

that he has a card to play and that he had cautioned Pakistan to restrain itself from aiding and abetting terrorism inside India. But Secretary Bartholomew never identified just what stick the United States proposes to use if Pakistan throws caution to the winds, and, as a result, few in New Delhi believe that Islamabad's response to the warning will be meaningful.

India is unenthusiastic

In India the situation was slightly different. The United States is aware that India has the capability to make nuclear weapons, if it so chooses, at the drop of a hat. It is also understood that India is not at all willing to give up its fully developed nuclear option, no matter how much assurance Washington pours into India's ears about U.S. control over Beijing and Islamabad. It is obvious, then, that a dialogue is called for and a comprehensive arrangement which satisfies both parties is necessary.

Bartholomew did not come with any deal worked out. Politely acknowledging the "good intentions" of the United States, India continued to express its reservations about a nuclear-free zone in South Asia when its immediate neighbor, China, is sitting pretty with a formidable nuclear stockpile. Indian leaders told the U.S. official that while India is not rejecting out of hand the proposal that the United States, former Soviet Union, China, Pakistan, and India hold a conference to work out the nuclear-free zone, it would nonetheless like a direct arrangement with Pakistan without involving the United States, the Soviet Union, and China.

Bartholomew made it known to the Indians that the United States would be happy to see real improvement in Sino-Indian relations, and insisted that any suspicion in India about China's intention to harm India in any way is unjustified. He also repeatedly assured the Indian side that China will sign the NPT, and when it does, it will be bound by the protocols of the NPT, which will prevent it from exporting nuclear material to non-signatory countries.

But since India's main concern is China, with its nuclear arsenal, any pressure exerted on New Delhi to sign the NPT and give up its own nuclear options, will be fruitless. Under the terms of the NPT, only those signatories that exploded a nuclear device before 1968 can be classified "nuclear weapons states" and allowed to keep their nuclear weapons capability intact. The thought that China will become the only Asian nation with a nuclear stockpile that can threaten the neighboring nations will hardly inspire New Delhi to compromise or be more accommodating on the NPT issue.

Under the circumstances, it would be easier for New Delhi to sign the NPT if India were given the status of a nuclear weapons state. If Washington wants to make the non-proliferation issue part of its new world order, it is becoming increasingly clear that it would have to make some difficult deals in South Asia, where the nuclear threshold has been crossed.

U.S. threats against North Korea escalate

by Michael Billington

The United States further escalated a campaign against North Korea in late November, attempting to coerce other Asian nations to participate in joint actions aimed at forcing North Korean compliance with the dictates of the "new world order." Defense Secretary Richard Cheney and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Colin Powell visited South Korea on the heels of Secretary of State James Baker III, whose trip was a generally acknowledged failure, and issued new demands.

Baker had been rebuked by both China and South Korea for demanding that a coalition of Japan, the Soviet Union, China, and the United States be given joint power (with the two Koreas) in determining the direction of policy on the peninsula. China rejected the plan as an attempt to "gang up" against the sovereignty of their ally, and South Korea then refused to submit to such supranational control, insisting that the issues between the divided Koreans must be settled between themselves.

Secretary Cheney downplayed the "coalition" part of the proposal, but reiterated the demand that the North open up its nuclear research and development projects to international inspection. He hinted (through unnamed "high government officials") that nothing less than shutting down the nuclear waste-reprocessing facility now under construction in North Korea would satisfy the United States.

Target: peaceful uses of nuclear energy

North Korea has become a "target of convenience" to extend the anti-nuclear policies developed since the Iraq war. Using the hysteria generated around the war to justify the blatant destruction of the notion of national sovereignty, the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency is being transformed into a policeman against even peaceful uses of nuclear energy, under the excuse that some of the technologies could potentially contribute to weapons production.

South Korean officials are anxious to prevent the development of nuclear weapons in the North, but they want to preserve their national sovereignty, while moving toward eventual reunification. Besides rejecting Baker's call for foreign control over the issues between North and South, the South Korean Defense Ministry Nov. 18 also accused the U.S. of refusing to transfer the technology necessary to make the South Koreans capable of self-defense. Reuters quoted the ministry: The U.S. "wall for protecting its technology has been thick, and in particular, it is almost impossible for us to cooperate in high-technology transfers." They indicated that

they would be forced to look to Europe and the Soviet Union for the defense technology which they have been denied.

