

Shelton, GOP threaten strike against N. Korea

by Our Special Correspondent

A preemptive U.S., or U.S.-led Japanese strike against suspected North Korean plutonium sites could soon start a “nuclear Vietnam,” if the London-run geopoliticians of the Principals Committee of Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of Defense William Cohen, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry H. Shelton get their way, an *EIR* investigation shows. Asia specialists are openly worried about a coup against President Clinton’s policy there.

On March 1, House GOP leaders, led by House International Relations Committee Chairman Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.) and Chris Cox (R-Calif.), working with the Cohen-Shelton faction in the Pentagon, ripped up President Clinton’s 1994 Framework Accord peace treaty with North Korea. The GOP did this with knowledge that the knee-jerk reaction of Pyongyang will be to restart plutonium production at its antiquated Yongbyon facility, which touched off the 1993-94 crisis that came close to regional war.

“If North Korea wants to say that we’ve cut off the funding, and therefore they can go ahead and restart plutonium production at Yongbyon, they can do so—at their own peril,” Gilman’s chief Asia aide told a journalist March 2.

The aide explained that Gilman’s committee and the House Appropriations Committee used intelligence from the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and CIA to kill the Clinton North Korea accord, by cutting off all U.S. funds already provided by a previous Congress under the agreement. Last fall’s House Appropriations bill, he confirmed, forbids any funds to the treaty this year unless President Clinton can “certify” that North Korea is complying with all U.S. requests to disarm (see *EIR*, Jan. 1, p. 45). “Under last fall’s Appropriations bill, North Korea will simply get nothing until Clinton can certify North Korea ‘has taken demonstrable steps on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula,’ and that the United States ‘has reached agreement with North Korea on satisfying U.S. concerns regarding suspect underground construction.’ Obviously, Clinton can’t certify that now,” the aide said.

The aide revealed that Gilman, DIA head Gen. Patrick Hughes, Robert Walpole, “and others at CIA, and the intelligence community,” have spelled out demands for “certification.” “It’s all laid out in a highly classified letter from Congressman Gilman to Clinton’s Korea negotiator William Perry,” he said.

The Gilman letter demands Iraq-style intrusive inspections, not only of the Yongbyon reactor site specified in the 1994 accord, where UN officials are already stationed, but of “multiple sites” identified in the classified letter. “These must be on-demand, short-term-notice inspections . . . at-will” anywhere in North Korea, the aide said.

Confronted with the fact that the North Koreans, who did not just lose a war as did Iraq, will never agree to intrusive inspections, the aide replied, “That’s not our problem. Then we just walk away—the agreement with North Korea is over.” The aide said that under the House legislation passed last fall, the United States provided North Korea with \$12 million in 1998, but zero this calendar year.

Intense North Korean-U.S. negotiations at the UN were ongoing Feb. 27-March 11 on adding the single new nuclear site of Kumchang-ri to the U.S. inspection list, but were inconclusive as of this writing.

The threat to the U.S. mainland

On Feb. 25, Gilman stated at a House International Relations Committee hearing that North Korea’s “nuclear proliferation” sites pose an immediate threat to the United States itself. “Last August, North Korea tested a long-range missile over U.S. troops and over our allies in Japan. We now estimate that North Korea can deliver a warhead against the United States. For 40 years, North Korea posed a threat to 37,000 American troops and to the South Korean capital of Seoul. Now they are threatening the mainland,” Gilman said.

“In short, we now must worry about our own safety, in Seattle, not just Seoul,” Gilman concluded.

“The source” for Gilman’s statement “was Robert Walpole, CIA National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Systems,” Gilman’s aide said. “That’s the CIA’s official conclusion, and this means North Korea can do it now.”

Japanese Defense Agency (JDA) chief Hosei Norota spoke on March 3 “of the possibility of a preemptive attack [by Japan] against foreign bases used to launch an assault against Japan,” Tokyo’s *Nihon Kezai Shimbun* (or *Nikkei*) newspaper reported on March 5. “Political observers believe the statement was directed at North Korea,” the paper said.

A JDA official told *Nikkei* on March 5 that North Korea had deployed a new series of Nodong missiles near its border with China. “This means nearly the whole of the Japanese archipelago is within range” of a North Korean strike, the Japanese official told *Nikkei*.

Coup against the President

Yet, Japan has no military spy satellites or related intelligence capabilities—nor does Gilman. From Tokyo, again came the refrain: “The information is based on images provided by U.S. military intelligence satellites,” the JDA official told *Nikkei*.

