

## China Report by Michael O. Billington

### The West rehabilitates Li Peng

*Deng Xiaoping reappeared, seeking more foreign concessions, while Li Peng pledged China to the new world order.*

After a year of isolation from any public appearance (and regular rumors of his failing health), the People's Republic of China's 87-year-old strong-man, Deng Xiaoping, reappeared for a two-week tour of the Special Economic Zones across from Hong Kong and Macao, and the new Free Trade Zone being constructed in Shanghai. While Deng holds no official position, his leadership is unquestioned as long as he is alive. Demonstrating his mere existence in this way is a political message to the West and to his opponents, that the new round of accelerated free trade reforms will continue, despite the continuing breakdown of basic industry and massive unemployment.

Meanwhile, Deng's fellow hit-man from the Tiananmen Square massacre, Prime Minister Li Peng, spent the same two weeks visiting Europe and the U.N. Li was granted private meetings with President Bush and British Prime Minister John Major. Despite *pro forma* complaints by the Anglo-American leaders over China's tyrannical police state, and Li's equally *pro forma* protests over the West's disregard for the national sovereignty of Third World nations, the meetings effectively established China's position as a junior partner in the Anglo-American genocidal "new world order."

The special meeting of the heads of state of the U.N. Security Council members on Jan. 31, which provided the excuse for the meeting between Bush and Li, pushed forward the transformation of the U.N. into an enforcement arm of the new world or-

der, prepared to deploy military and other operations against any opposition to their dictates. Li pledged that China would "give support to a greater role of the United Nations in maintaining peace and promoting development in the world."

Li had spoken the day before at the opening session of the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland. He said that China would "accelerate the pace" of the free market reform measures, and expand the free market areas, with special emphasis on the transformation of Shanghai back to its 19th-century status as the financial playground for foreign colonial powers. This was warmly received by the western banking establishment, which is desperate to extract as much loot as possible, through raw materials and cheap labor process industries, to prop up the rapidly collapsing financial system in the West.

Showing their open support for dictatorship and tyranny as a means to enforce "free trade," the elite of the Anglo-American financial establishment "rehabilitated" Li Peng at a private meeting sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations and others in New York on Feb. 1. Attending the meeting were David Rockefeller, Maurice Greenberg, and former World Bank head Barber Conable, among others. The Feb. 3 *New York Times* reported that "participants said they had seen a new side of Mr. Li . . . thoughtful and open minded." They were "impressed with Mr. Li personally, and more sympathetic to his government's position that the need for

stability in an overpopulated and poor country overrides its ability to guarantee political rights to all." One businessman, speaking anonymously, told the *Times*: "The image of Li Peng as some sort of a monster is an unfair caricature. He listened, he responded, he even showed a sense of humor."

During the same week, the Chinese joined for the first time in the Middle East peace talks, sending a delegation to the Moscow round. This was a *quid pro quo* for establishing official relations with Israel.

The Chinese press is holding up this diplomatic collaboration with the West as proof of the success and stability of the bloody dictatorship. But neither the approval from a U.S. President who is increasingly seen as a mentally deranged failure, nor Deng's grandstanding on "foreign concessions," will reverse the collapse of the real Chinese economy, and with it the livelihood of the majority of the population. In fact, the most likely reason for Deng's trip is to consolidate forces against the emerging opposition to his failed policies.

In January, Yao Yilin, part of the old-line Marxist faction, released a report exposing the economic disaster sweeping every part of the economy except the free trade zones, which produce virtually nothing of substance for the domestic economy. Meanwhile, leaders of the All China Federation of Trade Unions are touring the country trying to passify the tens of thousands of industrial workers who are being laid off or victimized by wage cuts as high as 40%. The unemployed "blind flow" is now estimated by some at close to 200 million. The regime has sped up the execution rate to terrify those who resist or who have turned to crime. The newly released U.S. government Human Rights Report estimated that there were 6,000 executions in China in 1991.