

Bill Clinton's Korea Success Enrages Obama

by Mike Billington

Aug. 7—As the Obama Administration disintegrates in the face of increasing popular outrage over the President's failed economic policies, former President Bill Clinton, with cooperation from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and others in the national security establishment, carried out a highly successful mission to North Korea. Clinton not only achieved the release on Aug. 4 of two Korean-American reporters, who had intruded into North Korean territory while making a film attacking the North Korean regime on behalf of Al Gore's company Current TV, but also potentially reduced the tensions that have been building between Washington and Pyongyang.

President Obama responded to the Clinton breakthrough with rage by reasserting his own antagonistic posture toward North Korea, undermining the potential for stabilizing the situation brought about by the Clintons—something that he could not achieve himself. A BBC dispatch Aug. 5 stated: "Speaking hours after former US president Bill Clinton had secured the release of two U.S. journalists during his surprise visit to Pyongyang, Obama told MSNBC that North Korea should not engage in 'provocative behavior. We have said to the North Koreans there's a path for improved relations and it involves them no longer developing nuclear weapons. We just want to make sure the government of North Korea is operating within the basic rules of the international community.'"

Lyndon LaRouche responded to Obama's reaction: "This is what I have anticipated the mentally unstable President Obama's predictable behavior would be, in reaction to the successful role of President Clinton in this matter. The genesis of this ugly reaction by President Obama reflects the aggravated mental-health condition he expressed in his enraged reaction to his failure of getting the U.S. to secure a virtual pre-adoption of the President's Nazi-modeled health-care policy. Obama's Nero-like mental disorders are now beginning to show more and more clearly, at the same time that his Administration has pushed the breakdown of the U.S. economy



Korean Central News Agency

President Clinton's successful intervention in Pyongyang follows Lyndon LaRouche's proposal that a high-level emissary be sent to Seoul, to engage North Korea in serious diplomacy. Clinton is pictured here with South Korean leader Kim Jong-il, during Clinton's visit there.

close to over the edge, into a global general breakdown crisis. One of the likely, Nero-like side-effects of such a mental breakdown of President Obama would be his targeting Secretary of State Hillary Clinton."

LaRouche had intervened into the escalating crisis on the Korean Peninsula two months ago, soon after North Korea conducted its second nuclear weapon test, by recommending to the Obama Administration that it acknowledge that, first, North Korea is certainly not going to launch a nuclear war, and second, that the U.S. should engage North Korea in serious diplomacy, by sending a high-level Presidential emissary to Pyongyang, someone at the level of Bill Clinton or Colin Powell.

North Korea, LaRouche said, "is in some phase of a leadership succession process, and the country is also facing famine and other forms of economic catastrophe. The challenge is to get them to open up, and for the U.S. to find out what the story is. . . . Ask them, 'What is your problem? Maybe we can help.' Diplomacy is all about getting the other side to tell you what they want. This is especially important when you have a relationship between a great power and a lesser power. Very often, aggressive behavior by a lesser power is aimed at getting help in solving a problem. So, the key to good diplomacy, under such circumstances, is to be generous. This will help you in the long-run."

Seoul and Pyongyang

Both North and South Korea are taking steps to ease

tensions and regain the positive momentum toward cooperation of the 1990s. The U.S., under President Clinton, had signed an “Agreed Framework” with Pyongyang in 1994, under which North Korea had shut down its nuclear weapons program, under IAEA surveillance, in exchange for energy and food aid from the U.S., South Korea, and others (including promised construction of two modern light-water nuclear power plants). The abrogation of the Agreed Framework by the Bush/Cheney Administration led to North Korea’s renewal of its nuclear weapons program, and the subsequent testing of two nuclear weapons.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, although he campaigned for President on a hard-line posture toward the North’s restored nuclear weapons program, has always promoted economic development as the basis for reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula—but, only on the basis that the North give up its nuclear weapons program. Over the month of July, however, Lee took steps to moderate his position, and to work with the U.S. State Department to ease tensions.

North Korea, too, despite the serious health problems of head of state Kim Jong-il, and the complex maneuvering over possible successors, has eased its position towards the South. The government in Seoul reported this week that the number of media attacks from the North against the Lee government decreased by 40% in July, while also diminishing in ferocity.

Also, the North Korean representatives to the UN in New York took the unusual step of calling on U.S. news networks to express the nation’s willingness to meet in bilateral talks with the U.S., with everything on the table.

In his Aug. 1 webcast, LaRouche was asked by a Russian diplomat about the apparent conflict between the foreign policy initiatives of the Clinton State Department, and the increasing irrationality of President Obama and his economic team. In response, LaRouche proposed that “We recognize that we have interests in a good relationship with the people of another nation, and several other nations, and therefore, we base ourselves on that commitment to good relations.”

Later, regarding the Clinton mission to North Korea, LaRouche noted that it would also benefit U.S. relations with Russia and China, and that it exemplified the primacy of nation-to-nation relations, between the institutions, even when the head-of-state is insane, as in the case of Obama.

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Italy Debates Return to Mezzogiorno Development

by Claudio Celani

At the European conference of the Schiller Institute Feb. 21-22 in Rüsselsheim, Germany, there was a lively exchange between the German economist, Prof. Wilhelm Hankel, and an Italian participant, on whether Italy’s finances were more vulnerable than Germany’s in the crisis, or vice versa, each insisting that the other nation was in worse shape. Hankel’s argument was based on Italy’s notoriously high public debt; his Italian counterpart argued that Italy’s low corporate and family indebtedness more than offset the national debt.

Lyndon LaRouche intervened in the discussion to point out that the real weakness or strength of an economy is not measured in financial figures, but in physical terms. Thus, Italy’s historic weakness lies in the fact that its southern regions (each region is the equivalent of a U.S. state), the Mezzogiorno—Abruzzo, Molise, Campania, Puglia, Basilicata, Calabria, Sicily, and Sardinia (see map)—are not sufficiently developed. Only when the Mezzogiorno is lifted to the level of the highly industrialized northern regions, will it become possible to say that Italy has lost its vulnerability.

LaRouche has fought for the industrial development of Italy’s Mezzogiorno, since his first involvement in the country’s politics, in 1976. In the early 1970s, Italy was forced by the International Monetary Fund to cease state-directed investments in Southern Italy, and adopt a free-market approach. This was the condition attached to IMF loans which Italy urgently needed to bridge a serious current account deficit, as a result of the first oil crisis.

In discussions with leading members of Italy’s Christian Democratic Party (DC), LaRouche backed the resistance against dismantling the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno (Development Fund for the South), the agency founded in 1950, based on the model of the Tennessee Valley Authority; the Cassa had successfully designed and built roads, aqueducts, railways, and dams in Southern Italy for more than a decade.