

### *Whither The JCP*

The Communists also face profound choices. While following the Miyamoto line of making themselves "lovable" seemed to have won the CP dramatic gains over the past years, increasing their Diet seats from 4 in the late 1960s to 39 and over 10 per cent of the vote in 1972, such dubious gains must now be cast into doubt. The CP loss was not as dramatic as it seemed however — they received almost the same vote percentage but lost seats due to the peculiar Japanese election system which allows a kind of built in fraud. Japanese election districts have multi-seat constituencies, ranging up to five or six seats, but the voter only writes one name on the ballot, thus allowing for de facto cooperation between parties not to run against each other in certain areas so as not to "split" the opposition vote. The CP found itself running against not only the conservatives but also the right-wing opposition which has set up cooperation agreements including the Socialists in many areas.

With even this proviso however, the CP is in for a fight. While there are no clear factional lines inside the tightly run party, observers have noted growing evidence of a more militant and "internationalist" tendency that seems to be more associated with party Secretary General Tetsuo Fuwa than Miyamoto. Evidence for this is found in recent moves to end the longtime hostility between the JCP and the Soviet Communist Party, moves resulting in the decision to send a delegate now on its way to Moscow led by Politburo member Tomio Nishizawa to hold talks on "normalization" of relations between the two parties. In addition Fuwa will head the JCP delegation to Hanoi this coming week for the party congress of the Vietnamese Workers party, with whom they have close relations, and a good location for talks with other communist leaders. Fuwa will go on from Hanoi to Italy for talks there with the PCI where it could stand to learn some valuable lessons on how to function as an ally of anti-Atlanticist and pro-development capitalist elements.

## U.S. Plans to Revive SEATO Meeting Trouble

Dec. 7 (NSIPS) — The Philippine government of Ferdinand Marcos has effectively charged U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger with attempting to "pressure" the Philippines into signing an agreement to maintain the extensive United States military installations in that country. In New York, Philippines Foreign Secretary Carlos Romolo confirmed reports that he had met with Kissinger in Mexico and discussed the negotiations for bases which have been going on for several months. Romolo then stated, "There was never an agreement" as alleged in the U.S. press. Romolo charged that "this seemed an effort to pressure us into signing an agreement." Kissinger reportedly offered Romolo \$1 billion in military and economic aid to maintain Subic Bay naval base and Clark air base, two of the largest U.S. military installations on foreign soil.

In the Philippines, as government spokesmen two days ago told the press that the government not only disavowed reports that it had come to an agreement on a new treaty on the U.S. bases, but the Philippines continues to demand national sovereignty over the bases if they are to remain in Philippine territory.

Pressure to maintain the U.S.' bases in the Philippines is part of broader plans by the U.S. to revive and expand the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO), the defense pact which was useful in the U.S. war in Vietnam in the 1960s.

In a press conference Dec. 1, Thailand's prime minister Thanin Kraivichien, who came to power during the Oct. coup, called for the formation of a military alliance that would include the states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore. Thanin had reportedly made this proposal to the leaders of Singapore and Malaysia whom he visited last week and is expected to repeat the proposal when he visits Indonesia and the Philippines.

Thai interior minister Samak Sudaravej charged that Vietnam was "looking for a chance to invade us (Thailand—ed.) on D-Day, Feb. 15." The charge, for

which no grounds were cited, went on to accuse the Vietnamese of trying to induce Vietnamese refugees living in Thailand to fight among themselves, put the blame on Thailand, and send its forces to help.

Thailand's defense minister Admiral Chaloryu announced that the government would be seeking \$1 billion in loans to purchase sophisticated weaponry to combat the "threat" posed by the neighboring communist states of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. In addition, plans have been made for the building of a weapons factory and a \$275 million naval shipyard with U.S. aid. According to the Dec. 3 issue of Far Eastern Economic Review, the shipyard will be capable of building small, fast guided-missile cruisers.

Various pro-development countries throughout the region, such as Indonesia and Malaysia, have made it clear that they will not tolerate regional militarization. Indonesian Foreign Minister Adam Malik stated in a Jakarta press conference, "There can be no question of and no need for transforming the already existing bilateral cooperation in military affairs into a joint military pact." In a reiteration of the Indonesian government's policy of detente with Vietnam, the government announced last month that it will actively aid Vietnam in acquiring Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries funds for its reconstruction efforts. Indonesia, which never belonged to SEATO, has also opposed expansion of the U.S. military base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

President Suharto of Indonesia and Prime Minister Hussein Onn of Malaysia, both of whom oppose Thailand's anti-Indochinese policies, are under attack by Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of Singapore, a close U.S. ally who last week met privately with Thai Prime Minister Thanin. Lee is reportedly behind a series of anti-communist arrests directed at Prime Minister Onn's political allies, and is also "arranging" a meeting between Indonesian president Suharto and the Thai Prime Minister.