
Myanmar

The United States Deals a Blow To British Operations in Asia

by Mike Billington

Sept. 3—Sen. Jim Webb’s visit to Myanmar in August dealt a significant blow to British imperial designs in Asia. Webb (D-Va.), the first member of Congress to visit the country in more than ten years, not only met with Senior Gen. Than Shwe, the head of the military government, and other top officials, but also held a private meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader who serves as a British asset in Myanmar and globally. Webb politely and diplomatically told Suu Kyi to stop functioning as a roadblock to Myanmar’s improved relations with the Western world, that her actions were undermining peace and development in the region.

Webb, as head of the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, officially traveled only as a U.S. Senator, but unofficially, his trip was part of a general offensive by a faction within the institution of the Presidency in the United States, a faction which does not include the President himself at this time. President Obama, under the domination of his financial team, is functioning as an asset of British imperial interests, implementing the disastrous bailout of the bankrupt Anglo-American financial institutions, frantically attempting to impose a British-modelled euthanasia policy under the guise of health reform, and taking the U.S. deeper and deeper into the insane imperial war in Afghanistan.

It was in this environment, that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former President Bill Clinton, National Security Advisor James Jones, and others in the military, intelligence, and foreign-policy institutions of leadership in the United States, have taken what measures are available to them, independent of the British-directed White House. Their efforts are aimed at forging strategic alliances, especially in Asia, for the purpose of increasing the potential to escape the British design for global imperial warfare, and establishing new posi-

tive relations between the U.S. and the nations of Eurasia.

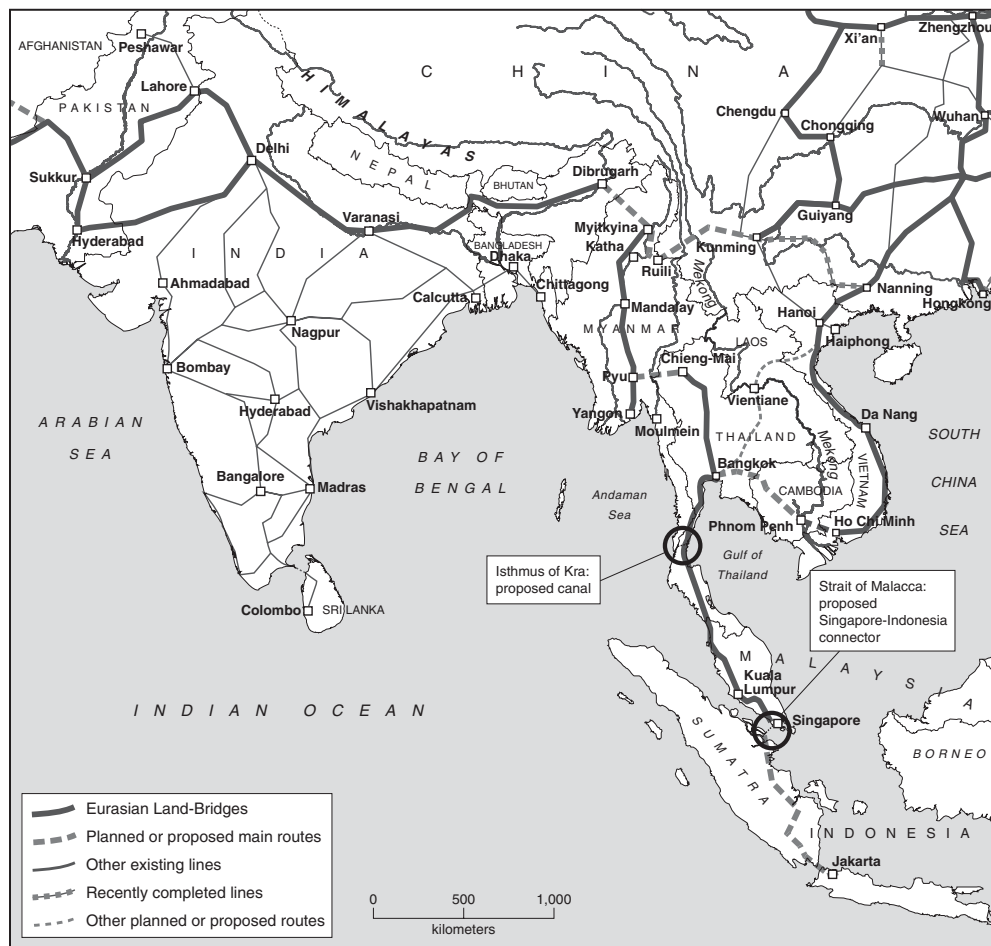
Breaking the Logjam

Webb is a veteran of the U.S. war in Indochina as well as a former Secretary of the Navy. He visited Myanmar as part of a tour of the nations that were involved in that brutal war—Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand. It followed by only ten days, the visit of Bill Clinton to North Korea, where the former President met for three and a half hours with North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-il. This historic meeting has led rapidly to diplomatic openings between North Korea and the U.S., and also between North and South Korea, whose relations had been severely deteriorating over the past year.