Numerous GOP Congressional aides report that their offices and the media are receiving a stream of satellite and

other classified intelligence output from the Cohen-Shelton crowd at the DIA and related Pentagon offices, and from CIA co-thinkers, showing a massed buildup by North Korea of dozens of missile launch sites and nuclear proliferation plants.

If the GOP treaty abrogation, which has been completely covered up by the media, provokes Pyongyang to reopen the Yongbyon reactor as predicted, the press will go into a frenzy, demanding a strike on North Korea.

Worried Korea analysts such as Clinton adviser Selig Harrison and longtime State Department North Korean Affairs chief Kenneth Quinones charge that these Pentagon hard-liners “have apparently decided to win the argument and scare the American public into changing policy toward North Korea, by leaking secret imagery intelligence to the American press,” as Quinones wrote recently.

What we have here is nothing short of a “coup threat” by Shelton, Cohen, DIA chief Hughes, and a related network allied to the GOP hard-liners, to take over Asia policy from President Clinton, a senior U.S. Asia analyst told *EIR* on March 9. They are using the power they gained from the impeachment weakening of Clinton to push a “nuclear Vietnam” in North Korea, he said.

“After Clinton had that successful trip to China last August, and the North Koreans made their missile launch, also in August, Shelton . . . and others went out of their way to tell Clinton that he would, in future, have nothing to say about East Asia,” the analyst stated. “Shelton went to see Clinton and told him point-blank, that after all the military commanders and officers who have been forced to resign because of marital infidelity in the last months, ‘Now, *you* are caught, and as Commander in Chief, we could make a hell of a stink out of this and you would be out—so you’d better do as we say.’ . . .

“There is an enormous danger right now of war with North Korea—but only because of the instability of the U.S. government,” he warned. “It’s worse than the U.S.S.R. during Gorbachov’s battle with Yeltsin—you could call it an insurrection. . . . Shelton basically threatened Clinton with a coup, to make sure the President understood he can have nothing to do with military policy, East Asia policy in particular. Since the impeachment, the Republicans have brought out their real agenda: Give the Pentagon its head, and have a war in East Asia, most likely with North Korea. They decide first that the policy should be war, and then they look for the reasons, such as the alleged North Korean missile threat.

“These people are dangerous lunatics,” the senior analyst said. “Not a single one of them know a thing about Asia or about North Korea, they can only see the good analogy to the 1980s Israeli strike at Osirak [against the Iraqi reactor] and how Israel ‘won.’ They’re thinking about how they all got promoted during the Gulf War and they need a rerun of that, that Korea could be a rerun of the Gulf War—and continue to erase the shame of failure in Vietnam.”

Seoul rings the alarm

The threat of a preemptive strike by the run-away Cohen/Shelton faction—alone or by manipulating its terrified dupes in the Japanese Defense Agency—was taken gravely by South Korean Defense Minister Chun Yong-Taek in a Seoul press conference on March 5. “We oppose any preemptive attack on North Korea without policy coordination among South Korea, the United States, and Japan,” Chun said, regarding JDA chief Norota’s remarks. “The peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula must be given the highest priority. . . . A unilateral preemptive strike without policy coordination with the U.S. and South Korea is inconceivable. As national Defense Minister, I will resolutely oppose it.”

Seoul officials are well aware that the impetus is coming not from Tokyo, but from the Cohen/Shelton lunatics in Washington. Seoul’s *Chosun Ilbo* newspaper reported on Feb. 27 that former Bush Defense Department officials “Paul Wolfowitz and Richard Armitage have published a plan to solve the North Korean problem based on ‘the supremacy of power’ . . . which reflects the growing view of defense experts and the [GOP] House of Representatives.” Unless North Korea agrees to at-will inspection demands, *Chosun Ilbo* cites Wolfowitz as saying, the United States “should have a major military buildup in South Korea,” a “blockade” of North Korea, and “prepare a preemptive strike on suspected nuclear facilities” in North Korea.

The issue of a U.S.-led preemptive strike is open enough to have become a topic of public debate in Congress. Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.), during testimony on March 8, asked Army Gen. John Titelli, commander of U.S. forces in South Korea, whether the United States should “take preemptive action against North Korea,” in light of all the information the House Republicans are receiving on the North Korean missile threat. Titelli, known to be one of the more level heads in the theater, replied that he does not want to use the term “preemptive.” However, he noted, “I do not believe that we should allow North Korea’s nuclear weapon program to come to fruition.”

Bush aide promotes wars in Mideast, Asia

by Mark Burdman

Diplomats, strategists, and government officials received a brutally frank indication of the policy of the British-American-Commonwealth policy bloc, during a March 4 conference in Bonn, Germany on “The Future of Euro-Atlantic Relations,” sponsored by the Center for European Integration