

Bush Provocations Meet Rising Anger in Asia

by Kathy Wolfe

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's remarks at the Senate Armed Services Committee on July 6, that a crisis such as the Korean War could provide funds for his "transformation" of the U.S. military, is typical of recent Washington statements provoking rising anger at the Bush Administration in Japan, Korea, China, and the rest of Asia, to match that in Europe. Now that President George W. Bush's tax cut has broken the budget, Senators demanded to know where Rumsfeld would get the \$150 billion needed over the next five years. "Let's be honest," Rumsfeld replied. "We're down to 3% of GNP going to defense. If there were a crisis, we'd be up to 8 or 10 in a minute, and we could afford it fine."

The comment is no accident, coming with reports that Brent Scowcroft, National Security Adviser in the Ford and first Bush administrations, will be the next chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. In 1993-94, Scowcroft was the leading voice calling for the bombing of North Korea's Yongbyon plutonium reactor, an insane idea exposed and defused by *EIR* at the time. These events occur as new Administration demands are pushing talks with Pyongyang to a breakdown, while insisting that Japan allow Okinawa to be used as a staging ground for conflict with North Korea and China.

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been aggressively promoting its right to continue running Asian economies into the ground, making several trips to Japan and Korea during May, June, and July, despite the fact that neither has an IMF program. "The Fund as a global institution is incomplete if Asia is not playing a full role," Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer said in one speech, reflecting the terror in Washington that an alternative Asian Monetary Fund (AMF) may be formed instead. "And I believe Asia needs the Fund." Fischer, in Seoul and Tokyo on July 9-10, demanded policies which would result in a sharp collapse of the Japanese yen and Korean won, triggering another 1997-style disaster.

Can't Tolerate It

Reaction in Japan has been particularly sharp, with the *Weekly Post* on July 1 reporting that Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka called Bush "an asshole," referring to his many provocations against China and North Korea. One wonders whether the Minister would speak this way, and if the Tokyo scandal

sheet may be aiding an Anglo-American intelligence effort to have Tanaka ousted, but most Japanese believe this is precisely what she thinks. Ambassador Eiji Noda, a senior Foreign Ministry spokesman, meanwhile proposed in the June 23 *International Herald Tribune* that the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty be "scrapped," in favor of "an economically interdependent community of nations in Asia," referring to the idea of an independent AMF.

The consensus in Japan and Korea, as well as among currents in China, Russia, and other Eurasian nations, is that "they can't tolerate the current IMF-based system any longer," *EIR* Founder and Contributing Editor Lyndon LaRouche noted on July 8, especially as that system is symbolized by the current resident of the White House. Patriots and powerful bureaucrats alike in Eurasia, he said, are all converging on the idea that Bush is a fool. The British are the imperialists that they are, and many European leaders are idiots. So, reality will force the Eurasian nations to break with the IMF.

Even London *Guardian* editor Peter Preston wrote on July 9 that Bush "is already in danger of looking a bit of an ass on the world stage." Bush is assuring that he will be, like the elder Bush, a "one-term" President, Preston noted. In contrast to Bill Clinton, who "got a grip" on events after a shaky beginning, "the looming question for George W. is whether he has any grip to get. . . . He has become, with a few clumsy strokes, the President of the right-wing minority—and lost control of the Senate."

Japanese Foreign Minister Tanaka is the daughter of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, who opened Japan's relations to China in 1972, and was then ousted by the Wall Street-run "Lockheed scandal," due to which she has a special anger against the Anglo-American Establishment.

Ms. Tanaka, who accompanied her father as Japan's First Lady on all his trips to China, Russia, and other foreign nations, is not known for speaking softly, and she has a good deal of power inside the new administration of Junichiro Koizumi. She has been using it since her April appointment to oppose National Missile Defense (NMD), among other Bush programs, as a provocation against China and North Korea. When U.S. Undersecretary of State Richard Armitage visited Tokyo in May to promote the NMD, Ms. Tanaka refused to receive him. She made numerous comments during a Beijing trip on May 24-25 criticizing NMD and Washington's targeting of China (see *EIR*, June 15, 2001, p. 48). The *Weekly Post* story goes, that on June 17 Tanaka visited her former high school in Pennsylvania, was asked about NMD and other Bush programs, and responded with the alleged remark.

There was a similar sense of rising gorge expressed in "Japan-U.S. Security Treaty Should Be Scrapped," an editorial by Ambassador Noda in the June 23 *International Herald Tribune*. The alliance "presupposes a common enemy. Japan, however, has had no enemy from at least the '90s, let alone a common enemy with the United States," he begins, all but

announcing that North Korea and China are no enemy of Japan, and dismissing 90% of the case for the Bush NMD. The way the United States uses its bases on Okinawa and elsewhere “reminds me of life in a Soviet satellite state,” he says.

