

'Three Mile Island' anti-nuclear mafia targets Japan

by an EIR Investigative Team

The same malthusians who created the Three Mile Island scare in Pennsylvania, which wrecked the U.S. nuclear power industry, have now attacked the Japanese nuclear program—with quiet support from the Bush administration and the Israeli Mossad.

Paul Levanthal, who headed former senator Gary Hart's (D-Colo.) Senate witchhunt "investigation" of the Three Mile Island plant in 1979, began the new campaign against Japan on Jan. 14. "The single greatest danger to the Korean Peninsula is Japan, and the over 100 tons of weapons-capable plutonium it plans to acquire over the next 20 years," Levanthal told congressional hearings on nuclear proliferation at Sen. Alan Cranston's (D-Calif.) Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asian Affairs.

Levanthal, just back from a stint as Distinguished Fellow at Britain's Cambridge University "Global Security Programme," is now president of the Nuclear Control Institute in Washington, D.C. Many of NCI's programs are run by Yonah Alexander of the Georgetown Center for International and Strategic Studies, formerly a prominent sponsor of conferences on terrorism at the Mossad-linked Jonathan Institute in Jerusalem.

Why the fuss? Japan has for five years been scheduled to begin shipments home this fall of plutonium it had sent for reprocessing in Europe during the 1980s, fuel needed for Japanese electric power plants.

Levanthal, however, accused Tokyo of secretly building the bomb, and planning to resell plutonium to "Third World dictatorships. . . . A state like Japan is not interested in one nuclear bomb," he said, "they want 100 or 1,000 bombs." One hundred tons of plutonium is about the same amount contained in the entire U.S. nuclear arsenal, he added.

"It was to stop things like this that we just went to war against Iraq!" an NCI official said.

But Japan depends on conventional nuclear power for almost 30% of its electricity, and plans to generate 40% by the late 1990s, making it a world leader in nuclear power. The United States meanwhile has stopped construction of nuclear power plants.

Japanese ships transporting the plutonium may also face a danger of terrorism from Greenpeace and other anti-nuclear

extremists, an official of NCI hinted on Feb. 11. Greenpeace is looking into "extra-legal means," the source said. "There are other ways, other than lobbying Congress, that we can stop it, if Congress won't act. There are ways to be obstreperous about this. As it stands now, the plutonium is being reprocessed in France and the U.K. and to be shipped on the high seas all the way around the world. The Japanese thus require the cooperation of French Navy escorts and the U.S. Navy. The French could withdraw escort. The U.S. Navy could withdraw our escort. For the first time Japan will have its own escort ship; this is the first time the Japanese military has been out of Japanese waters since World War II. If no one in Washington does something, Greenpeace may have to do something about it."

No new technologies

What irks Washington and London is the new fast breeder reactor and other 21st-century nuclear technologies planned by the Japanese, which require the plutonium, and which, if implemented, will put Japan's entire economy light-years ahead of the West. Japan is again being attacked for the "sin" of sound economics, because the United States is ideologically committed to the incompetent British theory of malthusianism.

The Bush administration, which insists to the point of military intervention that nuclear technology not be available to the world, has been friendly to the Japanese plutonium program—in public. "The 1988 'U.S.-Japan Nuclear Cooperation Agreement' is proceeding absolutely on track," an official of the State Department Office of Nuclear Non-Proliferation said Feb. 19. "Japan has impeccable weapons non-proliferation credentials. Under the agreement, the U.S. supports Japan's peaceful plutonium program, and that was settled in Congress in the 1980s. The administration has no plans to take a second look at this."

Privately, however, the Bush team and the Mossad are working with anti-nuclear nuts like Levanthal, because all agree on one thing: Japan must never be allowed to give nuclear technology to the Third World. The Mossad's interest is to prevent Muslim nations, and the entire Third World, from "getting the bomb."

The danger Japan represents to Bush's malthusian new world order is that Japan is the one "Third World" nation which has dared to industrialize, and might help other nations to do so. Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone proposed Jan. 27 that Japan should help the U.N. monitor nuclear weapons, partly to help assure the Third World that international arms control agreements will not "lead to meddling in the transfer of technologies from the North to the South, and interference in the use of plutonium for peaceful purposes."

