

successful targeting of incoming missiles by beam weapons and its advanced laser system, Japan would be one of the most important of the American allies to join in the cooperative development of such systems. In addition, given that beam weapons are purely defensive systems, their development in Japan—unlike the procurement of nuclear weapons—in no way violates the Japanese constitution. A potential avenue for collaboration in these areas was officially set up the day before President Reagan arrived in Tokyo with the formation of a joint U.S.-Japan Military Technology Transfer Commission. While the details of what the United States, who pressed for the commission's formation, may be particularly interested in have not been revealed, it is known that the Japanese have developed highly sophisticated defensive technologies that would revolutionize the battlefield.

This potentiality has not gone unnoticed by the Soviet Union. On Jan. 18, *Pravda*, laying bare the real content of its military incursions and threats to Japan, warned that if Japan helps the United States develop laser defense systems, it will face dire consequences.

Meanwhile, the Soviets intend to continue their provocations, operating through the North Korean regime of Kim Il-Sung. Despite Kim's strong ties to China, it is the Soviet Union—not Peking—that backed up the North Koreans 100 percent in the aftermath of the Rangoon bombing. This week the press played up a peace offer from the North Korean government for tripartite talks between the United States, and the two Koreas for the reunification of the peninsula. Not mentioned in the U.S. press, but noted by the Japanese Jiji wire service, is the fact that the condition for the talks is the United States' withdrawal of its forces from South Korea—the same “You get out, then we'll negotiate” that Soviet surrogates have taken in the Middle East.

The North Korean “peace offer” could also be a prelude to further provocation on the ground. The North Koreans first made their offer on Oct. 8, when Kim Il-Sung asked China to deliver the proposal to President Reagan for him. The next day, 17 officials of the South Korean government, including four cabinet members, were murdered in the bomb explosion at Rangoon. This fits with traditional North Korean patterns of behavior. One week before its invasion of South Korea in 1950, the Pyongyang regime had made headlines with an offer for reunification talks.

If the North Koreans move militarily now, they will use as their pretext the “Team Spirit '84 exercises” involving South Korea and the United States, with limited observer involvement from Japan, scheduled to begin Feb. 1. Echoing the global propaganda line emanating from Moscow, the North Korean press has charged that “nuclear war for Korea” is the policy of President Reagan, and that the “Team Spirit exercises” are the “nuclear rehearsal” for such a war. This is a signal that the Soviets are holding open the option of a preemptive move into South Korea. That in turn would put Japan to the decisive test.

Libya attacks LaRouche

by Mary McCourt

The military leadership in Moscow has used its primary terrorist asset, Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi, to threaten President Ronald Reagan and Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination. In a partly incoherent commentary Jan. 9, Qaddafi's Libyan news agency charged Reagan with launching an anti-Libyan campaign in Italy, financed by “American businessman Lindon Larussin [sic]” on a recent visit to Italy. Qaddafi's statement, intelligence sources told *EIR*, was the initial step of a known Libyan *modus operandi*: first naming an intended target and then attempting an assassination.

Qaddafi's threat was ordered by Soviet and East German intelligence, analysts in France, Britain, and North Africa stated. “The Russians are using the Libyans to do this; the Libyans were tipped off by the Russians, they would not have done this otherwise,” one told *EIR*. LaRouche has been Moscow's “Public Enemy Number One” since he initiated the strategic doctrine of “Mutually Assured Survival” with the development of antiballistic missile defense systems, which the President adopted in his historic speech on March 23, 1983. The Soviet response to the President's offer has been a drive for thermonuclear showdown.

LaRouche's trip to Rome was in fact to keynote an *EIR* conference on “Beam Weapons: The Implications for Western Europe,” on Nov. 9, 1983. Six days after the conference, the Soviet daily *Izvestia* published an article calling LaRouche and other participants “troglodytes” for saying the Soviets had outstripped the United States in space weaponry and for calling for an adequate defense of the West.

Qaddafi's threat

Qaddafi's threat ran: “Preparations are currently underway in Italy for an intensive propaganda campaign against the Jamahiriyah [i.e., Libya], to be financed by the head of the U.S. administration himself with the aim of stepping up psychological pressure on the Libyan Arab people by leveling false accusations and using fabricated allegations.

“American central intelligence services are preparing to launch this blatant campaign, which is in harmony with U.S. terrorist policies against Libya, firmly opposed to America's hegemony and endeavoring to bravely confront and thwart all American conspiracies.

