

(Burma) Road from Moreh, India to Kalewa, Myanmar. This \$33 million project will renew India's road connection both to China, and to southeastern Asia, via Mandalay, Yangon, and Bangkok. China has been upgrading the Mandalay-to-Kunming stretch of the old Burma Road since 1991.

China has also been developing relations with Bangladesh. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited Beijing last autumn. In March, Chinese Vice Premier Luo Gan visited Dhaka, to discuss providing more development assistance to Bangladesh. Luo, a senior leader who has been secretary general of the State Council since 1988, met Sheikh Hasina, and discussed planned subregional cooperation, including the Ganges water treaty with India, with Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad.

The northern connection

Russia, which is an ASEAN Dialogue Partner, has also been indicating increasing interest in southeastern Asia. *Ros-*

siiskaya Gazeta reported on July 16 that Minister of Railroads Nikolai Akseenko met Malaysian Minister of Transport Ling Liong Sik to discuss the Trans-Asia Railroad. Once the rail connections from Southeast Asia to China are completed, the Trans-Siberian Railway could become part of the rail network, via Mongolia, tying Asia to Europe.

In June, the ASEAN-Russia Joint Cooperation Committee was founded, during the visit of Vietnamese ASEAN representative Nguyen Manh Hung to Moscow. Areas for cooperation discussed were energy and "joint projects in railway and other types of transport." Hung stated that, "given the fact that Russia is a country with a huge scientific and technological potential, we in ASEAN hope very much to have cooperation in science and technology with Russia."

Pakistani Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan made a working visit to Moscow, which concluded on July 10, to intensify the two nations' "constructive dialogue."

Correction

Our box in last week's issue, p. 49, on "The Political Power behind 'l'Affaire Cheminade,' " contained a number of errors. An editorial oversight prevented the version edited by Mr. Cheminade from appearing in print. We reprint the box as it should have appeared.

Recently, Prime Minister Lionel Jospin stated that he would make the justice system independent of the Executive branch. It would be nice to think that he was referring to the frame-up of Jacques Cheminade, which is a paragon of the perversion of justice for political ends. Unlike a simple travesty, the purpose for the dirty operations against Cheminade, was solely to blacken his name and the political authority of Lyndon LaRouche in France.

In 1982, LaRouche's associates in France met Mrs. Denise Pazéry, who, over the years, became a generous supporter. Mrs. Pazéry passed away in October 1986. In March 1987, her heirs launched a criminal suit against Cheminade and several of his associates for "fraud," charging that they had taken advantage of the 63-year-old Pazéry, who, they claimed, suffered from Alzheimer's disease, although it had only been revealed two years after the suit was filed. Despite offers by Cheminade et al. to refund her loans, the family insisted on a laborious criminal complaint.

In 1990, a judge found no basis for pursuing the complaint and ordered the case dismissed, without even indicting the parties. But then, in a seldom-used procedure, the

public prosecutor immediately appealed, and, with the charges now changed to "theft," the defendants were indicted. In the process of discovery, Cheminade and his associates learned that the Renseignements Généraux had issued a memo connecting the co-defendants to LaRouche, who, by that time, had been framed up and imprisoned. In 1992, Cheminade et al. were convicted, and given suspended sentences, and fined to pay heavy restitution to Pazéry's heirs. The defendants appealed.

In 1995, Cheminade declared his candidacy for President, met the rigorous requirements for ballot status, and received state funding for his campaign expenses, for which he raised 4.7 million francs in loans. Logically, he expected to repay his lenders from the publicly disbursed campaign funds. On Oct. 11, 1995, the Constitutional Council outrageously rejected Cheminade's campaign accounts, claiming that the loans were improperly raised because his supporters had not charged him interest! The ruling left Cheminade personally liable for roughly \$800,000. The state then seized Cheminade's belongings. It should be noted that other Presidential candidates blatantly violated all legal requirements, but were nonetheless given funds.

Then, to make sure that Cheminade's voice would be stilled, the Paris Court of Appeals upheld the Pazéry conviction, while hypocritically reducing the sentence, even though, as recently as 1995, a medical report to the magistrates concluded that there was no proof that Mrs. Pazéry (who, until her death, drove her own car, regularly attended social events, and managed her considerable personal finances) had any mental disorder which would have been noticed by a third party.