

Eurasia summits promote 'new, just economic order'

by Mary and Mark Burdman

During Chinese President Jiang Zemin's visit to Moscow on April 22-26, Jiang and Russian President Boris Yeltsin placed many of the most crucial issues facing mankind, at the forefront of the international agenda. The central theme of the summit meetings was the creation of a "new, just and rational, political and economic world order." Such an order is the only means to develop and guarantee international peace and stability, the leaders said, and is the only way to ensure that the populations of the developing nations can achieve economic justice, in the years ahead.

As stressed to *EIR* by one of Russia's best-informed experts on the Eurasian region, the April 23 Jiang-Yeltsin summit, together with the five-nation summit of the leaders of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan on April 24, created an atmosphere favorable to expansion of the world's greatest project: the Eurasian Land-Bridge.

What makes these developments all the more important, is that U.S. President Bill Clinton and the American State Department, in a break with British/"Kissingerian" geopolitics, have given their endorsement to the diplomatic breakthroughs achieved in Moscow. These administration declarations put the lie to the widespread international media fraud, that what transpired in Moscow was "aimed against the United States." The great majority of media outlets have simply chosen to black out what the American President and the State Department said.

They have also ignored such statements as those made by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigori Karasin, interviewed in the Russian daily *Komsomolskaya Pravda* on April 22. Karasin said he "disagreed" with any attempt to link the discussions with China to "Russian attempts to counter the

advance of NATO to the East," as "our relations with the People's Republic of China have been a constant priority, not subject to considerations of expediency and not connected with the developments in Europe. . . . Russia has no 'hidden agenda' with regard to China. But the inter-state relations and specific agreements offer a good example for the entire international community."

In the real world, as opposed to media virtual reality, the recent diplomatic and political events justify hopes, that the Eurasian Land-Bridge can be extended to many more nations, and provide an alternative to the global financial collapse and economic/infrastructural breakdown around the world. This policy direction has been put forward by Lyndon LaRouche, who put out a statement welcoming the diplomatic developments of late April. As LaRouche has stressed, positive relations between the United States and China are absolutely necessary to neutralize British imperial geopolitics, and to create an alternative to the present, bankrupt world financial system.

The 'Quadrangle'

Jiang and Yeltsin situated their national interests not only in a "strategic partnership," but also in developing the other nations of the world. The immediate focal point of this commitment is a newly emerging strategic configuration, being referred to by its leaders as the "Quadrangle." It is comprised of China, Russia, India, and Iran. As certain Russian experts emphasize, this arrangement can readily incorporate Pakistan and the five former Soviet republics of Central Asia. Statements by the Chinese leadership indicate that Africa, too, is expected to benefit from the effects of the "Quadrangle."

In comments following the Jiang-Yeltsin summit, Rus-

sian Presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky emphasized the importance of India. "There are already very positive developments in the triangle China-Russia-India. One may speak of a breakthrough of Russian Asia policy," he said.

Also noteworthy, is that President Clinton, in his April 25 remarks on the summit, affirmed the importance of India. And, as Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Karasin said on April 21, the confidence-building measures on the border agreed to between China and India last November, used the April 1996 Shanghai accords, reached among Russia, China, and three nations of Central Asia, as a precedent.

The inclusion of Iran involves certain obvious complications, given the formal U.S. policy of isolating Iran, as part of the so-called "dual containment" approach to Iraq and Iran. However, two facts need be stressed. The reality, largely blacked out by a media eager to rush to simplistic, sound-byte formulations, is that an intensive debate is occurring in Washington, including inside the Clinton administration, about whether that approach should be dropped, and whether, instead, as former U.S. State Department official Robert Pelletreau phrased it, a "full agenda dialogue" with Iran should be opened. The Iranian press regularly features such "signals," from Pelletreau and others, as a sign of a possible imminent shift in U.S. policy.

