

Kurdish Workers Party to continue its London-based MED TV broadcasts into Turkey, despite documentation that the broadcasts were used to convey marching orders to PKK terrorists there.

**Germany:** The Bonn government issued a diplomatic note to London, too, following a March 1996 MED TV broadcast in which PKK leader Apo Ocalan called for murdering German Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Kinkel. According to the German press, the Interior Ministry stated concerning the London station: "We have requested our colleagues in neighboring countries in Europe to put measures into effect in order to not compromise internal security in our own country."

### Proposed U.S. sanctions

But despite overwhelming evidence that London is an international safe-haven for international terrorism, which even the *Daily Telegraph* has been forced to admit, Anglophile Congressional Republicans have persisted in attempting to pin the blame on third parties, notably Sudan and the Palestine Liberation Organization, in order to provide the British Crown an alibi.

**Target Sudan:** On May 15, 1997, Sen. John Ashcroft (R-Mo.), chairman of the Africa Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, convened a hearing to argue for new legislation, to close an alleged loophole in section 321 of the anti-terrorism bill, which has been interpreted by the administration to allow foreign companies to invest in Sudan, unless it can be shown that the monies will be used for terrorism against the United States. The bill has since been superseded by a Clinton administration order banning all such investment.

Ashcroft, who took testimony from Rep. Bill McCollum (R-Fla.), who had submitted a parallel bill in the House, based his charges on the claim that Sudan was responsible for the World Trade Center bombing, which, in fact, was carried out by the London-based Islamic Group. Ashcroft also accused Sudan of providing safe-haven for Hamas, whose international headquarters is London.

**Target PLO:** On July 30, 1997, Rep. Jim Saxton (R-N.J.) appended an amendment to the House Appropriations Foreign Operations bill, which passed the House by voice vote, suspending all aid to the Palestinian Authority for three months. Saxton's measure also contributed to Congress's failure to act on an extension of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, before the August recess, the failure of which has disallowed the PLO from having legal offices in the United States.

The stated reasons for both measures was alleged PLO responsibility for allowing Hamas bombings in Israel, including one on July 30. But these and other bombings were ordered and carried out by Hamas offices in London, and nowhere else—and on behalf of the British plan for a new Mideast war crisis that *EIR* has exposed.

# Eurasian-Pacific axis could change history

by Jonathan Tennenbaum

Over the last four weeks, on the backdrop of earthquake-like shocks in the collapsing world financial system, an extraordinary series of jointly coordinated consultations and negotiations has taken place at the highest level between the United States, China, Russia, and Japan. The importance of this Eurasian-Pacific diplomacy lies not so much in the concrete, visible results achieved up to now, as in the fact, that it points to the potential emergence of a *strategic constellation of forces*, which could decisively shape events in this critical period of history.

A summary review of the last four weeks' diplomacy, speaks for itself. First in the latest series, was the historic breakthrough of Chinese President Jiang Zemin's Oct. 26-Nov. 3 visit to the United States and his summit meeting with President Bill Clinton, which notably included discussion of the world financial situation. According to press reports, President Clinton subsequently briefed Russian President Boris Yeltsin by telephone on the results of his discussions with Jiang Zemin.

Shortly thereafter, Yeltsin flew to the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk for an extraordinary, two-day "informal summit meeting" with Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. This meeting, described on both sides as "a revolution in Japanese-Russian relations," was followed a week later by President Yeltsin's state visit to China, on Nov. 9-11.

During that visit, Yeltsin and Jiang Zemin signed the long-awaited border treaty, finally settling (with the exception of three islands in the Amur River) the 4,300-kilometer-long border between the two nations. Besides discussing major projects for economic and technological cooperation, Yeltsin and Jiang Zemin reviewed the results of Jiang Zemin's visit to the United States, hailing the "positive developments achieved in recent high-level meetings between China, Russia, the United States, Japan, and other countries." Both sides made it clear, that the strategic partnership between China and Russia is not opposed to the United States, but, on the contrary, is actually an integral component of the same process as the growing U.S.-China partnership. For its part, both before and during Jiang Zemin's visit to the United States, the Clinton administration took pains to make clear, that U.S.-Japanese defense agreements are intended exclusively to enhance stability in the region, and have nothing to do with an alleged alliance against a "China threat."

Following the Sino-Russia summit, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who had accompanied Yeltsin on

his visit to China, travelled to Tokyo for talks with his Japanese counterpart Keizo Obuchi. Following up on the Yeltsin-Hashimoto agreement of Krasnoyarsk, Primakov and Obuchi set up a new working framework to prepare a formal peace treaty, finally ending the official state of hostility between the two countries which has existed since World War II.

