

South Korea Convinces Malaysia's Prime Minister To Go Nuclear

by Michael Billington

June 6—Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak, who came into office only two months ago, has dropped a bombshell into the intense Malaysian political and economic debate over how to respond to the global economic breakdown. Following Najib's participation in the ASEAN-South Korea CEO Summit in South Korea May 31-June 1, and after private discussions with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, Najib released a statement saying he was convinced that small nuclear reactors, generating 200-300,000 KW of power, should be part of Malaysia's energy policy. "Such a reactor is safe and can be set up near a municipality. Forty percent of the power in South Korea is generated by these reactors," he said, noting that they cost only one-third as much as a coal-powered station.

As is customary these days, although no less absurd therefore, the Prime Minister's call for Malaysia to go nuclear was dressed in the garb of green technology, noting that there is no carbon emission from nuclear plants. Although true, it feeds into the scientific fraud that CO₂ is a pollutant, causing a (non-existent) rise in global temperatures. As part of the Summit, the Seoul government hosted a "Green Growth, Green Asia" exhibition, promoting so-called green technologies, including solar panels and giant windmills, which consume more energy to mine, manufacture, maintain, and dispose of than they produce in their short lifetimes.

But the Koreans have attempted to judo the green technology hype by focusing on nuclear power as the best green energy source, countering the hysterical anti-nuclear prejudices of most advocates of the climate change hoax. Not only does South Korea produce over 40% of its electricity with nuclear power, but it is rightfully proud of the fact that its early decision to use nuclear energy was the key to its development as a modern industrial nation, with one of the highest standards of living in Asia.

An official from the Blue House (residence of the President) in Seoul, who helped escort the ten heads of state of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) through the exhibition, reported that nearly every leader was fascinated by the small nuclear reactors. Other Korean technological innovations which were of great interest included a membrane used for water purification and desalination.

President Lee, the former CEO of Hyundai Engineering and Construction, has, over many decades, established close relations with leaders in Southeast Asia as an advisor on infrastructure development. He oversaw the construction of the Penang Bridge in Malaysia in the 1980s, and has been a close associate of Malaysia's then-Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, ever since. In Cambodia, Lee has been an advisor to Prime Minister Hun Sen for ten years, and Korea has been the leading investor in Cambodia's reconstruction.

A Raging Debate

Prime Minister Najib's surprise declaration for nuclear power intersected a raging debate within Malaysia on this issue, spurred to a great extent by friends of Lyndon LaRouche, in collaboration with the nuclear scientist community in Malaysia, trained several decades ago during the U.S. Atoms for Peace era. Mohd Peter Davis, a scientist at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), who also represents the LaRouche movement in that country, has been a persistent advocate of Malaysia's taking the lead in nuclear power development and other new technologies, among developing nations.

Over the last year, as Najib prepared to take over as Prime Minister in April 2009, there was a noticeable shift in the coverage of the nuclear issue in the nation's press. For the first time, letters from Davis regarding nuclear power and other issues were printed in the leading papers, and he was interviewed as a nuclear advo-



U.S. Department of Defense/Helene C. Stikkel
Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak's surprise declaration of support for nuclear power intersected a raging national debate on this issue.



Creative Commons/Henrik Hansson
South Korean President Lee Myung-bak met privately with the Malaysian Prime Minister in Seoul, and played a key role in convincing the latter to "go nuclear."

cate, answering the lies and confusion peddled by the dupes of the British anti-science campaigns led by Prince Philip's Worldwide Fund for Nature, whose colonial intention is to collapse world population under the forced-backwardness policies of the British Empire. Davis also collaborated with the Malaysia Nuclear Society in sponsoring events and rallying experts to engage the public in a dialogue aimed at refuting the lies about nuclear power.

Dr. Kim in Kuala Lumpur

Then, last month, a visitor from South Korea arrived in Kuala Lumpur for a series of lectures on college campuses. Dr. Jong H. Kim, from the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), explained the crucial role of nuclear power in the transformation of South Korea after the devastation of the Korean War. Mohd Peter Davis's son Danny, a first-year physics student at UPM, attended the event and was inspired by the clear evidence that nuclear power was not only safe, but essential to meet the needs of current and future generations. He wrote a report on the event to submit to the newspapers.

Unfortunately, Dr. Mahathir, who, as Prime Minister, stood up against the financial imperial powers on behalf of his country, and the developing nations generally, during the 1997-98 speculative assault on the Asian economies, posted an anti-nuclear declaration on his

blog, the most widely read blog in the country. Danny Davis decided to use his report as a response to Mahathir; it read in part: "As a student studying physics at UPM who grew up to admire your Vision 2020 [a plan for Malaysia to be a modern industrial nation by 2020], I am very disappointed that such a good leader for Malaysia and developing countries has swallowed the unscientific anti-nuclear propaganda pushed by the green environmental movement. I have become convinced for some time that a Nuclear Malaysia is the way to achieve Vision 2020 and beyond."

He detailed Dr. Kim's story about South Korea's nuclear-driven rise from backwardness, adding: "I came away from the talk convinced that South Korea's 50-year peaceful nuclear program is the very best example for Malaysia to follow. If South Korea can be recognized not only as a

major economic power, but a major nuclear power producer, isn't it time we make more of a name for ourselves than merely rubber, palm oil, and the Petronas Twin Towers? Our Asian neighbors have done it. Vision 2020 is only 11 years away. What are we waiting for?

—Muhammed Daniel"

Apparently, Najib came away from his Korean trip with the same inspired vision, which the nation is now primed to implement. Najib also discussed with President Lee the potential for sending Malaysian youth to Korea to be trained in the necessary technologies.

Meanwhile, Dr. Nahrul Khair Alang Md Rashid, the head of the Malaysia Nuclear Society, is sponsoring a debate on Aug. 6 between nuclear scientists and the anti-nuke fringe, and has agreed to include students as participants on both sides. Danny Davis has been invited.

With Malaysia again asserting international leadership for a defense of the sovereign nation-state against the Empire, the other nations of Southeast Asia which are seriously considering nuclear power, as well as other developing nations, will have a model and a supporter in their efforts to achieve sovereignty and energy independence through nuclear power. While this will not solve the global economic crisis, without a global nuclear renaissance, escape from the impending new dark age will be impossible.

mobeir@aol.com