Second, Iranian Parliament chief Nateq Nouri was in Moscow, and then in Central Asia, in the week immediately preceding the April 22-25 diplomacy in Moscow. While there, he promoted the "Quadrangle" configuration for Eurasia.

The end of geopolitics?

One can only imagine the rug-chewing fits now taking place among London's geopoliticians.

In his April 24 comments on the agreements, in the course of delivering unambiguous support for the achievements of the Moscow summit, U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns singled out Henry Kissinger's policies for attack, as *EIR* reported last week. This is a most refreshing departure, coming from the State Department. Chiding the press for "touting the Jiang Zemin/Boris Yeltsin meeting as some kind of face-off with the United States," Burns stressed: "That is not how we see it. We're in the 1990s now. We're not back in the '70s, when Henry Kissinger and others were playing triangular diplomacy among Russia, China, and the United States. The world has changed."

This was neatly complemented by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, visiting Washington on April 29 (see article, p. 63). In a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations and the U.S.-China Business Council, Qian stated: "China and the United States share common responsibility, in maintaining world peace, promoting global prosperity, and on many other important matters. Ours is the largest developing country, and the U.S. the largest developed one. The need for

both countries to stay engaged with each other, is increasing, not decreasing. The potential for both countries to cooperate in various fields, is expanding, not dwindling."

Then, Qian blasted those attempting to create hysteria about an alleged "Chinese threat" to the United States: "According to their argument, China has replaced the former Soviet Union as the main threat to the United States. Others predict that China and the United States will move toward confrontation, and therefore, call for containment against China. There are also people who liken today's China to Germany and Japan at the end of the 19th and early 20th century." Such views "could not be more wrong," he stressed, because "today's China is a developing country. What it desires most, is a peaceful international environment, so that it can focus on economic development, and improve the life of its 1.2 billion people. . . . I am confident that China-U.S. relations are bound to go forward."

Qian is doing the forward planning for a summit between President Clinton and President Jiang, when the latter makes his first state visit to the United States later this year, most likely in October.

'Facilitate joint development and prosperity'

In their "Joint Declaration of a Multi-Polar World and the Formation of a New International Order," issued in Moscow on April 25, the Chinese and Russian leaders declared, "The creation of a peaceful, stable, just, and rational new international political and economic order, is becoming a pressing demand of the epoch and an imperative of historical development." Mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, mutual advantage, and peaceful coexistence must become the "fundamental norm" of interstate relations, and "the basis for the creation of a new international order." Economic relations must "facilitate joint development and prosperity," and the key to ensuring security is to end the "Cold War mentality," the leaders stated.

The declaration states that the Agreement among the Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the People's Republic of China to strengthen military trust and reduce armed forces stationed on their border regions (the 4,400-mile-long former Soviet-Chinese border) "can serve as a model for attaining regional peace, security, and stability after the ending of the Cold War." This agreement is a consolidation of the accords reached among these nations when their leaders met one year ago, in Shanghai.

The Russia-China accords are in the national interests of both nations. "The Parties note with satisfaction that the establishment and development of Russian-Chinese relations of equal trusting partnership, directed at strategic interaction in the 21st century, is keeping pace with the development of the international situation and international relations after the ending of the Cold War, [and] fully accords with the cardinal

interests of the peoples of the two countries, and facilitates peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region and in the world.”

In a speech to the Russian Duma (parliament), President Jiang took up the issue of how to create a peaceful and developing world, after a century whose disasters included two world wars and 40 years of Cold War. To end such tragedies, he said, it is essential to build a multi-polar world, in which it is no longer possible for a few powers to dictate to other nations. The broad group of developing nations, whose power is growing, is an important force on the international arena, Jiang said.

Already in the 1980s, President Jiang said, China’s leader, the late Deng Xiaoping, had the idea that it was indispensable to create a just and rational new political order. This means the creation of a *new type* of international relations, in which each state has the right, based on its own condition, to choose its direction of development.

