

The U.S. arrogance toward the Third World is shown by its demand that India, which is trying to air- and sea-lift emergency supplies to its 185,000 nationals stranded in the Gulf, "guarantee" that the supplies do not fall into Iraqi hands. The U.S. is believed to have agreed "in principle" to the shipments, the British daily *Guardian* reported Aug. 22, after talks between Indian Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington. Indian officials called the U.S. demand for guarantees "totally unreasonable."

Indians who fled to Jordan report that if no help arrives in a week, their compatriots still in Kuwait could starve. India asserted that the plight of its citizens is so bad in the Gulf that the U.S. simply could not block attempts to assist them. India is reportedly readying an evacuation fleet of military and commercial vessels, but the evacuation would still take weeks.

### **Demands for U.N. aid**

India, which gets about 40% of its oil from Iraq and could lose 5-5.5 million tons of crude oil supplies due to the sanctions, has already asked for U.N. aid. On Aug. 3, India's foreign exchange reserves fell below the level allowed by the Finance Ministry of 500 million rupees, the *Hindustan Times* reported Aug. 11. The Petroleum Ministry has determined that India will need an additional 310 million rupees to tide it over during the Gulf crisis.

Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Hari Kishore Singh on Aug. 10 called on U.N. Secretary General Pérez de Cuellar to help developing sector nations get through the current economic crisis with the help of the U.N.'s lending institutions. Singh pointed out that provision for aid in the case of economic deprivation resulting from U.N.-ordered sanctions is provided for in the U.N. Charter. "Many projects, particularly construction projects in Iraq, will be delayed or suspended. Exports to Iraq have to be suspended. India, like many other countries, is going to be affected. The U.N. has an obligation to help these countries," he said.

Philippines President Corazon Aquino has "reserved the right" to apply U.N. sanctions against Iraq with "our own national interest" in mind. "Our first concern is the safety and well-being of the hundreds of thousands of Filipinos who are working in the Middle East and who are, by doing so, helping our economy here," Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said Aug. 20. There are 350,000 workers from the Philippines in Saudi Arabia, about 5,000 in Iraq, and 90,000 in Kuwait—half of them women.

Remittances from these workers is vital for the Philippines, which owes \$26 billion in debt. About \$1.3 billion a year is deposited in banks, but total about \$3 billion. On Aug. 17, National Economic Development Authority Director General Cayetano Paderanga announced that the Philippines had cut its GNP growth estimate by a full point—to 3.8%—due to the oil price increases.

## **Asian leaders not keen on Mideast war**

by Lydia Cherry

British and U.S. efforts to pull Asian leaders along with their war buildup in the Persian Gulf have not been a big success. Reticence has been the rule, regardless of whether the country in question stands to gain financially from the crisis, such as Indonesia and possibly Malaysia, because of their oil reserves, or to lose, as is the case of the vast majority of Asian countries.

India and Indonesia, the two largest Muslim countries in the world, refused to have their troops embroiled in the war effort, and India has been adamant about its opposition to unilateral armed action. India's opposition Congress Party is on record saying that the moves of the U.S. and its allies could well "plunge the world into catastrophe," Delhi Domestic Service reported Aug. 18.

Indonesia initially said it would continue trading with Iraq despite the U.N. embargo, but by Aug. 12, Indonesia's leaders apparently became convinced that they had no choice but to "comply with the U.N. resolution, and for this Indonesia has to bear the risk," as Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar explained. President Suharto has still not condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Malaysia responded similarly that it would not send troops. "We do not side with any country. Our position is that we are with Islam," said a spokesman. He noted that Iraq and Iran had also requested Malaysia's support when they were at war. "Malaysia will not support these wars between Muslims."

### **Pressure on Japan and Korea**

British and U.S. policymakers are incensed that Japan and South Korea are refusing to play the roles assigned to them. "The Japanese government, which claims so often to want to take a leadership role in world affairs, continues to dither over how to handle the Gulf crisis, even though most other industrial nations have already made substantial commitments of men and money to the effort," wrote Britain's *Financial Times* Aug. 23. Former U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown was quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*, that talk is increasing in Washington, D.C. "about simply charging Tokyo for the U.S. military services." President Bush had to telephone Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu twice "just to get Japan to announce its support of the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq," the *Washington Times* reported.

