

U.S. and China Must Work Together, Chinese Official Tells Washington

by William Jones

The late-January visit to Washington by Vice Minister Li Zhongjie, the deputy director of the Chinese Communist Party History Research Office and a leading theoretician from the Chinese Communist Party School, was an important effort by the Chinese government to clarify for U.S. lawmakers and “China-watchers” where China is heading.



Li Zhongjie

There is no subject on which there is so much misunderstanding on Capitol Hill as that of China. Bill Gertz’s rantings in his *Washington Times* column, and the drumbeat about the “China threat” by many retro-fitted Kremlinologists in the Pentagon, in search of a new “enemy image,” are taken all too seriously, even by people who otherwise are not so muddle-headed. All this has created an extremely distorted view about today’s China and its goals.

Professor Li was instrumental in developing the theoretical underpinnings of the present policy of the governing Communist Party. He was one of the authors of the political report delivered by President Hu Jintao at the 17th Party Congress in Beijing in October 2007. The development of Hu’s “scientific outlook on development,” a centerpiece for the shift toward a more Rooseveltian policy in the CCP, and the concept of “a harmonious society,” was, to a great extent, due to Li’s influence (see “China Party Congress: ‘New Deal’ for ‘Nation,’” *EIR*, Nov. 16, 2007).

The new emphasis on “putting people first,” with its extensive programs for mandatory primary education in the countryside, universal medical insurance, the development of a nationwide social security system, and a new emphasis on addressing environmental problems, has become an integral part of China’s economic growth policy.

Significance of the 17th Congress

In a Jan. 22 speech at the Library of Congress on the significance of the 17th Party Congress, and again in a speech to the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Li underlined the importance of “making correct judgments” about China. Present in Beijing at the Congress were 2,200

delegates, elected by 73 million members of the Communist Party, Li explained. The ten-day Congress consisted of two major parts: 1) President Hu’s political report, which was discussed in detail, and debated during the course of the Congress, and appropriately amended; and 2) an action plan drafted to follow up the recommendations given in the report.

The report itself, Li explained, had been the result of a year’s work, in which 36 commissions researched 20 different topics before any drafting was done. “Views were solicited from all over the country and all parts of the population,” Li said. When a preliminary draft was written, it was sent for review to all parts of the country. “We held 1,523 meetings and produced 62 reports.... We also sent a notice to all the ministries to submit their own suggestions,” Li explained.

President Hu then reviewed all these reports at 12 half-day meetings. During the first phase of the Congress, after the initial report had been read by President Hu to the delegates, his presentation was broadcast live on national television. The Congress delegates spent the next days discussing the report. At the end of the Congress, 21 revisions were made to the original report, as a result of the Congress’s deliberations. Li remarked during his CSIS speech, “There was a great deal more effort that went into President Hu’s political report than into your State of the Union.” An understatement, if there ever was one.

The same rigorous process was required for electing the new members of the party leadership, those from the fifth generation of party cadres who will take over when the present leadership leaves office in five years. “All candidates have been screened and vetted,” Li said. Here again, 60 teams were formed, comprising hundreds of ministers and thousands of officials, who scoured the country soliciting opinions from all parts of the population on potential nominees for leadership positions. Even non-party members were canvassed and their views solicited. “This has been one of the most large-scale mobilizations ever to conduct a decision on the leadership,” Li said.

Harmonious Society, Harmonious World

The party Congress reaffirmed its commitment to the policy of “reform and opening up,” as well as to maintaining rapid economic growth, Li declared. In addition, there were in

the report new measures aimed at deepening reform. "While economic development is still given the priority, it cannot be lopsided," he said. "It has to be based on a harmonious society," a term which has become almost commonplace in party writings of late, but for which Li has been credited. As for the legislators' constitutional responsibility for the "general welfare," there is a commitment in the party constitution to "people's livelihood," an issue that was stressed at the 17th Congress.

The core concept of the Congress was to "put people first," Li said. "This would also entail that the party pursue comprehensive and sustainable development." He noted that China has come under criticism for the environmental problems that developed in the wake of the rapid economic development of the last decades, implying that China was not focussed on these issues. Much of the pollution in the larger cities such as Beijing is caused by heavy reliance on coal, much of which is produced in small mines in the north of China, not always with the best safety systems. Accidents at some of these mines have led to many deaths.

There is a clear awareness among the Chinese leaders of these problems. "Since the end of 2005, we have closed 11,000 of the smaller coal mines," Li said. "This has not been without cost to us, in loss of revenue, unemployment, and loss of taxes from the revenues made by these mines, in addition to a reduction in coal production. And yet we are still criticized by the international community on environmental issues." China's ambitious, yet still insufficient, program of nuclear power development is a major attempt to reduce reliance on coal as an energy resource. But the pressure on China to "toe the line" of Al Gore and the "global warming" mafia on environmental issues, has led, as Li also indicated, to the demolition of 14 power stations. China has also taken upon itself a commitment to reduce the energy content of its Gross National Product within the next few years, a commitment that could cause major disruptions in its development strategy.

Li also underlined the importance that was placed on the development of inner-party democracy, as well as the significance of elections, and outreach to non-party members. "There will be elections in primary-level party committees. There are 3.5 million committees," he said. "If we have direct elections in these committees, we will have come a long way." A number of high-level government officials have been elected from among members of other parties than the Chinese Communist Party, including the present Minister of Science and Technology.

Impact of U.S. Financial Blowout

Li then directed his comments to the international implications of the party Congress and the need for a "harmonious world." "The world has undergone far-reaching changes," Li said. "The relationship between China and the rest of the world has seen historic changes. We have to be aware of the

"butterfly effect," he said. "If a butterfly shakes its wing on one side of the ocean, it will cause a storm on the other side of the ocean. Although this has been a very romantic notion, we can see its truth in the reality of today. There are two things that interest Chinese people the most today in the United States: the upcoming Presidential elections and the crisis on the subprime real estate market. And that is because these will directly affect what happens in China."

"The stock market crash was caused by the situation on the sub-prime market. I have been told that there have now been some fluctuations in the Chinese market as a result. This tells us that China's relationship with the rest of the world is very close," he said. "We are thrown together in our striving for development. We have to work together on the challenges facing us."

When briefed after the event on Lyndon LaRouche's analysis of the crisis and his call for a New Bretton Woods system, Li commented, "I hope that the U.S. government acts quickly to deal with this crisis. And that when they do so, they must concentrate on the causes of the crisis and not merely the symptoms."

A War-Avoidance Policy

Given the propaganda oozing out of a variety of U.S. think-tanks about the various "China threat" scenarios, Li was anxious to underline China's wish to avoid military conflict. "China will remain firm on the road of peaceful development. Some people say this is only empty talk. But I must say we are sincere in this effort. It is in the fundamental interest of China and in our tradition. China has suffered several wars in the past century. In World War II, Chinese and American troops worked together. Our total casualties in these wars were 35 million people. Our economic losses were \$600 billion. I know the history of the party and these figures are based on solid research," Li said.

He also noted that, given the fact that most families are allowed only one child, they would be even more reticent to go to war. "Do you think families want to send their only son to the battlefield?" he asked. "We are not willing to solve our problems by force. And we do not want to be the cause of suffering to other countries."

HOTLINE

**LaRouche and EIR Staff
Recorded Briefings
—24 Hours Daily
918-222-7201, Box 595**