

Despite the end of the Cold War almost a decade-and-a-half ago, its legacy still besets US foreign policy and the world at large. Cold War flashpoints, such as North Korea, Cuba, Afghanistan, and the Middle East continue to impose important challenges on the international community. Recent crises and conflicts underline the importance of gaining a better understanding of the sources of these and other countries' foreign policies, cultural patterns, and world outlooks. This issue of the Cold War International History Project (CWIHP) *Bulletin* highlights recent findings from the former Communist world and other international archives on a range of critical issues that affect us today no less than they concerned policymakers and the public during the Cold War.

Of all the United States' former Cold War adversaries, North Korea poses perhaps the most dangerous security problem. North Korea's vitriolic and seemingly unpredictable rhetorical outbursts and actions confront international policymakers on an almost daily basis, yet information on the inner workings and motivations of this highly secretive country is scarce. To address this significant information gap, this issue of the CWIHP *Bulletin* features a treasure trove of previously unpublished documents from erstwhile communist allies of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The documents are the result of a special effort by the Project to mine the archives of North Korea's former allies. Coordinated by Kathryn Weathersby and funded by The Korea Foundation, the **CWIHP Korea Initiative** has been systematically exploring East





institutions. The Project is pleased to welcome the establishment of a Mongolian Cold War Group, host to the March 2004 workshop in Ulaanbaatar. Spurred by the efforts of Sergey Radchenko and former Wilson Center Fellow Tsedenbar Batbayar, fascinating new materials on the Sino-Soviet split are becoming available in the Mongolian archives. A November 2003 workshop with Serbian scholars in Belgrade, organized by Svetozar Rajak of the London School of Economics, provided first glimpses at the potential riches of the Yugoslav archives on topics ranging from the Cold War on the Balkans to the non-alignment movement. Cooperation has also intensified with a group of Cold War scholars in Tirana (led by Ana Lalaj), who, with support by CWIHP, are in the process of mining the Albanian archives. CWIHP's Italian partner CIMA, led by Ennio Di Nolfo, Massimiliano Guderzo and Leopoldo Nuti, is spearheading a systematic exploration of the Détente years. Following my recent trip to Yalta, Kyiv and Lviv, plans are underway for a Cold War conference in Ukraine that would build on the work of Mark Kramer and others featured in this *Bulletin* issue. Our partners in Beijing and Shanghai, the Modern History Research Center at Beijing University and the Cold War Studies Center at East China Normal University are playing central roles in collaborative efforts to assess the history of Chinese foreign policy in a series of meetings over the next three years, sponsored by the Henry Luce Foundation. Thanks to CWIHP Senior Research Scholar Dennis Deletant (University of London) and his partners in Bucharest, we are incrementally gaining access to Romanian party, foreign ministry and military archives. Just how significant the archives of smaller powers can be is demonstrated by the prolific activities of former CWIHP Fellow Jordan Baev and his colleagues in Sofia. From the Warsaw Pact to Latin America to Afghanistan, the Bulgarian archives turn out to be an ever widening "backdoor" into Soviet policy. CWIHP Senior Scholar Vojtech Mastny and his colleagues at the Zurich-based Parallel History Project continue to document the history of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. In the future, the Project hopes to intensify its contacts with scholars and institutions in the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia and well as Africa.



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—Christian F. Ostermann

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> The conference received generous support from The Henry Luce Foundation and the Korea Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> Conferences on Cold War flashpoints included: "Poland 1980-1982: Internal Crisis, International Dimensions," Jachranka-Warsaw, 8-10 November 1997, co-organized with the Institute for Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw) and the National Security Archive; "The Crisis Year 1953 and the Cold War in Europe," Potsdam, 10-12 November 1996, co-organized with the Center for Contemporary History Research (Potsdam) and the National Security Archive; "Hungary and the World, 1956: The New Archival Evidence," Budapest, 26-29 September 1996, co-sponsored with the Institute for the History of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution (Budapest) and the National Security Archive; and "Czechoslovakia and the World, 1968: The New Archival Evidence," Prague, 18-20 April 1994, co-sponsored with The Prague Spring 1968 Foundation (Prague) and the National Security Archive. For information on these conferences, see past CWIHP *Bulletin*, in particular nos. 8/9, 10 and 11. See also Mark Kramer, "Ukraine and the Soviet-Czechoslovak Crisis of 1968 (Part 1): New Evidence from the Diary of Petro Shelest," *Cold War International History Project Bulletin* 10 (March 1998), pp. 234-247.

<sup>3</sup> The conference featured extraordinary discussions and new revelations from the archives from ten countries—including memoranda of conversation between Cuban and Soviet leaders, detailed information on Cuban-Soviet military ties, recently declassified US intelligence analyses, and new information about nuclear dangers arising from the crisis that have been unknown until now. See "The Missiles of 1962 Haunt the Iraq Debate," by Todd S. Purdum, *Week In Review, New York Times*, 13 October 2002; "When the World Stood on Edge And Nobody Died Beautifully," by Tim Wiener, *New York Times*, 13 October 2002; "Soviets Close to Using A-Bomb in 1962 Crisis, Forum is Told", by Marion Lloyd *Boston Sunday Globe*, 13 October 2002, p. A20; "Cold War foes visit Soviet-made missile silo in Cuba," by Anthony Boodle, *Reuters English News Service*, 13 October 2002; "40 Years After Missile Crisis, Players Swap Stories in Cuba," by Kevin Sullivan, *Washington Post*, 13 October 2002, p. A28; "Meeting Between Soviet, Cuban and American Officials to Discuss the Cuban Missile Crisis, 40 Years Later," by Tom Gjelten, *Weekend Edition Saturday National Public Radio*, 12 October 2002; "Nightline Cuban Missile Crisis," by George Stephanopoulos, *ABC News Nightline*, 12 October 2002; "Reflections on the Cuban missile crisis," by Randall Pinkston, *CBS Evening News*, 12 October 2002. For more information on the conference, see the National Security Archive website: <http://nsarchive.org>.

<sup>4</sup> See in particular the articles and compilations by Kathryn Weathersby in *CWIHP Bulletins* nos. 4, 5, 6-7 and 11.

<sup>5</sup> The first meeting of scholars from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia 7 and 11.

