

Jiang's trips to Britain, France: a sharp contrast

by Mary Burdman

Chinese President Jiang Zemin got very different receptions during his state visits to Great Britain and France, which began in London on Oct. 19. Although the British Queen, her consort Prince Philip, and other notables of the British establishment turned out with all the pomposity which could be mustered, to receive the first-ever visit of a Chinese head of state to the bosom of Perfidious Albion, the British, as is ever the case, were playing a nasty double game.

On the ground, the visit was plagued with troubles. Despite strenuous efforts, the beleaguered British police were barely able to keep the hordes of rowdy "human rights" demonstrators under control, and the Chinese President had to be shunted around to the back door when he went to visit Prime Minister Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street on Oct. 21.

Worse, the "royal mob" (the epithet of Queen Victoria) behaved little better. When the Queen and Prince Philip went to China in 1986 (Jiang's visit, a full 13 years later, is the Chinese return visit), it was Philip who could not suppress his British arrogance, and let fly with a comment to a group of European students, met at the Great Wall, that they had better not stay in China too long, or they would end up with what Philip termed "slitty eyes."

This time, Philip, apparently, was kept buttoned up, and it was the dotty heir to the throne, Prince Charles, who spoiled all the special effects meant to be generated by royal carriage rides down The Mall (which had to be closed carriages for fear of the "rights" rowdies).

The Queen's state banquet had turned out the royal family in force, plus the leaders of Blair's Labour government, and such notables of the British establishment as Margaret

Thatcher, Thatcher adviser Sir Percy Craddock, and the odious Sir Crispin Tickell, Britain's former ambassador to the UN who coordinated the Persian Gulf War onslaught against Iraq with the U.S. State Department's Thomas Pickering. However, on Oct. 21, when Jiang Zemin and his wife hosted a return banquet at the Chinese Embassy (the first time ever that the Queen has visited the Chinese Embassy in London), her heir refused to come along. Charles, who had also refused to accompany Jiang and his party on any official engagements during the visit, used as his excuse for "snubbing" the President of a nation of 1.25 billion people, that he was hosting a "private" dinner at home—for his mistress, Camilla Parker-Bowles, and, among other notable guests, the actor known best for portraying "Mr. Bean."

Charles's boycott was an unprecedented break with protocol, and an unheard-of treatment of a head of state of the stature of Jiang Zemin, as the stuffy *Daily Telegraph* enthused. His action, the *Daily Telegraph* noted, "was motivated by his admiration for the Dalai Lama, whom he has met at least twice in defiance of government policy." Charles, it appears, shares "spiritual" and environmentalist interests with the Tibetan Buddhist leader. Charles reportedly has a "keen" interest in the Himalayas, and he and the Dalai Lama both supported a project in 1995 to build an "inter-faith" center in Britain. Charles even went so far as to invite the Dalai Lama to a secret rendezvous at his private country residence, Highgrove, in May, and has given the Foreign Office "mandarins," who, officially anyway, toe the line on support for Chinese sovereignty, the jitters, by saying that he wants to visit Tibet. Charles's boycott rules out any



Chinese President Jiang Zemin (left) and French President Jacques Chirac. Jiang's visit to France consolidated the Chinese-French strategic partnership. Perfidious Albion will not be pleased.



possibility of his being used in another British royal venture to China any time soon.

Britain's hidden agenda

Even before these dramas were unfolding, it became quite clear that the British had another agenda up their sleeve. In relation to China, these double games go back to the last century, when the British Empire, in the course of imposing its overwhelming control on the then weak and backward economy of China and international trade, self-righteously imposed the totally hypocritical "Open Door" policy, nominally to prevent China from being split into pieces, but, in reality, to keep the Eurasian powers of Russia and Germany out of what the British considered "their turf."

Now, the British agenda is to try to prevent, at all costs, the development of a strategic relationship between modern China and the United States.

Just before Jiang Zemin arrived in London, two articles appeared in the European press on Oct. 17, one in the London *Observer* and another in the leading Danish daily *Politiken*, stating that the precision bombing attack on the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade on May 7, during the NATO war against Yugoslavia, had *not* been an accident.

The Chinese leadership, and *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche, have been stating since May that the attack was deliberate, and have been demanding a full investigation. LaRouche immediately demanded courts martial for those responsible for the bombing. Officials and analysts with *any* competence in the NATO nations, of course, always knew it to be the case that the bombing was deliberate.

So, why the sudden revelation? The articles reported

that the bombing was carried out by a "parallel command structure," outside the regular NATO chain of command. The *Politiken* article outrageously claimed that the attack was carried out "on the direct order of the American President." This vicious, but ridiculous claim—like the bombing itself—was intended to kill President Clinton's longstanding policy of developing a "strategic partnership" with China, and to cover up for the real authors of the attack, at a time when President Clinton has made several serious efforts to repair badly damaged U.S. relations with Beijing. The actual circumstances of the bombing, including the use of a Stealth bomber for the mission, and the precise targetting of the rear of the embassy using highly sophisticated missiles, had exactly the same purpose.

