

Urals food emergency

The food emergency took a sharp turn for the worse in the Urals on Nov. 3 when the leadership of the Yekaterinburg (formerly Sverdlovsk) region of the Urals issued an "Open Letter" to President Yeltsin demanding "urgent measures" to prevent a food emergency in that region. The Yekaterinburg region, with a population of 4.5 million, is one of the most important heavy industry regions in the entire former U.S.S.R., and the home region and erstwhile political stronghold of Yeltsin. In Yekaterinburg even bread is strictly rationed. As the open letter indicates, the bread ration is expected to be set during November at 300 grams per day per person, a level below the austerity of rationing during World War II.

The regional leadership demanded that Yeltsin impose a 100% tax on all food leaving the region. Food, however, cannot "walk," and thus cannot "leave" a region on its own. As the region is anything but an agricultural zone, the only food that could leave would come from urban stocks that have been set aside, as is the norm, for the winter. Thus, forces from the old Communist Party bureaucracy, which are outside the control of the Yeltsin-appointed regional leadership, are involved in shipping out winter stocks.

Winter rationing: the Army's role

The measures taken by Russia's leadership, and those planned for the near future, recall the joint political-military planning that went into solving or alleviating the hunger crises that arose during World War II. The sweeping emergency powers which the Russian Congress of People's Deputies granted to Yeltsin are but the overture to implementing a famine-dictated state of emergency before the year has ended.

The Russian military will play a decisive role in such a state of emergency for the six to nine months until the 1992 harvest is secured. By Dec. 1, every city and region of Russia, including Moscow, as announced by Mayor Gavril Popov on Nov. 6, will be living under strict wartime levels of food rationing for all products, as is already the case in the Urals industrial hub, and the Russian Far East regions.

The Army and Navy have already devoted huge resources to the food emergency. From July through October, the Army contributed by far the largest number of troops and vehicles in history to secure stocks of grain and, above all, potatoes and cabbages, the winter staples for the Russian urban population. A preview of what the interventions by the post-August military leadership—an innovative and resolute "new breed"—will look like was provided in October when St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoli Sobchak got fed up with his inability to get any merchant ships to transport 100,000 tons of German potatoes, awaiting shipment in Hamburg, to his hungry city. Sobchak got on the line with commanders of the Navy's Baltic Fleet, and in no time, Navy ships sailed to Hamburg to pick up the potatoes and bring them to St. Petersburg.

Taiwan targeted by 'independence' drive

by Michael O. Billington

An effort to destabilize the Republic of China in Taiwan, and to increase the potential for a manipulated war in Asia, has been dramatically escalated in the past months. On Oct. 14, the minority opposition party in Taiwan, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), officially adopted as part of its manifesto a call for the independence of the island, to be called the Republic of Taiwan.

The DPP was created and is largely run as an asset of the same branch of U.S. intelligence which ran recent U.S. operations against Panama and other "new world order" projects for George Bush and Henry Kissinger, with input from the Liberal International, the European Green parties, and related pro-terrorist "New Age" cults. The advocates of Taiwan independence are intentionally breaking the sedition laws, which forbid publicly organizing for the formal separation of Taiwan from the rest of China.

The sedition laws are premised on the fundamental belief that all of China must be united and free once again, and that it is therefore criminal to publicly organize for the separation of Taiwan from the mainland, which would result in de facto relegating the mass of the Chinese people to the continued rule of communism. The DPP decision to flaunt this fundamental principle came after a month of demonstrations in the streets and riotous disruptions in the parliament by the DPP leaders.

The international press coverage regularly repeats the fraudulent claim that the movement is inspired by the freedom movements sweeping eastern Europe. The truth is that those heroic battles for liberty were significantly inspired by the students at Tiananmen Square who risked their lives in defiance of tyranny, the same youths whose lives mean so little to the Taiwan independence movement that they will desert them at this moment of crisis.

Opposition to reunification

The lack of concern of the DPP and their international sponsors for the plight of their fellow Chinese people was clearly demonstrated by the words of DPP leader Chiu Yi-jen on the day of the independence declaration: "Taiwan has nothing to gain and everything to lose if it becomes reunited with China."

