

International Intelligence

Japanese more critical of U.S. role in Gulf

Japanese business influentials and Middle East experts are increasingly vocal in their opposition to Bush administration policy in the Persian Gulf.

On Dec. 11, the editorial in the *Japan Economic Journal* pointed out politely, but unmistakably: "There is no doubt that the massive deployment of U.S. troops in the Middle East, claimed to be the largest in the post-World War II period, reflects the country's own sense of justice and mission. This doesn't necessarily mean that such military deployment has been an appropriate response to the crisis."

The *International Herald Tribune* on Dec. 12 reported that despite Japanese official support for U.S. actions in the Gulf, the private consensus is fear and concern that the U.S. is overlooking the possibilities for compromise with Iraq.

Kazuo Nukuzawa, managing director of Keidanren, the largest and most influential business trade association in Japan, states: "The sentiment of business leaders is that the United States shouldn't be holding a gun to the head of Saddam Hussein. There are a lot of other ways to influence his behavior." The newspaper notes that "in Japan, the activities of big trading and industrial companies are often more influential than what the prime minister says or does, and the indications are that their concerns about the economic effects of war are rising."

According to Foreign Ministry official Yukio Okamoto, the view of business people in Japan is that the Arabs should be left to make a deal among themselves, and "so what if Saddam Hussein gets hold of the oil fields? He has to sell his oil somewhere."

One energy company owner who is close to President Kaifu says: "It would be best if some sort of inter-Arab solution were to be found, giving Saddam some concessions on territory or oil prices or freedom of waterways."

Shigeki Koyama, president of the Japanese Institute of Middle East Economics,

is also critical: "The American method of taking short cuts, behaving in an impatient way and pushing for direct reaction is making more and more people worry. People are beginning to feel that more calm, realistic measures are necessary."

Lithuania's Landsbergis rips moral capitulation

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, a music teacher before his rise to political power during the recent democratic upsurges in Eastern Europe, gave an interview to the *Lithuanian Review* last May, describing the disaster that afflicts a nation when people accommodate themselves morally to the evil around them.

When asked about the spiritual and cultural destruction wrought in Lithuania by the many years of Soviet occupation, Landsbergis said, "It's hard to believe how bad things are there, until you read the statistics or hear the stories about how people in these broken communities are committing suicide. All these young men. . . . It seems unimaginable—people with their entire lives ahead of them, who could change something. But they drink, they kill themselves. It's . . . every day, like lemmings. And this has become very visible, and increasing, no longer stoppable by education or cultural means, a flood of evil.

"This was one of the reasons for the creation of Sajudis [the democracy movement], one of the reasons we realized that we had no choice, that waiting longer was impossible, regardless of whether someone else would come to our aid or not, regardless of whether someone would liquidate us next month or would let us speak out until we passed a certain limit, and would then liquidate us. The limit approaches, we cross it, and then see whether we will be liquidated or not. We have not been liquidated yet. But it is not possible for us to waver, to think—perhaps we should not go on, perhaps we should wait. We have nothing to wait for.

"I cannot imagine how one can live without a sense of responsibility for one's children and grandchildren. . . . What—you have a salary, enough to get by on, you finally have an apartment, and if you're careful to keep out of trouble, you can live out your days in contentment . . . while everything around you is heading for disaster: There is no future for your grandchildren, but you still have some time for yourself. . . .?"

Serbian communist wins big election victory

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic has won a big victory in the first multi-candidate elections in Serbia since before World War II, which were held on Dec. 9. Serbia is the most powerful republic in Yugoslavia.

With about half the vote counted, Serbian chauvinist Milosevic had some 64% of the vote, beating by a wide margin his anti-communist, but equally Serbian chauvinist opponent, Vuk Draskovic of the Serbian Renewal Party.

The vote is being widely played up as giving Milosevic a mandate to commence confrontation against the three republics of Yugoslavia lying to the west of Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia, and Slovenia. Milosevic has declared that should any of these republics renounce the current federation and move to declare an independent status in a confederation, then Serbia will respond by territorial annexations, creating a Greater Serbia.

On Dec. 23, a referendum will be held in Slovenia, which is expected to proclaim Slovenia as an independent state, wishing to be very loosely affiliated with a future Yugoslav League of Independent States.

Milosevic, who is also the head of the Serbian communist party, is a longtime friend of U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, according to a profile in the *Financial Times*. Eagleburger was formerly president of Kissinger Associates, Inc.

