
ASEAN Summit

Blow Dealt to British Subversion in Asia

by Mike Billington

Oct. 31—On the first day of the summit of the ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Thailand Oct. 23, two events coincided to give the British a well-deserved black eye. First, the continuing British imperial interference in the affairs of the former European colonies in Asia under the guise of “human rights” was unceremoniously dumped, when a scheduled meeting of the ASEAN heads of state with self-selected representatives of “civil society NGOs” completely collapsed. Five heads of state, from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Singapore, and the Philippines, refused to meet with the specific NGO representatives who had been chosen by the ASEAN Peoples’ Forum to represent their countries, several of whom were well-known spokesmen for Anglophile drug promoter and hedge fund criminal George Soros and his human rights mafia. The NGO reps from the other five countries staged a walkout in protest, collapsing the entire event.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen then dropped a bombshell on the proceedings, which were being hosted by Thailand in the resort town of Hua Hin. Hun Sen announced that he had invited the former Prime Minister of Thailand, Thaksin Shinawatra, who had been deposed in a military coup, backed by the monarchy, in 2006, to live in Cambodia as an economic advisor to the government. This sent the usurper Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, who was born, raised, and educated in London, into a raving fit, accusing Hun Sen of interfering in Thailand’s affairs, threatening to invoke an extradition treaty if Thaksin were to show up in Cambodia, and warning Hun Sen not to be “used as a pawn.” This is particularly ironic, in view of the British imperial hand which ran the coup against Thaksin, and placed Abhisit in power.

Hun Sen’s response to this rant put the identity of the actual “human rights” violators squarely on the table. He reminded the Thai Prime Minister that the extradition treaty had a clause exempting those charged for po-

litical reasons, thus giving the lie to the phony corruption charges imposed on Thaksin by the controlled Thai courts. Making clear that he would not respond to any attempted extradition, Hun Sen added: “Without the coup d’état of 2006, such things would not have happened.”

Hun Sen then noted that ASEAN was constantly being lectured that it should condemn Myanmar for the house arrest of (British agent) Aung San Suu Kyi, so why should there be any concern for discussing the blatant military coup against Thailand’s popular Prime Minister Thaksin? He added that it was well known that Thaksin had been a close friend of Cambodia—a covert reference to the fact that Thailand’s current Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya is behind an effort to start a war with Cambodia over old, long settled territorial issues. Thaksin, in fact, had made a central tenet of his administration that Thailand would provide special aid and friendship to its far poorer neighbors, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Myanmar, and the leaders of these neighboring countries make no effort to hide how much they miss Thaksin as Thailand’s leader.

The Thai Prime Minister was given another snub at the opening ceremony of the ASEAN Summit, where, as the host, Abhisit had the chance to wave his Union Jack. However, half the ASEAN leaders—Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei—failed to show up in time for the ceremony. There are even reports that when the Sultan of Brunei finally arrived, he refused the offered accommodations, choosing instead to stay at the nearby home of the exiled Thaksin Shinawatra!

China’s Role

There are international implications. Hun Sen had just returned from a visit to China, and gave effusive praise to the Chinese investments in Southeast Asian infrastructure development, which, he said, come “without demands on human rights and other strings,” unlike those required in return for credits from the West. This was further demonstrated when Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, attending the ASEAN+3 (ASEAN plus China, Japan, and South Korea) Summit which followed the ASEAN Summit, announced a \$25 billion infrastructure fund for Southeast Asia. Of this, \$10 billion had been announced last April, in the form of a China-ASEAN Fund on Investment Cooperation, while an additional \$15 billion has now been offered as credits, with an additional \$40 million in aid to the poorest of the ASEAN countries.

