

Six-Power Korea Talks Hem In Cheney Neo-Cons—For Now

by Kathy Wolfe

The United States, Japan, North and South Korea, China, and Russia agreed to “keep talking” at the end of their Aug. 27-29 Six-Power talks in Beijing on North Korea’s nuclear program, as China said in a final statement read to all participants. While the U.S. delegation continued to insist on unilateral North Korean disarmament before Washington could reciprocate, and North Korea apparently said it might test a nuclear device if pushed, all parties agreed that the Six-Power forum has been established as the prime venue. The statement agreed to resolve issues peacefully; to avoid actions which may aggravate the situation; to continue talks as soon as possible; and that North Korea’s security concerns “should be taken into consideration.”

Boasts by Bush officials that the talks created a united front against North Korea among the other five parties are, however, a joke. In fact, the Six-Power talks were orchestrated by the five North Asian regional powers, led by Russia and China, to contain the neo-conservative faction in Washington led by Vice President Richard Cheney, which is pushing for a military “first strike” against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (D.P.R.K.). “We are America’s ally, but there is not one country in this region which will tolerate unilateral American military action in Korea,” a Japanese diplomat told *EIR*. Russian negotiator Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov has warned that any such action would escalate to nuclear war.

During Sept. 1-9, South Korean Foreign Minister Yoon Young-kwan and officials of all six powers held a round of global diplomacy aimed at further icing out any talk of military adventure. After talks in Washington on Sept. 4 with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, Yoon was taken personally by Powell to see President Bush at the White House, the first time in a decade that a South Korean foreign minister was so received. Yoon and Powell emerged smiling to say that “President Bush has a firm belief in the importance of the six-party talks,” as Yoon put it. “Bush threw his weight behind the pro-dialogue forces in Washington, who have been waging a battle against advocates of tougher measures against Pyongyang,” Yoon said.

“All we are interested in, is playing for time, to prevent a war in Korea, between now and the end of the Bush Administration,” as one top Russian expert told *EIR*. “We just want

to get to 2005 without a war. To this, we are committed at all costs.”

The Six-Power talks were formally proposed on April 10 in Seoul, when Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said after consultation with South Korean Foreign Minister Yoon and others, that “Russia is willing to take part in a ‘cross-guarantee’ of the North Korean regime” among the six parties, the first time any nuclear power has made that offer. It was soon seconded by China. *EIR* Founding Editor Lyndon LaRouche has proposed this format for years (see, for example, *EIR*, April 25, 2003).

The talks represent progress, LaRouche said on Sept. 8, but warned that “the idea of keeping a ‘status quo’ with the inmates of a lunatic asylum, such as Cheney, *is a delusion*.” Yes, he said, the talks should proceed, and the neo-cons must be contained from creating a nuclear conflagration in Korea, which would quickly engulf Seoul and Tokyo. But that is not enough. No matter how much pressure there is from the other five powers, even from rational American thinkers, he warned, it won’t suffice. Cheney and his neo-cons must be removed.

“You can not keep such people in a holding pattern for long,” LaRouche warned. “Try it, and you risk war. No matter how rational the other participants are, Cheney is likely to lash out with some insane act. Cheney and his worst people are like Hitler. You can’t contain a Hitler! You’ve got to remove him. Psychotics like that don’t believe in rational policy constraints.” While it may be frightening to look into Cheney’s eyes, one must not be blinded by fear to this reality, he warned.

What is required now, LaRouche advised, as in all great diplomacy in history, is to create new flanks and to actually *destabilize the status quo*. Creative new ways of provoking Bush to remove Cheney and Co. are needed. Also urgent are creative new policy alternatives for economic cooperation projects to build up the physical economy of North Asia on the ground.

LaRouche urged the most rapid possible completion of the Trans-Korean Railway, on which trains are finally supposed to run by the end of this year, but which is being held up by gaps in the track on the North Korean side. Get the South Korean and other regional engineers in there, do the

work, complete the track, and run the trains, he said. Make clear that North Korea is being integrated into the entire Eurasian Land-Bridge from Pusan to Paris. Take away all their excuses for trying to isolate North Korea and take it out.

End the Korean War

South Korea and Russia, in early September, did open an important flank, renewing their Aug. 27-29 proposal in Beijing to develop the Six-Power talks into a permanent “international consultative body” to finally end the Korean War. Today, there is only a cease-fire, with the guns put down temporarily in 1953 still ready to fire at any moment. On KBS TV Sept. 1, South Korean Minister Yoon said that the Six-Power talks had brought together the two Koreas’ four major neighbors for the first time since World War II, and that they should explore a peace treaty, to establish a reasonable basis for peace.

