

Eye on Washington by Nicholas F. Bertton

Solarz takes aim next at Korea

Rep. Steve Solarz (D-N.Y.), chairman of the Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, held hearings April 16 indicating that he is about to repeat his role in the overthrow of the pro-U.S. government in the Philippines, in the Republic of Korea.

Solarz's subcommittee joined with the Human Rights and International Organizations Subcommittee to "review recent developments" in Korea, with an eye to meddling in the next presidential election there next year. President Chun Du Hwan has called for indirect, or representative, election of the new President.

Korea is under heavy pressure from both the North Korean military threat and internal upheaval run by North Korean subversives. Solarz and his Democratic colleague Rep. Tom Foglietta (D-Pa.) want to use the election to tip the balance toward collapsing the Korean government.

Solarz made this clear when, in the hearing, he lashed into Defense Secretary Weinberger's recent trip to Korea. "By focusing on the imminent danger of a North Korean invasion, Weinberger only served to give excuse for the current repressive regime of General Chun to intensify its human rights violations," Solarz said, with an amazing disregard for whether what Weinberger said was true or not.

Solarz argues that the more "democratic" Korea is, the more able to thwart the threat from the north. He said, "It would seem clear that the prospects for stability would be en-

hanced if there were progress toward pluralism rather than retreat toward repression." Such "progress" in Solarz's view, means acquiescing to the opposition New Korean Party's (NKP) demand for direct election of the President, which is being expressed via a provocative petitioning drive.

"Experts" called to testify at the Solarz hearing included ex-National Security Adviser Richard V. Allen, Prof. Chong-sik Lee from the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Edward Baker of Harvard University, working with an outfit called "Asia Watch." All concurred with Solarz that the Chun government's failure to reach a "compromise" with the NKP would lead to further instability.

Allen, who runs his own consulting firm and flirts with the Heritage Foundation, was supposed to represent a more "conservative" point of view than everyone else—but agreed with the "consensus" on every issue of substance.

This "consensus" embraces the extreme case of Dr. Baker, who bragged on the record that he has gone around showing a film made by the Communist-terrorist North Korean government about the repressive atrocities of the Chun regime of our ally, the Republic of Korea! Dr. Baker says, "He's never met a Korean who had a kind word to say about President Chun," and supports the full array of NKP demands, including removal of the military from civilian affairs, local autonomy, and an independent judiciary. In the context of the strategic realities facing Korea, there is little doubt why a Dr. Baker and his North Korean comrades support such causes at this time.

Representative Foglietta made a fool of himself by attacking the U.S. embassy for alleged unwillingness to meet leaders of the opposition NKP in Korea. This attempt to reduce Korea

policy to a partisan issue was rebuked by Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-N.Y.), who documented many occasions on which such meetings occurred.

The big question remains: After the Philippines, is anyone going to stop all this from happening again?

Nakasone: development still on Japan's mind

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, after two days of meetings with President Reagan here, held a press conference on April 14 that was broadcast live back to Japan. Nakasone took only two questions from American reporters, and one was from this writer.

I asked him whether his government was interested in Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres's proposal for a \$25-billion "Marshall Plan" for the Middle East, and whether Japan was pursuing the proposal of the Mitsubishi Research Institute for a \$500 billion "Global Infrastructure Fund" for large-scale development projects—such as the Zaire River diversion in Africa or the canal across the Kra Peninsula in Thailand.

Nakasone used the occasion to express Japan's continued interest in such large-scale export-oriented enterprises, thus freeing him from the propitiatory tones he had earlier expressed about putting more emphasis on domestic import in Japan to help restore a trade balance with the United States.

He singled out the project for a second Panama Canal, from among the Mitsubishi proposals, as "more advanced in planning." He also stressed, replying to a Japanese reporter, that Japan was still studying the question of participating in the Strategic Defense Initiative—that absolutely no decision had yet been made—contrary to certain lying press reports here.