

An open letter to friends in Malaysia

From American political prisoner Michael Billington. What do the sanctimonious Al Gore and the Washington Post know about justice?

April 25, 1999

Greetings to you, from my prison cell in Virginia. I am motivated to write to you in this fashion by two reports I've received from my wife, Gail—one, concerning a statement from the office of Vice President Al Gore, Jr., dated April 14, and the other an editorial in the April 19 *Washington Post*, entitled "Mr. Mahathir's Disgrace." While I was forced to laugh at the incredible hypocrisy of these two pompous and scurrilous attacks on Malaysia and on Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir, I also recognize that they represent a significant escalation of Mr. Gore's open break from the policies of President Clinton, as well as a further case of the Anglo-American assault on the principle of the sovereignty of nation-states.

I want to provide you with a most conclusive proof that Mr. Gore and the *Washington Post's* attacks on Malaysia are unrelated to the supposed injustice to deposed Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, as they claim, but rather, are part of a more general assault on Malaysia's role in resisting the crimes of global speculators and the international financial institutions, whom Mr. Gore and the *Washington Post* so faithfully serve. That proof lies in the fact that the descriptions of judicial tyranny ascribed to Malaysia by Mr. Gore and the *Washington Post* actually apply more accurately to the U.S. Department of Justice itself—and, in particular, to the persecution of economist and statesman Lyndon LaRouche and his associates, including myself.

You know Mr. LaRouche as the only economist in the world who warned of the global financial collapse which began in Asia in 1997. You know that he has, for over 30 years, shown that the "globalization" process was not spreading economic development, but spreading usury, speculation, and a financial bubble, which is now bursting. You also know of his proposals for a new world monetary system to revive great development projects worldwide. And, of course, you know of my own work over these past eight years of incarceration, in collaboration with Gail, in bringing LaRouche's ideas into Asia, and to present an honest picture of Asia to the United States and the rest of the world. In particular, we have, through *EIR*, reported the numerous statements and efforts of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir and other ministers and government officials, since the beginning of this crisis, to combat the crimes of speculators and the diktats of the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund. We also reported the imposition of selective capital controls in September 1998, which have saved Malaysia from the worst ravages that have plagued the rest of Southeast Asia. In so reporting, we have sought to create the basis for a better informed, more just and prosperous society for all.

And, yet, Mr. Gore's release denounces and threatens those nations "where governments use the power of police to quiet criticism that could create a more just and prosperous society." Let's look at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in that regard.

In 1982, at the direct, publicly documented behest of Henry A. Kissinger, the DOJ launched an operation aimed at shutting down the organizations founded by Lyndon LaRouche and his associates, including the third-largest national circulation newspaper and an international science journal, which had a subscription base of 100,000. Kissinger was acting as spokesman for the British/American financial establishment, intent on eradicating LaRouche's policy intervention on the then-exploding Mexican debt bomb and his proposal for a new Strategic Defense Initiative between the United States and the Soviet Union. To this end, a joint government/private "Get LaRouche Task Force" was created, holding meetings at the residence of Wall Street investment banker John Train. The "Train salon" included government officials, leading national press agents, senior figures in the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and other "private" individuals—similar to today's "NGOs"—working under their control. The Train salon included Richard Mellon Scaife, who would later finance much of the political witch-hunt against President Clinton.

The DOJ was building on earlier, illegal infiltration and sabotage attempts against our association, going back to the 1960s. The truth of that earlier illegal activity is the subject of a long-standing Federal court case, formerly captioned *LaRouche v. Webster*, now captioned *LaRouche v. Freeh, Reno*, which is now finally being litigated in New York's Southern District Federal Court.

