

Taiwan Votes for China Against the British

The pro-China Kuomintang (KMT) party's candidate for President, Ma Ying-jeou, won a landslide victory in the Presidential elections on Taiwan March 22, defeating Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) candidate Frank Hsieh by 58.45% to 41.55%. Ma's victory comes after eight years of the DPP's pro-independence President, Chen Shui-bian, who is an ally of the British and Dick Cheney.

Lyndon LaRouche characterized the election result as part of a broader continental alliance against British war machinations in Eurasia, starting with China. LaRouche noted that the British are having a hard time selling their lies this time around; they are not being bought, by and large, except for by a few dumb legislators, like U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, "who has a screwed up personality."

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the chairwoman of the German Civil Rights Solidarity Movement (BüSo) party, also welcomed the election results. She quoted Friedrich Schiller: "Even the most sinister plans of the tyrant can be defeated, if people are working together resolutely on a plan for the Good."

The strong KMT victory is all the more important, be-

cause Frank Hsieh has been playing up the unrest in Tibet, and the Chinese government's reaction, as a potential threat for Taiwan. The international media played a role, by claiming that the polls were swinging rapidly against the KMT because of anger over Chinese "oppression." Hsieh's cross-Strait policy was for "strengthening ties with China, but we should not put all our hope and focus on that country."

As Ma Ying-jeou voted today, he said: "If I win, I will soon start discussions with the Chinese authorities on matters of normalizing economic relations, peace, and international space for Taiwan." This victory will badly weaken the potential for the British to play Taipei against Beijing.

The results show a real mandate for President Ma and the KMT as a whole, since 75.7% of eligible voters went to the polls.

On top of this, the referenda placed on the ballot, calling for Taiwan to join the United Nations as either "Taiwan" or the "Republic of China" (a provocation against the historic One China policy) were boycotted by the voters, as recommended by the KMT, thus defeating them by not having a majority of the electorate participating, as required by law. Only 36% of the electorate cast ballots on the referenda.

The KMT and its allies are now in a very strong position. In the January elections for the national Legislative Yuan, the KMT and its two allied parties won some 75% of the seats, and they also hold the mayoralties in 15 of the 25 biggest cities in Taiwan.—*Mary Burdman*