Based on this foundation of sovereignty, Jiang told the Duma, nations can reject the mentality of the Cold War, and all those actions not favorable to peace and development. The developed nations must recognize the interests and needs of the developing nations, including by increasing investment and providing advanced technologies.

Without improving North-South relations, without reducing the economic gap, the world will have only rich nations and poor nations, and it will not be possible to guarantee peace and stability. China, he noted, had suffered a century of aggression and looting by imperialist nations, and knows very well how difficult it will be to achieve such peace and stability, but China also requires such conditions for its own development. China rejects arms races, military blocs, and hegemonism.

China wants Russia, which has made so many contributions to the world, also to achieve stability and economic renewal. China and Russia are creating a new strategic interaction, a new type of interstate relations, to stimulate the creation of a just and rational international order, Jiang said. But this is not any kind of political “bloc,” and is not aimed against any third country, he underlined.

Our two nations’ economies are complementary; they are developing relations on all levels, Jiang said. The two nations must put their forces together, to create a just and rational new world order, to make the future world a beautiful place.

Exporting advanced technologies

As LaRouche noted, in reflecting on the Chinese-Russian agreements, this focus on the whole developing sector, demonstrates that these accords are not only to produce, but also to *export* advanced technologies to other developing nations. Repeatedly in the past decades, the world has approached very close to instituting such a new order. This was Franklin Roosevelt’s policy at the end of World War II; this was the

policy of the Non-Aligned Movement, notably the NAM’s Colombo, Sri Lanka resolution of 1976; it was the policy of Ibero-American leaders in the early 1980s. In these and in other instances, however, LaRouche said, we were not able to carry this policy through. Now, there is another opportunity to create this new, just order, and there is hope that we can achieve it. This policy, to develop the Third World, will create international momentum for the “Eurasian Land-Bridge,” which is already the state policy of China.

Africa is one field for promoting a “new just and reasonable economic order.” Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng will be touring six African nations in May, one year after Jiang Zemin made an historic tour of the continent. On April 21, Li said that China wants to “strengthen consultation and cooperation in international affairs, support the just demands and reasonable proposals of African countries, stand together with them and other developing countries, and work jointly with them to promote just and reasonable international poli-

Iranian leaders invoke heritage of the Silk Road

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani sent a message of greetings to the Second Conference on the Silk Road, meeting in Teheran at the end of April, in which he noted that the influence of Iranian civilization can be seen all along that historic route. This was just one of many recent statements and initiatives taken by Iranian leaders, to link up to the Eurasian Land-Bridge.

According to the English-language Iranian newspaper *Ettela’at International*, Rafsanjani’s message stressed (in the paper’s paraphrase) that “the impact of Iranian and Islamic culture and civilization could be seen in all stages of the blossoming of the Silk Road on the inhabitants and users of the ancient route.”

Rafsanjani stated that “Iran, enjoying a strategic geographical location, and its own distinct economic and cultural features, has long been recognized as an important country.” He said that the effect of the “great spiritual civilization” of Iran and Islam “can be traced on the route of the Silk Road, from China right up to the heart of Europe. The caravans carrying goods, silk, and spices used the Silk Road from Kashgar in China, to Damascus and Africa, from Samarkand, Bukhara, Khojand, and Khwarazm to Neishabour, Rey, Isfahan, and Far, from Shiraz to Benga

tics and a new economic order." Li will visit Zambia, Mozambique, Gabon, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Tanzania on May 5-14.

Both China and Africa are faced with the task of safeguarding peace and seeking development, Li said. "The peace and prosperity of the world requires the stability and development of Africa, and any opinion or action to neglect Africa is incorrect. . . . China is willing to further develop political friendship with Africa, tap new channels of economic and trade cooperation, and pursue common development."

Intensive diplomacy

The Moscow summit was only part of an intensive overall diplomatic process. President Yeltsin will visit China in November, and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will go there in June. Last year, after the April summit in Shanghai, Li Peng visited Russia to set up several commis-

sions to plan cooperation in trade and economics, power, transportation, nuclear energy, and other fields, which have now been consolidated. Just before the summit, Jiang Zemin met Russian Defense Minister Igor Rodionov on April 18 in Beijing.

