

International Intelligence

Chinese Foreign Ministry Rejects Rumsfeld Charge

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao, speaking at a press briefing on June 7, denounced U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's accusations about China's military spending—which is 1/18 of the U.S. military budget—as groundless, Xinhuanet reported. At a conference on Asian security on June 4, Rumsfeld had claimed that China faces no threats from other countries, and therefore questioned the legitimacy of its military spending.

Liu commented that China has increased its economic development more than its national defense, and has no intention of building up its armaments; but that it does have the capability to do so. "In order to reply to complicated international situations and safeguard national sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity, it is reasonable for China to update its armaments."

He asserted that the most important factor in safeguarding Asian Pacific and world peace revolves around a policy of peaceful development.

NGO Director: Bolivia Is the IMF's 'Lab Rat'

Jim Shultz, the executive director of the Democratic Center in Cochabamba, Bolivia, referring to the violence which has brought the country to the brink of civil war, blamed the International Monetary Fund's austerity conditionalities, in an interview with the Internet program Democracy Now on June 3. "It's important to put the story in the context both of U.S. and IMF policy, but also in what's happening in Latin America more broadly," he said. "Bolivia has for the past 20 years been the lab rat for the IMF and the World Bank's economic policies. Bolivia did it all: privatization of water, privatization of oil and gas, relaxation of labor standards, all of the deficit reduction coming in from the backs of the poor. . . . This is related to what's happening all over Latin America. . . . It is a practical rebellion against a practical failure of the economic policies imposed

on these countries from abroad by the IMF and the World Bank."

Shultz went on: "The new *article du jour* of the press is to talk about the rise of the left in South America. This is not the second coming of Che Guevara. This is not even an ideological rebellion. It's more interesting than that. You know, I live in this country. I have lived here for eight years. These are my neighbors. By and large, people who live on the margin don't have the luxury of ideology. What they want is practical solutions to their practical problems like: Can they get water? Can they find a job? And what's happening is, people in Bolivia, in particular, and it's the same trend in Brazil—I was just there not long ago—people are basically saying: This whole package of economic policies, it isn't working. It hasn't delivered the goods."

Korean Defense Minister Slams CONPLAN 8022

"It is impossible for the United States to conduct a pre-emptive attack against North Korea unilaterally—that is, without the consent of South Korea," Republic of Korea Defense Minister Yoon Kwang-ung told Seoul radio on June 8, in statements covered on the front page of the *Korea Times* on June 9. Yoon said he "wants to dispel speculation that Washington has a military plan, dubbed 'CONPLAN 8022,' for a unilateral attack" on North Korea, even in case of an emergency there. He insisted on this in his June 4 Singapore meeting with U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Yoon said.

Yet, as *EIR* May 27 and the *Washington Post* May 15 reported, the United States does have a CONPLAN 8022, which includes use of nuclear "bunker busters" in "pinpoint" air-only strikes with no "boots on the ground" or perhaps only a few "commandos," in a first strike against North Korea and Iran. The agreement, or non-agreement, of the South Korean government "could be physically irrelevant, as the U.S. could strike from Guam, Okinawa, or other non-Korean sites," Korean diplomatic sources told *EIR*, without any South Korean

boots, planes, equipment, or participation whatsoever.

"This means Yoon's statement is a political attack on CONPLAN 8022 which is unprecedented" since the founding of the U.S.-R.O.K. bilateral alliance, a diplomat pointed out—because there has been an outpouring of opposition to CONPLAN 8022 within the Republic of Korea.

Yoon spoke as South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun left Korea for a 24-hour "summit blitz" in Washington. Roh arrives in Washington the morning of June 10, meets Bush and his Cabinet all day, and flies back again the morning of June 11. Roh has been trying since his election two years ago, to get Bush to promise that the U.S. will rule out the use of military force on the Korean peninsula.

Pope Benedict Meets World Jewish Leaders

Pope Benedict XVI met with 25 world Jewish leaders on June 9 at the Vatican, the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported.

After praising the landmark document of the Second Vatican Council, the Pope said that the Catholic Church "deplored any manifestations of hatred, persecution, and anti-Semitism." The Pope added, "At the very beginning of my pontificate, I wish to assure you that the Church remains firmly committed, in her catechesis and in every aspect of her life, to implementing this decisive teaching. . . . It is my intention to continue on this path. The history of relations between our two communities has been complex and often painful. But I am convinced that the spiritual patrimony treasured by Christians and Jews is itself the source of the wisdom and inspiration capable of guiding us toward a future of hope in accordance with the divine plan."

The delegation included Edgar Bronfman, chairman of the World Jewish Congress; Rabbi David Rosen of the American Jewish Committee; former Israeli Ambassador to the Vatican Samuel Hasa; Chief Rabbinate Director General Oded Wiener; and heads of the Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox Jewish currents in the United States.