

by the Islamic revolution, are controlled by opposing forces, and they will not be easily changed.

Those among the movement of intellectuals and students desirous of a quicker pace of reform, who believed they could use the power of the street to effect a shift in the correlation of power, were mistaken: Despite the overwhelming popularity Khatami enjoys, there is no way within the present system that he could prevail over the institutional arrangement, particularly over the office of the Leader of the Revolution. Any attempt to force through such a process, would inevitably destabilize the entire system, creating the preconditions for civil war. At the same time, regardless of the institutional power still wielded by the conservatives, in the judiciary, the Parliament, and the bazaar, there is no way they could eliminate the President, without unleashing a similar process of civil war.

Significantly, following the degeneration into violence, all sides spoke of outside elements being involved, manipulating events. Although the accusations against the “Zionists” and the “arrogant power” come from a stock vocabulary, there is, ironically, some truth to the charges. The question is: Who is the “arrogant power”?

Khamenei had pointed to the United States, and asked whether the \$20 million allocated by the U.S. Congress for actions against Iran, had been deployed in this protest action. No doubt, there are fools in the Congress who will cheer on any destabilization of Iran. But that is not the direction of the Clinton administration policy; on the contrary, careful, cautious moves have been perceived, indicating some progress in the painstakingly slow process of reconciliation.

More to the point would be to ask: What have the British deployed, in terms of finances and personnel, into Iran, since their celebrated reestablishment of diplomatic ties? For a time, it was known in Iran what the real face of British policy was. Salman Rushdie, after all, had been deployed by British intelligence, to orchestrate a conflict leading to a *fatwa* (religious decree) against him, and subsequent ostracism of Iran. It was Britain which, in the wake of the Mykonos murder trial in Berlin, had whipped up a frenzy in Europe, demanding that the “state terrorists” be isolated forever. Then, it was Britain, which took the first, energetic steps to reestablish diplomatic ties with Iran, naming an ambassador, and setting up a full presence in the capital. It was Britain which organized conference after conference in London, on the topic of investment in Iran; and Britain, which sent a high-level delegation just recently to the country, in the spirit of reconciliation. And so forth.

Most important, it is the British oligarchy which is pulling the strings of detabilization in Central Asia and the Caucasus, and which sees such demonstrations in Tehran as one big string to pull. The Iranian leadership is right to suspect outside interference and malicious conspiracies. One should remember, however, that the most vicious wolves often appear in sheep’s clothing.

Military diplomacy expands among China, Russia, India

by Mary Burdman

The “Moscow-Beijing-New Delhi triangle,” which was proposed by former Russian Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov in New Delhi in December 1998, while it remains “a geopolitical reference point for diplomats, it is already a quite tangible reality for the participants of military-technical cooperation,” political columnist Vsevolod Ovchinnikov wrote in the official Russian government newspaper, *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, on June 16. “The expansion of NATO to the east, the formation of a Far Eastern analogue to this alliance, self-willed use of force bypassing the UN Security Council—all this is prompting the largest countries such as Russia, China, and India to think in concert about strengthening their defense and security and, in particular, to develop military-technical cooperation.”

It is essential to understand that these three nations are *not* in the process of building any kind of military or political “alliance,” along the lines of the West’s NATO, or the U.S.-Japanese alliance—far from it. The foreign and national policies of each of these nations, is independently formulated and carried out.

However, the NATO war against Yugoslavia, which was only the most destructive among several massive Anglo-American assaults, using most-advanced technologies against small, isolated nations, sent shock waves through China, Russia, and India, among many other nations.

China’s entire foreign policy has, for decades, been to foster a peaceful international environment, in which China would have the extended period of stability it so urgently requires, to be able to overcome the problems of its underdeveloped economy.

Already in February 1998, Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian called for a new security concept “to win a lasting peace.” In a speech in Australia, Chi called for nation-to-nation relations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence—mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. He called for mutually beneficial economic cooperation, as the foundation for global and regional security and peaceful resolution of conflicts. “It has been

proven that the security system in the Cold War period, which was characterized by making military alliance as its foundation and the enhancement of military armament as its means, could not help create peace," Chi said.

Now, China is rapidly expanding its "peripheral diplomacy" among the nations of Asia and Eurasia, with these aims. At the center of this effort, is an expanded military diplomacy, "in search of a peaceful environment," as the official Xinhua news agency wrote on June 17.