More broadly, Webb and Clinton, in breaking the logjam in U.S. relations with North Korea and Myanmar, two nations played as “rogue nations” by British Empire assets in the West, have contributed to fostering the necessary cooperation between the U.S. and the three major powers of Eurasia—China, Russia, and India. Lyndon LaRouche has identified an alliance of these four powers as the necessary starting point for building a new global credit system, to replace the current bankrupt and disintegrating global monetary system, (See “Is the Democratic Party Already Dead?”, *EIR*, Sept. 4, 2009.)

Indeed, the diplomatic approaches of both Clinton and Webb were in keeping with LaRouche’s message to the Obama Administration on June 2, in regard to relations with North Korea. “The challenge is to get them to open up,” LaRouche said, “and for the U.S. to find out what the story is. A high-level Presidential emissary should go to Pyongyang and meet with their top leadership. Ask them: ‘What is your problem? Maybe we can help.’ In short, we need to engage in actual diplomacy.

FIGURE 1
The Eurasian Land-Bridge Through South Asia



West continue stringent sanctions against her nation, even though the sanctions have imposed great hardship on her countrymen. At the same time, the sanctions have failed miserably to achieve any benefits for either Myanmar or the West.

In March of this year, Webb wrote on his website, that it was clear that the “sanctions which the U.S. was invoking were counter-productive in terms of our ability to affect the difficulties faced by the Burmese people. The sanctions policy against Burma will never be effective as long as a major power on its border (China) declines to participate and in fact takes advantage of those sanctions in order to entrench its positions in that same country. I have said for several years that it is to the benefit of all involved that we speak directly with Bur-

ma’s leadership and work toward resolving our differences.”

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. . . . Why not focus on the real enemy: unemployment and hunger? With that as a starting point, and with patient American diplomacy, we can solve this North Korea situation, relatively easily.”

Webb showed respect for the imprisoned opposition leader Suu Kyi, reminding Myanmar’s leaders that their treatment of her is watched closely by Western governments, as a measure of their policies. However, Webb is aware that Suu Kyi, at the advice of her British and American sponsors, has stubbornly insisted that the

ma’s leadership and work toward resolving our differences.”

According to Webb, he told Suu Kyi during their meeting that she should end her support for sanctions, and that he “had the clear impression from her that she is not opposed to lifting some sanctions.” Suu Kyi’s party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), also reported after Webb’s visit that they would lift their call for a boycott of tourism to Myanmar.

Even more important, Webb wrote in an Aug. 25 *New York Times* op-ed that Suu Kyi and the NLD should end their boycott of the Parliamentary elections set for 2010. “The Constitution approved last year in a plebiscite is flawed,” he wrote. “But there is room for engagement. Many Asian countries—China among them—do not even allow opposition parties. The National League for Democracy might consider the ad-

vantages of participation as part of a longer-term political strategy. And the United States could invigorate the debate with an offer to help assist the electoral process.”

Webb’s counterpart in the House, Rep. Eni Faleomavaega from American Samoa, chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, is even more outspoken on Myanmar than is Webb. Faleomavaega, who is also planning to visit Myanmar, perhaps before the end of the year, asked the witnesses at a hearing of his Subcommittee last year, whether it were not understandable that the Myanmar government and population would be suspicious of Suu Kyi, given that her husband served as an agent of British intelligence, the former colonial master of their nation, which had kept them in bondage for more than a century.

Suu Kyi’s British Pedigree

The British, as expected, are having conniptions over the Webb trip. Suu Kyi, known in Myanmar as the “ax-handle,” for the British colonial ax being wielded against the sovereignty of its former colony, is the daughter of Aung San, who negotiated the independence of Burma (now Myanmar) with its British colonial masters, but was murdered by British assets in Burma before independence was achieved in 1947. His daughter Suu Kyi went to India with her diplomat mother in 1960, and then to Oxford University. In London, she lived with Lord Gore-Booth, former British Ambassador to Burma and High Commissioner in India, and his wife. She married Michael Aris, a student of Hugh Richardson, the top British agent responsible for operations in Tibet and the region. Suu Kyi subsequently assisted Aris in his work in Asia on behalf of the Empire.

Suu Kyi returned to Burma in 1988, just as a mass uprising of students and others broke out in Yangon against the dictatorship of Ne Win, who had driven Burma into isolation and economic decay since taking power in 1962.

