

Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan can't mask Moscow coup

by Kathy Wolfe

Japan's new Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, after two days of meetings in Tokyo, announced a surprise accord on Oct. 13 for "serious negotiations" on Japan's Russian-occupied islands, and 16 new economic pacts. Yeltsin and Hosokawa told the press that Russia will honor a previous treaty the Soviet Union signed with Japan in 1956, to return two of the four Japanese islands occupied by Stalin in 1945.

The accords reached in Tokyo by Hosokawa and Yeltsin are unworkable even in the medium term. However, their language, were it to stand up, does appear to be a small breakthrough. "This visit has finally opened up the way toward solving our problem," Yeltsin said at a Tokyo press conference held jointly with Hosokawa on Oct. 13. "Our two countries are growing closer psychologically and we will be able to resolve the dispute by these pacts."

"President Yeltsin's visit has opened the first page toward normalizing relations. . . . We've established the foundation for new negotiations," Hosokawa beamed. Japan and Russia, which have yet to sign a peace treaty following World War II, will now move to "fully normalize their bilateral relations," the accord says.

Yeltsin also promised the Japanese prime minister that the Russian troops stationed on the disputed islands would soon be withdrawn. "We have pulled out half of the military there," Yeltsin was quoted as saying. "I promise to withdraw the other half." As of May there were about 7,000 troops left on the islands after the first pullouts, Japan's Defense Ministry said.

The accords, Yeltsin said, have only been made possible by the new Hosokawa government's agreement, for the first time since World War II, to de-link the political issue of Japan's demand for its territory, from the economic issue of Japanese financial aid to Russia. "It's become possible because [Japan and Russia] have agreed to separate political and economic issues," Yeltsin told Hosokawa before the assembled press. "I appreciate that you did not take a 'yes or no' or a 'no islands, no visit' attitude."

"Separating political and economic issues" is also key and code for the one-world crowd in Washington and London

which for two years has demanded that Japan shut up about its territory, and immediately pour billions into futile attempts to bail out International Monetary Fund (IMF) "reform" programs in Russia.

Globalist operations endorsed

The political communiqué signed by Yeltsin and Hosokawa features several worrisome endorsements of globalist operations. Among them, the two leaders confirmed "their commitment to cooperate on promoting the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," i.e., they backed "technological apartheid," the denial of advanced technologies to developing nations.

One of the 16 accords actually was a joint agreement to threaten North Korea. It said that Japan and Russia "share the extreme concern of international society with respect to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (D.P.R.K.) over preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons."

Further, read the political communiqué, "The two leaders agree to work together to enhance the authority of the United Nations while taking note" of the ongoing discussions on how to reform the globalist body.

Several of the Russo-Japanese economic agreements would be signs of useful world economic development, if Russia were not currently implementing disastrous IMF shock therapy. But in that context, they are problematic. Yeltsin asked Hosokawa to reschedule Russia's debts to Japan, which he said would come to \$2 billion soon, and Hosokawa agreed to look at the idea. Hosokawa said Japan's aid to Russia so far amounted to \$4.6 billion, and that Japan and Russia should continue their economic cooperation through various development projects, especially development of natural gas and oil in Sakhalin and a trans-Siberian optical fiber communications project.

Japan and Russia, according to the economic statement, agreed to boost cooperation in 11 economic sectors, including banking, energy, steel, timber, telecommunications, and conversion of military facilities to civilian use.

Japan said it would share its postwar economic experiences with Russia in such areas as macro-economic policy,

reform of fiscal and financial systems and industrial structures, and promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Doubts quickly raised

Following Yeltsin's Oct. 3-5 bloodshed in Moscow, however, few in Tokyo were fooled by the content of the accords. Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leaders on Oct. 6 had even urged that Yeltsin's trip be cancelled. "This is the same as China's Tiananmen Square incident that resulted in the deaths of many people," one LDPer said of Yeltsin's assault on the Moscow Parliament on Oct. 4. "He should be rejected."

There has been a military coup in Russia, leading Japanese sources told *EIR*, and Japan, which has no trust in the patchy U.S. "nuclear umbrella," must deal with that threat. "Yeltsin now owes everything to the military; there is a military government in Moscow," a senior Tokyo banker told *EIR*. Yeltsin came as "their representative."