This is no mere dreaming; in fact, it is the “status quo” of the 50-year cease-fire which is insane, and should be resolved. Even sane American diplomats are calling for a final treaty. The United States Institute for Peace (USIP), founded and funded by Congress and affiliated with the State Department, on May 16 issued just such a reasonable plan, in a report entitled “A Comprehensive Resolution of the Korean War.”

“Our concept here is that the fundamental cause of all the problems on the Korean peninsula, is the lack of any resolution to the 1950-53 Korean War,” author and USIP Deputy Director of Research William Drennan said in making the report public. It is absurd, he pointed out, that after all these years, we still have nothing but the cease-fire which occurred 50 years ago on May 16, 1953. No treaty has ever been signed in all these years, and fighting could break out at any time. “As long as North Korea, not to mention South Korea, and all their neighbors, feel threatened with imminent war, naturally the situation will tend to deteriorate,” he said.

Seoul, Tokyo, Moscow, Beijing, and Pyongyang are also pressing forward on building up the region’s physical economic cooperation. Russian Presidential envoy to the Far East Konstantin Pulikovsky was in North Korea on Sept. 8-11, delivering a letter from President Vladimir Putin to North Korean leader Kim Jong-il, proposing a summit soon. Pulikovsky discussed a plan to send electricity to North Korea from a hydroelectric plant in Russia’s Far East Amur province, just opened this Summer to relieve power shortages in Siberia. Moscow’s initiative to link the North Korean and Siberian railways was also discussed.

South Korea and Russia will meanwhile sign a debt rescheduling plan on Sept. 17, under which Seoul will write off \$660 million in loans to Moscow so that Russia can make an equivalent investment to upgrade the older rail lines of North Korea, Yonhap reported.

Kyodo News reported that the Six Powers, including Washington, are trying to organize the next round of talks in Beijing for late October or early November.

Proving LaRouche’s point that the Cheney group is insane, however, U.S. Undersecretary of State John Bolton told a press conference in Paris on Sept. 4 that North Korea is a belligerent in the war on terror. Washington and its allies, he said, thus plan to start intercepting ships suspected of carrying “weapons of mass destruction” (WMD)—that is, a policy of piracy on the high seas meant to provoke conflict. Bolton’s push came despite a warning from Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan, that the move could be illegal and China won’t participate. The United States, Australia, Japan, and France will proceed with naval exercises on Sept. 13-15 in the Western Pacific to simulate interceptions, Australian Premier John Howard said on Sept. 10.

In Seoul, agents for the neo-cons are trying to disintegrate the government of President Roh Moo-hyun, to paralyze the Korean power behind the “New Silk Road.” Since the Aug. 4 suicide of Hyundai Asan Chairman Chung Mong-hun, chief negotiator with Pyongyang on economic cooperation projects, prosecutors in Seoul linked to the Cheney crowd at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) have intensified their witch-hunt. Daily, they are arresting more of the architects of détente with the North under former President Kim Dae-jung, on the absurd charge of bribing North Korea to buy Kim’s Nobel Prize.

Prosecutors are seeking to broaden the probe to President Roh’s circles—who were nowhere near the government when the alleged events took place. On Aug. 11, prosecutors arrested Kwon Roh-kap, top adviser to Roh’s ruling Millennium Democratic Party (MDP), saying that “crucial evidence” was obtained in questioning Hyundai’s Chung.

Roh’s ratings have collapsed in the polls ever since he visited President Bush in May and failed to extract a pledge that Washington would not militarily strike North Korea. Bush’s slap in the face is widely seen in Seoul as Roh’s failure, however unfairly. South Koreans under 40 are increasingly anti-American as a result of the insult, while those over 50, who remember the Korean War, are siding with Bush, all of which is polarizing the nation into paralysis. Seoul newspapers are asking when Roh—not yet in office six months—will resign.

On Sept. 5, the National Assembly, where the AEI-run opposition Grand National Party has a majority, voted to remove President Roh’s Home Minister Kim Doo-kwan, who has been trying to restrain the prosecutors. If the Minister, a Roh loyalist, is removed, no one in Korea is safe from arrest. Roh has refused, causing a constitutional crisis.

Apparently fearful of being smeared with guilt by association, a group of Roh supporters is even trying to split up Roh’s ruling MDP and form a new party, to throw the older allies of Kim Dae-jung to the wolves. This sort of panic could get them all arrested, LaRouche said on Sept. 8. It is time for patriots in Korea to stop the in-fighting, expose the prosecutions as a Cheney “black operation,” and call for national unity around building the New Silk Road.