

On Eve of Asia Trip: Obama Threatens China with ‘Russia Treatment’

by Mike Billington

April 7—The Obama Administration last week took a big step toward implementing the British plan for war on China, complementing the growing British/U.S. political and military confrontation against Russia. The driving force for war is the onrushing financial collapse of the Western banking system. Obama’s planned trip to Asia, to begin April 24, is clearly intended to forge a “coalition of the willing” in Asia, ready to confront China with war if Beijing does not capitulate to “regime change” policies along its borders, and the economic looting so familiar to the developing nations, and now, to western Europe and the U.S. itself.

Open Threats

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Daniel Russel, on April 3, just days before Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel was scheduled to visit Japan and China, threatened sanctions and military action against China in a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing, comparing China’s intentions with Russian President Putin’s supposed aggressive intentions in Europe. Russel claimed that China is “increasingly threatening force or other forms of coercion to advance their territorial interests,” and warned China: “The prospect of the kind of incremental retaliatory steps that are gradually being imposed on Russia in terms of its banks, in terms of cronies and other areas, should have a chilling effect on anyone in China who might contemplate the Crimea annexation as a model.”

Russel referred to China’s territorial disputes with Japan and the Philippines, claiming that Beijing had taken “what to us appear to be intimidating steps.” He praised the Philippines for filing a case with the Arbitration Board under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), despite the fact that the rules of UNCLOS require both sides to agree to arbitration—which China adamantly refuses to do, insisting on bilateral negotiations, which the Philippines rejects, under Obama’s direction.

China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hong Lei, when asked about Russel’s comments at his daily briefing, said: “No matter whether the Ukraine issue or the South China Sea issue, China has many times expressed its position. Why must this U.S. official mention the two issues in the same breath, and obstinately say these things about China?”

At the same time, *Financial Times* associate editor Philip Stephens, wrote on April 3 that “Beyond economic strength and military prowess, one of the precious ingredients in great power relations is credibility. Allies and adversaries should know that you mean what you say. Nowhere is this truer than in east Asia. Barack Obama might bear that thought in mind when he carries the American flag around the region later this month.”

Empire spokesman Stephens makes clear that he means to urge Obama to threaten military action: “Russia’s march into Crimea has raised questions as to where the west would draw the line. Would NATO go to war over the Baltic states? Much the same is asked in east Asia: would Mr Obama fight China over a bunch of rocks in the East China Sea? The more credibly the US and its allies can answer yes to both questions, the less likely their resolve will be tested.”

These fulminations echo the war cry issued two weeks ago by another Commonwealth spokesman for war, Australia’s Hugh White, an Oxford-trained former Deputy Secretary of Defence, who wrote in the *New York Times* March 19 that China must give up even the *threat* of force, or face direct military action by the dumb giant—the United States. White called on Obama to forge a new security arrangement in the Pacific, “including the all-important norm against the use or threat of force to settle disputes. . . . America should be willing to fight China to protect that norm. . . . If China persists in threatening the use of force, then America should be willing to fight, and must say so clearly.”

Note that China has always reserved the right to use



DoD/Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo

On his visit to Asia in early April, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel publicly toed the line on Obama's confrontation with China policy. Yet, it is hoped that his close relations with JCS chief Martin Dempsey will lead to more reasonable dialogue in private talks. Shown: Hagel in Qingdao, China, April 7, with Chinese military officers.

force to protect its territory, especially in the case of a separatist movement in Taiwan, such as that which is taking place right now, with a Western NGO-backed occupation of the legislative and executive office buildings, demanding a break with China. While the executive building was cleared of demonstrators by force, the legislative offices have remained occupied, for a total of three weeks as of this writing.

Hagel Follows Up

Secretary Hagel's first stop on his April 4-7 Asian tour was Japan, where he did nothing (at least not in public) to counter the threats from Russel. Hagel encouraged the militant anti-China posturing of Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe over disputed rocks in the Sea of Japan, and repeated the provocative comparison to the Crimea situation, by assuring Japan of America's "commitment to its security, as Russia's annexation of Crimea raises eyebrows in a region facing its own territorial disputes with an increasingly assertive China."

Hagel defended the U.S. strategy to punish Russia, telling reporters (apparently suffering from amnesia regarding Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria, among others), ahead of two days of talks with Japanese leaders that, "You cannot go around the world and redefine

boundaries and violate territorial integrity and the sovereignty of nations by force, coercion or intimidation, whether it's in small islands in the Pacific or in large nations in Europe."

Hagel also announced the deployment of two more Aegis-equipped destroyers to Japan by 2017, adding to the five already there, thus further encircling China with ABM systems which facilitate a first strike under Obama's Air-Sea Battle doctrine.

Hagel held private talks in Japan before going on to China and Mongolia. It is hoped that his close relations with Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey and other competent military

commanders led him to conduct a more reasonable dialogue in those private talks, than his public statements, which echoed the insanity of his boss in the White House.