This Chinese offer followed by days the historic

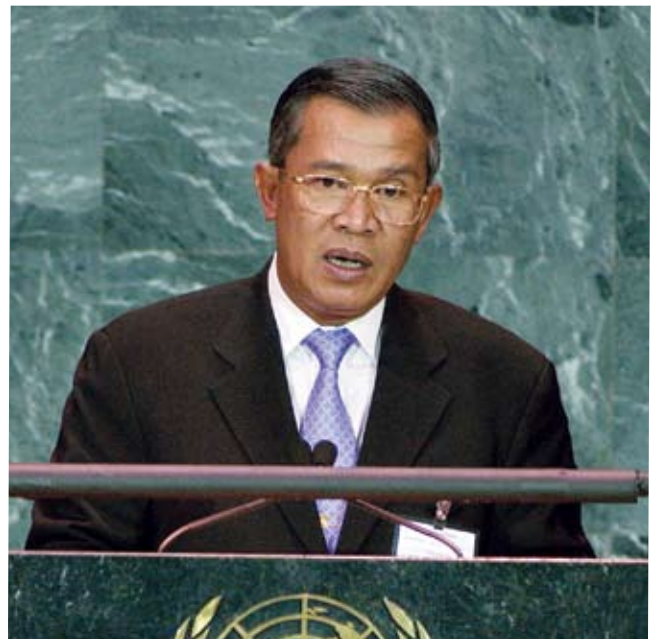
agreements between China and Russia, setting in motion a policy of using China's huge dollar reserves, which are now being turned into toilet paper by the Obama Administration's hyperinflationary money-printing binge to bail out the speculators in London and New York, to invest in great infrastructure projects in the Russian Far East. This is a step which Lyndon LaRouche has long promoted, and which is a significant shift towards the realization of LaRouche's proposal for a Four-Power agreement among Russia, China, India, and the U.S., to create a new global credit system based on physical economic development, in place of the collapsing monetary system. China is now bringing Southeast Asia into the process, representing another dramatic step forward.

Thailand: Britain's Royal Outpost

Thaksin Shinawatra was, and still is, the most popular political leader in Thailand's recent history. He won two elections by overwhelming margins, primarily due to his "general welfare" approach to the nation's development. While emphasizing technology-driven industrialization and major infrastructure projects internally and regionally, he also created a national health system which provided extremely inexpensive access to hospital care for the poor, low-interest credits for farmers and the urban poor, and scholarships for the poor to assure access to quality education. While he did not challenge the monarchy, his program effectively challenged the King's "self-sufficiency" policy, which argues that Thailand should remain technologically backward, depending on basic agriculture and local crafts to sustain the economy.

It became increasingly clear to the British Royals, and the other royal families of Europe, who treat the Thai monarchy as a primary asset in Asia, that Thaksin was becoming more popular than the King. Thaksin's ouster, and the ouster of two subsequent prime ministers who were supporters of Thaksin, through blatant corruption of the legal system, were carried out by the military, but depended on support from the Thai and European monarchies.

Again, there is a Chinese connection. Last month, former Prime Minister Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, who has always been very close to China, took over the leadership of the pro-Thaksin party, the Pheu Thai. A number of retired generals who were close to Chavalit also joined the Pheu Thai, threatening a split in the military, which has generally been subservient to the head of the King's Privy Council, Gen. Prem Tinsulanond.



UN Photo/Joshua Kristal

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen (shown here in 2005) shocked the British and other royals on Oct. 23, when he announced that he had invited his friend Thaksin Shinawatra, the deposed former Prime Minister of Thailand, to live in Cambodia and serve as an economic advisor to the government.

Chavalit is close to China and to Thailand's poorer neighbors. Immediately preceding the ASEAN Summit, Chavalit visited Cambodia, met with his old friend Prime Minister Hun Sen, and announced on his return that Hun Sen would be inviting Thaksin to move to Cambodia—just as Hun Sen confirmed at the ASEAN Summit. Chavalit also announced that he would visit Malaysia and Myanmar, further mobilizing the region against the British puppet ruling Thailand.

Also terrifying the European and Thai monarchies is the rumor that Thaksin is gaining support from Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn. King Bhumibol, at 82, is ill, and not expected to live much longer, after 63 years on the throne. The British are so terrified by the vision of the Crown Prince coming to power and pardoning Thaksin and his supporters, that Britain's Prince Andrew is reported to have visited the ailing King in his hospital bed to plead the case for naming a Princess as the successor, rather than the Crown Prince!

Thaksin has announced that he will soon visit Cambodia to thank his friend Hun Sen for the kind invitation. Sources in Thailand indicate that this would be most welcome by the majority of Thais.

mobeir@aol.com