

concluding a peace treaty.” Such an agreement would open the way for Japanese investment in the development of eastern Russia, where Russian resources would more than pay for Japanese technological inputs.

The Terrorism Issue

Unlike most APEC summits, economic issues took second place to the discussions of the U.S. “war against terrorism.” While the preoccupation with terrorism served to divert attention from the issues raised by President Putin, the attempt by those promoting a global religious war, to rally support behind the useless and dangerous escapade in Afghanistan, was not successful. The discussion between President Bush and Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir, as covered by the Malaysian *New Straits Times*, was quite revealing on this issue, and in regard to the intense fight within the U.S. administration over the looming disaster of an Israeli war in the Middle East.

Dr. Mahathir explained to Bush why Malaysia is unable to support the operations against Afghanistan, and insisted on the need to remove the root causes of terrorism, singling out the Palestinian problem as the primary issue. Bush said he understood Malaysia’s disagreement on Afghanistan, and told Dr. Mahathir that, in the Middle East, he has been urging them to settle the conflict on the basis that there should be a

Palestinian state and a Jewish state. “Bush also explained that each time he tries to get them together,” Dr. Mahathir told *New Straits Times*, “someone goes in and spikes the whole thing by assassinating or killing someone, . . . or exploding a bomb or something like that.”

Bush also asked for Dr. Mahathir’s advice in regard to Indonesia, where President Megawati Sukarnoputri, in mid-October, declared against the actions now being taken by the United States in Afghanistan. Her stand, coming after initial silence on the Afghanistan issue, reflected mounting anger in the world’s largest Islamic nation against the bombing attack, among mainstream as well as the more radical Islamists. President Megawati was immediately threatened by members of the U.S. Congress, including a spokesman for Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, that if she failed to toe the line on Afghanistan, other aspects of the relationship would suffer. Countering such belligerence, Dr. Mahathir responded to President Bush by telling him that “Indonesia needs a strong and credible government which the people should recognize and support.” As with President Putin’s historic speech, it is to be hoped that President Bush is listening.

The special APEC communiqué on terrorism expressed universal support for rooting out terrorism internationally, but said nothing about Afghanistan.

What Depression?

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. issued this statement on Oct. 24.

Let it be said, on my behalf, that out of compassion for the many precariously balanced minds wandering at large in the U.S.A. and other nations: Stop worrying! There is no recession in progress!

Be at peace. What is in progress, is merely a world-wide economic depression which, much thanks to Alan-the-genius Greenspan, has a disarming resemblance to the German economy of July-November 1923.

As the cartoon on page six of today’s *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* reminds us, the German economy, for one, is coming up in the world. See that cartoon; it tells you all that you need to share with your neighbors.

Frankfurter Allgemeine
ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

Schröder: Deutschland steht nicht vor einer Rezession
Die Bundesregierung lehnt Forderungen der Konjunkturforscher ab / Merkel: Kanzler des Abschwungs

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Chancellor Gerhard Schröder: “Soon we’ll be over the hill, Hans!” Behind him comes Finance Minister Hans Eichel, carrying a sack labelled “Austerity Program.” The newspaper’s headline, accompanying the cartoon, reads, “Schröder: Germany Is Not Facing A Recession.”