These private discussions are of extreme importance in regard to his visit to China, where Hagel arrived on April 7. While the Chinese publicly criticized Russel's statement, they have been far more reserved in regard to Hagel, emphasizing instead the importance of good military-to-military relations, within the context of President Xi Jinping's policy of forging a "new type of major power relationship" between China and the U.S., based on mutual cooperation in all areas of development and security.

Hagel began his China visit in Qingdao to attend the Western Pacific Naval Symposium, a biannual meeting of the countries that border the Pacific Ocean, and the first hosted by China. He was invited on his first day in China to tour a Chinese aircraft carrier—the first foreign defense official to do so.

Nerobama to Asia

President Obama's Asia trip will begin in Japan April 24, to be followed by South Korea, the Philippines, and Malaysia. The military alliance among the U.S., Japan, and Australia is perceived as the bedrock

of the containment and confrontation of China, both to Obama and his neoconservative allies in the Republican Party, and Obama is intent on drawing South Korea into such a suicide mission. At the Nuclear Security Summit in the Hague at the end of March, Obama corraled South Korean President Park Geun-hye into a meeting with himself and Japan's Abe—a meeting that did not go far in easing Korea's concerns about Japan's growing militarism under Abe, nor did it diminish Seoul's rejection of Obama's confrontation with China.

It is highly unlikely that Obama's visit to Seoul will be any more successful. The Park government recognizes that the only hope for a lasting solution to the division of the Korean Peninsula rests in joint development between the North and the South, and that it is precisely Russia and China that are committed to that approach, unlike the belligerent demands for sanctions and confrontation by Washington.

In the Philippines, Obama hopes to sign a new military basing agreement, allowing unrestricted U.S. military deployment of war ships, planes, weapons stockpiles, and troops across the Philippines. Despite the intense desire of Obama's clone-President in Manila, Noynoy Aquino, to turn his nation into a U.S. military base for a war on China, it is still, at this point, unlikely that the agreement can be signed during Obama's visit. The ploy by Aquino and Obama to avoid the Philippine Constitution's explicit outlawing of foreign military bases on Philippine soil, is to pretend that the U.S. bases are not U.S. bases at all, but only "visiting forces" being "rotated" in and out of Philippine military bases on a temporary basis (with no time limit at all on their duration).

However, while Aquino is facing accusations at home of bribing the Congress to falsely impeach the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in order to get his way in his criminal submission to the British/Obama war plan, *EIR* sources in the Philippines report that one of Obama's demands may scuttle the whole deal—that Filipinos must be excluded from the U.S. bases, even though they are supposedly not really U.S. bases! (This reminds Asians of the British sign outside the foreign concession in Shanghai in the 19th Century: "No dogs or Chinamen allowed.")

One concern among the patriotic Filipinos is that the U.S. would use such a restraint to bring in nuclear weapons, which is also against the Philippine Constitution.

Wooing Malaysia

As to Obama's Malaysia visit—the first by a U.S. President since Lyndon Johnson's in 1966—it is of note that Malaysia has been a staunch friend of China. But with the MH 370 airliner fiasco being blamed on the government in Kuala Lumpur, and China furious about Prime Minister Najib accepting the spurious report by the British that "proved" that the plane went down in the Indian Ocean, with no evidence, Obama's controllers are hoping they can win the country over to his anti-China campaign.

Malaysia has also refused to buckle under to Obama's Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) ploy, a free-trade pact aimed at forcing nations to sacrifice sovereign control over their economies, while also economically isolating China. Thus far, Malaysia's refusal to do either helped to undermine Obama's effort to rush the TPP into being by the end of last year—and the whole deal may now be moot. This is very much in the tradition of Malaysia's patriotic leader Dr. Mahathir Mohammad, who ruled from 1981 to 2003, and who forged the nation as an independent defender of economic and strategic sovereignty. That tradition, although weakened under subsequent governments, is still a point of pride in the nation, which Obama will find difficult to overcome.

Overall, Obama's trip represents an extreme danger of escalating the British Empire's encirclement of Russia and China with military forces and strategic destabilizations. The continuing crises in Thailand and Taiwan are directly aimed at disrupting the peaceful collaboration of the Asian nations, as is the western support for the Uighur separatist movement, despite the expanding Uighur terrorist attacks across China, sponsored by the Saudi-British Wahhabi terrorist operations.

But the trip may instead be a further blow to the failed British puppet Obama, who is now facing the prospect of impeachment within the U.S. for his multiple crimes against the population and against the Constitution. If the Asian nations reject the imperial divide-and-conquer policies of London and Washington, and proceed with the scientific development of Eurasia as their mission, then the potential for the U.S. population to do its duty and remove this tyrant from office, and restore the American System, will be much enhanced.

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