Most important are the developing economic relations. As one of Russia's foremost Russian authorities on China and Russian-Chinese relations, Academician V. S. Myasnikov, said in a discussion with *EIR* on April 28, the current accords are creating a new kind of relationship between Russia and China. Professor Myasnikov, who is deputy director of the Academy of Science's Institute of Far Eastern Studies, said that now, for the first time in 400 years, China is a more powerful state than Russia. Yet at the same time, Russia has been the *only* nation from which China can get new technologies, because of the policy of "technological apartheid" by the West that has prevailed up to now.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Russia cooperated very closely

and India, and also from Tabriz to Erzurum, Bosnia, and Europe. . . .

"So one can easily notice that, even though the Silk Road was a trade route for ferrying goods, it played an important and effective role on cultural, social, and artistic communications."

Emphasizing the current construction of the Land-Bridge, Rafsanjani stated that "the revival of the Silk Route, through construction of the lengthy Persian Gulf-Sarakhs-Tajan railway which once again links China to Central Asia via Iran, is in continuation of efforts" of Iran to expand the Silk Road.

"Through the completion of the Kerman-Zahedan railway project in the near future, the Indian subcontinent will be connected to the north, west, and south, via Iran," he said, according to the Teheran news service IRNA. This vital rail line will finally link western and eastern Iran. Eastern Iran is already linked to the Pakistani rail system, which is connected to the Indian and Bangladeshi rail systems. These can be fully opened up, if there is a political resolution to the Indian-Pakistani conflict. This will be the first time in history that the Indian subcontinent will be connected to West Asia, Europe, and Central Asia, directly by rail link.

A speaker at the Teheran conference, Deborah Luhrman, communications head of the World Tourism Organization, said that Iran has a vital role to play concerning the Silk Road, because of its strategic location, its rich culture, and its economy. Furthermore, she added, "the Sarakhs-Tajan railroad link between the Iranian and Central Asian networks, which runs on the course of the historical Silk

Road, provides an important connection between Europe and Asia, especially China."

Ettela'at also reported that Rafsanjani, in a speech in Teheran the same week before the eighth international conference on rainwater catchment systems, asserted that Iran is prepared to place its valuable experience in harnessing of water resources, at the disposal of those countries which need it. Scientists and researchers from 46 countries attended the five-day conference. The Iranian President said that Iran was the right place for holding such a gathering, as the years of experience that it has accumulated, can help to achieve the objectives of the conference. The Iranian government has allocated huge sums for optimal use of water resources, the paper said.

Then, on April 24-27, another conference took place in Teheran, on "Archaeology Along the Silk Road," co-sponsored by the Iranian government and Unesco. Among the 40 experts in attendance, was at least one from the United States. Other countries represented included Russia, Nepal, Kazakhstan, India, China, and Uzbekistan, *Ettela'at* reported.

The ninth session of the China-Iran joint economic commission will begin on May 3, in Teheran. For this occasion, Chinese Deputy Prime Minister and Communist Party Central Committee member Lee Lanjing will travel to Iran. Under discussion will be various infrastructure projects. China is already cooperating in various areas in Iran, including building a subway network in Teheran, cement plants, hydroelectric and thermal power projects, glass manufacturing, copper mining, and oil.

with China in developing China's heavy industry, nuclear capabilities, and so forth. Now, supplying China with such technologies could help Russia stop the disastrous destruction of its own industry and advanced technologies.

In fact, as LaRouche has also noted, perhaps the most important source of machine tools for developing China's economy, would be the still-existing, highly advanced "military-industrial complex" of Russia.