Secretary Cheney made no concessions on the issue of technology transfer, in keeping with the Bush administration policy of "technological apartheid" against the Third World. But Cheney did announce the postponement of the scheduled U.S. troop withdrawal from the U.S. bases in South Korea, calling the North's nuclear research "the most serious threat to peace and stability" in the region. He accused the North Koreans of "40 years of aggression, terrorism, and irresponsible weapons sales." Japan joined the attack, calling the North Korean nuclear program "our country's foremost security threat."

North Korea announced in its official newspaper *Rodong Sinmun* that Cheney's new arrangement with the South made a "provocation of an adventurous war against the North a *fait accompli*." Sources in the U.S. intelligence community say that North Korea officials warned the Soviets last year, when Mikhail Gorbachov moved to establish relations with South Korea, that they would be forced to develop an independent nuclear weapons capability if they were to lose the Soviet nuclear umbrella. Facing the massive U.S. nuclear weapons deployment in the South, they may well have made such a decision. On the other hand, since the fall of the Soviet Communist Party, they have moved to establish relations with Southeast Asian nations and to talk to the South about reunification. They deny any ongoing or planned development of nuclear weapons, and have agreed to allow the inspections on the condition that the peninsula be made into a nuclear-free zone—i.e., that the U.S. remove its nuclear weapons—and that inspections in the South take place simultaneously. Bush has announced the removal of all tactical nuclear weapons (the U.S. previously denied that it even had any such weapons in Korea), while not mentioning strategic nuclear weapons.

The primary factor, however, is not the nuclear issue, nor even the instability of the North Korean regime and its Chinese allies—but the insanity of President George Bush. Faced with the collapse of the U.S. economy, along with his paper-thin "popularity" at home, Bush appears ready to launch another military adventure to attempt to cover over the economic debacle. In late November, the administration announced possible military operations against Libya and stepped-up efforts against Iraq. That Bush believes that a military adventure in Asia would function as it did in the Middle East is indicated by the repeated comparisons between Iraq and North Korea (see *EIR*, Nov. 22, p. 53) by U.S. officials. The London *Economist* carried an editorial entitled "Be as Tough on North Korea as on Iraq."

Thus far, the administration has insisted that only "diplomatic" measures are being planned. But such "diplomatic" measures have increasingly included economic sanctions leading to force, as the cases of Panama and Iraq demonstrate, and as is now threatened in Haiti.

Indonesia targeted over East Timor

by Lydia Cherry and Mary Burdman

Indonesia is facing the worst crisis over the annexed region of East Timor in several years, following an incident Nov. 12 in which Indonesian Armed Forces shot into a crowd of approximately 3,500, killing at least 19 people and perhaps more. Uncertainty remains as to exactly what happened; whether troops were told to shoot or not; whether the crowd, gathered to attend a memorial mass for an East Timor youth killed two weeks before, was orderly or unruly. The Indonesian government has stated that it "deeply regrets the loss of lives from this incident" and has established a high-level National Commission of Inquiry to be chaired by a Justice of the Supreme Court. Whatever the exact circumstances of the tragedy, it has provided a pretext for a clearly orchestrated campaign against Indonesia, spearheaded by Australia and Portugal and backed by Britain.

The incident in the East Timor capital Dili occurred the same day that Indonesian President Suharto began a 26-day tour of the Third World as the next head of the Non-Aligned Movement. The focus of the tour, which is taking place in spite of the incident, was planned to be on economic cooperation between developing nations.

An indication that East Timor was to become an international flashpoint was signaled by a London *Times* editorial last April 20, which demanded that Indonesia be treated vis-à-vis East Timor as Iraq was treated vis-à-vis Kuwait. Indonesia is vulnerable to pressure, the editorial stated, especially with its large debt. "It needs western goodwill. . . . Both military and economic sanctions would be perfectly in order. . . . If the new world order means anything, East Timor should return once again to the U.N. agenda." The editorial also attacked the Vatican, claiming it was more interested in Indonesia's 20 million Catholics than the Timorese.

The same month, Tiny Rowland's London *Observer* on April 8 had spouted the same theme, attacking the "brutal Indonesian dictator General Suharto" and warning that "his increasingly fractious empire of islands" could disintegrate. "If occupied East Timor were to go, the future of the world's fifth most populous country could be nearly as precarious as the U.S.S.R.'s." These same London circles, such as Britain's Lord Avebury, chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, are deeply involved in targeting India around the Kashmir dispute with Pakistan.