

even use the same color for their shirts as members of the Laban Party. Do we get inspiration from an incident in a foreign country?" referring to the "people's power" ouster of Ferdinand Marcos. UMNO Deputy President Ghafar Baba, speaking before the joint session of UMNO Youth and Wanita (women's division) stated equally clearly: "Unfortunately, there are people with a negative attitude who want to topple the government, because they want to grab power by destroying a growing country. Such tactics were also used by the Communist Party of Malay. Before grabbing power, they plotted first to destroy the economy."

Ghafar's comments were especially relevant, given the recent defamatory speech by Musa to the Hong Kong Foreign

Correspondents Club, where he depicted Malaysia's Barisan Nasional coalition as weak and falling apart, and Mahathir as only holding onto power through dictatorial means. The foreign press lent a sympathetic ear, as Musa knew they would.

But at home, Malays were appalled at the speech; some even labeled it traitorous. Many felt it could only have a negative effect on foreign investment in Malaysia. Mahathir, however, during his UMNO General Assembly address, put the cards on the table: "The aim of these foreign media and these groups is to undermine the stability and development of Malaysia. . . . Thus, whoever threatens stability and causes problems to the nation receives their support. In this, the

Senator Moynihan joins the opposition

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), the self-proclaimed anti-LaRouche spokesman who has called for an end to party primaries in the United States, to ensure that no more LaRouche supporters could win, has recently surfaced supporting Malaysia's jailed "human rights" activist Karpol Singh, who was arrested in October 1987 with about 100 others under Malaysia's Internal Security Act (ISA), for inciting racial tension. The most recent issue of the opposition monthly *Aliran* featured an Aug. 10 letter of support for Karpol Singh signed by Senator Moynihan, along with Rep. Dave Durenberger (R-Minn.), Rep. Tony Hall (D-Ohio), and Rep. James Jeffords (R-Vt.). The letter claimed that Singh "is a respected human rights lawyer" and should be freed to "permit him to return to his human rights activities without interference."

Joining Moynihan is AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, whose letter was featured in the previous issue of *Aliran* supporting former ISA detainee Dr. V. David. David, who is both an opposition member of Parliament and general secretary of the Transport Workers Union (MTUC), has been the point man for the AFL-CIO in its efforts to destabilize Malaysia, through the threatened withdrawal of special trade privileges under the Generalized System of Preferences. GSP privileges permit developing countries to pay reduced tariffs for their exports to the United States. The loss of GSP benefits would jeopardize at least 75,000 Malaysian jobs and over 11% of Malaysia's exports to America. The AFL-CIO has filed a petition with the U.S. government to end these privileges, due to the alleged violation of the human rights of Malaysian workers.

Though Kirkland claims in his letter to David that their intention is "not to cause Malaysia to lose its GSP privileges," that is exactly what he has told the U.S. government to do. Kirkland himself admits that this "is a paradox that some find difficult to understand."

It is ironic that in light of the AFL-CIO's efforts to unleash havoc in Malaysia, its representatives are protesting the withdrawal of the very same benefits from Israel, for human rights violations. No less an expert on human rights than AFL-CIO International Affairs Committee chairman and president of the American Federation of Teachers Albert Shanker recently testified before a Washington, D.C. interagency panel investigating whether six nations—Malaysia, Haiti, Burma, Liberia, and Israel—should have their special trade benefits revoked. Israel was placed on the list as a result of charges filed by the Arab-American Anti-Discriminatory Committee, citing violations against the rights of Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Over 300 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops during the past year's uprising. At the hearings, Shanker expressed his outrage that Israel should be put "in the same category" as the other five nations.

Mahathir hits back

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohammad, in a speech before the U.N. General Assembly last September, implicitly attacked the hypocrisy of the likes of Moynihan and the AFL-CIO leaders. "It would be tragic," he said, "if a working, prosperous nation is destroyed because some self-appointed democrat felt it was not democratic enough. This holier-than-thou attitude is out of tune with modern mores. . . . As with fanatical religious proselytizers, the so-called champions of democracy are not adverse to using undemocratic and coercive means to force their particular brand of democracy on the weak and poor. Refusal to comply results in all kinds of economic and political arm-twisting."