There are other aspects of economic cooperation. Russia is building a nuclear power plant in the Chinese port of Lianyungang, which is also the Pacific "rail head" of the Euro-Asian continental bridge linking Lianyungang to Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

Another vital project is building the Irkutsk gas pipeline to the Chinese city of Rizhao in Shandong province, which could also be extended to South Korea, and building high-voltage power lines from Siberia to Northeast China. Cooperation to build China's vast Three Gorges Dam project also has great potential. Indeed, Myasnikov said, it is in such Eurasian cooperation that Russia now sees its only chance for economic revival.

Presidents Jiang and Yeltsin, according to their spokesmen, also discussed another large-scale pipeline project, described as a "trans-Asian natural gas pipeline from Tomsk, Russia, to Shanghai." Tomsk is in Central Siberia, north of the science center of Novosibirsk and the Kuzbass coal region.

The two nations' policy is to expand their trade, which reached the level of \$7 billion last year, to \$20 billion per year by 2000. This can only be done by upgrading the quality of the trade, from the past exchange of raw materials from Russia and cheap consumer goods from China, to exchange of advanced technologies, as in the projects cited above.

Trade plays another vital role. Right now, Chinese-Russian border trade is worth \$200 million a year. While this trade does not play the strategic role of big construction projects, it is vital for simply keeping the economy of Russia's Far East alive and working. Before the breakup of the Soviet Union, Ukraine was the biggest supplier of the Far East, by sea from the port of Odessa. Now, this is no longer possible, and it is far easier to get food and other vital supplies from China.

The Eurasian-Indian Ocean revival

Simultaneous with these developments, are a number of diplomatic events, declarations, etc., the which, in their density and content, show how much the notion of Eurasian-centered development is becoming hegemonic. What it also demonstrates, is the extent to which the rich, thousands-year history and cultural contribution of the ancient Silk Road, and the contiguous Indian Ocean region, are being revived in the minds of leading forces.

We cite the following examples:

- On April 23, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev, one of the attendees at the five nations' heads of state meeting in Moscow, was interviewed in the daily *Rossiiskaya Gazeta*, and spoke about his proposal for a "Eurasian Union." Nazarbayev affirmed: "Sooner or later, the vast potential of the Asian continent will be combined with the technological potential of Europe, and contribute to the prosperity of their countries. . . . The idea of the Eurasian Union is still on the agenda. . . . If I were to drop out of big-time politics, I would devote the rest of my life to this noble idea." He said that, in the coming months, 27 countries will be represented, at the foreign ministers level, for a conference in the Kazakhstan capital of Almaty, to discuss confidence-building measures in Eurasia.

- Throughout the week of April 22, Iran was the site of international gatherings on the history, culture, and archaeology of the Silk Road (see box).

- On April 25, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the so-called "Tripartite Group" comprising Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and China completed its meeting, with the unveiling of ambitious plans for expanding railway links between Central Asia and China. It was announced that a line between the Kyrgyz city of Osh and the Xinkiang, China city of Kashgar (Kashi) will be completed, thereby providing the missing link for the Shanghai-to-Paris Eurasian rail route.

- On April 8, Tblisi, Georgia, was the site of a conference, "On Reviving the Historical 'Silk Road,'" co-sponsored by the government of Georgia and the European Commission. This was to form the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRASECA) design, for road and rail links from China, through Central Asia and the Transcaucasus, to Europe. The conference was attended by transportation ministers from member countries in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) group. On April 30, the ninth meeting of foreign ministers from BSEC member countries took place in Istanbul.

- As for integrating the Indian Subcontinent and broader Indian Ocean region into this complex, the following should be noted. In March, the Indian Ocean Rim for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) group was launched, at a conference in Mauritius. This grouping is the brainchild of India's new prime minister, I. K. Gujral, who put it into operation during his service as foreign minister, in the previous Deve Gowda government. The group consists of India, Australia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Yemen. France, Egypt, and Iran have recently applied for membership.

Iran's involvement could provide a link to the Eurasian railway net, because of the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, on the Indian Ocean. The Iranians are very active, these days, in upgrading rail transport cooperation with the countries of Central Asia, thereby helping these countries gain access to warm water ports.