

Russian Gas Pipeline Will Promote Korean Peace

Aug. 18—After years of tension on the Korean Peninsula—tension fanned by British geopoliticians—both Russian and the U.S. (under Secretary Clinton’s direction) have intervened to cool the situation. Most importantly, Russia’s Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, told South Korean Foreign Minister Kim Sung-hwab on Aug. 17 that Russia’s Gazprom had obtained agreement from North Korea to proceed with plans for the construction of a gas pipeline through North Korea, to deliver Russian gas to energy-hungry South Korea.

Lyndon LaRouche has emphasized for many years that peace negotiations in regions subject to British “divide and conquer” conflict can only be successful, if regional cooperation on physical development projects provides the bedrock of the agreements.

Gazprom and Korea Gas will begin consultations this month on the pipeline project. The plan was originally proposed in 2008 during South Korean President Lee Myung-bak’s visit to Moscow, but has not been acted on until now, due to tensions between Seoul and Pyongyang.

Sources in South Korea told *EIR* that the interests of Russia and South Korea have come together at this

time, with the need for stabilization and development of the Korean peninsula and the Russian policy of developing the Russian Far East, intersecting North Korea’s need for economic assistance.

The sources also said that the recent revival of talks between the United States and North Korea, with South Korea’s support, indicates that the moves toward easing tensions are being coordinated between Russia and the U.S. State Department, with China always being consulted as well.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il travelled to Russia to meet with President Dmitri Medvedev on Aug. 24, discussing both the pipeline deal and possible revival of plans for an inter-Korean railway line, connecting South Korea to China and Russia through North Korea—thus completing the “Eurasian Land-Bridge from Pusan to Rotterdam.” Kim Jong-Il stopped in China on his return trip, where he briefed Chinese State Councillor Dai Bingguo, repeating his pledge to Medvedev that North Korea was ready to resume the Six-Party talks on de-nuclearization, including on abandoning their nuclear weapons programs and testing. Due to the huge investments required for the project, Russia is particularly concerned that repeated flare-ups between North and South Korea could jeopardize the entire project. On the other hand, only such region-wide infrastructure projects can provide the physical economic basis for lasting peace.

—Mike Billington