The two met while Milosevic was an

official of the state-run bank Beobanka and Eagleburger was U.S. ambassador, and Milosevic cultivated the friendship during frequent trips to the United States. When Milosevic began agitating against the Albanians in Kosovo, Eagleburger defended him, and accused the Western media of exaggerating the havoc Milosevic was causing.

Israel's 'final solution' for Palestinian problem

Israeli leaders are demanding the wholesale deportation of Palestinians from Israel, at the same time as officially authorizing Army snipers to ambush and assassinate Palestinians "caught throwing stones."

Minister of Science and Technology Yuval Ne'eman, in a Dec. 9 radio interview, called for the expulsion of the 1.6 million Palestinians residing in the occupied territories. "I would like to meet someone who can tell me how we are objectively supposed to provide for the livelihood of 500,000 refugees in the Gaza Strip. . . . If someone wants them to be our manual laborers in Tel Aviv, that is another story, but the real solution . . . is the relocation of the Arab refugees of the 40 years since the establishment of Israel in 1948, in the Arab countries."

Ne'eman was quoted in the newspaper *Ha'aretz* the same day, saying that the Palestinian uprising "will force the Israeli Arabs into the same situation as that which developed in 1948 when the Arabs tried to foil the establishment of the state of Israel and, as a result, 700,000 of them became refugees."

On Dec. 7, *Ha'aretz* reported that a draft deportation plan has been approved by the cabinet.

Then on Dec. 13, Israeli Chief of Staff Dan Shomron announced to a Knesset (Parliament) committee the new policy authorizing Army sharpshooters to ambush "stone throwers," to "surprise them when they least expect it." Parliamentarian Yossi Sarid commented that "placing snipers at a distance to

shoot like hunters at wild geese, when self-defense is not an issue, is very questionable from the legal standpoint," and would have "monstrous" implications.

Endara uses tear gas on demonstrators in Panama

The U.S.-installed Panamanian government of Guillermo "Porky" Endara ordered tear gas used against protesters who took to the streets on Dec. 12 and vowed to continue demonstrations at least until Dec. 20, the first anniversary of the U.S. invasion. The several days of demonstrations, involving thousands of people, were led by the labor unions, protesting the illegal firings of hundreds of their members by the puppet government, to punish the workers for taking part in a 100,000-person march against the government that was held on Dec. 4.

The day after that march, U.S. combat soldiers were deployed again into the streets of Panama to put down an uprising of the police force, led by renegade Col. Eduardo Herrera.

The government has gone ahead with the dismissals, although Panama's Constitution protects the freedom of speech and assembly, and despite the fact that the workers staged their protest after working hours. A bill to legalize the dismissals after the fact, was submitted to the legislature, which approved it after a second reading, despite the fact that the Constitution also bars retroactive legislation.

This caused workers to hold a rally on Dec. 12 in front of the U.S. embassy and then to march to the Legislative Palace. Anti-riot police refused to stop the demonstrations that day, and instead joined the protesters, who were shouting, "You are part of the people!" But the next day, police used tear gas against the demonstrators when they showed up at the Assembly, wounding 18. The demonstrations continued on Dec. 14 and Dec. 17, when the workers were joined by their families.

● **THE SENIOR EDITOR** of the German weekly *Der Spiegel* worked for the Stasi, the East German secret service, for 30 years, according to testimony by three ex-Stasi officers. They charge that Diethelm Schroeder is the agent with the cover name "Schrammel" whom the Stasi planted in West Germany in the late 1950s. *Der Spiegel* has played a major role in slandering Lyndon LaRouche and his associates in Germany.

● **GERMAN POLICE** raided the offices of Oliver North's former Stasi business partner Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski, in a concerted operation in 15 cities on Dec. 4, on charges of money laundering and illegal transfer of funds of the communist party of former East Germany.

● **THE EUROPEAN** Community resolved to lift economic sanctions against South Africa honoring the efforts of President Willem de Klerk to promote racial reconciliation. The decision was made at the Rome EC summit meeting.

● **AFRICAN** National Congress President Oliver Tambo has called for a review of the sanctions against South Africa. "We should carefully re-evaluate the advisability of insisting on the retention of sanctions, given the situation domestically and abroad," he told an ANC conference.

● **THE PERMANENT** Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPAL) condemned the U.S. invasion of Panama, in a statement released in Peru on Dec. 7. It declared that the U.S. "aggression injured . . . Latin America's sovereignty and integrity. . . . The President of the United States' recent tour to some Latin American countries has been invalidated." COPPAL is dominated by parties affiliated with the Socialist International.