

# Soviet terror imperils ASEAN summit

by Linda de Hoyos

Despite the environment of lawlessness that prevails in the Philippines, President Corazon Aquino has pressed ahead with plans to hold the Dec. 14-16 heads-of-state summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (SEAN) in Manila. The summit marks only the third time the heads of state of the ASEAN countries—the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Brunei—have met together.

For Aquino, the holding of the summit in Manila was designed to be a feather in the cap of her government, and a signal that she has managed to bring the Philippines a modicum of stability. However, the security threats to the summit have already taken their toll. The conference time has been reduced from three days to less than two days. There will be no socializing outside of the summit site at the Philippines International Convention Centre. The required security precautions have placed a pall on the summit environment, as most heads of state are insisting on bringing their own security. President Suharto of Indonesia is bringing his own helicopter and insisting on Indonesian control of all his air and road transport in the Philippines. Indonesia also wants to put as many as five ships carrying special security forces in Manila Bay, and to keep their own fighter aircraft escorting Suharto's arrival in Manila.

The summit, which was originally designed to tighten the relationship among the six nations—especially in economics and trade—is unlikely to achieve its aim.

The security threat to the summit is not exaggerated. Police are now tracking down two members of the Japanese Red Army known to be in the Philippines. The activation of the JRA—including evidence of its involvement in the downing of Korean Air Lines flight 858 Dec. 2—has raised fears that the JRA is planning spectacular action against the summit, or the assassination of Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who has been invited to a post-summit meeting, according to Col. Virgilio Saldajeno, Philippine Constabulary judge advocate. The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Immigration and Deportation Commission have launched a manhunt for Hiroshi Sensui and Norio Sasaki, both members of the Japanese Red Army believed to be hiding in Manila. Sensui used Sankei Trading, a trading and construction firm, as a cover, according to Saldajeno.

Sources cited by Japan's Kyodo news agency further reported that as of November, 13 members of the Red Army

and more than 10 Palestinian terrorists have been infiltrated into the Philippines, all using assumed names.

On Nov. 25, the Red Army's number-two man, Osamu Maruoka, was arrested on his way to South Korea from Okinawa. Before his arrest, Maruoka had traveled to eight different countries, including the Philippines. According to reliable intelligence sources, Maruoka is "spilling the beans," and has identified the JRA operational center as Beirut with subcenters in East Berlin and Belgrade. There is a Soviet trainer at its Beirut headquarters. Red Army members travel a route that takes them from Burma to Jakarta, Indonesia, out of Beirut to points east.

The European base of the Red Army, he indicates, coordinates with that of the Philippine New People's Army, which is headquartered in Utrecht, the Netherlands, under former priest Luis Jalandoni.

The Utrecht NPA operation also interfaces with the special terror forces of North Korea, which come under the command of Kim Chong-Il. North Korea is known to be supplying the NPA with weapons in the Philippines. Naval authorities at the Western Command based in Puerto Princess, Palawan, confirmed in November the existence of an arms shipment from North Korea due in October. Although the ship did not arrive, a senior navy officer cited in the Philippines daily *Malaya*, said the North Korean ship may have been diverted either to Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam or to the Spratley Islands. From these two places, the weapons, which included semi-knockdown helicopters and SSO-76 air-to-ground missiles, could have been loaded into fishing boats and submarines at predesignated points along the coastline of Palawan and Mindoro Islands.

Combined with the forces of the NPA itself, whose killer "sparrow units" are concentrated in Manila under the protective cover of the city's barrios, the evidence of North Korean and Red Army involvement in Philippine operations indicates that the Soviet Union's terror international has made the Philippines a special target. This comes just at the point that the Soviets have sent a top intelligence master, Oleg Sokolov, as ambassador to Manila. Prior to Sokolov's arrival in Manila, a KGB lieutenant colonel was in Manila and reportedly was in contact with representatives of both the NPA and Red Army.

Within the increasingly violent environment in Manila, it will be difficult to guarantee the summit. Manila has now become the target of indiscriminate terror-bombs, although so far no one has been killed. A warning bomb went off at the Convention Center in October. Manila police found and defused two large bombs Dec. 5. One bomb, made with 104 sticks of dynamite, an electronic timing device and a detonator, was found by a security guard at City Hall. A second bomb was found by a student near the front entrance of the Philippine Normal College, a block from City Hall. On Dec. 3., a massive car bomb shook the international airport, injuring six people, and a second went off a half-hour later in the exclusive Makati business district.