

# Clinton seeks peace conference on Korea

by Kathy Wolfe

U.S. President Bill Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young-sam, after a summit on Korea's Cheju Island on April 16, proposed that North Korea and China join four-power peace talks, which Clinton said could lead to a permanent peace on the Korean peninsula. "We are determined to do everything we can," Clinton said, "to end the 43 years of tensions between North and South Korea since they ended the Korean War in 1953 with an armistice, but no formal peace accord. It can begin as soon as possible, and there are no preconditions."

"The purpose would be to initiate a process aimed at achieving a permanent peace agreement," said a statement issued by the two Presidents.

## Positive responses

In a hopeful sign, the North Korean government in Pyongyang did not reject the plan, despite a long-standing insistence that it would sign a formal peace treaty only with the United States, as South Korea has not, since 1953, signed the existing cease-fire. "We are now examining the proposal of the U.S. side to see . . . whether it is feasible," the North Korean Foreign Ministry said in an official statement on April 18. It stressed that Pyongyang wants the September 1992 North-South Korean "Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-Aggression, and Cooperation" to be "carried into practice" as part of a settlement.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen greeted the four-power proposal as "reasonable" on April 19, at a press conference with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. "We also believe, however," Qian said, deferring to its ally Pyongyang on any final decision, "that such a proposal can only be realized, when those parties directly concerned can reach agreement."

Korean-American leaders have also proposed to eventually bring Russia and Japan into the Korean peace process. At a March 18 meeting in Los Angeles of the Koreatown LaRouche Committee, one Korean-American leader proposed to Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, that the United States sponsor a conference between the two Koreas, jointly with China, Russia, and Japan.

There is already official discussion under way to broaden the agreement to include the latter two nations. South Korean

President Kim Young-sam's Presidential aide Yoo Chong-ha said on April 16 that talks are proceeding with Russia and Japan about a role in the conference.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto called the proposal a "great initiative," and urged North Korea to respond positively. President Clinton during his visit to Russia on April 19-20 discussed the idea with President Boris Yeltsin and other Russian leaders.

## Stop British war plans

The Korean hot spot must be seen within the global context of the British Empire's plan to carve up China. By constant attacks against North Korea, via the U.N. and George Bush assets such as former U.S. Ambassador Donald Gregg, London is acting deliberately to anger Pyongyang, which is never difficult. Britain wants to provoke a war in Korea to further their plans to destroy China, and create a foreign policy disaster for President Clinton.

The Clinton administration, for its part, has strongly pressed for China to help play a positive role in the peace settlement, as part of President Clinton's "One China" policy.

President Clinton was the one to insist on China's participation in the Korean peace talks, Washington sources told *EIR*. "The United States' view is that participation by the People's Republic of China in such a dialogue would also be extremely helpful," White House spokesman Michael McCurry said on April 16. "The People's Republic, on matters related to the North Korea nuclear program and other issues in this region, has been a valuable interlocutor as we deal with the security issues that arise in this region."

Korean-American leaders in Los Angeles believe that President Clinton's action is "very important progress," as one spokesman put it. "The previous position of Washington and South Korea was that a peace settlement in Korea should be handled by the two parties concerned, i.e., North Korea and South Korea, taking out the U.S. from the picture," he explained. "Pyongyang, however, had said peace should be made between U.S. and Pyongyang, excluding South Korea. Neither of these positions is realistic.

"That's why the arrangement should be made, *not* bilaterally between North Korea and South Korea, but within the framework of an international conference."

Unlike former communist East Germany or the Soviet Union, he explained, neither China nor North Korea is about to collapse, and to continue without a peace treaty is untenable. "Regarding North Korea, the North Korean regime is not composed of traitors," as was East Germany, he said, which was "entirely a puppet state controlled by Russian occupation troops." The moment the Russian troops left, the East German people wanted to join West Germany, he explained, but even if communism fell in North Korea, the people would still want their own government, pending negotiations with the South.

Therefore, he said, it is urgent to begin talks, as President Clinton said, "with no pre-conditions."