The bombing of the Chinese Embassy, as LaRouche stressed immediately after the attack, was run through the hard-core British-American connection. It is this long-established British-American apparatus which is at the center of every disaster afflicting U.S. foreign policy. In charge on the U.S. side, are Sir Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski; such operatives as U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, the daughter of Prof. Joseph Korbel, who "trained" Condoleezza Rice, the first-string foreign policy adviser for Gov. George W. Bush's Presidential campaign; and NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, Gen. Wesley Clark.

This group has always been hard-wired into the highest levels of British political, military, and financial policymaking establishment, and, as Kissinger himself has bragged, its members take their orders directly from London. Central to the problem in Washington, is the role of Secretary of

State Albright. It is Albright who has the key connections to the Blair government in London, which relentlessly pressed for the war against Yugoslavia, including an invasion using ground forces, and to General Clark.

It was this deadly combination which deliberately sabotaged the potential to resolve the Kosovo crisis at the Rambouillet summit in late February. Albright also had a special, enhanced role during the bombing of Yugoslavia, because this was an *undeclared* war. Had there been a declaration of war by Congress, Secretary of Defense William Cohen, would have had more power. But, as it was, it was the Secretary of State, collaborating with General Clark, who could have ordered the Stealth bomber, which carried out the high-precision attack.

There are also indications emerging that there might have been efforts on the part of certain circles in Washington to convey a message to the Chinese, that any activities by its embassy in Belgrade to cooperate with the Yugoslav forces would make the embassy vulnerable to attack, but that the bombing was carried out before the Chinese had responded. It is useful to consider in this context, the revelations in the Oct. 27 *New York Times* about Albright's role in the U.S. bombing of the Al Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Sudan on Aug. 20, 1998.

The operation to pin responsibility on President Clinton for the Chinese Embassy bombing was hard to swallow even for his accusers. One of the authors of the *Observer* article, while convinced by his high-level NATO sources that the bombing was, indeed, deliberate, found the allegations against the U.S. President too implausible, and left them out of his article. *Politiken* was hit by a strike that day, so its distribution was very limited, and the article never appeared on the *Politiken* website—possibly an indication that there may have been doubts at the Danish newspaper about the accuracy of their lying attacks against Clinton.

For all the work put into this renewed effort to sabotage U.S.-Chinese relations, ultimately, it is not likely to function. Chinese leaders are aware of President Clinton's policies, and have noted the role that the "hawk," British Prime Minister Tony Blair, played in forcing the war against Yugoslavia, and in other efforts to break up sovereign states. The problem which remains, is President Clinton's continued failure to establish a relationship of *trust* with China, by cleaning Albright and company out of his administration.

As pointed out by one well-connected expert on Asian affairs in Britain who had direct contact with the Chinese delegation, the relentless hounding by the "human rights" demonstrators, and the unprecedented rudeness of the heir to the throne, Prince Charles, left Jiang Zemin with a profoundly bad impression.

France and China—a success

The Chinese President's state visit to France was a very different matter. Certainly, the leadership of France is by

no means ready to take a leading role in creating a new and just international order for world development. On the other hand, France is a nation where the policy elites, especially of the older generations, are able to detect when important strategic shifts are going on. Paris is not the center of the current, utterly bankrupt British-American-Commonwealth group—London is. The French sense when momentous things are about to happen, and are often the first to say it. Paris knows that the current, desperate efforts to "crisis-manage" the crash of the world financial system, cannot keep Wall Street and the City of London going much longer, and that there will be enormous *political* effects when the bubble economy goes.

In China, there is also recognition of what is to come, as indicated by the release by the official Xinhua news agency, on Oct. 25, on the campaign of Lyndon LaRouche for the Democratic Party nomination for the U.S. Presidency (see article, p. 36).

Against this background, Jiang Zemin's visit to France consolidated the Chinese-French strategic partnership—something the French will use, in their own time, in their long-term conflicts with the British. At the core of the Chinese-French partnership, is the recognition of the central, vital role of the sovereign nation-state, if the world is to build itself out of the unfolding crisis.

Some details of Jiang Zemin's trip to France, illustrate this:

Jiang began with a two-day unofficial visit to Lyon, where he was received by the mayor, former Prime Minister Raymond Barre; as students, such founders of the People's Republic as Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping had studied and worked there. Moreover, that French ties to the People's Republic of China go back to the statesmanship of President Charles de Gaulle.

Jiang next spent the greater part of two days in intense, private discussion, on a wide range of political and cultural issues, with French President Jacques Chirac, at Chirac's private home in Bity.

The official visit began on Oct. 24, with a reception at the Cour des Invalides, the 16th-century military hospital which de Gaulle wanted to convert into a Presidential palace. From there, Jiang Zemin and his wife were escorted by 180 mounted Republican guards to the Marigny Palace, where they stayed.

While Jiang was in France, a senior member of Chirac's Gaullist-RPR party, Charles Pasqua, was in Beijing, meeting with National People's Congress standing committee chairman Li Peng, stressing the importance of de Gaulle's historic opening to China, and the importance of the two countries working together to defend national sovereignty against globalization. He criticized attacks on China's human rights record as blatantly hypocritical, and said that Europe should not lecture China, "a country which was civilized, while Europeans were still living in trees."