Bush's 'nuclear club'

Nakasone's statement caused heartburn at the Bush State Department. Tokyo has been made an "honorary member" of the "nuclear club," the State Department official said, to help Washington *eradicate* nuclear technology in other nations. Otherwise, the United States will hit Japan with another club: enough economic and military sanctions to make their heads spin.

"U.S. policy is that we don't try to inhibit peaceful nuclear programs in *advanced* nations," the official said, "meaning rich countries. 'Advanced' in practice means 'Japan and the EC [European Community], period.' I know that sounds morally unfair, but we have a lot of positions that seem morally unfair. Frankly, that's what it boils down to. . . ."

"One criterion is, the country must have an advanced peaceful civil nuclear power program. That is very different from those countries which just haul off and want to build breeder reactors. We're very suspicious of a country which says they want to go straight to plutonium breeder use, without bothering with standard nuclear plant construction, particularly when they don't have an electricity grid large enough to cope with the output of even one breeder reactor.

"It's not just that we're suspicious they might want to make bombs. Some poorer nations just don't have the economic strength we require. Sure, rich countries are the only ones who are going to be able to meet the tests for U.S. nuclear cooperation. They are the only ones who are going to have the money to have built a large industrial nuclear electricity grid and so on."

Asked how any Third World nation might ever be able to industrialize, as has Japan, under those conditions, the State Department official said that this was no concern of the Bush administration.

South Korea, for example, he said, meets the State Department test of constructing standard nuclear power plants on their own before asking for plutonium, "but, in their case, South Korea just does not meet our tests for non-proliferation risk criteria. Not that the present Seoul government would be a problem, but we simply can't be sure what could happen in the future." South Korea simply lives in the wrong neighborhood to be allowed to develop economically, he concluded.

The official at first tried to dismiss Nakasone's call for an end to "meddling in the transfer of technology" as a public

relations stunt. "Oh, he's just referring to arguments from the left that we shouldn't discriminate between giving plutonium to Japan, and giving it to Iraq. He's trying to deflect the criticism off Japan," he said.

"He's specifically referring to Iraqi charges that the U.N. IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] got intelligence from Iraq by meddling, etc., and suggesting maybe Japan has better credentials to do this, Japan could do some monitoring instead of the U.N.

"And he wants to position Japan for an expanded role, to take advantage to get some Japanese satellites out there and show the world how good their technology is, sell some satellites. Smart idea, he thinks. Good public relations, and good business for Japan."

Asked what would happen if Japan did try to help the Third World develop peaceful nuclear power, however, the official's mood turned ugly. "Look, we could end up having to cut off Japan from not only nuclear cooperation but from a whole lot of other cooperation as well. The Japanese know perfectly well that they are very, very dependent upon maintaining the good will of the Bush administration.

"Do you have any idea what's *in* some of the legislation on the books? I'm not talking about new bills, I'm talking about already existing legislation over the past 10 years. Congress could do almost anything to Japan, if the administration would let them, and do it tomorrow. Check out the Symington Amendment and the Glenn Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act, and some of the other amendments to all the U.S.-Japan nuclear and other technology legislation. There are things in there that no one realizes are there.

"For example, we have total control over what they do with all the uranium we sell them. Further, Japan is completely forbidden to build an enrichment plant with somebody else's technology—it's U.S. technology, or else. Not with the technology of third countries like France, and in some cases, not even with their *own* technologies. There are things in the existing legislation that say no one in Japan can do anything without asking us when to breathe."

The Symington and Glenn Amendments to sections 669 and 670 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, he said, "prohibit most forms of U.S. economic and military assistance to any country which delivers or receives, either nuclear enrichment or nuclear reprocessing equipment of any kind, to, or from, *any* other country, other than the United States. The Japanese may not need our foreign aid now, but they do get military aid, and they would never want to do anything to disrupt agreements."

Bush has Japan by the nuclear short hairs, he claimed. "It's only the administration which is keeping Congress from throwing this at them in a minute. So you see, Japan is *very* concerned about the fact that only a very, very friendly U.S. administration can force Congress to ignore all these little provisions and not act on them. We think the Japanese will be careful."