

Japan's Miyazawa tells Bush to develop Asia

by Kathy Wolfe

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa bluntly told George Bush during their July 1-2 Washington summit that Tokyo's priority is economic development for the 2.5 billion people of Asia, rather than the world austerity plans of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Miyazawa followed up his private talks with a major public call for Asian development and security at the National Press Club.

"Japan is becoming irritated," a Japanese official told the press on June 29, about Bush's fixation on his \$24 billion IMF shock therapy program for Russia, and at the narrow Japan-bashing by bankrupt U.S. auto and steel companies. Asia "deserves more attention," he said. "The theme of Miyazawa's visit will be promoting greater U.S. and European interest and investment in the Asia-Pacific region."

"The President and I talked about some of the important issues in the dynamic region of Asia and the Pacific," Miyazawa said at a joint press conference with Bush following their talks on July 1, "including in the Korean Peninsula and in Cambodia. We reaffirmed determination to work together to enhance peace and prosperity in this region."

"I assured the prime minister of the importance of Asia to the United States," added Bush, who had had no intention whatsoever of addressing the issue.

Miyazawa's Washington summit and meetings with European heads of state in London July 3-5 were to explain Japan's idea before the Group of Seven (G-7) heads of state economic summit in Munich, Germany July 6-8.

At Munich, Japanese Ambassador to Washington Takakazu Kuriyama told the press that Miyazawa also would insist that Asian development be a priority. "The world's attention recently has focused on what's going on in the former Soviet Union and in Europe, and rightly so," he said. "Nevertheless, we think the Asia-Pacific region is just as important as Europe, not only because of the economic future it holds, but also because of a great deal of instability in our part of the world."

Anglo-Chinese threat

Ambassador Kuriyama's June 30 Washington press briefing on Miyazawa's trip reflects a deeper concern in Tokyo—repeated by Japanese officials to *EIR* in recent interviews there—that Japan cannot trust Washington's support

vis-à-vis the very real military threat Japan faces today from Communist China. As one of the Japanese elite told *EIR*, "You in the West keep saying 'The Cold War is over.' Well, the Cold War is *not* over in Asia."

Japan has little military capability, and is now faced with a direct threat from the genocidal regime in Beijing, where millions of people are already homeless refugees. Japanese elites, however, not only realize that Beijing has been backed fully by George Bush since his days as a "China hand" at the CIA, but are also aware that the Chinese regime has been sponsored since Mao's day by the British Empire. Japan is being blackmailed by, in effect, a London-Washington-Beijing joint threat.

Ambassador Kuriyama's briefing made clear that this broader strategic reality is one reason Japan doggedly objects to Russian occupation of the seemingly minor Northern Territories, the four tiny Japanese islands north of Hokkaido seized by Stalin in the closing days of World War II. Japan does fear Russia, or a possible Stalinist resurgence in Russia, but there is more. Japan, Kuriyama stated, must be sure it has military backing against *all* "expansionist" forces in Asia.

"In our part of the world . . . there remains one important legacy of Stalin's expansionist policy, and that is the issue of the Northern Territories. The former Soviet Union, today Russia, continues to occupy those islands unlawfully. . . . We consider it a litmus test to prove Russia's willingness to play a peaceful role in the Asia-Pacific region," he stressed. "That is why we attach a great deal of importance to the territorial issue not only in terms of a very narrow bilateral issue, but as an issue which does have some real regional and even global implications."

Tokyo has decided that the best it can do for the moment is to "throw the spotlight" on Asia, and draw as much attention to the area as possible, hoping to use "factitious advantage" to prevent the Chinese, Britain, and their sidekick Bush from any monkey business.

Focus on Asian development

Prime Minister Miyazawa told the National Press Club on July 2 that the West needs a broad new program, which

Japan intends to lead, to address this and other security and economic issues in Asia. "Today I wish to focus on the Asia-Pacific region to illustrate how Japan intends to expand a global partnership with the United States," he began. "I do this because I feel that, although the democratization and economic reform in the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe are now the focus of international attention, momentous changes are also occurring in the Asia-Pacific region. These changes are often overlooked by the Euro-Atlantic community, but I believe that these changes will play an important role in our search for new international cooperation."

