

Koreas Finish Rails and Roads; Opposition to War Talk Builds

by Kathy Wolfe

South and North Korea in late November opened new venues for peace through economic development in Eurasia, continuing brisk work on the Trans-Korean Railroads, which are the linchpin of the “Tokyo/Pusan to Paris” New Silk Road. During Nov. 28-29, the two Koreas completed most de-mining and a land survey in the central 300 yards of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), clearing the last area on either side of the military demarcation line (MDL) separating North and South. The joint surveys specified the coordinates and altitude of the places where the railways and roads will be linked, the Seoul Unification Ministry said Nov. 29. “Both sides are aiming to open the East Coast highway by Dec. 11 to Southerners travelling North for family reunions,” said a Unification Ministry official. Some Seoul reports even said track might be repaired, and the first train in 50 years might run, by the end of December.

It was the two Koreas opening the DMZ and starting reconstruction of their country on Sept. 18—not any nuclear program in the North—which provoked talk of confrontation with Pyongyang by Washington extremists in October. This minority “Utopian” wing believes the industrial potential of developing vast populations in Korea, China, along the New Silk Road into Europe, is a “threat” to their new empire, under the new U.S. National Security Doctrine. With their war drive against Iraq stalled, they seek to regain momentum by cooking up confrontation in Korea and elsewhere.

The final dramatic 300 yards’ work in the DMZ was frozen for three weeks through Nov. 28, by the refusal of the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) to allow even a narrow strip of land wide enough for a railroad, to revert to Korean sovereignty. U.S. Maj. Gen. James Soligan accused North Korea on Nov. 26 of plans to use the railroad “to move combat forces into this corridor and challenge the security of South Korea.” This nonsense was overruled by Seoul and the work resumed.

Just as LaRouche acted to contain the Iraq crisis by mobilizing the *institution* of the U.S. Presidency to proceed reasonably, he moved on Nov. 29 to expand U.S. efforts to feed North Korea (see page XX), to discredit the Utopian kooks and break the deadlock in United States-DPRK talks. LaRouche stressed that, as with Iraq, those talking war with North Korea are “chicken-hawks,” draft dodgers who have never fought a war. The President’s competent military and diplomatic advisers, he said, will support more constructive solutions.

U.S. Policy Failure

Saner voices from the Washington foreign policy establishment meanwhile made parallel warnings, that provocation of Pyongyang is only creating a foreign policy debacle for the United States. Senior North Korea expert Selig Harrison told a Dec. 3 Washington seminar that “absent a competent U.S. policy for rapprochement with North Korea, the Administration has only succeeded in shifting the balance of power inside Pyongyang, to the advantage of the nuclear hawks. . . . The policy weakens the doves, strengthens the hawks, and is a failure.”

Harrison, a former *Washington Post* Bureau Chief in Northeast Asia who, in 1972, was the first to interview former North Korean leader Kim Il-sung after the Korean War, said that hysteria over North Korea’s uranium program is absurd, since it is not news.

“North Korea never unconditionally gave up its nuclear option,” he said, but closed specifically its Yongbyon plutonium reactor in the 1994 Agreed Framework, which Harrison helped architect, in exchange for U.S. promises to end economic sanctions, normalize relations and make a pledge of non-aggression and no U.S. first strike against Pyongyang. “They shut their reactor, we got everything we wanted up front, then we broke every promise we made to them,” he said.

Harrison added that North Korean Chairman Kim Jong-il would like to work with the United States and modernize his country, but we have publicly undercut him and given the upper hand to the hawks who always said the United States would renege. This road will leave us with the choice of a nuclear-armed North Korea, or a pre-emptive strike, which will create hatred of the United States across Asia.

Harrison stressed the Dec. 2 joint statement by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin, that Washington should cease hostile posturing and come to the negotiating table, with the entire region, for peace in Korea. Showing coordination between U.S. diplomatic layers and Russia and China, Harrison proposed that the 1994 United States-DPRK Framework be expanded to include all Big Six powers in the region: Russia, China, Japan, the United States, and both Koreas. He squarely attacked the new Sept. 20 U.S. National Security Doctrine. “We have to back down off this now,” he said, and plainly withdraw the pre-emptive strike provisions, or we will be unable to negotiate with many nations. “This clearly violates Article 3 Section 1 of the 1994



A meeting of the North-South Korea Ministerial Unification Commission; and the railroad lines whose joining the Commission will oversee in December, which are critical pieces of the entire 12,000-kilometer Eurasian Land-Bridge. The western coastal "Kyongi Line" toward the Trans-China, is the one whose opening is imminent.

Accord, in which the United States pledged 'no first strike' against North Korea," Harrison pointed out.

'Who Lost Korea?' Debate

Recent warnings from Harrison, former U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Donald Gregg, and others, are reminiscent of the post-war "Who Lost China?" debate, over how China was lost to the communist bloc. This time, they warn, the United States could lose its influence in all of Korea, South and North, and all of Asia.

Numerous observers report that anti-Americanism in South Korea is exploding. Demonstrations against the cavalier November acquittal by a U.S. court, of American soldiers who killed two Korean schoolgirls in a traffic accident, began as fringe leftist actions, but grew to national proportions in the beginning of December. President Kim Dae-jung, in a major speech on Dec. 2, made the unprecedented demand for revision of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), which allows U.S. troops to operate in Korean streets outside Korean law, and warned against "rising anti-Americanism."

