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## II. Southeast Asia & Ibero America

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# Philippines Prepares To Go Nuclear As Part of New World Paradigm

by Michael Billington

Sept. 3 (EIRNS)—The Philippines has been the economic basket case of Southeast Asia ever since the United States, under Secretary of State George Shultz and Assistant Secretary Paul Wolfowitz orchestrated a coup against its nationalist leader, President Ferdinand Marcos, in 1986, one of the first “color revolutions” run by the Project Democracy team in Washington. Before that criminal act, the Philippines was the envy of Southeast Asia, and even of South Korea, as the leader in industrialization, food self-sufficiency, and economic development generally.

Now, finally, after 30 years, the Philippine people have thrown out the crew of subservient leaders who answered only to Washington and Wall Street, and have begun to clean out the filth and relieve the suffering left behind—drugs, terrorism, hunger and poverty—under the newly elected President Rodrigo Duterte, who took office on June 30.

The most blatant and disgusting symbol of the coup against the Philippine people and nation in 1986 was the immediate shutting down of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant by Cory Aquino upon her installation as President, on orders from Washington. The plant, launched by Marcos in 1974 and built by Westinghouse, was complete and ready to be turned on, but never produced a watt of electricity. Aquino nonetheless promised Wall Street that the country would pay every peso



Malacañang Photo Bureau

*Then President-elect Rodrigo Roa Duterte, on June 30, 2016.*

of the cost of the plant, which it did, even as the Philippines economy and standard of living plummeted to its current disastrous state.

However, between August 30 and September 1 of this year, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) sponsored a conference in Manila on “Prospects for Nuclear Power in the Asia-Pacific.” The new Duterte Government took full advantage of the IAEA forum as the opportunity to both declare its intent to re-open the Bataan Nuclear Plant and to launch a mass education campaign to counter the lies and fear-mongering of the anti-nuclear mafia controlled by the West.

Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi told the press that the conference had provided him and others with a “virtual crash course on the entire chain of launching a nuclear program and the importance of public information.” He said that he and others had visited the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) Thursday morning. “The timing of this summit is perfect,” Cusi said. “As a coincidence we had a hearing also in the Senate. We discussed also nuclear power plants, and today we inspected the BNPP and there are a lot of discussions,” he said.

Butch Valdes, the head of the Philippines LaRouche Society, had organized a tour of the Bataan plant for politicians, engineers, and others in 2008, which sparked the growing interest in reversing the disastrous decision to mothball the plant. Valdes has since been



Right to left: Philippines LaRouche Society (PLS) leader Ver Archivido, head of the PLS Butch Valdes, and Cathy Cruz at the IAEA conference in Manila.

the leading spokesman for restoring the Bataan plant as the necessary spark for restoring economic growth, and was invited to address the IAEA conference, to speak on the role of the public in countering the anti-nuclear, anti-science lies, and on using the issue of nuclear power to mobilize the creativity of the people to create a future of human dignity for all. His powerful speech is included in this issue.

### Duterte vs. Obama's War and Poverty Agenda

The Duterte government's courageous stand is not only transforming the Philippines, but has dramatically changed the entire dynamic of Southeast Asia and Asia generally. His policies have sent the Obama government and the Wall Street controlled NGOs into hysterics, but he has increasingly won the hearts and minds of a grateful nation, while joining proudly with the Chinese-led process of cooperation for development centered on the New Silk Road process. Some crucial points:

- Upon his inauguration, Duterte immediately set in motion the process of reconciliation with China, essentially ignoring the imperial court set up in the Hague which ruled in an illegal arbitration that China has no historic claims in the South China Sea. Obama and his neocon allies were ready to act immediately after the decision to provoke a military confrontation

with China, but Duterte's move quashed that effort. Duterte said openly and clearly that the Philippines needs infrastructure and industrial development above all, which, he said, is only available from the China-centered new paradigm.

- Duterte's Defense Secretary, Gen. (ret.) Delfin Lorenzana, told the press that the Philippine defense budget would no longer waste money on ships and planes designed to confront China in the South China Sea, since "there will be no war." Instead the budget will shift to helicopters, coast guard vessels, night vision equipment, and other material needed to fight the terror-

ist scourge and the interrelated drug crisis across the country.

