

Asia Hits Cheney Doctrine, DNC

by Kathy Wolfe

A four-party group of 49 South Korean lawmakers on July 16 submitted a joint resolution to the Korean National Assembly—also hand-delivered to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul—calling for Washington to apologize for asking Korea to send troops to Iraq, by providing false intelligence on weapons of mass destruction. “It was wrong of the Bush Administration to bring war against Iraq,” they said in a statement. “Worse, they are losing all justification for the occupation policy.” The U.S. Senate Select Intelligence Committee Report, the U.S. 9/11 Commission, and the British Butler Commission Report, show that data used to motivate the war was false, they said.

The *Philippines Inquirer*, Manila’s top daily, in a July 17 editorial, hit the Bush government for criticizing the Philippines’ troop withdrawal from Iraq, noting that the “wrong signals” sent out by Washington feature the Iraq prison atrocities and the Halliburton scandals.

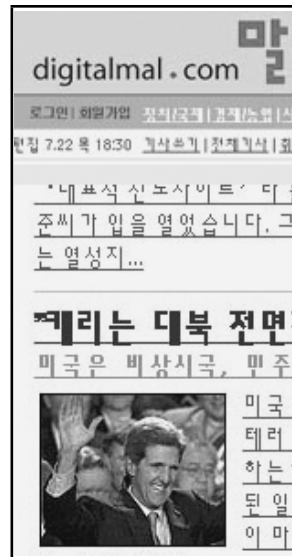
In Japan, support for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi fell to 36% in an *Asahi News* poll on July 20, as 53% of voters said they “could not trust Koizumi” for handing Japan’s troops in Iraq over to UN command without consulting the Diet (see following article).

Such signs of revolt in the Asian nations most subservient to Washington, could portend a sea change.

The Korean legislators also warned Washington not to treat North Korea like Iraq, the which could lead to nuclear war. “We urge that the Bush Administration guarantee that such decision-making based on false and distorted information will not occur on the Korean peninsula,” they said, “by sharing intelligence with Seoul.”

Lawmakers, diplomats, and students in Asia are just as angry at the U.S. Democratic National Committee (DNC) and its assets in Sen. John Kerry’s campaign, for repeatedly echoing Cheney’s “first strike” policy against Iraq, an implied threat to use force against all these nations. To add insult to injury, the DNC then threatened North Korea in its party platform, posted on the DNC website July 10.

“The North Koreans have made it clear to the world—and to the terrorists—that they are open for business and will sell to the highest bidder,” it asserts. “But while this Administration has been fixated on Iraq, the nuclear dangers from North Korea have multiplied, making six to nine nuclear bombs” (www.democrats.org). North Korea, say what one will, has gone to extra lengths to avoid any such relationship, and this is even a worse lie than Cheney’s assertions about Iraq and al-Qaeda.



“Stop Coup in Boston” is the headline in Seoul’s *Mahl* Magazine online. The article urges citizens to fax the DNC and urge an open convention.

‘Stop Coup in Boston’

Asian scholars on July 19 began a fax campaign to the DNC in Washington, urging them to open the Democratic Convention in Boston July 26-29, as proposed by Lyndon LaRouche, to allow a real policy debate. A dozen professors and think-tank officials in Korea and Japan have already sent faxes to the DNC. Members of Parliament in both countries are drafting letters.

The Philippines LaRouche Society and Philippines LaRouche Youth Movement plan a barrage of faxes from Manila from top academic and political circles.

Seoul’s popular *Mahl Magazine* has posted one such fax prominently on its home page in Korean, entitled “Stop Coup in Boston,” referring to the Cheney Homeland Security threat to muzzle debate at the Boston Convention. Under a photo of Kerry, it lists the DNC’s fax number and urges citizens to act (www.digitalmal.com).

A student group in Tokyo faxed to the DNC to ask that the Democratic Convention debate LaRouche’s policies, such as the LaRouche Doctrine for Southwest Asia and the Eurasian Land-Bridge/New Silk Road. Their fax requests:

- “1. Open the Boston Convention July 26-29 to full debate;
- “2. Allow LaRouche’s youth campaigners and all peaceful Democrats to participate;
- “3. Allow discussion of LaRouche’s policy proposals, respected worldwide, such as:
 - “• End the fighting in Iraq as detailed in ‘LaRouche Doctrine for Southwest Asia’ at: www.larouchepub.com.
 - “• End confrontation with North Korea, China, Iran and Arab nations, by a positive proposal to build their economies under the New Silk Road-Eurasian Land-Bridge plan
 - “• Return to the Democratic Party’s traditional New Deal programs of Franklin D. Roosevelt: economic justice for the forgotten man, the 80% of working Americans.”