U.S. support for this movement is not so covert. The reason lies in the recognition that the post-communist era in China could emerge at virtually any moment. The new Ro-

man Empire model envisioned by Bush and his British backers as the new world order, has no room for a united republican China which could become part of an East Asian economic zone of the sort recently adopted under the leadership of Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

The U.S. sacrifice of Taiwan in favor of the communist regime in Beijing in the 1970s, under the direction of Kissinger's China card policy, was not only a pragmatic strategic move to surround the Soviet Union. It was also predicated on a fundamental agreement with the genocidal policies of the murderous regime of Mao Zedong and his followers, in keeping with the malthusian outlook of the Kissinger-Bush circles. The now-infamous National Security Study Memorandum 200, authored by Kissinger and approved by then-CIA chief George Bush in the mid-1970s which called for reducing the non-white populations of the world as U.S. strategic policy (see *EIR*, May 3, 1991), advocated the adoption of the Maoist police state methods to enforce population control policies throughout the Third World. These malthusian policies were despised by Sun Yat-sen and Chiang Kai-shek, whose ideas still inspire the Taiwan government and population.

Constitutional crisis

Until October, the DPP had formally honored the laws forbidding the advocacy of independence, while providing only covert support for the independence movement. Now they have openly challenged the Kuomintang (KMT) government in their own name, creating a constitutional crisis and provoking an increasing threat of a military adventure against the island by the decrepit and desperate Beijing leadership, who also insist on eventual reunification, but under communist leadership. The President of the People's Republic, 84-year-old Yang Shangkun, warned Taiwan on Oct. 10 that those who advocate independence may be "burned to ashes."

The DPP was legalized in 1989, when, following the death of Chiang Kai-shek's son Chiang Ching-kuo, the new leadership of the KMT moved to loosen the "Period of Emergency" controls over the country, including the end of the single-party system. However, the KMT still enjoys the overwhelming support of the population. The elections scheduled for December are expected to be a landslide victory for the KMT candidates.

The DPP has functioned largely as a voice for the mindless anti-technology swamp, leading protests against nuclear energy, against various development projects, and against the military. The leadership spent time in Germany under the tutelage of the liberal Free Democratic Party and the rabidly anti-technology and pro-terrorist Green Party. In the United States, their support comes from various of the "Project Democracy" groupings advocating the end of sovereignty for Third World nations, as part of the new world order. Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N. Y.), chairman of the House Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, held hearings in October

where he openly opined that Taiwan must allow the independence issue full play in the elections, and implied that the elections were biased and un-democratic. The chief of staff of the outlawed World United Formosans for Independence (WUFI), based in the United States, was invited as a leading spokesman at the hearings. The WUFI has been responsible for numerous acts of terror, including an assassination attempt against former President Chiang Ching-kuo during a visit to the U.S., and a mail bomb attack on former Vice President Hsieh Tung-min.

Why is this destabilization taking place at this time? The communist leadership in Beijing is facing the greatest crisis in its 42 years, with the fall of the Soviet bloc communist parties and the economic disintegration of the mainland economy (except for the thriving "free trade zones" along the coast which provide unregulated cheap labor for foreign investors). If ever there was a time when the Chinese people needed every possible assistance to throw off the chains of 150 years of nearly continual subjugation to imperialism, wars, and Maoist genocide and mind control, this is that time.

Safekeeping great Chinese culture

Taiwan, despite its many problems, has maintained itself as a repository of the great Chinese culture, from the humanist moral and scientific tradition of Confucius and Mencius, to the brilliant economic and political contributions to that tradition by the founder of the Chinese Republic, Dr. Sun Yat-sen. Chiang Kai-shek and the best of his collaborators knew that this tradition was being destroyed by the communist regime, and that the future, and even the past, of the Chinese people depended on the success of Taiwan in preserving the knowledge, the moral outlook, and the economic potential of this tradition. Mainland students are generally not even allowed to read the works of Sun Yat-sen or the Confucian classics.

Since the death of Chiang Ching-kuo, the Taiwan economy has become increasingly dominated by the policies of usury and speculation of the collapsing Anglo-American financial centers. This includes the willingness of the Taiwan investment community to take advantage of the virtual slave labor conditions in the mainland "free trade zones" in order to make a quick profit, although the policy is contributing to the breakdown of the real economy and the livelihood of the overwhelming majority of the population. The economy is paying for that error now, as the speculative financial bubble in real estate and stocks is collapsing under the pressure of the political crisis.

But the tradition of the classics and of Sun Yat-sen is far from lost. While the Republic of China in Taiwan could not on its own revive the great nation so long enslaved, it can and must play a crucial role in any such attempt. This will require preserving the commitment to a unified China, and Taiwan's leaders deserve the world's support in that effort.