
Dr. Mahathir Tells Asian Leaders

Build Infrastructure To Defeat Huntington

“Huntington’s forecast has come true—there is now a clash of civilizations, that of the West against the Islamic civilization,” said Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, speaking at the Asian Global Leadership Forum on Sept. 8 in Malaysia.

But Dr. Mahathir did not simply denounce the current descent into chaos. As the war-party within the United States, Britain and Israel attempts to ignore all reason, and all opposition to the mad pursuit of war against Iraq, Dr. Mahathir posed a solution: Attack the mounting depression conditions and poverty in the world—which, he insists, are the actual cause of terrorism in the first place—through great infrastructure development programs, as a means for building the peace.

EIR Founder and U.S. Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche would agree. As LaRouche has repeatedly warned, it is not terrorism, nor weapons of mass destruction, which are driving the “Clash of Civilizations” policy sought by Samuel Huntington, Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and their clones within the Bush Administration. Rather, it is the ongoing collapse of the International Monetary Fund-centered financial-monetary system. Without creating a new, development-based financial agreement to replace the bankrupt global banking system, the Utopians’ policy of “perpetual war” to sustain their power, will carry us into a New Dark Age.

Although Dr. Mahathir poses a restructuring of the current financial system, rather than a new arrangement altogether, as the means for financing his infrastructure development plan, Malaysia’s *New Straits Times* reported on Sept. 16 that has proposed the preparation of a “concept paper” to address the “nature of the organization to manage world infrastructure development” among sovereign nations. This kind of discussion among world leaders is an urgent measure, required to end the collapse and prepare for reconstruction of the world economy. As Mahathir emphasized, the passion to develop the human potential is the duty of man before God.

‘Building and Sharpening Prosperity: Giving a Human Dimension to Globalization’

Here are excerpts from Dr. Mahathir’s speech to the Asian Global Leadership Forum, held in Malaysia on Sept. 8, 2002.

... While we all accept and agree on Globalization, I am afraid we differ, and differ widely, on the interpretation of Globalization. . . .

Globalization at the moment is not about egalitarian sharing, about common good. Presently Globalization is about competition, the competition of the marketplace. It is about the dominance of the most efficient. Ostensibly it is about the efficient giving the best at the lowest cost. But in reality it is about establishing the monopoly of the strongest and the biggest. . . .

[W]hy are we so critical of Globalization? Well, it is because globalization is interpreted simply, and almost exclusively, as the free movement of capital into and out of a country. Free movement means no rules, no regulations, no conditions and no controls. While admittedly, inflow of capital benefits a country, but outflows, especially sudden and massive outflows, can seriously damage the economy and even the social and political life of a country.

That was what happened in 1997. Devaluation of our currency impoverished us, and caused a fall in the price of shares. To avoid losing money the shares were dumped by foreign investors and the index plummeted. Banks and companies were left breathless and distressed. They were all going to go under, taking the whole country down with them.

If Globalization, including FDI [foreign direct investment], is to bring benefits to the poor countries, then it has to be regulated, taking into consideration the weaknesses and the sensitivities of these countries. Total freedom of inflow and outflow of capital cannot be allowed. Manipulation and speculation in the stock market and currency trade must be banned. We have seen how much damage the manipulation of share prices can do even for the powerful economies.

Now, when the whole world becomes our country, the place that we do business in and make profits from, surely we should accept the need to pay a world tax. It should not be much. Even a half-percent of the profits after taxes should be enough. And the world tax should be used exclusively for building the infrastructure so much needed by the developing countries in order to develop, indeed to become more attractive to foreign investors.

We can build roads, bridges, railway lines, airports, ports, power plants, water supply facilities, etc., which will raise the standard of living for the people, create jobs, support local suppliers and contractors and cause a real inflow of funds. It does not matter who builds. It is not a matter of providing funds to the governments. It is a matter of actually building the infrastructure as indeed some countries have done by building bridges of friendship, for example. The difference is that the recipient countries will not be obliged to any particular donor[s] who very often exert too much influence on the country and its people.

Think of how much can be contributed towards the elimination of poverty in this world if the poor countries are able to

exploit their resources and even become attractive to investors because they have all the necessary infrastructure. Think of the lower cost of their imports and the higher earnings from their exports. Think of the job opportunities created during the construction, the supply of local construction materials, the little businesses selling food and other needs of the people involved in the construction. . . .