- Duterte declared a war on drugs, and is carrying it out in earnest, not in name only. While the West focusses on the hundreds of people who have been killed in the newly escalated war, they ignore the fact that 600,000 people have turned themselves in, and that the President has publicly named many elected officials and several leading generals in the police and the military who were protecting the drug traffickers. He has sworn to wipe out the drug scourge within six months.

- Duterte has also sworn to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf terrorist kidnapping gang, which has sworn allegiance to ISIS. The Saudi-linked jihadist gang has beheaded their kidnap victims, both Filipino and foreign, when the demanded ransoms were not paid. The battles have already begun in the southern islands of Sulu Province, and Duterte has deployed 2,500 extra troops to the battle. At the same time, he and the leaders of the long-festering communist insurgency have agreed to a cease fire and are working towards a peace agreement and integration of the insurgents into civil society. Crucial to this has been Duterte's pledge to address the needs of the impoverished and hungry masses. He is also working towards a peaceful resolution with

the Islamic separatist groups in Mindanao, but not the terrorists.

- Although Duterte had a productive meeting with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who encouraged the new President to proceed with his plans to meet with the Chinese to find bilateral solutions to the South China Sea conflict, Duterte publicly denounced U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg, who throughout the election campaign openly attacked Duterte, illegally attempting to influence the election. Also, when Goldberg confronted Duterte to live up to the country's "pledge" at the Paris Global Warming conference, Duterte rejected it outright, saying that his country needed industrial development, and refused to limit carbon emissions which would undermine that urgent necessity. Told that the Philippines must live up to its signature on the Paris agreement, he responded that "that was not my signature." Goldberg had been thrown out of Bolivia in 2008 when, as U.S. Ambassador, he openly backed a separatist movement there.

- Duterte has also declared that he will allow the Marcos family to bury the late President Ferdinand Marcos in the Hero's Cemetery in Manila, established after World War II for Filipino military personnel from privates to generals who served during World War II

(over 33,000), and later designated a National Pantheon, "to perpetuate the memory of all the Presidents of the Philippines, national heroes and patriots for the inspiration and emulation of this generation and of generations still unborn." The presidents subservient to Washington since the coup against Marcos have refused to allow his burial in the Hero's Cemetery. This action will further restore the legacy of Marcos as one of the great leaders of post-war Asia, whose removal led (as intended) to the destruction of the nation economically and morally.

### **'I like Putin Better—We're Alike'**

When asked by the press on Aug. 30 whether he would respond to President Obama at their planned meeting at the ASEAN Summit in Laos on Sept. 6, after Obama said he would confront Duterte over human rights and the rule of law, Duterte said it depended on whether or not Obama were willing to listen first: "They must understand the problem first before we talk about human rights. I would insist, 'Listen to me. This is what the problem is.' Then we can talk. No problem."

Asked about his planned meeting with Vladimir Putin, Duterte said: "I like Putin better. We're alike."

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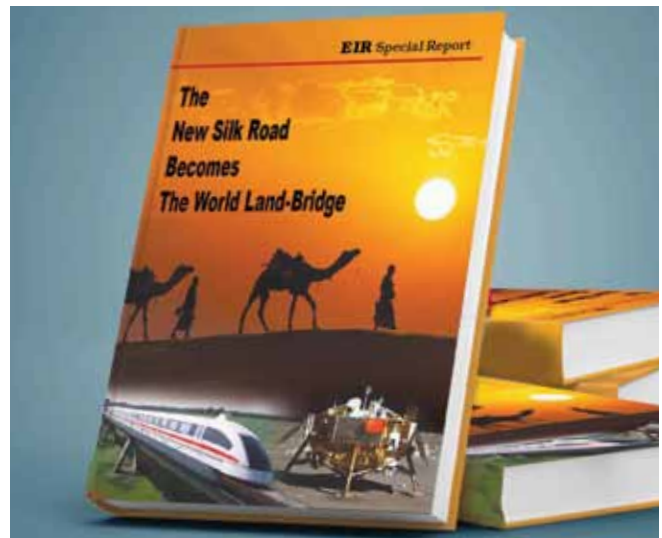
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