

China waits for the volcano to erupt

by Michael O. Billington

During the week following the collapse of the coup in the Soviet Union, Beijing attempted to maintain the appearance of calm in the face of the world-shaking collapse of the Soviet empire, leaving China alone with Cuba and North Korea as the last communist hold-outs. But many sources reported that the leadership was preparing a state of emergency, and had placed the military on alert. By Sept. 1, the political commissar of the Nanjing Military District was reported to have confirmed the military alert, with high security established along the Soviet border and at airports, while the 1 million People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops who had been deployed to counter the devastating damage of the recent floods were returned to barracks as a precaution.

Vice Premier Wang Zhen, one of the last remaining "Old Men" of the Maoist era desperately trying to hold back the tide, first spoke out on the dire necessity to maintain strict party control over the military. Praising the PLA for its success in crushing the "counter-revolutionary rebellion"—the massacre at Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989—and for repressing the unrest in the largely Muslim Xinjiang region on the Soviet border last year, Wang displayed obvious concern that the Army may not follow such orders the next time. One U.S.-based Chinese analyst with close ties in the mainland said, "The Old Guard only know how to rule in one way—pathologically. The collapse of the Communist Party in Russia totally discredits these Old Men, and now everyone is just waiting for the volcano to erupt."

Remoralization of the Resistance

The developments in Russia have provided a much needed remoralization of the Chinese, especially among the Democracy Movement leaders. The betrayal of their efforts by the Bush administration, which rushed to defend the butchers of Tiananmen Square and maintain the lucrative cheap labor concessions being set up along the China coast, took a toll on the leaders who had looked to the U.S. for support. Now the Chinese are looking to the freedom of the former captive nations of Europe, and potentially of the Russian people themselves, where they recognize the fruits of their own martyrdom.

Even more important, the Chinese leadership now stands exposed and discredited, along with those Democracy Move-

ment leaders who had capitulated under pressure and proposed "working within the system" of the Deng Xiaoping dictatorship, functioning as agents of either the Deng regime or of the Bush administration. The broadly circulated Chinese language version of *EIR* has carried the continuous warning that no true reform or economic development could take place under the auspices of the Anglo-American "free trade" dogma peddled by Deng's circle of friends around Henry Kissinger, and certainly not while the best young minds of the country were being killed or mentally straitjacketed.

In 1989, following the Tiananmen massacre, *EIR* founding editor Lyndon LaRouche forecast: "From inside mainland China, moving to sweep westward across the vast Soviet empire, and into South America, a powerful revolutionary force has erupted" in the form of nationalist movements against communist tyranny and the "mass-murderous, usurious tyranny of the International Monetary Fund conditionalities. . . . It will topple the already doomed communist regime of Beijing, and press toward the dissolution of Moscow's 'prison house of nationalities.' "

While many found it hard to conceive of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union crumbling, that reality has now forced the realization that LaRouche was right, and that the leadership of the Chinese movement to replace the remnants of the Maoist nightmare must be forged rapidly. The economy in China, which has already generated over 100 million jobless peasants, has reached a point of total bankruptcy in the industrial sector, while the government is concerned only with the booming "free trade zones" along the coast, dominated by labor-intensive, foreign-run businesses and drugs. The next upsurge will unquestionably include broad support from desperate working class and peasant layers.

Some spokesmen for the Anglo-American establishment are mimicking the Chinese leadership's cry that "it can't happen here." Council on Foreign Relations member and journalist Daniel Southerland wrote a special for the *Washington Post* entitled "Hard-line China's Economy Far Outshines Reforming Soviet Union's," incredibly arguing that everyone is happy and prosperous in China due to the iron-fisted rule.

British Prime Minister John Major demonstrated the true extent of Anglo-American sponsorship for the horrors of the Chinese regime this week during his visit to China, where he reestablished full diplomatic relations as part of a broader process of virtually merging the Chinese and Hong Kong (i.e., British) banking systems. Major, in Moscow for a few hours before traveling to Beijing, laid a wreath on the spot where the three martyrs of the Soviet coup attempt had been killed, then proceeded directly to China and to Tiananmen Square, where he reviewed the troops who carried out the massacre two years ago! But even Major was forced by the renewed strength of the Democracy Movement to give lip service to the demand for the freedom of the leaders of the Democracy Movement, Wang Juntao and Chen Ziming, who are now threatened with death by torturous conditions in Chinese prisons.