

Thai Ambassador to the United States, Seni Pramoj. Pridi, who was also regent for the young King at the time, ran underground cells in the Thai countryside in league with the OSS, while maintaining networks within the government, the military, and among the Chinese-Thai business families in Bangkok.

There were Thai collaborationists, of course, who served as Quislings to the Japanese occupation forces, but following the war, Pridi and his Free Thai movement easily took power. The British, however, were not interested in Thailand's sovereign rights, nor its development, and insisted that, as formal allies of Japan, Thailand must be treated as a defeated enemy. Besides demanding reparations of rice to feed the British colonies, the British also wanted to occupy Thailand itself.

Pridi called for support from his friends in the United States, and the British scheme was defeated.

The second round

Last January, *EIR* Founder and Contributing Editor Lyndon LaRouche warned that the international financial turmoil of October to January would be dwarfed by the crisis which would hit during the second quarter of 1998. That crisis is now unfolding worldwide, and even the huge financial bubbles on the U.S. and European exchanges are likely to explode in the weeks ahead. The "second round" in Asia has begun, proving that the IMF's destruction of production in order to bail out financial markets is an utter failure. The case of Thailand is exemplary.

LaRouche offers a strategic perspective for Thailand

The following exchange between Lyndon LaRouche an official from the Thai embassy, took place at a seminar for a New Bretton Woods system, in Rome, Italy, on April 2.

Q: As you know, in Thailand, the IMF has closed, as one of their requirements for their "rescue" package, 56 out of 58 financial institutions. In a country like that, you have a situation in which, had the government refused those measures, there probably would have been a popular uprising against it. So, how do you gain support for something like that?

LaRouche: You don't, because you can't deal in one country at a time. You have to deal strategically. Now, what's happening is, you have the King in Thailand, and other institutions, who echo the views of [Prime Minister] Mahathir from Malaysia, and represent part of what I referred to, is this reaction to this process to get a political movement: "Oh! What happened to us?"

So now you have a change, and the questions of the military and the King in Thailand are very important questions, as you know. Therefore, you have a process in which the popular preconditions for a government to act in a different manner, are being pre-created. So, this is like military command. You can not treat it like a schoolbook exercise. You can not arbitrarily react. Sometimes you have to submit and retreat. You have to understand the situation, but prepare to act, and say, "We've been taken once, we're not going to be taken the same way again. We must prepare."

But you must always be patient. People think of democracy in terms of a vote. It doesn't mean much. You

have to think of it in terms of responsibility to the people, a sense of justice, as Plato describes it through the mouth of Socrates, a quality of commitment to truth and justice. If you want to be a leader, you must be committed, above all, to truth and justice. You must look at truth and justice for all the people. You must treat *everyone* justly.

And, if you have that instinct, then you can be a leader who can do this. And when people who have great compassion for the suffering of their people, of all their people, of each part of their people, who want nothing but just solutions, look at the problems, then they become great leaders, by virtue of simply becoming an instrument of justice, like the person in a theater that's on fire, eh? Somebody who's an ordinary person arises to help organize the people, with his quiet, calm voice, to lead them safely out of the theater. And that's leadership. You look for this in a time of crisis, which tends to bring forth people who show that they have these qualities of leadership.

And, to me, what can you do? I'm a thinker. I do everything, but I'm a thinker, essentially, a philosopher. What I try to do, is present those ideas which I hope that people reflect upon and discover among themselves the ability, the qualities of leadership needed to meet this situation.

Now, the Thailand situation for the time being is very agonizing, and they're really brutalized. And thus, they have to prepare. They can not solve it in Thailand's terms alone. It involves all of Southeast Asia, which is in a crisis. Japan is in the same crisis, from a different standpoint. China has an interest in the whole area. India also has an interest. We would hope that the United States, and these other nations, concerned nations, would be prepared, the next time the crisis comes, to come up with a more just solution to these problems. In the meantime, we have to suffer and fight. It's like fighting a war: You suffer and fight.

But, I'm hopeful. I'm hopeful. It's difficult. I understand suffering.