While in Tokyo, Primakov also met with U.S. First Deputy Secretary and Russia specialist Strobe Talbott, who had just conducted talks in Beijing with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and other Chinese officials, as part of an Asian tour focussing on “national security issues.” The Russian press agency ITAR-TASS reported, that Primakov is giving his support to “an idea proposed by Chinese Prime Minister Li, that Russia, Japan, China and the U.S. establish a system of political consultations.” At the same time, Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng began a six-day official visit to Japan on Nov. 11-17, which included an audience with the Japanese Emperor and Empress, and intensive discussions on bilateral cooperation. Finally, we have the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Vancouver, beginning on Nov. 24, where (among other things) Chinese President Jiang Zemin and U.S. President Clinton will meet again.

On one level, this intense process of U.S.-Russia-China-Japan diplomacy has the included aim of clearing away as many as possible of the historical areas of conflict, which have stood in the way of full-fledged cooperation between the major Asian-Pacific nations (including the United States), and allowed them to be played off against each other in British-style geopolitical “games” in the past. The “Yeltsin-Hashimoto Plan” to conclude a formal peace treaty by the year 2000, clearly possesses this character, as does the Sino-Russian border agreement and some important features of the U.S.-China consultations.

### **Prospects for a ‘new Silk Road’**

On the side of concrete projects, the “Eurasian Land-Bridge” is emerging ever more clearly as the driving conception, with energy cooperation playing the most conspicuous role. Commenting on the Russian-Japanese summit, an ITAR-TASS article spoke of “setting up a Far East energy and transport community which would resurrect the idea of the Great Silk Route in a new chapter of history. What is envisaged is not only cooperation between Russia and Japan in developing Sakhalin’s oil and gas resources and modernizing the Trans-Siberian Railroad, but also the joint creation of a network of main pipelines which would link gas deposits in Irkutsk Oblast and Yakutia with gas consumers in China, Korea, and Japan.”

During the Sino-Russian summit in Beijing, a memorandum of understanding was signed for a gigantic project, to build a 3,500-kilometer-long pipeline to deliver natural gas from the Irkutsk region of southern Siberia, through Mongolia to Shandong Province in eastern China, with a further 1,200-kilometer-long extension to supply the networks of Japan and

South Korea. This \$10-12 billion project is to be carried out by an international consortium including companies from Russia, China, South Korea, and Japan. Via the new pipeline system, the huge Kovyktinskoye gas condensate deposit near Irkutsk, with an estimated 1.5 trillion cubic meters of gas reserves, would provide China, Japan, and South Korea each with at least 10 billion cubic meters of gas per year. This is only one of countless projects in various stages of discussion and realization. For example, Japanese companies are already deeply involved in the development of major petroleum deposits of Russia’s Sakhalin island, and have shown interest also in the mineral-rich Yakutsk region. In addition, there is an important joint project to build up the port at Vostochny. To the extent the “Yeltsin-Hashimoto Plan” succeeds in overcoming the neuralgic points of Japanese-Russia relations, Japan’s role in helping to develop Russia’s Siberia and Far East regions, could be multiplied many-fold. Also U.S. companies are increasingly interested in Russian’s Far East, which will one day be connected to North America via a Bering Strait tunnel to Alaska. The Northeast Asian region—comprising a major part of China’s industrial and agricultural potential, the two Koreas and Japan, and the vast mineral resources of Russia’s Far East—seems destined in the future become the most powerful single region in the entire world economy.

Nuclear power is another key area of cooperation, addressed by recent diplomacy. On the one side, despite problems of financing and other difficulties, Russia-Chinese nuclear cooperation is expanding significantly, including Russian construction of a uranium enrichment plant in Lanzhou, now ongoing, and the plan—still awaiting the signing of contracts—to build two 1,000-megawatt VVER reactors at the “Eurasian Land-Bridge” port city of Lianyungang. On the other side, an important breakthrough seems to have been reached around Jiang Zemin’s visit to the United States, with the Clinton administration’s apparent commitment to expedite major exports of civilian U.S. nuclear technology to China. This would not only furnish an urgently needed boost to China’s nuclear power development, but would represent a significant reversal of the policy of opposing the worldwide expansion of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, which has de facto been followed by U.S. administrations since Jimmy Carter. For Washington to give the “green light” to nuclear energy in the context of U.S.-China-Russia-Japan cooperation on Eurasian development, would deal a devastating blow to a crucial flank of British geopolitical strategy.

Much more, however, is implied in the intensification of direct personal contacts at the Presidential level, and the establishment of “hot-line” telephones on all three sides of the Russia-U.S.A.-China “strategic triangle.” The prospect, however tenuous at the moment, that the world’s largest, the world’s most powerful, and the world’s most populous nation, might become capable of acting together at this moment of great world crisis, must strike terror into the heart of the common enemy—the British Empire.