

Editorial

The Economic Question First

Nothing has shown more clearly the putsch Vice President Cheney's imperial chicken-hawks have pulled in Washington—and the potential of a “countercoup”—than the wild reported stories over the U.S.-China-North Korea meeting. Unidentified U.S. “officials” told willing media that North Korea had broken the meeting up with nuclear threats. For days, the media drums beat that China was “humiliated” and would now have to side with the United States in attacking Korea. Only after days of this, did Secretary of State Powell reveal that all this was false! North Korea had made a serious proposal to the United States in that meeting. Asked about this policy brawl by a Korean-American supporter in Los Angeles, Lyndon LaRouche got to the heart of it:

“Now, in my view, the only way we're going to avoid war—and we're stumbling into it—is by putting the economic questions first. North Korea is a very poor country. It has, within it, a relatively small portion of privileged people, associated with the government, with the military. So therefore, you have, in a sense, a conflict on the ground, between very poor people, and a government by a group of people who are trying to retain their relative privileges. There is no hope for this situation, if you leave it that way. So therefore, what we have to do is: We have the Sunshine Policy, put forth by the people in South Korea—some of whom I've talked with, and whom we've been in touch with directly or indirectly over some time. Now the policy here, the Sunshine Policy, starts on two railroad systems which used to be in the united Korea. One branch of the system goes into China. The other branch goes north towards Siberia, toward the Trans-Siberian Railroad route. Now, if these railroad systems are repaired and restored, brought up to snuff, then we have, from Pusan at the tip of Korea, to Rotterdam and so forth in Europe, we have continuous lines of transportation of goods, by either the Siberian route, which goes through Russia, Kazakhstan and so forth; or through China, which is called the ‘Silk Road’ route. So therefore, we have a revolution in the trade relations, between North Asia and Europe.

“Europe is bankrupt, like the 46 or more Federal

states in the United States are bankrupt, now—hopelessly so. So therefore, Europe needs new markets. The great new markets are in Asia, going through a large-scale development program, as in China. But, Japan is bankrupt, financially. But Japan still has a core industrial economy. That industrial economy is marketable, in terms of long-term contracts for industrial technology, into the countries of North Asia and Asia generally. So therefore, China, the Koreans, Japan, Russia, and so forth, have a common interest in peaceful economic cooperation there. Western Europe has a vital interest in that cooperation, in the Koreans. My view is, in this case, as many other cases, the overriding approach must be an approach toward economic reconstruction of a planet, which is now in the midst of a general collapse of the existing monetary-financial system. Therefore, I'd start from the standpoint of the fight for the reform of the present international monetary-financial system, around a set of recovery agreements—long-term treaty agreements on trade and development. And these kinds of things present fundamental solutions for problems, which otherwise may lead to conflict.

“Take the case of the Middle East: There's not enough water, presently in area around Israel and Palestine, to meet the needs of all the people in that area. So obviously, if you don't have water development, you're going to have conflict. No military or other agreement is going to eliminate that conflict, *if* you don't have water. That means, we have to have power, too. We have to have enough water, enough power, to meet the needs of *all* of the population, and their development opportunities. Therefore, we need a generalized Middle East economic approach to providing a peace policy in the Middle East. The road map thing is coming up now.

“Similarly in other areas, such as North Korea. The real solution will come through the application of a general economic recovery to each of these areas, as the basis of building the conditions of life and opportunities, which people would rather fight to *defend*, than fight *over*. And, that's the basic approach.”

Economic recovery and reconstruction comes first, in a “countercoup” against Cheney's chicken-hawks.