

International Intelligence

Bush Advisers' Recipe For China-Japan War

UCLA Prof. Tom Plate, in an article in the Singapore daily *Straits Times* on Oct. 24, blasted a "blue ribbon panel report" which proposes that the United States build up Japan as an Asian superpower, as a counterpole to China. The panel includes Richard Armitage (a former Bush Administration official who now advises G.W. Bush) and Joseph Nye (a former George Bush and later Clinton adviser). Plate refers to this "zero-sum game" as a "formula for disaster." He does not mention the fact, that it is also a direct attack on the formation of an Asian Monetary Fund.

The report urges the next President to "re-establish the lost focus" of the U.S.-Japan relationship, by urging Japan to "shed its self-restraint when negotiating regional defense issues, develop its own independent military intelligence capabilities and upgrade its forces. In short, the Washington-Tokyo relationship must move from a 'burden-sharing' one to a power-sharing arrangement. Another way to put it: Let Japan become more like the U.S. . . .

"But even the whiff of a suggestion that Asia is a zero-sum game in which there can be only one winner—either Japan or China—is a formula for disaster," Plate writes. For example, he cites "the report's provocative call for increased American-Japanese cooperation in missile defense, [which will] . . . undermine regional security by raising tension.

"Lastly, the panel's endorsement of joint U.S.-Japan military exercises would yank the rug out from under those in China who have advocated a decreasingly confrontational policy towards the West. . . . Any suggestion that America can juice up its relationship with Tokyo while slighting Beijing is misconceived."

Primakov Anticipates Bad U.S.-Russia Relations

In an interview with *Moskovsky Komsomolts*, published on Oct. 17, Russian former Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov was asked about "talk in the diplomatic circles

. . . that the American policy toward Russia will become much tougher after the November Presidential elections there. They say that goes for both Gore and Bush. Your opinion?"

Primakov replied: "I cannot rule this out. But I do not think there will be a U-turn. The process is likely to be protracted and boring. But I am concerned by many things. Thus, Gore's closest associates are saying that the talks on a new arms reduction treaty, a START-3, and on amendments to the ABM treaty should be waged as a package only." He said that Strobe Talbott, "Gore's senior adviser [sic], . . . recently wrote me a letter to that effect. I asked him whether it was a U-turn in the American policy. He answered, it was. Bush is also making no secret that in case of his victory, the U.S. would want to tackle many defense and arms reduction issues without negotiations with Russia."

Primakov's analysis of the U.S. posture: "The main thing is that the U.S. continues to think it is the only global superpower. The U.S. is indeed stronger than anybody else—militarily and economically. But this is no reason to feel itself a superpower. For a 'superpower' is a category of the Cold War that is known to be over. This is very unpleasant, naturally. A way out must be found. In the end, even the Americans will see, it is a road leading to nowhere."

Princess Diana's Priest Breaks His Silence

Rev. Frank Gelli, who in 1997 was parish priest of St. Mary Abbots Church, next door to Princess Diana's Kensington Palace, decided to break his three-year silence about their conversations, prompted by the appearance of *Shadows of a Princess*, by her former personal secretary, P.D. Jephson, according to Germany's largest daily, *Bildzeitung*, on Oct. 16. "It is time to tell the truth. This is what Diana would have wished," he said.

Gelli said that he met with Diana two months before her death. He related: "I lived in Turkey, for two years. She asked me how Muslims treat their wives. Diana seemed deeply impressed by the respect shown to her by Dodi [Fayed]. She was so happy and in love. She was gladly looking to the future, and told me, how much Dodi loved her two

sons, how much the children liked to spend their time with him.

"When I saw her for the last time, that was before her vacation in France, she asked me, whether I could preside over the ceremony at her wedding. She wanted a Christian blessing for her relation to the Muslim Dodi."

Gelli said that the last time he spoke with her, she had phoned him from her yacht, off the Côte d'Azur, and she said she had good news for him, which she wanted to tell him when she returned to Kensington Palace. "I wholeheartedly believe: Had the accident not occurred, the two would long ago have been married to each other."

Bildzeitung adds: "The consequences of the priest's confession could be enormous. For none of the court reporters believed that the royal family could possibly approve of Lady Di's marriage with a Muslim. Yes, there are quite a few who even see therein a motive for the couple's sudden death—that it wasn't an accident, but murder!" According to *Bildzeitung*, Dodi Fayed's father, Mohammed Al Fayed, has been encouraged by the priest's revelations, to continue his search for evidence that they were murdered.

Chile Renews 'Special Relation' with Britain

The Chilean government will "coordinate with Great Britain" on "Plan Colombia," as part of the renewal of its "special relationship" with London, after two years of tension surrounding the case to extradict former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet from Britain to Spain. Chilean Foreign Minister María Soledad Alvear arrived in London on Oct. 1, to meet with British cabinet members and other officials, and President Ricardo Lagos has accepted an invitation from Prime Minister Tony Blair to visit Britain.