The founding of the Get LaRouche Task Force was followed by a series of police actions, carefully timed to disrupt our political activities, especially on the eve of general elections:

1. **November 1984:** On the eve of the election, Presiden-



Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. (center) and Michael Billington (to the rear) are taken to prison on Jan. 27, 1989, following a railroad trial in Federal court. Writes Billington, "The descriptions of judicial tyranny ascribed to Malaysia by Mr. Gore and the Washington Post actually apply more accurately to the U.S. Department of Justice itself—and, in particular, to the persecution of economist and statesman Lyndon LaRouche and his associates, including myself."

tial candidate LaRouche's campaign bank accounts were closed following a telephone call from the FBI, sabotaging an Election Eve TV broadcast to the nation by candidate LaRouche. Even the fact that the courts eventually ruled that the bank account shutdown was illegal, did not stop the further escalation of government attacks.

2. October 1986: Four hundred armed men from various Federal and Virginia state agencies, backed up by helicopters and an armored personnel carrier, conducted a raid on our offices in Virginia, arresting me and others, while carting off an estimated 2 million pages of documents, including financial documents, reporters' notebooks, and legal documents—the latter clearly marked as confidential and subject to "attorney/client privilege." Participants in the raiding party later bragged that they had tried to provoke a violent confrontation with the intent of "eliminating" LaRouche.

That raid coincided with the October 1986 summit between President Reagan and the Soviet Union's Mikhail Gorbachov in Reykjavik, Iceland, where Gorbachov and elements within the Reagan administration joined forces to try to coerce President Reagan to drop his Strategic Defense Initiative, which, it was well known, the President had adopted from Mr. LaRouche.

3. October 1988: Weeks before the next Presidential election, Presidential candidate LaRouche was again arrested and rushed to trial along with six associates, including myself. In this and all other trials of LaRouche's associates, the Task Force knew from the beginning that we were all innocent of all charges brought against us.

Was Al Gore not describing the United States, in decrying those nations which "use the power of police to quiet the criticisms that could create a more just, more prosperous society"?

The *Washington Post* editorial declared that Anwar was "defamed viciously by the controlled press." Let's look at our case. In September 1976, two months before the Presidential election in which Lyndon LaRouche ran as a candidate for the first time, *Washington Post* correspondent Stephen S. Rosenfeld instructed the American media that if they wrote about LaRouche at all, it should be only to defame him as having "fascistic proclivities." Henry Kissinger, writing to then-FBI Director William Webster in September 1982, urged an FBI investigation into LaRouche's "foreign sources of funding," implying that he was a Soviet agent of influence. The defamation continued with the Train salon, such that LaRouche's name was never permitted to appear in the "free press" without the moniker "political extremist." He was called a crook, a racist, a fascist, a communist, a kook, a cult leader—which ever epithet fit the intended audience. Subsequent releases, under the Freedom of Information Act, have disclosed that these slanders were fed into friendly foreign governments, frequently by the resident legal attaché at U.S. embassies—who is often an FBI agent—in order to poison foreign governments against LaRouche. A political rainbow of such slanders against LaRouche was spread in Malaysia, as my wife learned in January 1999, including being spread by senior foreign diplomatic representatives.

Mr. Gore claims that Anwar's trial was "rigged," while

the *Washington Post* whines that Anwar “was not permitted to mount a serious defense, in court or in the media.” Let’s compare.

I went to trial with Mr. LaRouche twice, once in Federal court in Boston, once in Federal court in Virginia. I later stood trial alone in Virginia state court. The Boston trial ended in mistrial after we exposed in court that the DOJ and other government agencies engaged in what the judge ruled to be “institutional and systemic prosecutorial misconduct.” The jury foreman was quoted in the Boston press saying the jury would have found LaRouche and associates “not guilty.” The government, thereafter, moved the venue to a Federal court in Virginia, which had direct ties to the intelligence community, and whose jury pool would be drawn largely from Federal government employees or their dependents, many of whom worked for agencies involved in the prosecution. The first act of the Virginia Federal judge was to rule that none of the evidence of government misconduct presented in Boston would be allowed in his court!

