

Editorial

Some bombshells from Asia

In upcoming issues, *EIR* will be presenting a number of political bombshells, gathered by Southeast Asia desk editor Gail Billington during a recent trip to that part of the world. A preview is in order.

The highlight of the trip was Mrs. Billington's presentation to approximately 40 diplomats at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia's leading think-tank, on Jan. 26. She spoke on the subject of "Human Rights, an American Perspective," to a group which had representation from Asia, Ibero-America, Europe, and the United States.

As reported in a release from the state news agency Bernama, which was printed in the Malaysian daily *The Star*, Billington stressed the importance of Malaysia's selective capital controls in putting a priority on people's welfare, over the interests of financial institutions, and in serving as a model for other nations in that respect. "It is the ideal of national sovereignty that the primary responsibility of government is for citizens, not for financial interests, not for speculators, and not for the international market," Billington is quoted saying.

Billington also stressed that *EIR* has provided its readers with much of the documentation of what Malaysia has done, taken from Malaysian sources, and letting them speak for themselves. This has led to many other nations, notably including Brazil, taking a more serious look at what is increasingly called the "Malaysian model" of currency controls.

Three major interviews which Billington procured during her trip will help *EIR* continue to serve this function.

One of those interviews is with Samdech Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Government of Royal Cambodia, who addressed the issue of how to prevent a new civil war from arising out of dealing with the aftermath of the Khmer Rouge genocide of the 1970s.

From Cambodia, Billington travelled to Malaysia, where she did extensive interviews with the Finance Minister, Tun Daim Zainuddin, and with the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad.

From the interview with Dr. Mahathir comes the

most explosive bombshell of all. The Prime Minister, who has taken the point internationally in attacking the criminal role of international speculators, exposed the nature of the counter-operation against economist Lyndon LaRouche and *EIR*. In response to a question about what he thinks of the idea of LaRouche being appointed economic adviser to President Clinton, Dr. Mahathir said:

"Yes, I think advice and discussion are very important here. Firstly, we all need to understand what the problem is all about. We need to learn about each others' experience and how we tackle the problem. So this kind of contact must serve a useful purpose. And we would welcome that certainly.

"Unfortunately, of course, the word is passed around [that] the *EIR* is a fascist group. . . . This is told to me by some of your detractors, including my former deputy [Anwar Ibrahim—ed.], who told me in fact that *EIR* is a fascist paper. So, that is the way of undermining any attempt on your part to try to promote the kind of ideas that *EIR* has always focussed upon."

Clearly Dr. Mahathir has had the strength to resist such slanders of *EIR*. It could not have escaped his attention that those who retailed those slanders, have also been the strongest opponents of the measures he has taken to defend his population against the modern pirates called speculators. We have also begun to see other people getting the courage to associate openly with LaRouche, as the publication of LaRouche's commentary in the Russian weekly *Kommersant-Vlast* (see *Economics*) underscores.

LaRouche's economics is based on the idea that governments must provide the conditions under which human beings can develop their unique capabilities, as made in the image of the Creator. The opponents of his views have always hidden behind such whispering campaigns. Now, at the eleventh hour, when LaRouche's ideas are so desperately needed to prevent the collapse of civilization into a New Dark Age, the power of that intimidation campaign must be broken. These bombshells from Asia should help do the job.