

Japanese Revolt Against Carter And Fukuda's China Policy

JAPAN

After highly successful Japanese-Soviet talks on the economic development of Siberia last week in Tokyo, a revolt has broken out in Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) against Japanese Premier Takeo Fukuda's plan to push Japan into an anti-Soviet peace treaty with China.

Fukuda, a political henchman of the Rockefeller financial circles, has made a series of overtures to Peking in the past two months including the dispatch of two Japanese military missions to China, as part of the overall Rockefeller-puppet Carter policy for a Japan-China "Second Front" against the Soviets. The alliance is to be concluded by a Japan-China peace treaty which would incorporate a statement denouncing the Soviet Union's "hegemonistic" desires.

Fukuda is determined to sign that treaty this summer.

Fukuda's game is now being upset by Soviet efforts to patch up Japanese-Soviet relations which had deteriorated badly during a recent protracted dispute over fishing rights between the two nations. But, many conservative leaders, including a leader of the "new right" Serankai grouping inside the LDP, are now saying that the fishing dispute was largely caused by Fukuda's overtures to the Chinese.

Last week's economic cooperation talks with Japanese business leaders were conducted by Soviet Deputy Trade Minister Patolichev. Then, in an interview in Japan's leading newspaper, the *Asahi Shimbun*, Brezhnev proposed improving relations on the basis of cooperation in areas of mutual interest. He proposed that the two countries conclude peace treaty as soon as possible, or if still unresolved territorial disputes prevent that, an initial treaty of friendship and cooperation.

In response, Fukuda was forced to announce that his Labor Minister, Hirohide Ishida, head of the Dietman's League for Japan-Soviet Friendship, and a staunch ally of the anti-Fukuda former premier, Takeo Miki, will go

Brezhnev Proposes Preliminary 'Good Neighbor' Treaty With Japan

The following are portions of an interview with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev printed last week by Japan's leading newspaper, the Asahi Shimbun, and reprinted June 7 in the Soviet party paper Pravda.

Q: During (then premier) Tanaka's visit to the Soviet Union, it was recognized that the dispute over the northern territories between our countries is unsolved. Has not the position that the Soviet Union has taken on this recently, been a departure from agreements that were reached?

A: We recall very well the talks that took place with Japanese leaders at that time....As you recall, in the joint Soviet-Japanese statement of October 10, 1973 agreement was reached to continue talks on a peace treaty. The Soviet Union is ready — if, of course, the Japanese side does not put forward unacceptable conditions — to take this matter, which is important for our countries, to its conclusion....It is known that peace treaties, as a rule, encompass a broad complex of questions, including

that of border-lines. This also concerns the Soviet-Japanese peace treaty. But to say that in relations between our countries there are some kind of 'unsettled territorial problems' is a onesided and inaccurate interpretation.

...If we understand things correctly, Japan is not yet ready to conclude a peace treaty. Taking this into account, we have proposed, while not ceasing negotiations on the peace treaty, to exchange opinions and sign a treaty on good-neighborliness and cooperation, which would encompass those areas of our relations which have matured sufficiently that they can be placed on a firm treaty basis....

We called our proposal a treaty on good-neighborliness and cooperation. In the final analysis it is not a question of names, but of the content. We are prepared to also review possible initiatives from the Japanese side in this direction. It is important that such a bilateral state document serve the goals of establishing genuinely good relations between our countries....

to Moscow in June for "unofficial" talks with Soviet leaders. Ishida will discuss Japan-Soviet economic cooperation in Siberia, as well as ways to re-start talks on a Tokyo-Moscow Peace Treaty.

The LDP Revolt

Inside the ruling LDP, a revolt is breaking out against Fukuda's overtures to the Chinese. The leaders of the revolt are LDP party elder and powerbroker Etsuaburo Shiina, and LDP faction leader Yasuhiro Nakasone. Both these men, who have enormous influence in the conservative and business community, and a long record of encouraging Japan-Soviet economic cooperation have previously been divided on LDP politics internally.

Nakasone was former premier Miki's ally against Fukuda's eventually successful takeover from Miki, while Shiina was bitterly opposed to both Miki and Fukuda. But Shiina and Nakasone met last week for the first time in six months, and publicly agreed that the government should "go slow" on the China treaty. Nakasone and Shiina have the strong support of Japan's business community, including the leadership of Nippon Steel, the world's largest steel corporation, whose chairman was in East Germany last week where he met with Erik Honnecker, the head of that country's ruling party, SED.

Fukuda's Dilemma

Fukuda is especially vulnerable to pressure from Shiina and Nakasone, since he wants to enter the upcoming Upper House elections this July with a united LDP behind him. He will face a strong political challenge from former premier Miki if the LDP, as is now generally expected, does poorly in the vote. Fukuda has been trying to woo Nakasone in particular into his camp with promises of a cabinet post.

Fukuda's political base inside the LDP centers around the "Taiwan-Korea" lobby, still under the heavy influence of former premier Nobusuke Kishi — a top hawk ally of the Rockefeller, and Fukuda's political mentor. That lobby, of course dislikes his China policy. On June 8, Fukuda met with Kishi, Shiina and leading pro-Taiwan hardliners Naka Funada and Mitsujiri Ishii, and pledged that he would be "more prudent in promoting negotiations with the Chinese" on the peace treaty, according to the *Daily Yomiuri*.

Former premier Kishi stressed that the United States itself has yet to decide its policy towards China, and that Japan should not do anything "rash".

The pro-Rockefeller hawks, according to a Washington-based think-tanker, also fear that if a U.S.-China-Japan pact were formed, the Chinese would try to weaken the "special" relationship Japan enjoys with the U.S. in favor of a more Peking-oriented U.S. policy. Kishi knows that Nakasone and Shiina both have great influence in the "Taiwan-Korea" lobby themselves. Should Kishi-ally Fukuda attempt to force through a pact with the Chinese, the pro-U.S. "hawks" around Kishi could rapidly lose control over the lobby.

Nakasone and Shiina's "go slow" policy towards China is being strongly supported by the governments of Taiwan and South Korea, both of whom are increasing overtures to the Soviet Union to improve relations; this increases Nakasone and Shiina's leverage in Japan.

Miki's Role

Fukuda, to break-up the threatened Miki-Nakasone alliance against him, has attempted to use the fact that former premier Miki has himself fought for closer Japanese-Chinese ties in the past against the "Taiwan" lobby. Fukuda has decided on Shoji Sato, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and a leading Miki supporter, as Japan's new envoy to China. Both Miki and Nakasone however are unlikely to fall for the ploy.

The Carter government itself is now a major factor in Japan's growing rapprochement with the Soviets. Carter's threat to cut off U.S. supplies of enriched uranium, should Japan go ahead with plans to open a uranium reprocessing plant this summer, has forced the Japanese to seriously consider accepting offers of enriched uranium from the Soviet Union.

Japan's rage at the U.S. was evident in a speech that Japan's Science and Technology Agency head Susuke Uno gave to the Foreign Correspondents Club in Tokyo. Uno, a political ally of Nakasone, warned that Carter policy "greatly mars friendly relations" between the two nations. The *Baltimore Sun* in reporting Uno's speech, mentions the Soviet uranium offer and then adds its own State Department-authored threat: if Japan ever took Soviet uranium, the U.S. would abolish its military security treaty with Japan!