

# Anglo-Americans Move To Impose Their 'Utopian' Military Strategy Over Asia

by Mike Billington

An "Asian Wehrkunde Conference" has been launched, aimed to impose Anglo-American military strategy upon Asia as the annual "Wehrkunde" international security meetings of leading Western defense officials and strategists in Munich, have imposed it upon Europe. The premiere conference, held in Singapore on the weekend of May 31-June 2, was the unfortunate venue for an outburst of "utopian," imperial military strategy, led by U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, and aimed against the sovereignty of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), one of Britain's foremost strategic think-tank, initiated what is to become a yearly event in Singapore. The conference was attended by defense ministers and military experts from across Asia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and France. Although the presentations and discussions were generally closed to the press, the purpose of the new "IISS Asia Security Conference," and other institutions which are intended to be set in motion as a result, came through clearly in the reports and articles published after the conference.

The aim is to replace or restructure the only existing Asian institution dedicated to defense matters, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The problem with the ARF, in the eyes of the Anglo-American utopians currently driving the world towards a state of perpetual warfare, lies in the fact that the ARF is too imbued with the tradition of non-interference in the sovereign affairs of fellow nations, a policy which has served as the bedrock of ASEAN in particular. The sovereignty of the nation-state has no place in the utopians' new imperium, defined by the "war on terrorism" and the supranational power of the International Monetary System (IMF).

## ASEAN Denounced as 'Talk Shop'

This was expressed directly by conference participant Paul Dibb, head of the Strategic and Defense Studies Centre at the Australian National University, in a June 5 column in the *The Australian*. The problem with the ARF, Dibb wrote, was that it is run by foreign ministers, not the defense community, and has refused to interfere in "conflict resolution" situations, "as we saw in the East Timor crisis, when the UN had to intervene. . . . The ARF has stalled, it has become little more than a diplomatic talk shop."

Barry Desker, director of the Singapore Institute of De-

fense and Strategic Studies, wrote in the June 5 *New Straits Times*, that ARF was "underdeveloped, and had to enhance co-operative security, building mutual confidence, engaging in preventive diplomacy, and developing mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution."

Dibb also commended the Japanese Minister of Defense, Gen Nakatani, for proposing at the conference the creation of a "regular multilateral security framework of defense authorities, under the name of the Asia-Pacific Defense Ministerial Meeting," a proposal which will certainly worry other Asian countries which are already concerned about Japan's military expansion under the guise of support for the U.S. war on terrorism.

The IISS official summary of the conference also praised this Japanese proposal, adding: "In time, dedicated action units might be established to carry out joint tasks in areas such as peacekeeping, anti-narcotics and anti-terrorism efforts." Nakatani argued that "U.S. security presence in Asia, which was vital to Japanese and regional security, would not be undermined or prejudiced by such initiatives." It would be well to ask, what about prejudice to *Asian* security interests and national sovereignty?



*U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld with Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, entering the Pentagon in May. Lee is the Asian leader most involved in the attempt to spread the Anglo-American "Hundred Years' War against terrorism" as an Asian military doctrine.*

ARF is primarily an Asian institution, with Western participation. In fact, the Western participants in ARF have repeatedly requested that they be included in the rotation for the chairmanship, but the ASEAN leaders have refused. The proposed new IISS framework for Asian security, on the other hand, is clearly intended to be dominated by the Anglo-American-Commonwealth countries, which also dominated the Singapore conference.

### **Wolfowitz and Lee Kuan Yew**

The keynote presentations were by the Pentagon's Paul Wolfowitz and Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew. Wolfowitz, who leads the war faction within the Bush Administration, and has a special interest in Asia, told a June 5 Hoover Institution audience that the IISS had approached Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and himself to cooperate in building the conference, and making it permanent. Asia, Wolfowitz said, does not have "the kinds of institutions that grew up during the Cold War in Europe, particularly NATO, and the structures related to NATO." The fact that the East Asian region is now peaceful "will be challenged in the coming decades, because the great economic growth of East Asia, particularly the extraordinary economic growth of China, are going to pose challenges."

