

International Intelligence

Malaysian leader hits Project Democracy

Speaking before the U.N. General Assembly, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Bin Mohamed took to task the representatives of the U.S. "Project Democracy," the State Department agents of destabilization internationally. "It would be tragic if a working, prosperous nation is destroyed because some self-appointed democrat felt it was not democratic enough," he declared.

Without naming the Philippines, Panama, Korea, or other nations, he stated, "The 'holier than thou' attitude is out of tune with modern times. As with fanatical religious proselytizers, the so-called champions of democracy are not averse to using undemocratic and coercive means to force their particular brand of democracy on the weak and the poor. Refusal to comply results in all kinds of economic and political arm-twisting."

He also called for the creation of an international agency manned by a fulltime staff to eradicate poverty. He insisted that poverty cannot be wiped out by one nation alone or through ad hoc charitable efforts.

"We see living children being literally devoured by flies," he said. "We see skeletons hobbling around. We see people so ill that we wonder how they survive at all." Mahathir was caustic on the subject of "environmentalism." "Even if we have to spend billions on . . . preserving the beauty of nature, the forest, the rare insect species, and the other things that we claim will enhance the quality of our life, we have no excuse in this day and age to permit such misery to befall millions of fellow humans."

U.N. delegates stood in line to offer their congratulations after the prime minister's speech.

U.S. blocking British sales to China

British efforts to sell in-flight refueling equipment to the Chinese Air Force are being blocked by the United States, which is fearful the equipment will boost Beijing's air power dramatically, enabling it to mount

operations in areas currently out of range.

But U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci is, at the same time, believed to be secretly trying to sell American fighter-bombers to China.

Both the United States and Japan have objected to Beijing's deal with the British FR Group, on the grounds it would give China an increased capability to launch attacks on Japan. The equipment would be fitted first to 20 of China's aging Qiangjiji-5 fighter and strike aircraft, a copy of the Russian MiG-19. Some of China's H-6 bombers, a copy of the Soviet Tu-16 Badger aircraft, would be converted into airborne tankers.

China does not currently possess any airborne refueling equipment. Once acquired, areas of Southeast Asia would come within range, including large portions of Vietnam, thus considerably strengthening China's hand in disputed places such as the Spratly Islands.

The U.S. protest has led to the deal being referred to the Paris-based CoCom, the Atlantic alliance agency which restricts the sale of sensitive equipment to communist countries.

Kaunda attacks approach to AIDS

The President of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda, told the Long Island, New York daily *Newsday* that many Western scientists and drug companies view Africans as "mere guinea pigs" in the fight against AIDS.

Kaunda said that Africans all too often are being looked upon either as potential recipients of untested drugs and vaccines, or as the subject of AIDS research that brings fame to foreign scientists but no relief to suffering African patients.

"I wish that some international regulations could be formulated which would place controls on these matters. . . . How could anybody think we should be guinea pigs here? Human beings! I can't understand that. We are all one human race, and for any part of it to be treated as guinea pigs, because of their race or I don't know what, is wrong. . . . We should be uniting our forces, weak and strong, coming together, because in the end AIDS knows no boundaries."

Kaunda will give the keynote address to the International Meeting on AIDS, to be held in Montreal next June. Two of the President's sons have died from AIDS.

Palestinian council finally to meet

After much delay, the Palestinian National Council is finally expected to meet on Oct. 31. The final date was decided on by Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat after much pressure by the Soviets to postpone the gathering even longer.

But Arafat decided that if the Likud wins the upcoming Israeli election, the PNC would be unable to make any political concessions to Israel, out of fear that they would be seen as displaying weakness in the face of Israeli hardliners.

The conference will hence be held just one day before the Israeli elections. But under Soviet pressure, reported by *Le Monde* on Oct. 15, the PLO has abandoned the idea of creating a government-in-exile, and will only issue a "declaration of Palestinian independence."

Another feature of the PNC meeting will be the integration of West Bank Islamic fundamentalists who had mounted a challenge to the PLO there, but have now "reconciled."

However, a main question is where the meeting will be held. Palestinian sources report that Algiers was ruled out because of security concerns in the present unstable situation. Tunis may be the next selection. An assassination attempt on Arafat is feared.

Taiwan adviser resigns over Moscow trade

Republic of China President Lee Teng-hui's senior personal adviser resigned Oct. 17 amid press reports of a high-level dispute over trade links with Moscow.

A presidential office statement said Shen Chang-huan, the President's secretary who twice served as foreign minister, resigned because of ill health.

But the *United Daily News* reported on Oct. 13 that Shen opposed a visit to the