Great importance was ascribed to Alvear's meeting with Cabinet Minister "Mo" Mowlam, with whom, among other things, "Plan Colombia"—a U.S. State Department-hatched scheme for Colombia to eradicate the drug trade, without fighting the narco-terrorists—was to be discussed. On Oct. 2, *El Mercurio* reported that the idea is

that Chile can “assume a more active role in the project, together with Great Britain.”

Precisely what Chile’s role is in this, remains to be seen. But Mowlam visited Colombia in early September, where she asserted that Britain would give no money to the military side of Plan Colombia, attacked the use of herbicides to eradicate coca and opium poppy, and demanded that the Armed Forces undergo further “reform,” to get rid of alleged human rights violators.

A number of economic and defense agreements were also discussed. After his meeting with Alvear, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook reported that a bilateral agreement had been reached. Britain has agreed to serve as mediator in Chile’s negotiations with the European Union, and is reportedly greatly interested in Chile’s drive to join the Southern Cone Common Market, or Mercosur. Chilean press praised Crown Prince William’s plans to travel to Chile in the coming year for volunteer work, as a “gesture of recognition” by the British Crown.

S. Korea’s Kim Dae-jung Wins Nobel Peace Prize

The Nobel Prize Committee announced on Oct. 13 that South Korean President Kim Dae-jung had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for lowering tensions on the Korean peninsula and for promoting peace and reconciliation. It praised his Sunshine Policy toward the North, and the historic June 12-14 summit in Pyongyang, North Korea, which opened dialogue toward a permanent peace on the peninsula.

Kim, sometimes referred to as “Asia’s Nelson Mandela,” was, in the 1970s and 1980s, twice sentenced to death, repeatedly tortured, twice almost assassinated, exiled twice, and placed under house arrest 55 times. In 1973, he was kidnapped from a Tokyo hotel by men whom he identified as South Korean intelligence agents; they took him onboard a boat and tied him to a Korean burial board weighted with concrete. He believes he was saved from being thrown overboard to his death by the unexplained appearance of a U.S. helicopter.

Unfortunately, since that incident, Kim’s weakness has been his blind faith that

freedom and the “free market economy” go together “like two wheels on a cart,” and hence, he has never bucked the International Monetary Fund’s depredations in South Korea. On Oct. 13, the IMF’s Seoul office announced that it may soon open talks with North Korea.

A devout Catholic, Kim’s first act as President in December 1997, was to pardon those who had sentenced him to death, two of whom were in jail. “When I was kidnapped, and when I was sentenced to death, of course, I was afraid of death, but I thought to myself: I was the victor. If I felt that I was the victor, then I had no reason to be discouraged,” Kim told an interviewer at the time. “Often it was the ones who failed, who turned out to be the victors in history.”

Sri Lanka Mourns Loss of Sirimavo Bandaranaike

On Oct. 10, Sri Lanka’s former Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, arguably the most competent political leader Sri Lanka ever had, died at the age of 84. Like the democrat she always was, her last public act, less than half an hour before her death, was to exercise her franchise in the national elections held that day.

Mrs. Bandaranaike was propelled into the political arena in 1959, following the assassination of her husband, President S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike. Although she belonged to Sri Lanka’s handful of wealthy elite, she quickly moved her party’s political direction to the left of center, and became a passionate devotee of the Non-Aligned Movement. In 1976, she hosted the Non-Aligned Movement summit, which demanded a new, just world economic order, including a moratorium on poor nations’ unpayable and illegal debt.

She also became a close friend of her neighbor, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, until her assassination on Oct. 31, 1984.

In 1994, amid the turmoil of an insurgency by the terrorist-separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Sri Lankans elected Bandaranaike’s daughter, Chandrika Kumaratunga, as President. Kumaratunga appointed Mrs. Bandaranaike as Prime Minister, from which post she resigned on Aug. 10, citing ill health.

AUSTRALIANS have filed class-action suits in the United States against the American Psychiatric Association and the U.S. makers of the highly addictive stimulant Ritalin, which is prescribed for children as young as 18 months for so-called Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. At least 50,000 Australian children are prescribed mind-altering drugs to treat ADHD.

ANIMAL RIGHTS activists from the terrorist Animal Liberation Front in the United States are taking training from the British ALF, according to an Oct. 22 BBC documentary, “Beastly Business: Tactics in Terror.” American members of the ALF are coming to Britain to learn how to force research laboratories to cease using animals in their experiments.

23 MEDITERRANEAN and Black Sea countries sent naval commanders to a symposium in Venice, which was organized to set up joint naval operations against drug trafficking. The Oct. 18-20 symposium, the result of a planning meeting in Venice in 1998, was also attended by U.S. and British observers.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II and Pope John Paul II held a 20-minute private audience on Oct. 17 in the Vatican. Although she is the head of the Church of England, the Queen presented herself as “the head of the Commonwealth of 54 independent nations.” During her trip to Italy, Buckingham Palace gave orders that no long pasta be served. It was also ordered that no garlic be used in any food that was served, prompting one royals-watcher to quip: “If Her Majesty wishes to see cloves, she can take off her shoes.”

HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER, who was West Germany’s Foreign Minister ten years ago, when Germany was finally reunited, was hosted by Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov in Moscow. The meeting was arranged in the context of the celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, Nov. 9.