

# Cheney To Visit East Asia—Delivering War?

by Mike Billington

Vice President Dick Cheney will travel to East Asia in April, visiting Japan, China, and South Korea. His first item of business will be the crisis on the Korean Peninsula. Cheney, the intellectual author in the early 1990s of the now-official U.S. strategic policy of “pre-emptive attacks” on those deemed “rogue nations” with the intention or capability to develop nuclear weapons, can hardly be expected to do anything but make matters worse. It is indeed possible that his intention is to deliver a war message to his hosts, parallel to the U.S. chicken-hawks’ imperial demand to the UN regarding Iraq: either do what we say to isolate and punish North Korea, or we will go to war, probably with nuclear weapons.

There could hardly be a sharper contrast to the proposal by Lyndon LaRouche on March 13. While making every effort to induce the Bush Administration to call off the mad Iraq invasion plans, LaRouche has offered to go as an interlocutor to the North Koreans, provided he has a clear signal of cooperation from the government in China, and from Washington. Recognized as a leading opponent of the Iraq war, LaRouche believes he could determine, through direct contact with Chairman Kim Jong-il, what is needed to achieve a peaceful agreement and renewed development in the region.

Cheney, on the other hand, is recognized for a political lifetime of animosity towards both China and North Korea. As Secretary of Defense in the early 1990s, Cheney oversaw the production of a document, called “Defense Strategy for the 1990s,” promoting pre-emptive war to assure that the United States remains, in perpetuity, the world’s only superpower, by preventing any nation or alliance from becoming a great power. The leading authors of the report were Paul Wolfowitz—now the Deputy Secretary of Defense—and Lewis Libby, now chief of staff in Cheney’s office.

Then, in 1992, Cheney produced the “Defense Planning Guidance,” targeting Iraq and North Korea as rogue states subject to pre-emptive strike—a policy which is now close to implementation, with an Iraq war and a possible nuclear strike on North Korea in the aftermath.

Lewis “Scooter” Libby, Cheney’s chief of staff, will most likely accompany Cheney on his trip to East Asia, as will his deputy chief of staff, C. Dean McGrath. This will be particularly grating for China, as both men served on the notorious “Cox Committee” in 1998, which issued wildly false accusations of Chinese scientific spying against the United States. That Committee, headed by rabid China-basher Rep. Christo-

pher Cox (R-Calif.), Chairman of the House Policy Committee, brought together “Gingrich” Republicans and Democrats tied to the Democratic Leadership Council’s Al Gore, with Libby as head legal advisor, and McGrath as staff director.

In June 1998, the Chinese News Agency Xinhua published the response of a leading nuclear scientist, Wang Fei, to the Cox Report: The accusations were not only “ridiculous, but an intentional insult designed to show contempt for Chinese scientists.” Another Chinese official demonstrated to international journalists that the computer codes for nuclear weapons, which the Chinese had supposedly stolen, were readily available to any schoolboy on the Internet! Cox Committee lawyer Libby and director McGrath will nicely round out Cheney’s imperial entourage.

## The North Korean ‘Exception’

*New York Times* Asia columnist Nicholas Kristof revealed on Feb. 28 that a nest of “raptors, clustered around Dick Cheney and Don Rumsfeld and in the NSC,” are seriously planning a nuclear strike against North Korea. As LaRouche has pointed out, if the invasion of Iraq is not stopped, North Korea will have no reason to negotiate; furthermore, the United States will not have the forces to fight a conventional war in Asia, thus providing a perfect excuse for the utopians to try out their new tactical nuclear weapons.

Proving the point, Willis Stanley, a Senior Analyst at the National Institute for Public Policy (NIPP), published a paper called “From Vietnam to the New Triad: U.S. Nuclear Weapons and Korean Security,” arguing for nuclear war on North Korea. Willis was responding to the recent release of a 1967 secret study headed by Freeman Dyson on the potential use of nuclear weapons in the Vietnam War, which found that there would be no military advantage to their use, and an enormous political penalty. Stanley accepts those results, but insists that North Korea is an exception. Its troops and artillery massed on the border, he wrote, means that “it remains possible that an American President’s only option to avoid catastrophic loss of life might be to authorize nuclear use to halt the advance of the D.P.R.K. forces.”

Stanley describes this situation as being “at the heart of the Bush Administration’s approach to nuclear strategy,” and concludes: “In the post-Cold War world, including Korea, the barrier . . . between tactical and strategic nuclear forces has crumbled.”

Stanley’s credentials are notable—he served on a team that prepared the January 2001 report, “Rationale and Requirements for U.S. Nuclear Forces and Arms Control,” promoting a new generation of tactical nuclear weapons. Also on the team were several of the top neo-conservative warmongers in the Bush Administration, including the Pentagon’s new Assistant Secretary for Intelligence, Steve Cambone, and Fred Iklé and James Woolsey, who are both members of the “Wolfowitz Cabal,” by way of Richard Perle’s Defense Policy Board.