

Deng blackmails Asia with refugee threat

by Mary M. Burdman

The Sept. 1 issue of the official Chinese Foreign Ministry weekly *Peking Review* made the astounding threat that if the Communist Party loses power in the People's Republic of China, chaos will result, and Chinese refugees will flood the rest of Asia. "Maintaining stability in China is not only in China's own interests but also a responsibility to the world and humanity," *Peking Review* wrote. "If the conspiracy to negate socialism and create internal order in China were allowed to succeed, it would mean recurrence of civil war. People would flee the country and there would be, not just 1 million or 10 million, but 100 million Chinese refugees."

The *Peking Review* article reiterated a statement made by China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping on June 19. Now, with the world plunging toward war unless the Bush administration is stopped, Deng's warnings of chaos take on great weight. Observers just back from Southeast Asia express concern that the crisis inside China could come to a head within three months, leading to new political eruptions. With the volatile world situation, such eruptions could cause the fragile, murderous leadership of China to seek "adventures" outside its borders. Potential danger points include the Korean peninsula, Taiwan, and the Spratley Islands in the South China Sea.

The dangerous situation is being exacerbated by the ravings of the Anglo-Americans, who are determined to crush the industrial and industrializing populous nations of Asia. A mouthpiece for the senior British policy think tank, the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA), threatened all of Asia because Japan, Taiwan, and the ASEAN nations had failed to sufficiently support the U.S. operations in the Gulf. In an article in the *International Herald Tribune* Aug. 28, RIIA fellow Gerald Seagal wrote, "If they stand aside now, none of these East Asian states could expect much in the way of American or European support in future should they come face to face with a large and powerful neighbor. If Taiwan hopes that the United States would deter a bullying China, the worst thing it can do is to sit on the sidelines in the Gulf crisis."

Internal crisis

Any nation—whether the United States or Japan—which is attempting to "keep China stable" by giving the Beijing

butchers diplomatic boosts or even limited funding, is buying future disaster. Underground resistance leaders inside China have called upon the world to stop all support for the Beijing regime, saying they would rather suffer hardship now for the sake of China's future.

Just how nervous the Chinese leaders are, is shown by the fact that the Communist Party and State Council leadership remained in Beijing for the entire summer, rather than participating in the customary ritual of spending the month of August at the exclusive seaside resort of Beidaihe, the pro-Beijing Hong Kong newspaper *Wen Wei Po* reported Aug. 25. This year, only the octogenarians, led by Deng Xiaoping, are at Beidaihe, running power struggles from their wheelchairs. Prime Minister Li Peng conducted a state visit to Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand, while Politburo members Song Ping, Qiao Shi, and Li Ruihuan made separate "inspection tours" of various provinces. Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin has remained in Beijing since he returned from his tour of Tibet—the highest-level visit to Tibet in 10 years—to meet "American friends" and "some naval and frontier guard officers," *Wen Wei Po* reported.

Mass judicial murders continue unabated. Most recently, at least 22 people were executed in one province alone after public "trials"—modern Roman circuses to whip up the population as the economy collapses.

By self-admission, the Chinese economy continues to be "grim"—now the second-most often word used in the Chinese press, after "stability." Industrial production is declining and food production stagnating. Reports of a "good" harvest are meaningless. The *People's Daily* estimated Aug. 11 that each year, 129 million tons of grain are lost at harvest time due to wastage during harvesting, transport, storage, and processing. This is 31% of the 1989 crop of 407.4 million tons—a proportion even the Soviets cannot match.

China only matched its record 1984 harvest of 407 million tons again in 1989. But with a population growing by 15 million persons a year, there were 75 million more people in China by 1989. The government had to admit, the *People's Daily* reported July 31, that per capita food production in China had *dropped* by 20 kilograms in 1989—almost 5% of the per capita production of 390 kilos in 1989. The Beijing regime's claims of a "good" summer harvest this year of 99.35 million tons (6% more than last year) means little.

Industry fares no better. The economic effects of the international isolation are being felt, an observer in Hong Kong reported recently. Growth is slow, and the population is suffering. The State Statistical Bureau claimed Aug. 19 there was an "upward trend" in July because industrial output was 2.9% over July last year, but then admitted output was actually \$5 billion *lower* than output this June. The decrease was blamed on "higher temperatures," equipment repairs, floods, and "poor economic efficiency." Tax payments and profit delivery to the state by state industrial enterprises have dropped 20.2% so far this year compared to last year.