

and Blair, has evolved into the “Third Way.” Asian leaders got another such sideshow, when U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright led her State Department minions in a song-and-dance routine to defend mega-speculator George Soros, who had destroyed national finances throughout Southeast Asia, from the attacks of Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum in Kuala Lumpur last July.

The “Third Way” crew came to Kuala Lumpur with a clear intention of breaking up the meeting. Already in early November, regional leaders were urging that the Kuala Lumpur APEC summit focus on the financial crisis and the “revitalization of the Asian economies,” rather than getting sidetracked into unproductive fights over trade liberalization issues. “We agree that the coming APEC meeting in Kuala Lumpur is a very significant one,” the spokesman of Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura said in Tokyo on Nov. 5, following his meetings in Canberra with his Australian colleague, Alexander Downer. The priority of the Malaysian summit, the Japanese official said, is “to focus on the revitalization of the Asian economies, and we should stimulate the international attention to this.”

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir spelled out the framework of this position in his keynote address to the APEC Business Summit on Nov. 15. Speaking on “Restoring Confidence, Regenerating Growth: Managing Globalization Better,” to an audience of 1,150 from countries representing 40% of world trade, Mahathir was explicit: “As host to APEC this year, Malaysia feels a strong sense of responsibility that the meeting should help tackle the current economic problems. As we approach a new millennium, it is imperative that we devise and put in place a better economic and financial regime,

now referred to as architecture, for the world. Some of these will be the result of technological progress, but others will reflect the emergence of new commercial and sociological ideas and values. With your indulgence, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the present architecture or lack of it as manifested by the anarchical and unregulated capital flows in the international monetary system. In doing so we must not be tied down by fanatical beliefs which act as mental blocks to our recognition of the facts involved.”

In his conclusion, Dr. Mahathir took on the radical monetarists, epitomized by Dow Jones, Inc., and specifically by *Wall Street Journal* Editor Robert Bartley, who called on China to indulge in “creative destruction” of its economy in his Oct. 23 editorial. Mahathir said, “Creative destruction is not the way. We can build on what we have instead of destroying and expecting the phoenix to rise from the ashes.”

Gore’s shoddy-goods agenda

But from the onset, the U.S. delegation, of Gore, Secretary of State Albright, and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, supported by Canadian officials, insisted on liberalization measures so stark that even Japan, as integrated as it has been into the Group of Seven “bail out the mega-bubble” and radical free trade agenda, balked.

Barshefsky’s shrill Japan-bashing during the ministerial pre-meetings on APEC’s Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization, followed by Albright’s splashy, well-publicized meeting with the wife of fired Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim, anticipated Gore’s public self-destruction before an audience including the Malaysian Prime Minister and top officials on Nov. 16.

Gore reiterated all the worn-out phrases — “poor transpar-

Al Gore suffers foot-in-mouth disease

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Gore goofs again. Vice-President Al Gore’s address to the recent APEC meeting, has been fairly described by one Malaysia official, as the “most disgusting thing I have heard.” Those familiar with Gore would caution Asians not to overreact to such vintage Gore diplomacy: “What better should you expect from a Cigar-Store Indian?” Others might argue that Gore is a notorious sufferer from a relevant childhood infection, foot-in-the-mouth disease.

As to the implications of Gore’s shoddy performances for the future, I would point out to Asians worried about

the implications of Gore’s pretending to become the next U.S. President, Clinton would beat pretender George W. Bush, Jr. hands-down, but Bush would easily humiliate Gore. Bush’s advantage would be, that he is smart enough, so far, almost never to repeat his father’s frequent mistakes, never to put himself in a quotable position before cameras, on an important issue of public controversy.

Next time President Clinton seeks a moment of sweet relief in the White House environment, by shipping both Al Gore and Secretary “Meddling” Albright out of the country, he might send them some place where the blow-back would be minimal, such as to promote the export of U.S.-grown bananas, and of U.S.-made turtle-neck sweaters, on the sunny Galapagos Islands. Those beaches, such as they are, would offer Ms. Albright the opportunity to sing and dance to her heart’s content, without inviting the international publication of embarrassing comments from the local music critics. — *Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.*