"The Chinese government is actively promoting diplomacy with China's neighboring countries," the official Hong Kong-based *Wen Wei Po* stated in an editorial on July 5. "China has become more mature in facilitating its diplomatic activities and the maturity is more fitting to its status as a big country and as a permanent member of the UN Security Council."

In mid-June, Beijing sponsored talks between the vice foreign ministers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, and a delegation from North Korea (D.P.R.K.) visited China for the first time since the death of President Kim Il-sung in 1994. This senior state delegation was accompanied by a military delegation, also the first to visit China in five years.

China has also striven to ensure that India and Pakistan end their dangerous conflict in Kashmir (see *EIR*, July 16, p. 60).

In mid-June, Vice Premier Qian Qichen, the *éminence grise* of China's foreign policy, visited Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. The security of Central Asia is of primary importance to China; Beijing has been watching NATO's expansion into this region under the "Partnership for Peace," and the regular U.S. military exercises inside Central Asian nations, including its neighbor Kazakhstan, with understandable concern. (Americans should consider what hysteria would be generated in Washington, were China to engage in military exercises in Central America.)

At a news conference in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, on June 11, Qian Qichen said that the purpose of his visit was to "to deepen the mutual understanding between China and these four Central Asian countries. . . . China shares a borderline of more than 3,000 kilometers with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan." He noted the progress in relations, especially in infrastructure development. "China, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakstan, and Pakistan have signed the agreement on highway transportation," he said. "China, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan also signed the agreement on highway transportation, and the railway network linking these three countries is being planned. Once these plans are put into effect, this will be a magnificent feat to revive the Silk Road."

He also made a point of emphasizing China's opposition to the NATO assault against Yugoslavia, and condemned the "U.S.'s mistaken way of doing things" there, including

using war to "settle" issues of human rights, humanity, and refugees.

In discussions with Kazak Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev during his return to Beijing on July 10, Qian said, "Stability in Central Asia is of great significance to the stability in the regions across Europe and Asia." Tokayev responded that Kazakhstan wants to strengthen cooperation with China, "including building a continental bridge across Europe and Asia," Xinhua reported.

Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi made an official three-day visit to China beginning on July 8, his first since he took office. His delegation of more than 100 included Japan's Foreign and Home Affairs ministers, and a number of industrial and business leaders interested in rectifying the sharp fall in Sino-Japanese trade last year due to the financial and economic crisis in Asia. The volume of Japanese trade with China, its second-largest trading partner after the United States, was down 10.7% from 1997. Japan's exports to China, at \$20.1 billion, fell 7.7% from a year earlier, and imports, at \$36.9 billion, were down 12.3%. Japan's investment in China, the largest of any foreign country, has fallen 10% from 1997. Unfortunately, the two sides did agree to support China's accession to the World Trade Organization — which, although it is advocated by Beijing, would devastate China's agriculture and industry.

Obuchi assured the Chinese government that Japan is committed to never becoming a military superpower, and that the reference to U.S.-Japanese military collaboration in the event of "emergencies in areas surrounding Japan" — part of the "New Guideline for the U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation" — is purely for defense.

China's diplomacy continued on July 15-17, when Chinese President Jiang Zemin embarked on a state visit to Mongolia. Later in July, Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan will lead a delegation to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional forum in Singapore, where, wrote *Wen Wei Po*, "Chinese representatives will comprehensively expound China's proposals on regional and global security, and strive to make more countries understand and support the five principles of peaceful coexistence."

Military exchanges in 'new phase'

China is taking its military diplomacy to a new level, as demonstrated by the nine-day visit of Zhang Wannian, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, to Russia on June 6-15. Zhang is also co-chairman of the Chinese-Russian Committee for Military-Technical Cooperation. Zhang and his delegation, which included the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Deputy Chief of Staff and deputy commanders of the Chinese Navy and Air Force, visited Moscow, Novosibirsk, Vladivostok, Komsomolsk-on-Amur, and Khabarovsk in Russia's Far East, at the invitation of Russian Defense Minister Anatoli Sergeev.