Japan was the country most involved in rebuilding Iraq's

war-ravaged economy, and the powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) opposed the economic embargo of the country. Much like Germany, Japan is seeking to counter the criticism of its inaction by offering aid to Arabs and others to help offset the losses they are suffering from the crisis. Government spokesman Taizo Watanabe on Aug. 17 acknowledged the "unprecedented" pressure on Japan, a country dependent on the Mideast for 70% of its oil. He noted the complexities involved in the expectation that Japan could politically amend its Constitution, imposed by the occupying Allied powers, so that Japan's self-defense forces could be sent overseas. There is not even agreement among the various factions in the ruling party on acting as the "piggy bank" for the Anglo-American war effort, despite the fact that both Margaret Thatcher and George Bush have personally leaned on Prime Minister Kaifu to play that role. As ruling party factions debated, the Japanese bureaucracy moved quickly to come up with extra supplies to help offset the oil losses resulting from the embargo.

The U.S. State Department's Richard Solomon was in Seoul the week of Aug. 13 to strong-arm South Korea to go along with Washington's policy against Iraq. The overriding theme of Solomon's conversations was that Korea must join in sanctions (which it eventually did). "We do not understand the U.S. request," a Seoul official said Aug. 14. "We may decide to give up our economic interests in the two countries [Iraq and Kuwait], but it is difficult to instantly accept the U.S. demand when the security of 1,300 Koreans is at stake." Asked if Korea was requested to join in the multinational operation to blockade the Gulf, the same official was quoted, "The U.S. would not ask that. If it did, we would reject it out of hand."

Solomon's second "message" to Seoul was U.S. concern over the expansion of the economic contacts between South Korea and the Soviet Union—contacts initiated by Seoul as part of its diplomacy to reunify the Korean Peninsula. Speaking frankly in response to U.S. criticism of Seoul's inaction in the Gulf crisis, President Noh Tae Woo was quoted by the *Korea Herald* Aug. 21: "We are not in a position to offer military support for the sanctions. We are facing a more urgent task of firmly establishing peace and security on the Korean Peninsula."

### **Emergency in Taiwan**

There are rumors in Taiwan that Iraq has decided to purchase non-strategic materials from the Republic of China. The Taipei government denied the reports Aug. 17, but the government spokesman made clear that if Iraq makes a business deal with a Taiwan businessman, that is private business outside the control of the ministry. Taiwan depends on the Mideast for the 31% of its energy that comes from oil. Fuel has now been rationed, and plans for a fourth nuclear plant in the country by 1998, delayed since 1983 by environmental resistance, have been dusted off.

## **Turkey squeezed in strategic vise**

by Joseph Brewda

The announcement by Turkish President Turgut Özal on Aug. 23 that his government was "reconsidering" its previous rejection of a U.S. demand to provide soldiers to supplement U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, has grave implications for Turkey's future. Speaking on the MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour on the Public Broadcasting System, Özal said that it might be in the "best interests of Turkey" to deploy the troops, despite the fact that Turkey "would like to have good relations with the rest of the Arab countries." In fact, as Özal well knows, to have Turkey seen as complicit in the colonial oppression of Arab states that it once ruled as the Ottoman Empire, would be one of the worst disasters that could befall his state.

That Anglo-American planners long had their sights on Turkey as a key supplier of NATO "out-of-area deployments" has long been apparent. In fact, some Turks quip that that phrase really means, "Turks killing Arabs." Yet while the Anglo-Americans are not adverse to having Turks die for their adventures, they will never accept Turkey's longstanding ambition to be considered a European state. Last spring, the British spearheaded the racially motivated rejection of Turkey's application to join the European Community, with the argument that the swarthy Turks have a high birth rate.

### **The oil lifeline is cut**

Turkish compliance with other key Bush demands has already wreaked havoc. Through U.S. pressure, Turkey has closed down the Iraq oil pipeline through its country, which had pumped 1.3 million barrels, or 50%, of Iraqi oil a day. Turkey did not merely receive \$300,000 a day in user fees from Iraq for this service; it also had a guarantee whereby it could draw as much oil from the pipeline as it needed to supply its own needs, and could purchase that oil through barter trade rather than hard-earned foreign currency. Now Turkey will have to purchase foreign oil with cash. Turkish agreement to embargo goods to Iraq has already led to high unemployment among transport workers.

From a strictly military point of view, Turkey could suffer grave damage by Iraqi forces if the Turkish military enters on the side of the Anglo-Americans. The Turks are concerned that the recently completed Ataturk Dam, which the Anglo-Americans had always opposed because it would dramatically increase Turkish food production, would be one Iraqi target.