

tainty for the future, is Chen's continued foggy and ambiguous attitude regarding the relationship to mainland China. There are repeated calls from the three opposition parties, the Kuomintang, The People First, and The New Party, for Chen Shui-bian to accept the 1992 agreement between Taiwan and mainland China, for the negotiations across the Taiwan Strait to be based upon the concept of "one China, different interpretations." Chen has refused to do so.

Several high-level sources in Taiwan told *EIR* in December, that the reason Chen Shui-bian has been stalling on this important issue, is that he has been counting on, and waiting for, a Bush government to take power in the United States, and that requests for added military assistance from Washington would be presented, as soon as the new U.S. government has taken office. In a meeting on Dec. 27 with a Japanese delegation of the Taiwan-Japanese Relations Research Association, Chen Shui-bian urged: "In the face of [China's] intensified military build-up, its ever-increasing military budget, and deployment of guided missiles in its coastal regions, our two countries must share information and cooperate more closely in the defense field in order to maintain peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Strait and the entire Asia-Pacific area"—a statement foreboding dangerous developments in the future.

By contrast, an ever-increasing number of Taiwan legislators are continuously visiting mainland China to improve relations across the Taiwan Strait. Last November, the highest-level official from the Kuomintang (KMT) ever to visit the mainland, the former interior minister and vice chairman of KMT, Wu Poh-hsiung, led a 40-person delegation on a 12-day tour, which included meetings with several top officials in Beijing and Shanghai. Upon returning to Taiwan, Wu held

a press conference, in which he blamed Chen Shui-bian's cross-strait policies for causing a heightened degree of anxiety among Beijing leaders. Wu stated that the Chinese government views the cross-strait situation as "extremely critical," and is making "necessary preparations, including military preparations," in case the situation worsens. "I come back to Taiwan, and it seems no one here is particularly concerned—they go around saying, that there will not be a war within the next year. But this is not in accordance with the facts. We in Taiwan must acquire a deeper understanding of the situation on the other side of the Strait. . . . After taking back Hong Kong and Macao, people in China—ordinary people, as well as government officials—are anxious for Taiwan to return to the fold. People in Taiwan should really take notice of this phenomenon," Wu said. He also warned, that as the economic gap between Taiwan and China is closing, Taiwan will have less and less bargaining power with its much larger neighbor, making a direct resolution to the cross-strait tensions even more urgent.

It should be added, that these statements were issued by a very pragmatic senior politician, and that similar evaluations have been offered to *EIR* from top parliamentarians and scholars, who frequently visit mainland China to meet with officials there.

The Western media celebrated the establishment of the so-called three "mini-links," which were opened on Jan. 2. For the first time in 52 years, direct trade, post, and shipping links between Taiwan's outlying islands of Kinmen and Matsu and selected mainland Chinese ports were established. However, this was a unilateral move from the Taiwan side, and got, at best, a lukewarm response from Beijing. The three links are between the outlying islands and mainland China,

U.S. Admiral Denounces Anti-China 'Blue Team'

A former U.S. defense attaché in Beijing, Rear Adm. Eric A. McVadon (ret.), wrote in the *Far Eastern Economic Review* for Dec. 21, that the "Blue Team's" (a reference to an alternative, supposedly tougher U.S. intelligence assessment) "unrelieved confrontation" must be replaced by one based on "real U.S. interests, neither tinted nor tainted by yellow journalism and partisanship." He says that there simply is no so-called "Red Team" which is soft on China. "Indeed, if there is a Red Team it is constituted of those in China who think like the U.S. Blue Team. The two feed on each other's often extreme and inflammatory views."

Admiral McVadon says that China has problems, and has done "many reprehensible things," but then points to

the many good things it has done—agreement to international conventions (including the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty), "unprecedented economic growth," a serious fight against corruption, and an opening up internally that leaves most Chinese happy about living in China. "President Jiang Zemin has even subjected himself to inept interrogation by Mike Wallace on U.S. national television," said McVadon.

Referring to the many U.S. provocations against China—including the 1996 deployment of U.S. aircraft carriers off Taiwan, 100,000 U.S. troops stationed in the region, the revised U.S.-Japan Treaty security treaty, and recently revised Defense Guidelines—he proposes a "Purple Team," between Blue and Red, which will be less anxious to "start every bilateral exchange with an insult or two."

"The U.S. does not want China as an enemy," Admiral McVadon concluded.