Miyazawa not only stressed that Asia is an engine of economic growth for the whole world, but also reviewed the security problems in the region, from the nuclear threat from North Korea to the fragile peace in Cambodia.

"Many countries in the region feel that Japan and the United States are well placed to help them seize the opportunity to bring about more enduring peace and greater prosperity to the region," he said. "The region has registered phenomenal economic growth in recent years, as exemplified by the 'newly industrialized economies,' what we often call 'NIEs.' The Asia-Pacific region may develop into a market as large as Europe or North America by around the year 2015.

"Japan has been actively cooperating with these countries in their nation-building efforts. In fact, half of Japan's ODA, Official Development Assistance, is directed every year toward developing countries in the region," he said. Japan's ODA, the world's largest non-military aid program, rose to \$11 billion in 1991.

Promise to help China

Miyazawa addressed the China crisis by stating that Japan will also do whatever it can to alleviate China's poverty. "It goes without saying," he said, "that the stability and the development of China are significant for the peace and the prosperity over the Asia-Pacific region. I therefore applaud the decision of the U.S. government to extend the Most Favored Nation treatment to China for another year. . . ."

"China is now at a great historic turning point. We must continue to encourage and support China's vigorous efforts for openness and reform in the economic sphere," he said. Miyazawa also stressed for the first time that Japan, which is the largest investor in and lender to China, is now insisting that Beijing stop its hideous oppression of China's student freedom movement. "In that process, we must also make our concern known to China about its political reform, including its human rights situation. We need to appreciate that for a country like China, with more than 1 billion people and a low national income, the expansion of its national economy is indispensable for its domestic stability. Economic reforms should clear the way for political reforms.

"We must also get China involved in international efforts for peace," Miyazawa added. "China's participation is necessary in such areas as nuclear non-proliferation, the Missile

Technology Control Regime, and the control of transfer of conventional weapons."

Crises in Korea, Cambodia

Miyazawa also addressed other conflicts in Asia. "Some of these involve military tension, as in the case of the Korean Peninsula or in Cambodia," he said. "On the Korean Peninsula, over 1.4 million ground troops remain in a state of confrontation across the 38th parallel. The resolution of this situation is the most pressing task today for the security of the Asia Pacific region. The North-South dialogue for reconciliation is to be supported by the close cooperation among the four major powers involved; that is, Japan, the United States, China, and Russia. The trilateral cooperation now under way, among Japan, the United States, and the Republic of Korea, on the question of North Korea's nuclear weapons development program signifies the beginning of such multi-lateral cooperation.

"Serious concerns persist about North Korea's possible nuclear weapons development. If this should prove to be true, it would be a serious destabilizing factor for the security of East Asia and all the world. North Korea's acceptance of the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspection signals some progress. However, all the concerned parties must welcome North Korea to dispel fully the suspicions of the international community. Japan, for its part, is resolved to work to defend, by firmly maintaining that there can be no normalization of relations with North Korea without a solution to this issue.

"The other urgent security issue is Cambodia's peace process," he continued. Miyazawa voiced concern over the bloody Khmer Rouge's recent refusal to go along with Cambodian disarmament, which "is impeding the progress of peace. The ongoing operation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, UNTAC, is an unprecedented grand undertaking.

"Less than two weeks ago," Miyazawa noted, "Japan hosted the Ministerial Conference on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia. The conference pledged \$880 million in assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia. Conference participants, including all the Cambodian parties, reconfirmed the importance of the full and timely implementation of the parties' peace agreement. With the international peace cooperation law enacted, Japan envisages future participation in UNTAC through personal support, as contributing to the nation-building of Cambodia."

A 15-man Japanese mission lead by Tatsuo Arima of the Foreign Ministry and including four members of Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) visited Cambodia July 2-7, to study how to quickly deploy Japanese peace-keeping troops there. Japan's troops will be going as a MacArthur-style "army corps of engineers" to rebuild Cambodian infrastructure, hospitals, and cities. Japan plans to send 700-900 engineers as part of the reconstruction plan.