

misguided and not viable. What they actually object to is any project which is national in scope and thus has the potential of both uniting the divergent elements of the country and positively fostering a sense a national accomplishment.

In another blow to the zero-growth efforts of the IMF-World Bank, Mahathir is advocating a population target of 70 million by the year 2100. The current population is about 16 million. One can almost hear the teeth-gnashing at the World Bank at such an outrageous display of national sovereignty!

The 'opposition'

The human rights group most often promoted by the international press as Mahathir's opposition is Aliran, whose president, Chandra Muzaffar, was recently arrested under the Internal Securities Act, and later released. It has attempted to unite all elements of the opposition, from Islamic fundamentalists to Chinese rights groups, in an effort to destabilize the country and overthrow what they call the Mahathir dictatorship. Aliran promotes the "small is beautiful" mentality, attacking technology, promoting environmentalism, advocating the legalization of drugs, and supporting "indigenous peoples' rights" groups. Not only does their publication promote the Singapore communists accused of plotting against the government, but Muzaffar has been denied entry into Singapore because of his stated support for the communists. Their 1987 conference featured speakers promoting Islamic fundamentalism, stating that Islam should be above the constitution.

Muzaffar himself, a recent convert to Islam, stated that the Malaysian constitution must reflect the fundamentalists' desire for an Islamic state. (It should be noted that even though Islam is the national religion, Malaysia is not a theocratic state, like Iran.)

Despite the fact that Aliran admits to having only 250 members, nonetheless, Muzaffar has received widespread sympathy "PR." It is clear that the human rights mafia, along with their Soviet and U.S. State Department sympathizers, consider development less of a democratic right, than the "freedom" to destabilize and overthrow the government of a sovereign nation.

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Japan strengthens ties to W. Europe

by Mary McCourt Burdman

Both Japan and the ASEAN nations—Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei—are seeking stronger economic and political ties with Western Europe, with two important motivations for these moves. The first is the disastrous U.S. trade policy and dollar collapse, which have created a crisis in U.S.-Asian relations. The second is the "Single Europe" act, which will transform Europe into the approximation of a single political-economic unit by Dec. 31, 1992, and which powerful banking forces are seeking to use to reorganize Europe into a neo-corporatist entity ruled by supranational cartels.

After their experiences with the United States, Japan and the ASEAN nations, all very dependent on exports, want to do all they can now to secure relations with the nations of Western Europe.

Takeshita's Mission

Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who visited Italy, the Vatican, Great Britain, and West Germany in a tour April 29-May 9, was quite explicit. "We have unveiled a new 'Japanese-European era,' " he said in Bonn May 6.

Before he left Tokyo, Takeshita told the Japanese press, "The international economy, that has so long been supported through the overwhelming strength of the U.S. economy, is changing; therefore, Japan and Western Europe must unite their strength with the U.S., to sustain the global system."

Of the "international cooperation initiative" he announced in London on May 4, he said, "There is an imperative need for effective and balanced cooperation, both politically and economically among the trilateral partners. It cannot be denied, however, that the relations between Japan and Europe, which form one side of the triangle, have not been close enough compared with the other two sides. . . . We must not allow this state of affairs to continue." According to reports on West German radio, he told Chancellor Helmut Kohl May 5 that Japan is interested in Europe because it considers Europe a much larger economy and a much more interesting future market than the United States. There is

"untapped potential for cooperation in modern technologies," Takeshita said. He will return to visit France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg just before going to the Toronto Group of 7 summit in June.

Last year, there was a lot of tension between the EC nations, particularly Britain, and Japan on trade issues, such as Japanese taxes on British whiskey, but now Mr. Takeshita has been bold enough to demand that Europe make concessions on protectionism. He said in London May 4, "It is Europe's grave responsibility, as it strives to achieve integration, to maintain a free trade system that gets rid of protectionism for the sake of building an open and truly international world order." Although Japanese imports from Europe have risen 84% in the last two years, the trade gap continues to widen. But in his press conference in Bonn May 6, Takeshita laid the responsibility for expanded European exports on the European Community (EC). "It is self-evident for us in Japan that we support free trade," he said. "We now expect more effort on the European side. . . . I can say that the Japanese market is very open."

Trade and protectionism were critical issues at the 7th EC-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, held in Dusseldorf May 2-3. EC-ASEAN trade has grown by 50% since 1980, but the EC is ASEAN's third-largest trading partner, and ASEAN ministers are concerned that the 1992 "Single Europe" act will just spread current national protectionist measures to all of the EC. The meeting's joint declaration called "the correction of existing . . . trade and current account imbalances, and the reduction of monetary instability . . . a major task in restoring a sound international economy. The necessity was also stressed of countering growing protectionist pressures, increasing financial flows to developing countries, alleviating their debt burden. . . . The Ministers also recognized that the close relations developed between ASEAN and the EC would benefit the world economy. . . . ASEAN Ministers urged that the interest of the developing countries including ASEAN be fully taken into account" at the Toronto summit.