As to being allowed fair media coverage: Unlike the Malaysian press, none of the evidence we presented of the DOJ’s crimes was ever published by the “free press” in America, even when more honest courts ruled, for example, that the conduct of the prosecutors “raises an inference of a conspiracy to lay low these defendants at any cost,” or, in another ruling, that the government had acted in “objective bad faith” and was guilty of “a constructive fraud on the court.” In fact, even when Mr. LaRouche received 600,000 votes in the Presidential primary elections, his name was never mentioned in the “free press,” except to slander him.

Mr. Gore deems it his right to instruct the Malaysian courts that they must investigate the “fairness of the judicial procedures,” and demands that Anwar be released on bail pending appeal. Not only were Mr. LaRouche and I denied bail pending appeal, but the Federal appeals court totally ignored six volumes of evidence documenting the criminal nature of the government’s prosecution. This is *in spite* of the fact that former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark had said of the LaRouche prosecutions that they “represented a broader range of deliberate cunning and systematic misconduct over a longer period of time, utilizing the power of the Federal government than any other prosecution by the U.S. government in my time or to my knowledge.”

Now compare Mr. Gore’s concern for “fairness” with my own trial in Virginia. After being convicted and sentenced to three years in the Virginia Federal trial with Mr. LaRouche, I was then *retried* on the same fraudulent evidence, using the same witnesses, on essentially the same charges—the constitutional guarantee against double jeopardy did not hold in the LaRouche cases—in Virginia state court, where I received the draconian sentence of 77 years.

Even worse, my trial lawyer turned *against* me before the trial began, openly accusing me in court of being his enemy and of being part of a conspiracy to subvert the judicial sys-

tem—and the judge refused to allow me to change lawyers! I went to trial with a lawyer who admitted he was aligned with the prosecution. When he refused to prepare himself or me for my own testimony, I had to give up even my right to testify in my own defense. Could a case be more “rigged,” Mr. Gore?

In a decision on my appeal of the 77-year sentence, another contaminated Federal judge in Virginia ruled that due to my supposed “zealotry” in support of the policy proposals of Mr. LaRouche and his associates, I did not deserve my constitutional right to a fair trial!

I must make note of the fact that Mr. Gore, in his first job as a reporter in Nashville, Tennessee, took part in another notorious DOJ crime. Under the name of Operation Frueh-menschen (“primitive man”), the DOJ systematically targeted African-American elected officials in the United States, using sting operations, on the grounds that they are racially more susceptible to corruption. Mr. Gore participated in such an FBI sting operation against an African-American city councilman, who had accused the police of ignoring crime in the African-American community. The *Washington Post*, along with nearly all the U.S. “free press,” has given full support to these despicable prosecutions, successfully destroying many careers through defamation, even when the victim was able to prove his innocence in court.

And, of course, I can only laugh at the *Washington Post*’s concern for someone “defamed viciously in the controlled press,” after years of 24-hours-a-day lies and pornography in the U.S. press in support of the British-initiated attempted coup d’état against our elected President—a coup which, if successful, would have put Tony Blair’s friend Al Gore in the White House. It is no accident that many of the leading hatchet-men supporting Kenneth Starr’s treasonous operation against President Clinton, perfected their operations against LaRouche.

But, most importantly, I ask you to carefully compare Mr. Gore’s threats and provocations against Malaysia’s social and economic security, first at the November 1998 APEC meeting in Kuala Lumpur, and then again today, with President Clinton’s declaration, in a letter to Malaysia’s Ambassador Datuk Ghazzali Sheikh Abdul Khalid, that “the United States is proud of the positive role that our trade and investment have played in Malaysia’s remarkable economic development.”

So, persevere, my friends, in your true course, as patriots of Malaysia and citizens of the world. Outside of the inner core of the British-American-Commonwealth financial oligarchy, the rest of the world is rapidly coming to acknowledge that Malaysia’s national defense against the speculators is both successful and a model to be emulated. Although the times are perilous, positive developments in China, Russia, India, Malaysia, and elsewhere toward a new alliance for peace and development give us hope that we can bring about the new world order before it is too late.

My deepest regards,
Michael Billington