“According to reliable facts from the Italian capital of Rome, it was learned that American businessman Lindon

over defense policy

Larussin [name as received], who belongs to the American Republican Party's extreme right wing [sic], has visited Italy to finance this campaign according to instructions issued by Reagan so as to fuel the campaign of hostility against Libya. The same facts also indicate that the U.S. administration, in accordance with its anti-Libyan policy, is working towards undermining the existing relations between Italy and the Jamahiriyyah. This has been primarily stressed in the allegation campaign to be launched from Italy, as the Reagan administration is trying to attribute the terrorist activities perpetrated by the mafia and the Camorra gangs to Libya, activities which Libya has continuously and openly condemned.

"Thus, the Reagan administration steps up its aggressive confrontation against Libya, this time by choosing the Italian scene to spread more fabrications and poison, hoping to gain from the stands of the Libyan Arab people and break the link between its stands of principle and struggle on various levels. It is worth drawing attention here to the fact that the Reagan administration has once more proven that it is against the peoples who are displeased with Washington's path and who want to work independently towards adopting their legitimate choice for progress."

This threat was only one of the terrorist operations set out at the mid-January Congress of Libya's Revolutionary Committees, a Libyan analyst said. The congress meets every year to define the targets of Libya's foreign policy. The congress is slated to end Jan. 25 with Qaddafi making a speech endorsing the proposed resolutions and calling again for the elimination of Libyan exiles.

"The threat is very serious," commented a North African source, "but they will decide whether it is worth it for them to try to assassinate Mr. LaRouche, depending on the response you generate. Their denunciations already indicate that you have been hitting the Libyans and the Soviets where it hurts. The way you and your friends react will determine what happens next. Qaddafi is crazy and dangerous, but behind him, there are the Soviets and the East Germans."

Target: defense of the West

The second item on the agenda of the Revolutionary Committee conference was how to sabotage the deployment of U.S. cruise missiles, to be installed in Comiso, Sicily. The same week that he made his threat against LaRouche, Qaddafi made clear that his real object is to attack the faction

in NATO and Western governments which is fighting for defense preparedness. Qaddafi made a speech declaring that "Libya is going to face the dangers coming from the Comiso nuclear threat with the solidarity of the Italian people."

On Jan. 18, organizers for the European Labor Party (POE), LaRouche's co-thinkers in Italy, were attacked on a Rome street by a gang of "peace demonstrators" just returned from Comiso. One member of the gang, who revealed that he was a police agent, attempted to prevent Rome police officers from stopping the assault. POE organizers has been attacked before when party leaders launched a campaign to stop Qaddafi's terrorist operations. Sources in Italy report that the Libyan government delivered an ultimatum to Italy demanding that the missile deployment be stopped, or Libya will take steps against Italy.

Libyan terrorist capabilities are now being reorganized under direct Soviet control. Libyan Prime Minister Abdel Salam Jalloud was in Damascus during the week of Jan. 16, where he held a press conference in the office of the Soviet-Palestinian Friendship Association after meetings with members of the anti-Arafat wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization to threaten the peacekeeping troops in Beirut. "The Americans," he said, "are trying to decrease the level of tension in Lebanon until the presidential elections. We will not let them do this; we will make this year a year of explosion. We advise President Reagan and his allies to withdraw their forces from Lebanon, or Lebanon will become hell for them. These are not empty words—we are men of action."

'Italian-Libyan relations are improving'

Italian foreign ministry press official Panocchia declared that neither his ministry nor Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti will do anything to counter Qaddafi's threat against LaRouche. "These are journalistic initiatives, and have nothing to do with the policy of the Libyan government or with the diplomatic relations with Italy"—although he acknowledged in answer to an Italian *EIR* correspondent's question that at least three Libyan refugees had been assassinated in Rome after Qaddafi's last "journalistic initiative." But relations between Italy and Libya have "been clarified," Panocchia declared, "so they are going to improve." Andreotti himself may be visiting Tripoli soon, Panocchia admitted, since "Things are clearer now."

Recent press reports in Italy have revealed that the kidnapping of a small child, Elena Luisi, was an espionage operation run by the Libyans for Soviet intelligence. The real ransom requested by the kidnapers, the Sicily-based Movimento Armato Sardo, which is funded and armed by the Libyans, was how to reproduce a special type of glass—used by NASA for the Space Shuttle—discovered and produced by the firm where Luisi's father works. The chemist who developed the glass was recently savagely beaten by a Libyan terrorist squad.