The seven heads of Korea's top churches and Buddhist temples, two days later, issued a joint call for SOFA revision, while pop music and sports superstars gave concerts and press conferences protesting the verdict. "At first, anti-U.S. feelings had nothing to do with me; I was unpolitical," Seoul's top female singer Lee Jeong-Hyun told a big crowd on Dec. 5. "But now, I hope the United States will come to its senses before ordinary people like me become anti-U.S. activists."

In "Reflections on Anti-American Sentiment in Korea," Ambassador Donald Gregg's *Korea Society Quarterly* maga-

FIGURE 1

North-South Korea Rail Connections



John Sigerson / EIRNS 2001

zine warns that "a new wave of anti-Americanism" is sweeping South Korea. "Eating at McDonald's or drinking Coca-Cola has become treasonous," writes Katrin Fraser, a Korea Society intern in Seoul."

The root cause, Fraser notes, is deep South Korean public anger at the way North and South Korea alike have been

treated since the January 2001 start of the Bush Administration. "Many believe that President Bush's snubbing of the Sunshine Policy at his March 2001 summit with President Kim Dae-jung had detrimental effects," she writes. "Breakdown in the North-South reconciliation process caused many Koreans to blame Bush's hard-line approach. . . . More noteworthy, however, was the response that the 'evil axis' speech provoked among the general public. Even South Koreans who normally support America's policies were annoyed, and more than half the public, when surveyed, regarded the statement as 'inappropriate.' "

As the Dec. 19 date for South Korea's presidential election approaches, this anti-American wave could change the course of South Korean politics, Selig Harrison warned Dec. 3.

North Korea 'Regime Change' Policy?

Having lost the offensive in Iraq, meanwhile, the "chicken-hawks" back in Washington are squawking ever more blindly about confronting North Korea. "All benefits to North Korea under the 1994 Agreed Framework "are about to disappear," a "senior U.S. official" told Nicholas Kravov of Reverend Moon's *Washington Times* in a prominent interview on Nov. 18. The Korean Energy Development Office (KEDO) nuclear reactor program will be shut down, and what we need now is "regime change" in North Korea, said the official.

Washington's next step "will be to abandon the light-water reactor project in Kumho," he said, the centerpiece of the 1994 Framework Agreement under which the United States, Japan, and South Korea are building "clean" electric power reactors to replace the mothballed plutonium plant. "The Japanese Diet [parliament] is not going to appropriate another yen for those things," he announced, and once South Korean President Kim Dae-jung leaves office in January, "support for this house of cards [KEDO] will collapse. . . . There won't be any light-water reactors. When the chicken stops twitching I don't know, but its head has been cut off."

"We believe this interview was given either by Deputy Defense Secretary [Paul] Wolfowitz, or by [Defense Secretary Donald] Rumsfeld himself," an angry South Korean official told *EIR*. "Mr. Rumsfeld and his aide Wolfowitz have made it very clear that they want 'regime change.' Mr. Rumsfeld has said publicly that nothing today's government in Pyongyang does, could show that they have shut down their weapons programs, since they lie all the time. To his mind, therefore, only 'regime change' in North Korea is acceptable—despite the fact" that President Bush has said he is against it.

The South Korean official pointed out a Nov. 19 *Wall Street Journal* editorial entitled "No More Carrots for North Korea," which states that the suspension of oil shipments, announced by KEDO on Nov. 14, is "a first step toward putting in place a new policy for containing—and ultimately

toppling—Kim Jong-il's evil regime." The *Journal* reported that "the Department of Energy has quietly suspended the transfer of American nuclear know-how" to North Korea already, and "without this, the reactors can never become anything more than two empty concrete shells.

"That is only the first stage in formulating a new U.S. policy toward North Korea," the *Journal* continued. Next, the United States should demand that South Korea, Japan, and Europe join a total embargo on trade and investment and a ban on remittances to the North from offshore Koreans—including the \$2 billion a year sent to North Korea by the more than 2 million Korean residents of Japan. "With U.S. leadership, Seoul and Tokyo would likely go along," in a plan to strangle and topple the Kim Jong-il government in Pyongyang, the *Journal* editors conclude. We need "a coherent strategy for ending the nuclear threat by removing those responsible for it and freeing North Korea's enslaved population from the world's most brutal regime."

A President's Warning

The "senior American official" who spoke to the *Washington Times*' Kravov, said that the United States is well aware that the collapse of KEDO, and sanctions, will push North Korea to restart its Yongbyon plutonium reactor. He welcomed the confrontation, saying that this move will "put the North in such variance with everybody else in the world, that I think we would have nearly total support for a policy of isolation" and a push to topple the government in Pyongyang.

South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, for his part, came out in public against the whole nasty scheme on Nov. 18. Kim told a Seoul luncheon that economic sanctions would not force North Korea to give up its nuclear program, but would force the North to restart the process of creating plutonium to build nuclear bombs, and "lead to another war on the Korean peninsula," the *Korea Times* reported on Nov. 19. The lead article was entitled "Sanctions on NK Will Not Help, President Says."

"In another scenario, the North Korean economy could simply collapse, not being able to bear the impact of economic sanctions," President Kim said. "This would trigger an exodus of millions of North Koreans to South Korea. Economic sanctions are not a cure-all. We are offering the North a way out of its current crisis in return for a promise to abandon its nuclear program." Regarding U.S. President Bush's Nov. 15 statement promising the North "a different future," Kim said it was made in response to Pyongyang's demand for a bilateral non-aggression treaty.

"I closely coordinate with President Bush and Japan—but we are responsible for our own fate. We will say whatever we feel is necessary," Kim said, implying that South Korea will continue to work closely with its allies, but maintain its stand on the resolution of the looming nuclear crisis. Kim urged the North to respond quickly, saying, "Time is running out."