Zhang spoke with Russian President Boris Yeltsin by telephone, and met with Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin, Security Council secretary Vladimir Putin, and Presidential Office Chief of Staff Aleksandr Voloshin. Zhang and Sergeyev “reached a broad consensus” on the “current international situation, regional security, bilateral relations, and issues of common concern,” Xinhua reported.

Zhang also visited Russia’s General Staff Academy and a command post of the Moscow Air Forces and Air Defense District in Moscow, and the command authorities of the Pacific Ocean Fleet in Vladivostok and of the Far East Military District in Khabarovsk. He visited the Aviation Production Association in Komsomolsk-on-Amur.

Earlier in the spring, Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian had visited Pakistan, and PLA Chief of the General Staff Fu Quanyou visited Malaysia and Australia.

On June 30, a PLA delegation returned to Beijing after visiting Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Myanmar.

In mid-June, a high-level PLA delegation, led by Deputy Chief of the General Staff Col. Gen. Kui Fulin, visited Croatia, where they discussed the Balkans regional military situation, and the world security situation. The Chinese visitors met with President Franjo Tudjman, and invited him to visit China. PLA delegations also visited Romania and Hungary during the first week of July.

Already this year, China has received military leaders from more than ten neighbors, including defense ministers from Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Australia, and North Korea, as well as armed forces leaders from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Mongolia.

Strategic cooperation

Russian arms sales to China now exceeds \$1 billion annually, or nearly one-fifth of total trade between the two countries, Ovchinnikov wrote. Military-technical ties between Moscow and Beijing, disrupted in the early 1960s, were reestablished 25 years later. “Chinese purchases of the newest types of arms in Russia soon became the concrete manifestation of the policy of strategic cooperation,” he wrote. These include Su-27 fighters, Su-27SK and Su-27UB aircraft, and a license to produce the Su-27SK. China also wants to acquire the newer model Su-30MK, of which India has already bought 40 planes, and the newest Su-37 fifth-generation multi-role fighter.

Despite the collapse of Russian-Indian military trade after 1991, India’s Armed Forces are still two-thirds equipped with Soviet and Russian equipment. “Deliveries of weapons to India today comprise nearly half of the annual exports of our country’s military-industrial complex,” Ovchinnikov wrote. These contracts, and joint research projects, are keeping Russian military-industrial plants in operation. Finally, “joint production of arms for third-party countries with subsequent guaranteed servicing may become a new promising direction in Russia’s military-technical cooperation with India and China.”

London prolongs war in the Congo

by Linda de Hoyos

Hopes have been dashed that the highly publicized negotiations taking place in Lusaka, Zambia, among the belligerents, would bring about an accord and the beginning of the end of the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.). Although defense and foreign ministers of the warring countries involved in the year-old Congo war hashed out a peace plan, and although that plan was then signed by the relevant heads of state and witnesses in early July, the three Congolese rebel factions present at the talks refused to sign, and declared that the cease-fire, stipulated to go into effect 24 hours after the signing, did not apply to them.

Hence, the guns have not been stilled in the Congo: On July 13, Zimbabwean forces fighting on the side of the Congolese government reported that they had been attacked by rebels at three different locations. On July 15, the rebels announced that they had captured the northern town of Gemena after a “serious fight.” The same day, Zimbabwean forces reported that rebels “have started movements which are threatening our supply lines,” and that they were prepared to retaliate.

The war in the Congo perpetuates a conflict that affects nearly every country in Africa; Congo, located in the center of the continent, has borders with nine other nations. The countries now directly militarily involved in the war include: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Angola, and Zimbabwe, which are fighting in defense of the Congo, against the Aug. 2, 1998 invasion from Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. To the west, continuing civil war in the Republic of Congo (Congo-Brazzaville) is a spin-off of the Angola and the Congo wars. Sudan has been accused by Uganda of involvement in the war on the side of Congo. On July 3, Ugandan-backed rebel leader Jean Bemba warned the Central African Republic that “this act of supporting [Congo President Laurent] Kabila will bring problems” for it.

Furthermore, the spillover of refugees from Congo places political and economic pressures on Tanzania and Zambia. In combination with the wars in the Horn of Africa now involving Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia, and threatening Kenya; the war in southern Sudan; and the escalating war in Angola, much of Africa is besieged by war, with no immediate end in sight.

A war against Africa

It is, in reality, one giant war *against all of Africa*, as a detailed analysis of any one of these wars readily shows. The