

Cohen's GOP pals say: 'Obliterate' N. Korea

by Our Special Correspondent

North Korea is subjecting the United States to nuclear "blackmail," therefore President Clinton's negotiations with North Korea are appeasement and must cease, Paul Wolfowitz, Undersecretary of Defense during the Bush administration, told a House International Relations Committee hearing on March 24. All food and other aid must be halted until North Korea accepts Iraq-style "extremely intrusive 'challenge inspections'" of its entire country, plus "fundamental economic reform" à la the International Monetary Fund, he stated.

If North Korea, as it surely will, rejects these demands, added James Lilley, Bush Ambassador to South Korea and China, it must be cut off, pushed into a corner, and told that any military action on its part means "they will be obliterated."

Their conclusion, that Clinton's agreement with North Korea in New York on March 16 should be ripped up, was loudly supported by committee chairman Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), Asia Pacific Subcommittee chairman Douglas Be-reuter (R-Neb.), and the other GOPers present. "By rewarding North Korea's bad behavior, the White House has been . . . leading us toward and not away from a confrontation with Pyongyang," Gilman said. "According to our CIA, North Korea is one of the world's key suppliers of ballistic missiles equipment. Our greatest fear is that this unpredictable regime will combine its covert nuclear weapons program with an ICBM able to strike our nation."

North Korea has created a giant underground nuclear bomb program which is it using to blackmail the United States into paying protection, Wolfowitz stated. "The last time we caught them," he said, the administration gave North Korea "a \$4 billion reactor deal. The next time we catch them, what price are we going to pay them?"

Gilman presented a proposal for Congress to overturn Clinton's policy, which was part of a declassified letter which he, Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Tex.), China-basher Chris Cox (R-Calif.), and House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) sent to the administration on March 5, demanding a "new Korea policy."

Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D-Conn.) characterized the entire committee proceedings as "bizarre." "What I hear today," he said, "is: 'Here's the deal. Stop your nuclear program, allow universal inspections of your country, adopt capitalism, or else you'll get nothing.'"

Cohen and Albright vs. Clinton

Meanwhile, in Seoul on March 31, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert Einhorn warned North Korea of "very serious negative consequences" if it tests, fires, or exports any of its new long-range missiles. Einhorn had just been rebuffed by the North after two days of talks in Pyongyang, the North Korea capital, in which the State Department demanded the shutdown of the country's missile program.

Einhorn claimed that North Korea is the world's number-one exporter of missile technology. "Developing, producing, deploying, and testing missiles that can threaten U.S. allies and U.S. Armed Forces and can eventually threaten the United States is inconsistent with improving ties with the United States," he said. North Korea, he said, provided Pakistan and Iran with missile equipment or technology that enabled those countries to test-fire medium-range missiles last year.

The Gilman-Hyde letter and the GOP's "new Korea policy," a Gilman aide told a journalist, were dictated by Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) chief Patrick Hughes, as *EIR* reported in our March 19 issue (p. 49). The DIA, and Defense Secretary William Cohen's Defense Department, have been flooding Congress with leaked satellite and other photographs of North Korean plutonium, ICBM, and even purported opium poppy "proliferation" sites. Now, Madeleine Albright's State Department has judged North Korea to be the world's leading ICBM proliferator.

Cohen and Albright are in open revolt against the stated policy of President Clinton, who seeks to continue his 1994 Framework Accord with North Korea, which pledged to help develop the country. Cohen in particular is using the North Korea "red scare" as a nuclear football, to promote his call for a phony Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) system, particularly a Theater Missile Defense (TMD) buildup in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. This project has met enormous opposition in Beijing.

So, just as Cohen and Albright are aiding Al Gore in the deliberate provocation of strategic confrontation with Russia, they are also deliberately provoking a strategic confrontation with China. Cohen, in particular, controls the DIA, the source of the opposition's leaks, and opposes the Clinton Korea policy. As a senator, Cohen worked with a former DIA chief, the late Gen. Daniel Graham, to promote Graham's incompetent "High Frontier" and its TMD-BMD elements.

Gilman's March 24 testimony ended, as does the letter dictated by the DIA which Gilman signed, with a call for a massed buildup in Asia of a "theater missile defense that would serve to insulate us and our friends from nuclear and missile blackmail by North Korea which is virtually certain." Gilman called "for the creation of a Northeast Asia Defense Organization—NADO—permitting the U.S. to combine its efforts with friends and allies to develop a regional theater ballistic missile defense."

Nothing could enrage Beijing more.