“The world now knows there was no reason for the Bush-

Cheney invasion of Iraq,” the head of a Tokyo think-tank associated with the Diet (parliament) wrote, in a fax to the DNC signed by several noted Tokyo peace activists. “We also doubt their ‘intelligence’ against North Korea. So I was shocked to read in your ‘Report of the 2004 Democratic National Convention Committee on Platform,’ that the DNC not only supports the occupation of Iraq, but even states that North Korea is a worse danger. . . .

“Many prominent U.S. Democrats have called for an Open Democratic Convention in Boston, because they want to debate against these Bush polices. But I am deeply disappointed by reports, that no debate on the platform policy will be permitted.

“I am further distressed by reports that the Democratic Convention may even be closed to ordinary U.S. citizens, on the excuse of ‘terrorist threats.’ We have heard that student activists of Democrat Lyndon LaRouche were labelled ‘undesirable’ and barred from the Convention. Is that Democratic?

“I request deeply from my heart to your party that you are always as Democratic as the name of your party, because the Democracy of the Democratic Party USA is a model and the hope for the people of the whole world. You should not forget this fact!

“I hope Mr. Kerry will win against Bush for Peace, Human Rights and Justice in the world. Therefore, the Democratic National Committee should be first of all democratic and open-minded. So, allow LaRouche’s youth campaigners and all peaceful Democrats to participate to the discussion.”

Japan’s Voters Punish Koizumi

by Kathy Wolfe

Japanese voters punished Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in a national election on July 11, for endangering Japan’s peace constitution by his one-man decision to turn Japanese troops in Iraq over to the new multinational UN force there, and for what an *Asahi News* editorial called his “arrogance” in failing to explain his slashing of benefits for Japan’s large elderly population, and hikes in payments for pensions, under advice from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

“Voters gave a severe verdict on the Koizumi Administration,” said both the *Asahi* and *Mainichi Shimbun*, opening their editorials with almost the same sentence. “Those who used to applaud his strong-armed policy management may have worried this time that he was running out of control,” *Asahi* editorialized.

The new opposition, the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), outdid Koizumi’s long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in elections for the Upper House of the Diet—the na-

tional assembly—increasing from 38 seats to 50 geographically based seats, while the LDP fell from 50 to 49 geographical seats. The DPJ also gained sharply in nationwide “proportional” seats being contested, rising from 14 to 19, including new seats in Tokyo and other urban centers.

Koizumi, however, announced that he had not been hit hard enough to step down, because he rules in a coalition with three other parties, and that overall coalition retains a majority of 139 of the upper house’s 242 seats. “There will be no problem of responsibility, as we have a majority” he told national TV July 12. Koizumi said he will revamp his Cabinet and party leadership.

But the next shock could drive him out.

Opposition Lacks Vision

The real problem is that, as with the U.S. Democratic Party now being mismanaged by DNC chair Terry McAuliffe and John Kerry, the DPJ is a hodgepodge of groups from across the political spectrum, banded together, with no principles or new policies, for the sole purpose of trying to break the LDP’s almost 60-year hold on power.

Worrisome is the presence of former LDP boss Ichiro Ozawa, a pal of Henry Kissenger who in 2002 threatened to nuke China, and who was almost made DPJ chairman earlier this year when a pension scandal caused a shakeup.

The DPJ campaign was purely negative, failing to propose any positive solution for Iraq, other than pull out, or for the pension system or the collapsing economy.

“I think the public said ‘No’ to the pension issue and the Iraq war,” DPJ President Katsuya Okada said July 12. “We will make every effort to repeal the pension reform and call for the withdrawal of Japanese troops from Iraq,” and consider a no-confidence motion to try to topple Koizumi “whenever we have a chance.”

Also unfortunate is the election of Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka, the Harvard-trained author of a “surgery without anesthesia” IMF program to shut down chunks of Japan’s industry. Koizumi pushed Takenaka, an appointee, to run, to claim public support for his budget cuts. There was no such support, but somehow a vote for Takenaka was engineered.

“Now that the legend that Koizumi is immune to election losses has collapsed, he is sure to face difficulties,” *Nihon Keizai* concluded. “It is also uncertain whether he can stay in office until his tenure as LDP president expires in September 2006.”

But voters apparently don’t feel confident enough to let the DPJ run the country; apathy was high, and the turnout was little more than 55%. “In other words, the LDP does not appear to have a bright future ahead, and the DPJ’s future prospects are not necessarily promising either.”

“It’s not that the Democratic Party is good, but I decided not to vote for the LDP this time,” said one voter interviewed—Hiroshi Furuya, the 64-year-old owner of a construction company.