Suu Kyi immediately assumed the leadership of a makeshift democracy movement in Burma, while a fac-



Embassy of the Union of Myanmar

A faction of the U.S. institution of the Presidency is moving to outflank the British imperialists in Asia. As part of the faction, Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) went to Myanmar in August. Here, he is welcomed by Myanmar Senior Gen. Than Shwe.

tion of young military officers suppressed the anarchy in the streets and deposed the failed and decrepit government of Ne Win. Over the following decades, the new military junta moved to unite the country, defeating, or making peace with the multiple ethnic armies and drug lords who had been continually supported by the British since independence. For the first time since the British occupation in the early 19th Century, Burma was united. The British-controlled drug traffic was largely crushed, and infrastructure development, both internal and regional, previously impossible because of the numerous ethnic insurgencies, began in earnest, with extensive support from Burma’s neighbors—China, India, and Thailand.

The primary obstacle to this dramatic leap forward was the British asset Aung San Suu Kyi, who, despite advice to the contrary from many of her fellow NLD leaders, followed British directions to support Western sanctions, promote a boycott of tourism, and for the NLD to boycott both the Constitutional Convention and the planned election in 2010.

Following the 1988 takeover by the young military officers in Myanmar, U.S. President George H.W. Bush joined with the British in opposition to the regime, and in support for the political movement of Suu Kyi. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), how-

ever, had teams on the ground in Burma, and reported to Washington that the new junta was deadly serious about stopping the drug trade, which, at the time, was producing the majority of the world's opium and heroin. The DEA called on Bush to significantly increase U.S. aid to Myanmar's drug eradication programs, but Bush refused.

By 2004, as *EIR* documented in "Which is Really the Failed State?" (*EIR* Sept. 23, 2005), Myanmar had nearly eliminated opium production, while Afghanistan, under U.S. and NATO occupation, vastly expanded its opium crop and was producing 92% of the world supply!

Not until 2008 did the U.S. finally break with the British policy in Myanmar. Cyclone Nargis hit on May 3, 2008, killing more than 150,000 people, and destroying much of the rice-producing regions. The British demanded that Myanmar allow its former colonial masters to land warships in the country, and allow British military forces themselves to distribute the emergency aid, as a condition for providing any help to the devastated nation. They even threatened an invasion if Myanmar refused the terms—cynically calling it a "humanitarian invasion."

Yangon told the British to drop dead. This was subsequently turned into the lie that Myanmar refused to help its own people.

The U.S. hesitated at first, but within days Adm. Timothy Keating, head of the U.S. Pacific Command, flew into Yangon on a C-130 supercargo plane with a load of emergency supplies, shook hands with the head of Myanmar's Navy, and turned the entire shipment over to the military government for distribution. The U.S. followed up with dozens of C-130 shipments and overland convoys from Thailand over the following months.

British Geopolitics

The British Empire's demonization of North Korea and Myanmar (among others) is classic imperial geopolitics. The target is not these poor nations per se, but the imposition of divide-and-conquer techniques against Asia as a whole. North Korea is located at the intersection of China, Russia, and the Korean Peninsula, while Myanmar is the hub among China, India, and Southeast Asia. Keeping these two nations isolated and weak has served the interests of Empire, as a means of preventing the development of Great Projects among sovereign nation-states.

For example, a primary imperial target in the region has been the "Sunshine Policy" implemented by South Korean President Kim Dae-jung in the late 1990s, with President Bill Clinton's backing. The Sunshine Policy aimed at improving relations between North and South Korea through the development of the North, involving dramatic joint projects in North Korea by South Korea and the U.S., including a nuclear power plant and two rail projects intended to connect North and South Korea with China and Russia. President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney shut down U.S. support for this policy as one of their first actions upon taking office in 2001.

The rail projects linking the East Asian nations through North Korea would have completed the Eurasian Land-Bridge from Busan to Rotterdam—a project promoted by Lyndon and Helga Zepp LaRouche since the early 1990s—and fostered strategic cooperation between the Koreas and China and Russia, a crucial set of friendships for any future development of East Asia.

So with Myanmar, the strategic key to the development of all of South and Southeast Asia. Infrastructure development linking South, Southeast, and East Asia, has been held up by the insurgencies in the Myanmar border areas, run by British-sponsored drug lords and ethnic armies. Completing the southern route of the Eurasian Land-Bridge, linking East Asia with both Africa and Europe by rail, has, until recently, proceeded only up to the Myanmar border. Now, with a unified and pacified country, China is building a port on the Myanmar coast of the Bay of Bengal, and a pipeline through Myanmar to China's Yunnan Province. Road and rail connections from Myanmar through India's troubled Northeast are creating new trade capacities and cooperation on ending terrorism and insurgency on both sides of the border. Thailand is now building transportation routes and hydroelectric dams in regions once producing drugs and stricken by continual civil wars.

If Obama can be convinced, or coerced, to accept LaRouche's proposal to dump the economic behaviorists in his Administration, and proceed with bankruptcy reorganization of the world financial system, the diplomatic achievements of the patriotic forces within the institution of the Presidency will have helped to pave the way toward the necessary alliance of sovereign nations to rebuild the collapsing world economy.

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