The world had once agreed on a voluntary contribution of 0.7% of the donor country's GDP [Gross Domestic Product] to help poor countries. But most countries had reneged on their undertaking. Besides, the funds provided may not be used properly. But an international tax is legally enforceable, and the infrastructure projects will be specific and the construction internationally supervised, or indeed be constructed by reliable international companies.

This way, much of the world poverty can be eliminated and the anger and frustration of a large segment of the world population diminished. . . .

'There Is Now a Clash of Civilization'

Then there is terrorism, a result of the frustration and anger and bitterness in a world that tolerates oppression and all kinds of injustices. People, innocent people, are being deliberately starved through sanctions imposed actually by the very rich, the overfed and most wasteful of consumers.

Weak countries are being militarily attacked, their people killed and their land seized. They are punished for not accepting Western cultures, values and systems. Despite all the talk about freedom of choice, about democracy and human rights, the fact is that the only choice permitted is liberal democracy. Failure to accept democracy results in sanctions, even bombing attacks, and blatant attempts to change governments by force of arms. . . .

In Palestine today the killings go on. Yes, the Palestinians too are guilty of terror attacks, but what recourse have they? No one is helping them or restraining their enemies. Indeed the Israelis are being financed and armed to the teeth in order to systematically kill more Palestinians. Yet the Israelis are not blamed. They are said to be defending themselves. That they occupy Palestinian land and kill more Palestinians than the number of Israelis killed is considered as justified. Palestinians wanting to free their land and retaliate in the only way they can against the Israelis are regarded as terrorists.

I need not mention the sanctions against Iraq, Iran, Libya, and Sudan—all Muslim countries. Is it any wonder that Muslims everywhere feel oppressed, feel angry, bitter, and frustrated? They cannot go to war in the conventional way. They did that before against Israel but they were defeated, largely because Israel is backed by the great powers. The only way they can retaliate is through acts of terror, hitting out blindly at the innocents as well as the guilty.

Today the world lives in fear of Muslim terrorists, not other terrorists, but Muslim terrorists. Because terrorists cannot be easily identified or located, all Muslims are considered

as potential terrorists and are so treated. Because the majority of the people of Malaysia are Muslims, all Malaysians are being penalised. They are denied visas, are checked and re-checked, and are humiliated when they go to certain countries.

[*Clash of Civilizations* author Samuel] Huntington's forecast has come true. There is now a clash of civilization, that of the West against the Islamic civilization. And typically the Western solution is to physically fight against the enemy, the Islamic civilization, the Muslims.

But unfortunately, short of total genocide, the terrorists cannot be militarily defeated. The West refuses to acknowledge this and will continue this costly war without end. . . .

There is practically no effort to win the hearts and minds of the Muslims. In fact, everything is being done to alienate them further, to anger and frustrate them, and to ensure there will be a constant and probably increasing supply of recruits to terrorism.

The West does not care to find out the causes of terrorism and to remove them. The faint voices protesting from among them are ignored. The powerful are bent on revenge rather than solutions. And so there will be no end to Muslim terrorism.

The world is today less peaceful than it was during World War II. The world lives in fear. The world believes that this fear can be dealt with by raising high walls around it. Yet the world talks about a borderless world, about Globalization. That just cannot happen. And when that cannot happen, the rich resort to force, the only thing that they believe in.

Just as force cannot remove the fear, force cannot create a richer world. The rich may colonize the world once again but history has shown that colonization did not work. There will be constant rebellion and turmoil. Many will die as people struggle to free themselves.

The answer does not lie in confrontation, in force, in a war to end all wars. The answer lies in justice and fair play, in being sensitive, in being willing to step back and to admit mistakes, and to banish the idea that any one race has a monopoly of the right values, the right systems and the right solutions to all the human ailments. . . .

If we want to restore normalcy to this planet, the first thing that has to be done is to stop thinking of revenge and begin to think of justice and fair play. Pride does not have a role in solving human problems. Humility has. Only humility can bring the kind of justice and fair play to reduce the causes of the turmoil, political, economic and social that the world is facing. The arrogance of power must be eliminated. Until then there will be no prosperity for the globalized world.

**To reach us on the Web:
www.larouche.com**