Wolfowitz, reflecting his preoccupation with maintaining U.S. preeminence as the world's "only superpower," called his conference speech "The Gathering Storm," borrowing the phrase from Winston Churchill. He said this was appropriate, because "this evil of terrorism that has grown up in the world in a particularly massive scale over the last ten years, threatens some of the same kinds of evil and destruction that fascism and Nazism threatened nearly a century ago."

Former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's speech described terrorists running loose across Southeast Asia, with a particular focus on Indonesia. (Indonesian military expert Dr. Salim Said recently told a Washington conference that Lee Kuan Yew had so completely adopted the U.S. line on the war on terrorism, that he was becoming known as an American agent. Lee was formerly infamous as "the best bloody Englishman east of the Suez!")

Lee and Wolfowitz both repeated the mantra that "the enemy is not Islam," but revealed their game by insisting that the terrorists *are all Islamic*. The official IISS summary also refers repeatedly to "religiously inspired terrorism," continuing the subterfuge of blaming all terrorism on Osama bin Laden and Islam.

### **The China Issue**

Both Wolfowitz and Lee Kuan Yew emphasized that if the conference had taken place before Sept. 11, the focus would have been on China. Instead, China was treated with kid gloves, almost paternalistically, and praised for their cooperation in the war on terrorism—in keeping with a general U.S. diplomatic "charm offensive" across Asia over the past

few months. This aims at sidetracking mounting Asian opposition to the Israeli assault on Palestine and the planned U.S. war on Iraq and/or other Arab nations.

However, the long-term perspective of surrounding and confronting China, in keeping with the Samuel Huntington "Clash of Civilizations" gameplan for a Western war against Islam and Confucianism, was still on the agenda. The official IISS summary pointed to the following issues discussed at the plenary discussions: "The degree to which China's traditional opposition to military alliances might be reviewed, in the light of the proven utility of such arrangements in countering international terrorism; the circumstances in which the PLA [China's People's Liberation Army] might deploy forces to take part in international counter-terrorism exercises; and whether China's sense of strategic encirclement had been heightened by factors such as the intensified U.S. engagement in Southeast Asia and Central Asia since 11 September."

China's representative to the conference was Maj. Gen. Zhan Maohai, the director of the Foreign Affairs Office at the Ministry of National Defense. While his speech is not available to *EIR* at press time, the IISS summary indicates that General Zhan focused on the importance of China's participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), between China, Russia and four Central Asia Republics; and in the ARF. General Zhan approached the problem of terrorism as a domestic issue, of upgrading the capacities of the PLA.

The Anglo-American-Commonwealth scheme comes in the context of recent discussions of a United States/Japan/Australia military alliance. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited Australia in early May, where he and Australian Prime Minister John Howard agreed to such a pact. Such a scheme would significantly escalate the attempted isolation of China, despite denials of such intent from the participants.

Koizumi has been campaigning for the past year to bring the two "Anglo" Commonwealth states of Asia—Australia and New Zealand—into the ASEAN+3 alliance (the ten nations of ASEAN plus China, South Korea and Japan). These proposals, military and economic, are directly aimed at disrupting the developing, but fragile, unity of purpose of the ASEAN+3 nations. To implement these schemes, Koizumi appears willing to abandon the Japanese constitutional restrictions on military capabilities and operations.

The U.S.-based think-tank Stratfor pointed to the perspective that Japan and Australia "share a common bond as key U.S. allies in the Asia-Pacific; Japan is the northern anchor of the U.S. defense system, and Australia is the southern anchor."

Howard spoke to the U.S. Congress in Washington on June 12, and is holding meetings with the leaders of the Bush Administration. The special role of Australia as the "sheriff" for U.S. interests in Asia—a term John Howard himself used a few years ago—will certainly be high on the agenda.