

denly overcome on Aug. 9, 1945. Three days after Hiroshima, on the day the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan and marched into Manchuria. Hundreds of thousands of members of the Kwantung Army were transferred into Siberian labor concentration camps and close to 50,000 of them died there. Soviet troops occupied the southern Kurile Islands and forcibly expelled 17,000 Japanese residents.

Soviets encouraged by Harriman

Encouraged by U.S. special envoy Averell Harriman, Moscow further demanded to have a say and share in the occupation of the Japanese main islands. Only Gen. Douglas MacArthur's steadfast opposition blocked this Soviet objective, and his practice of ignoring and forestalling directives issued by the Far East commission, set up by the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and the United States to formulate and oversee execution of occupation policy, prevented the Soviets from exercising the desired influence over the occupation and Japan's future international role.

In September 1951, impressed by the obvious implications of the Korean War for the security of Northeast Asia, the United States arranged for the convening of a peace conference with Japan in San Francisco. At the conference, the U.S. government, mindful of promises made to the Soviet Union at Yalta and Potsdam, insisted that Japan not only recognize the independence of Korea and renounce all rights to Taiwan, the Pescadores, and southern Sakhalin, but also to the southern Kuriles. The Soviet Union attended the San Francisco conference, but did not co-sign the peace treaty. Nonetheless, Soviet claims on the southern Kuriles are based on the proceedings of the San Francisco conference and on the previous Yalta and Potsdam agreements, to which Japan, of course, was not a party. Japan, in turn, insists that Soviet failure to sign the peace treaty leaves the Northern Territories question open and its historical rights to the four islands, which it did not seize in war, unabridged.

The U.S.-Japan Peace Treaty and the simultaneously negotiated U.S.-Japan Security Pact went into effect in April 1952, restoring Japanese sovereignty in most respects. Japanese security, however, has remained dependent on the United States, and the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, blocking expansion of Soviet influence in the Asia-Pacific region, has been a target of Soviet subversion ever since it was signed. In 1975, with the final defeat of U.S. efforts in Vietnam and major reductions of U.S. Asia-Pacific military strength, the Soviet Union saw the golden opportunity of moving into the breach and making good its claim of being a major Asian power. Massive military reinforcements, prompted by no defensive requirement, were moved to the Far East, culminating in the reactivation in March 1979 of the High Command Far East, and, most ominously for Japan, the militarization of the southern Kuriles.

Japanese-Soviet trade inches forward

by Lydia Cherry

When Japan and the Soviet Union held inter-governmental consultations at the end of October, the top item on the agenda was when the Soviets would repay the \$470 million owed to Japanese firms. During three days of talks, from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, the issue apparently was not settled, and the Japanese Foreign Ministry on Nov. 9 issued a statement saying it was dissatisfied with the Soviet response. Japan has refused to give credits to the U.S.S.R. until Moscow returns the disputed Kurile islands, and is clearly holding out on numerous forms of economic cooperation hoped for by the Soviets. But in spite of this, some economic deals are moving forward.

Soviet officials have appealed to Japan for emergency shipments of food, medical supplies, and consumer goods. "At a meeting with the Foreign Ministry in October, we mentioned how severely we are suffering economically, especially shortages of consumer goods such as food and medical supplies," a Soviet diplomat in Tokyo was quoted by the *Washington Times* on Nov. 2. The diplomat said Japan has "not yet responded."

Moscow wants Japan's involvement in the full-scale development of Siberia, but Japan has refused. In the areas of steel, aluminum, and oil, however, collaboration is increasing between the Soviets and Japanese private companies that are closely aligned with the ruling party.

Steel

Nippon Steel Corp. announced Oct. 26 that four Japanese steelmakers, including itself, have received an order from the Soviet Union for 105,000 tons of seamless steel pipe, to be shipped between next January and March. This reverses a downturn due to Moscow's shortage of foreign exchange; during the first half of 1990, sales of steel dropped by 58%. A Nippon Steel official added that the export of steel pipe to Moscow had been suspended, pending payment for steel already delivered.

Aluminum

The Soviet Union's external trade agency concluded contracts with several Japanese trading houses, including Mitsui, to sell an additional 8,000 tons of raw aluminum between July and December 1990. If delivered on time, Japanese imports of raw aluminum from the U.S.S.R. this year will amount to 111,000 tons, or about five times the total for

1989. The emergence of the Soviet Union as a promising supplier is good news for the Japanese aluminum industry, which anticipates rapid increases in aluminum demand in the near term. The Japanese Ministry for International Trade and Industry (MITI) estimates that demand for aluminum-related products will increase by nearly 40% in 1995, to 4.7 million tons. Ensuring stable supplies of raw aluminum has become a serious problem for Japan, which depends almost entirely on imports.

Oil and natural gas

In September, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu approved a proposal made by a mission from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to provide the Soviet Union with up to 5 billion yen in loans to help expand oil and natural gas production there. Kaifu gave his approval to the commitment when he met former Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi, who returned home from a week-long visit to Moscow.

Japanese investment is being sought for a natural gas development project in the Soviet Far East, and Vladimir Golanov, vice president of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said on Sept. 10 that Soviet businesses also expect Japanese investment in such fields as lumber, marine products, and iron ore development.

Narcos now in dual with government of

by Andrea Olivieri

With less than one month to go before the Dec. 9 election of delegates to the Constituent Assembly that will rewrite Colombia's Constitution, the César Gaviria government has entered into a virtual dual power arrangement with the very narco-terrorists it had once vowed to destroy. At the same time, the cocaine cartels that finance those terrorists have escalated their assault on the government, kidnaping another two journalists—this time relatives of the murdered presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galán—and demanding a government pardon in exchange for the hostages.

What the drug cartels seek is nothing more than what their narco-terrorist partners have already received. The same M-19 guerrillas who, exactly five years ago, on behalf of the cocaine cartels, turned the Colombian Justice Palace into a holocaust that claimed over 100 lives, including half the Supreme Court magistrates, and destroyed the nation's legal archives, today hold a cabinet post, constitute a bonafide political party under exceptional government protection, and are electioneering nationwide for Assembly seats.

Boosting the M-19's electoral bid is the Colombian Attorney General's office, which has just issued the conclusions of a five-year "investigation" of the Justice Palace holocaust, which incredibly blames the Armed Forces—*not* the M-19—for the loss of life and "excess force" used in ending the terrorist siege. Attorney General Alfonso Gómez Méndez, who is married to leading M-19 propagandist and "journalist" Patricia Lara, has called on the Defense Ministry to dishonorably discharge the general who led the counter-assault against the M-19.

This attack on Gen. Jesús Armando Arias Cabrales, whose 36 years of service—first as commander of the 8th Army Brigade and later as Commander of the Army—have earned him widespread respect and intense loyalty both within and outside the Armed Services, stunned many Colombians. Even the Colombian Congress, notoriously corrupt and cowardly, held an impromptu 76-5 vote in favor of granting the general a third star, to protest the Attorney General's action.

The call for General Arias's dismissal is viewed by some

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