, tension on the Chinese-Indian border, which has been peaceful for decades, is yet to be resolved.

After Singh completed his visit, Beijing also announced that it had reopened the land routes used by Buddhist and Hindu pilgrims to go from Nepal into Tibet, for the first time since Sept. 11 and the beginning of the U.S. war in Afghanistan. The two routes, from Taklakot and Jangbu in Nepal to Mt. Kailash and Manasarovar Lake in southwestern Tibet, are used by some 40,000 pilgrims, mostly from India and Nepal, every year.

## Deepening Economic Ties

On the economic side, direct India-China air links have now been opened. Singh arrived in Beijing on the first flight of China Eastern Airlines from New Delhi. Singh will also discuss in Myanmar, the potential to extend the road link from India to Myanmar (which Singh himself opened in February 2001) to Thailand. On April 6, the foreign ministers from the three countries will meet in Yangon to discuss the transport corridor which could eventually reach Vietnam. Chinese railroad officials are also discussing construction of the “Pan-Asian Railway,” which would link Kunming, in southwest China, to Thailand. China favors a route which can be readily linked to Myanmar. Still today, there are *no* railroad links between the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia.

Singh met with Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji in

Shanxi province, where Zhu was making an inspection tour. Singh said that the focus of their discussions was that “India and China have set as principal objectives to remove poverty and increase the living standard of the people.” This is a critical question.

In China, national concern about the stagnating—or even, in some areas, falling—living standards of China’s 800 million farmers, is growing fast; this was a leading issue at the national congress sessions in Beijing at the beginning of March. From Shanxi, Zhu Rongji reported that agriculture is now a “weak link” in China’s national economy. The slow growth of farmers’ incomes, a problem exacerbated by China’s entry into the World Trade Organization, could, he warned, undermine China’s reform, development, and stability.

In India, the already-huge impoverished section of the population is also growing, even as the middle class grows, creating a crisis similar to that which China faces.

In Shanghai on April 1, Singh gave his only public speech. He described the broader strategic relationship between the

two nations, stating that “recognition that India and China view their own security and their own interests in a broader framework than the immediate neighborhood, must underpin our new relationship.”

In this same time period, former Russian Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, who, during his visit to New Delhi in December 1998, had made the historic proposal for creation of a “strategic triangle” of cooperation among Russia, China, and India, was also in Beijing. On April 2, Primakov addressed Beijing’s leading military academy, the China Society for International Strategic Studies, on the strategic situation since Sept. 11, and met with Zhang Wannian, vice-chairman of China’s Central Military Commission. The next day, Primakov met President Jiang Zemin. After the discussions, both sides emphasized that China and Russia would expand their strategic and cooperative partnership, in the interests of world peace and stability. Primakov, although he is no longer in any government post, pledged that he would continue his efforts to enhance the two nations’ strategic and cooperative partnership.

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# Commemorate The Malvinas War By Freeing Seineldín!

by Gerardo Terán

On March 26, Brazilian Colonel Pedro Schirmer (ret.) delivered a political bombshell to the Casa Rosada, the Argentine Presidential palace. As director of the prestigious Brazilian newspaper *Ombro a Ombro*, and as executive secretary of the Brazilian Committee for the Freedom of Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín, Schirmer hand-delivered a letter from his committee addressed to Argentine President Eduardo Duhalde, urging the release of Colonel Seineldín, who has been a political prisoner longer than any other in Argentine history. An undisputed hero of the Malvinas War, Seineldín has been behind bars for 11 years, serving a life sentence imposed by the Argentine courts for having led a military uprising on Dec. 3, 1990.

Colonel Schirmer told the Argentine military officers who formally received the petition on behalf of President Duhalde, that the best way to commemorate the April 2nd 20th anniversary of the Malvinas War would be to free from jail one of its most important heroes, Colonel Seineldín. Argentine radio, TV, and print media gave prominent coverage to the Schirmer mission.

While the epicenter of the political upheaval triggered by

Schirmer’s visit was at the Casa Rosada, the effects of his visit were felt throughout the nation, and beyond. This is because of two intersecting aspects within which the Brazilian committee’s action took place: 1) the persistent and growing collaboration between Seineldín and U.S. Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche, and 2) the deadly political and economic crisis facing Argentina today.

As to the former, the week leading up to April 2, the 20th anniversary of the Argentine retaking of the Malvinas Islands from British control, was marked by two international seminars—one in Buenos Aires on March 26, the other in Rio de Janeiro on April 2—which featured messages from both LaRouche and Seineldín, exploring the strategic significance for today of that anniversary, and of the coincident 20th anniversary of LaRouche’s 1982 policy paper on how to solve the global financial crisis, “Operation Juárez.” Below, we feature those two messages in their entirety, as well as excerpts of the speech delivered at the Rio event by *EIR*’s Brazil correspondent, Lorenzo Carrasco.

With regard to the latter aspect, Argentina finds itself disintegrating before the horrified eyes of its own population