

China drives south

Peter Ennis reports: India, Afghanistan and Cambodia are the targets, slaughter is the result, and the U.S. is the supplier.

Sharp increases in fighting and other political unrest in Afghanistan, northeast India, and Kampuchea this week confirm charges by the Soviet Union and other countries that massive arms shipments are flowing from the outside to subvert the governments of those countries. The influx of weaponry and other logistical support for the subversive movements is directed primarily through China, with the active cooperation and backing of the United States, Egypt and other countries.

The military buildup is allowing Peking to expand its political influence throughout Asia, as part of the so-called China Card policy of the Carter administration, which seeks to create a military bloc in Asia against the Soviet Union. This China-centered military bloc policy was consolidated two weeks ago when Chinese Defense Minister Geng Biao visited Washington and negotiated the purchase of American military equipment.

The same China Card policy supported the Peking-created holocaust of the Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea and directly led to the Chinese invasion of Vietnam last year. Now China is trying to apply this policy in Afghanistan, India and once more in Kampuchea, which is now allied with Vietnam.

The American and British architects of this "Long March" south by China are pleased by the increase in fighting, convinced they have the Soviets "pinned down" and "overcommitted" in several Vietnam-style conflicts. The Soviets, however, continue to make clear that they view the Washington-Peking axis as the root of the numerous conflicts in Asia. Consolidation of the axis could provoke Moscow to launch a nuclear strike against China, especially against the Chinese nuclear facilities in the remote Sinkiang province. High-level strategic analysts in Europe and the United States believe Moscow would take this drastic action as a warning to the NATO powers to break off military ties with the leaders of Peking. If Moscow is forced to strike Sinkiang, the Carter administration will have to renounce its alliance with China or risk World War III.

Offensive in Afghanistan

In recent weeks the extensive cooperation in arms shipments to opponents of the Soviet-backed government in Kabul has become more open as the fighting intensifies. The arms shipments, especially to the Afghan rebels, involve Israel, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, China and the United States. It is also in Afghanistan where the Soviets are reported to be most immediately angered by the activities of the China Card axis nations, and considering taking strong action to counter Washington and Peking.

Highly informed sources in India revealed to *EIR* this week that the Indian government estimates the Soviet Union has suffered 3,000-5,000 soldiers killed and upwards of 10,000 wounded since Soviet troops moved into Afghanistan last year. Many of these casualties have been inflicted through the rebel use of sophisticated weapons, including antitank weapons and possibly including surface-to-air missiles capable of knocking out helicopters. The existence of these sophisticated weapons, in addition to a massive amount of small arms, is proof in itself of the steady flow of arms from outside Afghanistan.

The sources in India, who are well informed on the Soviet view of the crisis, stated clearly that while the Soviets are well aware of the role of the United States and China in shipping these arms, Moscow is most immediately angered by the role of Pakistan in this affair.

Pakistani and Iranian role

The government of dictator Zia ul-Haq, which is openly allied with the Khomeini regime in Iran, is currently allowing thousands of Afghan "refugees" to operate from sanctuaries just inside the Pakistani border, from which regular raids are being launched into Afghanistan. Pakistan is known to be arming the rebels, and the Soviets have charged that arms are being shipped by helicopter from U.S. aircraft carriers in the Indian

Ocean to the Pakistani port of Karachi, from where they are then distributed. Zia himself, who has been very dependent on China, visited Peking several weeks ago and discussed the Afghan rebel insurgency.

The sources in India say that Moscow is determined to stem the flow of rebels from Pakistan, especially because the Soviets have committed a large force of troops into Afghanistan to maintain stability and order. They say that Moscow is seriously considering striking areas inside Pakistan if necessary. Soviet press commentaries on Pakistan are getting increasingly tough.

Iran, which also borders Afghanistan, is also providing tremendous support to the rebels, in cooperation with Peking. Aside from propaganda and diplomatic backup, the Khomeini government is helping the rebels obtain arms and money. Iran Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh is scheduled to meet a delegation of Afghan rebels in Paris on June 19 for this purpose. While in Europe last week, Ghotbzadeh met Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua to discuss the Afghan situation.

The arms flow

Concerning the actual flow of arms, one source has reported that Israeli-manufactured Uzi machine guns are being widely used by the Afghan rebels, adding that the rebels are believed to have Soviet-produced SAM-7 missiles. It is likely that the latter were obtained from both Egypt—one of the few Arab countries willing to make its supply available—and Israel, which captured some of the missiles from Egypt in the 1973 war.

Well-established networks involving China, Israel and Pakistan are believed to make this shipment of arms possible. Notorious Israeli arms merchant and gangster Samuel Flatto-Sharon is known to have worked with circles in Pakistan last year to deliver arms in Latin America. Another Israeli gunrunner, Shoul Eisenberg, has been reported to use his companies to ship Israeli technology to Peking.

On the higher level, the atomic weapons programs of Israel and Pakistan are known to have at least indirect interconnections. The father of the Israeli atomic bomb, Yuval Neeman, was trained by a leading Pakistani physicist, Abdul Salaam. Salaam, a member of the zero-growth Club of Rome, is based in London.

Pol Pot backers

The bloody hands of Peking were also evident all over Kampuchea this week when a band of Pol Pot rebels shelled a passenger train packed with 1,000 people traveling outside the capital city of Phnom Penh. At least 150 people were killed and 300 wounded in the attack and butchery that followed. The rebels mutilated many of the passengers with bayonets and other weapons, leaving a

scene of horror recalling those inflicted by Pol Pot several years ago.

Many western press accounts of this latest episode of Chinese-backed atrocities in Kampuchea could only be described as enthusiastic. The *Christian Science Monitor* quoted “experts” in neighboring Thailand “predicting” that the fighting will escalate, according to forecasts prepared months ago.

Unnamed American officials have stated that the Carter administration is supporting the Pol Pot forces in the hope that Vietnam will get “bogged down” in the fighting and forced out of Kampuchea, leaving the country to Pol Pot once again.

The same *Christian Science Monitor* account reported that there are now 50,000 Pol Pot troops under arms inside Kampuchea, up from 20,000 earlier this year. While this report is ridiculous in factual terms, it is clear that this is the situation the China Card nations want to create. It is not out of the question that Peking has sent regular Chinese forces into Kampuchea to fight, in the way it deployed thousands of troops there while Pol Pot was in power to bolster his regime.

The “predictions” of stepped-up fighting in Kampuchea also raises the question of possible American supply of the Pol Pot forces. All arms and logistical support for the Kampuchean rebels flows through Thailand, which is now firmly in the Washington-Peking camp, and the rebels use Thailand as a base of operations. In recent months, the U.S. has granted increased military assistance to Thailand to bolster the country against the “threat” from Vietnam. How much of this equipment has wound up in the hands of the rebels is not known.

Kampuchea brought to India

The same Chinese-style atrocities were also evident last week in the northeast Indian state of Tripura, where China is backing a tribal-based rebellion against the central government in New Delhi. In a two-day period last week, upwards of 700 people died in rioting in the state, many of them hacked to death. The chief minister of Tripura called the massacre nothing short of “genocide.”

The insurgency is based on claims by tribal elements in the northeast of India that “foreigners” (Muslims and others born outside the area) are eroding tribal strength in the region. The rebels are demanding immediate expulsion of the “foreigners” and possible secession from India.

Broadcasts from Radio Peking now regularly back the rebels, according to Indian government officials, and Chinese money and arms are flowing into the area. A top and raise the issue of Chinese involvement in the northeast rebellion.