ASEAN spokesman, Thai Foreign Minister Siddi Savetsila, announced at the May 3 press conference in Dusseldorf, "ASEAN was concerned about 1992, but he was satisfied" by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's and EC Commissioner Claude Cheysson's assurances that, as Genscher said, "An economically strong Europe will be more than ever obliged to keep its external frontiers open."

Fighting the environmentalists

Whether promises from these pro-Soviet European individuals will be fulfilled remains to be seen, but Asian leaders are meanwhile striving to make sure that relations with Europe are not sabotaged by other kinds of Soviets assets, the so-called environmentalists.

The ASEAN ministers stressed the "great importance" for the development of their economies they attach to "main-

tenance and expansion" of two commodity exports, in particular. These are vegetable oils and fats, especially palm oil, which U.S. soybean producers are trying to cut out of the U.S. market, and tropical timber.

European environmentalists, including Survival International, Friends of the Earth, and the Green Party, have launched a campaign to boycott Malaysian hardwoods, which constitute 15% of Malaysia's non-oil exports and earned the country \$1.6 billion last year. Some of these groups held their own "hearings," featuring members of the European Parliament and West German Bundestag, to "expose" human rights violations in the ASEAN nations May 3 in Dusseldorf.

The Malaysian government sent a ministerial delegation to Europe the week of April 18, to counter the environmentalists' attacks. The Delegation's head, Minister of Primary Industries Dr. Kim Keng Yaik said in London that he objected to the "patronizing" attitude of Western environmentalists, "the attitude that we are stupid, that we do not know how to run our country or our economy, and that we are still swinging from trees." Malaysia also takes great pride in the fact that it is the first country making sustainable use of its rain forests, Dr. Lim said. He has a "sneaking suspicion," he said, "without any evidence, that the campaign to stop hardwoods was raised by softwood producers."

The environmentalists claim that cutting down the rain forests endangers the primitive culture of the Panan tribesmen in Sarawak. Similar campaigns have been launched against development projects and to "protect" the forests of Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia, all nations hit by the collapse of world trade and commodity prices. Should the greens' campaign succeed in bankrupting Malaysian-owned timber and palm oil production, however, someone would benefit: It is reported in Europe that Tiny Rowland, head of the Lonrho multinational, an East-West trade broker, and international financial thug, is now buying heavily into plantations and other holdings in Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia.

The second "pillar" of his initiative, Takeshita announced in London and Bonn, is cultural. "I intend to promote interchange among the various cultures of the world, while encouraging the preservation of each nation's precious culture." This includes a new fellowship program under which European scientists and researchers would work in Japan for about one year, and the intensification of language study exchanges. This year, Japan will invite approximately 1,500 young people from Britain, the United States, and other English-speaking countries to teach English in Japan for a year; German, French, and other European-language teachers will also be invited. In addition, he said, there will be increased support for studies of the Japanese language and culture in Europe. Takeshita said his policy of "creative vitalization of the home country" with emphasis on Japanese tradition and patriotism, had gotten sympathetic response in Germany and Britain.

SPETSNAZ



SPETSNAZ

In the Pentagon's "authoritative" report on the Soviet military threat, *Soviet Military Power 1988*, the word *spetsnaz* never even appears. But *spetsnaz* are Russian "green berets." Infiltrated into Western Europe, *spetsnaz* have new weapons that can wipe out NATO'S mobility, firepower, and depth of defense, *before* Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov launches his general assault.

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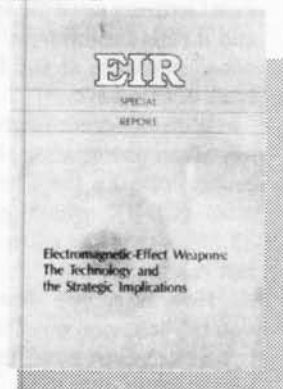
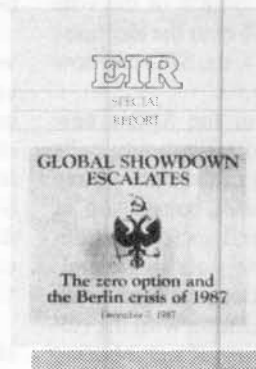
At least the Pentagon report mentions them—but only their "defensive" applications. In fact, they can be transported by *spetsnaz*, finely tuned to kill, paralyze, or disorient masses of people, or to destroy electronics and communications. With EMP, as strategic weaponry or in the hands of *spetsnaz*, the Russians won't need to fire a single nuclear missile to take Europe.

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