

## Editorial

### *An Opportunity, Not a Threat*

The real issue of the Korean Peninsula, for Eurasia as a whole and for the United States, is the one not mentioned in all the factional punditry—it is the global financial/economic collapse under way, and the possibility of its solution. The Korean Peninsula—as Secretary of State Powell only just intimated in an afterthought to his Dec. 29 television interviews—offers a potential for economic breakthrough for Eurasia as a whole, which would also be of the greatest importance to the revival of the United States economy, through cooperation in the building of the Eurasian Land-Bridges and associated modern transport and other infrastructure.

Look at the potentials for Germany's technology-export economy, now mired in depression and pessimism, of the "mag-lev" transport revolution just launched in China and able to spread across Eurasia. Just such a potential lies in the developments which had been under way on the Peninsula, with the opening of the Demilitarized Zone for the first time to let through the construction of Inter-Korean railroads and roads.

Behind these surprising developments was a longstanding desire of the great majority of Koreans for re-unification, reflected again in the recent South Korean Presidential elections. But both former President Kim Dae-jung and new President Roh Moo-hyun have gone beyond that. They both insist that the new "Iron Silk Road" which can connect Tokyo and Pusan all the way to Rotterdam by direct, multiple high-speed rail lines, passing through both Russia and China, is an opening for economic recovery for Europe and all of Eurasia. This can drastically cut transport times for both passengers and the most important categories of freight, throughout the nations of more than 3 billion people, and create backlogs of orders and skilled employment in many of those nations in the process.

But this requires, first of all, that the major governments affected—most importantly including the Bush Administration in the United States—admit the world is in an economic emergency crisis, drop the

"threats" policy debates and adopt recovery policies! Then, Korea becomes an opportunity.

As Lyndon LaRouche has put it forward since his Dec. 15 "Korea and World Peace" statement: From that policy standpoint, the only sane one, the United States has no need to "save face" by refusing to negotiate except under pre-conditions and pre-concessions. It has no need to "take this crisis to the UN Security Council," which would leave its allies in East Asia out in the cold. It has no need to tolerate "containment" schemes from the chicken-hawks, since it is the global economic collapse—not North Korea—which needs to be immediately "contained" and reversed.

These are all the wrong strategy anyway. The United States is not threatened by war; nor do nuclear weapons proliferate war, as history has shown. The United States can, instead, create positive alternatives which nobody "in this neighborhood" will refuse. It's a policy the United States needs at least as much as East Asia does; and it allows the United States to drop "preconditions" and aid a stable and durable peace in the region.

The issue is that the international monetary and financial system is coming down. We need a New Bretton Woods monetary order quickly, and one which is based on credit issuance for high-technology reconstruction and infrastructure projects. The nations of the "Strategic Triangle" China-Russia-India, and those of East and Southeast Asia, are formulating and initiating such projects in transport, in Mekong River basin development; and the Korean Peninsula is crucial to this.

This is LaRouche's policy, as he indicated in his brief but crucial Dec. 15 statement that it needs to begin with major and unconditional food aid, which, though not conditional on any other issue, can lead to broader agreements for peace through economic development. Without that approach, no amount of armchair debating over threats, will do anything but make matters worse. The United States has to have the *intention* to solve the real problem, not the false problems that arise from imperial fantasies.