Target: China

In particular, Noda writes, the U.S. bases must not be allowed to be used for a Bush confrontation with China, such as the U.S. plane which collided with a Chinese fighter off Hainan almost provoked. “Is it necessary for the United States to continue surveillance flights off the Chinese coast when the U.S. government officially states that it does not see China as an enemy?” Noda asks. “Why should Japan approve such flights from bases located in Japan? Japan risks impairing friendly relations with China.” Similarly, “on April 25, President George W. Bush declared that the United States would do whatever it takes to help defend Taiwan. But Japanese voters are very unlikely to approve of cooperation with the United States should an armed conflict occur in the Taiwan Straits.” The treaty should go, so that Japan can work with China, both Koreas, and other neighbors in “an economically interdependent community of nations in Asia,” he concludes. “Political neutrality would enable Japan to live up to its pledge to be a peace-loving nation.”

A top Korean diplomat noted that Rumsfeld’s comments, continuing Bush provocations against North Korea, and the sharp reactions in Japan, are all part of an underlying reality in which Washington is actually targeting China, the region’s giant, as a way of trying to control all of Asia. “Always remember that China is the unspoken agenda of North Korea policy,” he said. “A powerful group of Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, Armitage, and so on, see China as the strategic enemy, especially around the Taiwan issue. They believe the Pentagon in the 1980s brought down East Germany and used that to bring down the U.S.S.R., so they want to bring down North Korea which, so they imagine, will bring down China the same way.”

He pointed out that the elder Bush, in a June 15 speech broadcast in Cheju, South Korea, referred openly to the parallel between bringing down communism in Eastern Europe in 1989, and plans now for East Asia. “Every new American President needs to take time to assess where he stands in terms of foreign policy issues that he inherited from his predecessor,” Bush said, explaining his son’s attempt to dump South Korean President Kim Dae-jung’s “Sunshine Policy” for peace with North Korea. Bush said that he himself had done that in the case of the former Soviet Union. “My summit with President [Mikhail] Gorbachov followed and the rest is history,” Bush said. “In fact, a year or so later, the Soviet Union dissolved. The new administration is proceeding in a similar way.”

A secret commission appointed by the Senate Intelligence Committee, led by Gen. John Tilelli (ret.), former commander

of U.S. forces in South Korea, and including former China Ambassador in the first Bush Administration James Lilley, leaked to the July 6 *Washington Times* and *New York Times* its conclusion that the CIA has underestimated China’s military threat. “China may be moving toward a belligerent stand,” Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee, told the *Washington Times*. “China is, has been, and I believe will be a big competitor of ours, economically, militarily, politically. They could be our biggest adversary.”

IMF Getting Desperate

Asian leaders shake their heads at the new fad for “World War III” scenarios in Washington. It is increasingly clear to them that the collapse of Anglo-American global financial power is the real issue pushing the Bush lunatics to find excuses for a war drive.

In a June 1 speech in Singapore entitled “Asia and the IMF,” the IMF’s Fischer made clear that the Fund is very upset at the motion toward a new system. He went on about how the IMF is trying to reform itself and pledged to support Asian economic integration, virtually begging Asian nations to “stay within the IMF framework.” “The Fund as a global institution is incomplete if Asia is not playing a full role,” he said.

The more the IMF worries it is losing its grip, the more aggressive it has grown. In late May, the IMF demanded during a Tokyo mission that Japan cancel its lifetime employment system, and put large numbers of Japanese out of work and “on the streets,” as one Wall Street source put it. The IMF also held a “Conference on the Korean Crisis and Recovery,” in Seoul on May 17-19, “to distill lessons from the Korean crisis and policies adopted” under the IMF. Despite South Korea having paid back all the loans to close the IMF program, the Fund insisted on their presence.

Fischer returned to Seoul on July 9 to complain that government aid is keeping large employers such as Hyundai alive. Fischer said that companies whose viability is questioned by the market “should be allowed to fail.” The IMF, in a Seoul press conference on Nov. 15, 2000, demanded that more than 100 companies be shut down, and many have been.

In Tokyo on July 10-12, Fisher urged Prime Minister Koizumi to push ahead with “reforms” which could throw 2-3 million Japanese out of work, then demanded that the Bank of Japan print yet more money. He admitted that this would trigger a collapse of the yen, as foreign money fled Japan. “Expansionary monetary policy means providing more liquidity and that would almost certainly drive down the value of the yen,” he said. “Obviously neither Japan nor the rest of the world wants the yen to go crazy, but there is room for a more expansionary monetary policy that would lower the value of the yen.”

The Japanese and Korean governments, however, may no longer be buying what Fischer is selling.