

racists are usually educated and are well versed in the manipulation of democratic freedom for their ends.

Their methods differ very little from the communist front organisations. Indeed, in many cases, they are the same people or they work together.

In 1969, race riots broke out because the government then did not read the signs. We are not going to allow that to happen. Acting after the outbreak is like locking the stables after [the horse is gone]. To be worthwhile, we must take preventive action according to the British-formulated Preventive Detention Act.

Academics, environmentalists, and leaders of consumer associations, etc. were not arrested because they were academics, etc. They were arrested because they instigated racial animosities.

Surely it is not suggested that academics or opposition members be exempted from the provisions of the law. It may interest you that many members of the government parties were also arrested, questioned, and some were detained. Those arrested are of all races and religious beliefs. We do not discriminate.

Since my government took over in 1981, most of the people detained under the ISA have been released. Under the three previous governments, some 2,000 people languished in detention.

Last year, there were only 300 hard-core communists who refused to forswear violence who remained in detention. Of 106 brought in for questioning last year, only 50 are detained.

Malaysian laws are harsh. They have to be if we are going to have stability in a country used to British authoritarian rule and consequently unfamiliar with democracy.

Most newly independent countries could not manage a democratic system and reverted to British-style authoritarian rule. Here the people can decide how harsh the laws should be by choosing the government they have faith in. We are not beholden to anyone else, least of all to MPs of some other nation.

When Australia was at the stage of Malaysia's present development, you solved your Aborigines' problem by simply shooting them. You made sure of your present white supremacy of your White Australia Policy. Even now, there is discrimination against coloured people.

If you are really not racist, you should do what the British did to us: admit as many Chinese and Indians as are willing to make Australia their home until they make up at least 50% of your population.

If at that stage they demand that Chinese and Indian be Australia's media of instruction and you comply, then we will listen to your views on how to run Malaysia.

In the meantime, please concentrate on fair treatment for Aborigines and the Asians in your midst, and leave us alone. Australians give themselves too many airs and think they should advise all the governments in Southeast Asia how to run their countries.

---

## Malaysia

---

# AFL-CIO dirty operation exposed

by Sophie Tanapura

The political forces behind the ongoing destabilization of Malaysia have been brought to light by recent government revelations that the AFL-CIO, citing violations of "human and trade union rights," has petitioned the U.S. Congress to revoke Malaysia's trade privileges under the Generalized System of Preference (GSP). The AFL-CIO itself claims it had done so at the urging of Dr. V. David, secretary general of the Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC).

The irony of the present situation has not escaped Malaysia's outspoken prime minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, who is reported in the June 6 Malaysian daily *The Star*, as saying that Dr. David, despite being a trade union leader, had been quite willing to victimize the workers, because the withdrawal of the GSP, which brings annual gains of about 350 million Malaysian dollars to the country, would greatly penalize the workforce.

Certainly, Dr. Mahathir's comments could also apply to the AFL-CIO, whose "Project Democracy" demands for "human rights" threaten to destroy the livelihood of workers globally. Malaysia, however, is not taking this meddling in its internal affairs lying down, and intends to fight the AFL-CIO petition. Dr. Mahathir, however, has warned that fighting the AFL-CIO may mean "they will resort to other actions which can bring losses to us." And indeed, as of this writing, Labor Minister Lee Kim Sai, together with MTUC President Zainal Rampak and Cuepacs President A. Ragnathan are attending the International Labor Organization (ILO) conference in Geneva, where "human rights" will be a major item on the agenda.

## 75,000 jobs threatened

As part of its counterattack, the government has released figures warning Malaysians that the loss of GSP trade privileges would jeopardize at least 75,000 jobs and investment in about 895 manufacturing companies. If agriculture-related industries are included, the figures would be even higher. According to Trade and Industry Minister Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz, 11.74% of the country's 7.84 billion Malaysian dollars in exports to the United States are under the GSP program. Products included under GSP privileges are palm oil, fruit, rubber, plastic, metal products, plywood, and textiles.

Obviously, withdrawal of these privileges would seriously affect future investment in Malaysia as well, since much

of the current investment is toward export-oriented industries. Concerning Dr. David's support for trade sanctions, the June 8 Malaysian daily *New Straits Times* quotes Datin Paduka Rafidah saying she despised "this kind of attitude" from a Malaysian. "It is unthinkable that someone should have called for something to be done against the country when we are trying to encourage investment and to promote growth," she said.

As for trade union official Dr. David, he was recently released from security detention, having been arrested last October during the Internal Security Act (ISA) sweep involving individuals agitating racial unrest. Now he denies he ever asked the AFL-CIO to help revoke Malaysia's GSP privileges. However, when confronted by the press as to whether he would now ask the AFL-CIO to withdraw their petition, given the information that has come out on how much it would hurt the country, he flatly stated he would not, until all political detainees were released.

Needless to say, this attitude did not gain him much sympathy, and, rather immediately other trade union officials denounced his behavior as unpatriotic. He then softened his position and graciously offered himself as a mediator between Malaysia and the United States to prevent any trade sanctions. David delivered this generous "offer" at a press conference, where he also issued a prepared statement with the astonishing title, "On the Threatened GSP Sanctions—David Offers a Guarantee—Prepared to Play the Kissinger Role." Certainly, it is difficult to imagine a proposal more self-indicting!

To strengthen the government position, the *New Straits Times* published excerpts from an AFL-CIO statement citing David's remarks at their Miami, Florida conference last October, where he urged trade sanctions against Malaysia because of workers' rights violations. He was also quoted making similar statements in the November 1987 Asian-American Free Labor Institute bulletin. According to the June 7 *Star*, this same bulletin reports that David, at this October 1987 conference, attended a seminar on how the AFL-CIO was using the threat of trade sanctions as a blackmail device against countries it deemed to be violating human and trade union rights.

Though David is not a novice at agitating political unrest (this was his fourth arrest under the ISA since 1958), the obvious manipulator has been the AFL-CIO, whose *modus operandi* is to profile trade union activists, then bring them into a controlled environment designed to make them into useful pawns for their "trade war" scenarios. Once David "asked" the AFL-CIO to act against Malaysia, supposedly in defense of human rights, they then had the justification to pressure the U.S. government to remove Malaysia's trade privileges. This is like ex-Panamanian President Eric Delvalle "requesting" an American invasion of Panama. Prime Minister Mahathir's action to bring the AFL-CIO's dirty operation into public view is the most effective measure to sabotage such violations of national sovereignty.

## Project Democracy:

### The 'parallel government' behind the Iran-Contra affair

An invisible, parallel government has been running U.S. foreign policy and economic policy—into a series of disasters that leave us open to Soviet conquest. Now, this invisible government can be exposed and driven from power. The United States can regain its sovereignty.

Order *EIR's Special Report*, for yourself and your congressman. Full documentation of the investigation behind the exclusive news stories you read in *EIR*. An indexed guide to Israeli and Soviet foreign intelligence networks in the Department of Justice and other government agencies, as well as the key "private" law firms, with greater power than most elected officials.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the "Project Democracy" Special Report at \$250 each postpaid. Please send (Rep. or Sen.) \_\_\_\_\_ a complimentary copy of the Report, at \$250 each postpaid.

I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ check or money order.

Please charge my  MasterCard  Visa

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to:

**EIR News Service**

P.O. Box 17390

Washington, D.C. 20041-0390