Yeltsin's offer to negotiate over Japanese territory was "carefully worked out" with the Russian military—or Yeltsin would have been deposed for it, he added.

Yeltsin himself won't last; it's the resurgent Russian military threat behind him that's the issue, the banker said. Yeltsin's territorial offer itself is "irrelevant, except as a gesture," he noted. Yeltsin "may not last long, and who knows whether the Russian military will ever return any territory."

"Yeltsin's star is declining and he may never be able to start up talks with Japan," Hiroshi Kimura, Russian affairs professor at the International Research Center in Kyoto, commented on Oct. 14.

Indeed, Moscow created an apparent affront only days later on Oct. 17, when a Russian tanker dumped 900 tons of nuclear waste into the ocean north of Japan, creating hysteria in Tokyo. Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito called Russian Ambassador Lyudvig Chizhov in to lodge formal protests on both Oct. 18 and Oct. 19, and a furious debate began in the Japanese Diet (parliament).

"As the dumping happened immediately after the Russo-Japanese summit talks, it is nothing but a breach of faith," LDP Diet chief Yohei Kono said Oct. 19.

"This has definitely thrown cold water on any warming of sentiment toward Yeltsin which might have occurred after his visit," a Tokyo official told *EIR*. "Prime Minister Hosokawa is calling for Yeltsin to jointly investigate the matter, but it has not affected the accords—not yet."

IMF makes Russia 'ungovernable'

Many Japanese are also aware that it is the IMF "shock therapy" being demanded of the Russian people by London and Washington which is the root of the crisis in Moscow. "Of course Yeltsin can't last—IMF shock therapy has made Russia ungovernable by anyone," a senior Japanese ministry official told *EIR*. "Several Japanese scholars I know have the same view. We have been trying to point out that no one can

govern Russia under these economic conditions. More of the current kind of 'reforms' will only make the situation worse."

Japan is in a dilemma both because Washington's support for Yeltsin has been so strong, and because Japan has no military defense of its own. "Unfortunately," he said, "the Japanese Ministry of Finance and Japan's Foreign Ministry are, on the surface at least, supportive of President Clinton's position" endorsing Yeltsin's actions of Oct. 3-5. "Underneath, of course, the top people in Tokyo are not really supportive, but they are not willing to break the surface."

"It seems to me that the situation in Siberia is particularly dangerous to Japan and to the Far East region," he said, speaking of threats by Siberian nationalists to secede from Russia. It has been the Siberian region which has been most militant about refusal to return Japanese territory in the Far East.

The government of Japanese Prime Minister Hosokawa is operating on two levels in signing the accords, the Tokyo banker believes. It is true, he said, that Washington has been urging Japan to pour money into Russia to try to prop up Yeltsin's IMF programs. However he pointed out, Japan's elites are themselves "quite anxious" about the wild instability in Russia.

In response to warnings by *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche that IMF shock therapy will lead Russia to chaos and possible nuclear war, he laughed bitterly. The Japanese elites have no illusions about the so-called U.S. nuclear umbrella over Japan, he said.

Some Japanese are well aware, as former West German Military Intelligence chief Gen. Paul Albert Scherer (ret.) told Washington audiences in late September, that the Russian military is headed for war, possibly nuclear war, with Ukraine, the Baltic states, and other parts of Europe. Knowing this, they are resigned to hoping that war will stay *in Europe*, and want whatever peace is possible in the Far East.

Lacking the courage to denounce the IMF, "some people in Japan are hoping that we can have stability in the Far East," he said, between Japan and Russia. Although he characterized the idea as ridiculous, the source said that the thinking runs as follows: "Moscow is so far away; all that trouble in Moscow is a European problem. Moscow is in Europe. Japan should concentrate on stability in the Far East."

Some factions in Britain are none too happy about that aspect of the Russo-Japanese accords. In fact, it was Greenpeace, the multimillion-dollar environmentalist group, which began the fracas over the nuclear dumping, when it followed the Russian tanker, issuing press releases carried internationally.

Russian Deputy Environment Minister Amirkhan Amirkhanov and other Russian officials have subsequently issued extensive explanations that the waste dumps are routine because radiation levels of this waste are so low as to meet even U.N. rules for ocean disposal. Apparently, the British banks behind Greenpeace are not interested in even a temporary calm in Russo-Japanese relations.