

he is opening up many countries to our influence.”

By mid-August, according to this and other Israeli sources and independent investigations by *EIR*, Israel has established important military-security relationships with African regimes including Zaire, Liberia, Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Togo, Cameroon, and Ethiopia, the latter very much in the Russian imperial sphere of influence. In the case of Togo, Cameroon, and Ethiopia, Israel has entered into cooperation with West Germany, amid growing private talk in certain circles about reconstructing a German colonial network in Africa in the context of some form of German reunification.

On Aug. 13, the government of Liberia announced that it was re-establishing relations with Israel, after a near 10-year hiatus. The unbalanced Liberian leader, Samuel Doe, had recently dispatched his defense minister to Israel on a secret mission, and the Aug. 15 *Times* of London reports that a large-scale military assistance and cooperation deal was recently concluded between the two countries. By Aug. 18, the Israeli-Liberian pact had already led to fears of an expanded regional conflict in western Africa, following publication of a provocative piece in the pro-Libya London *Guardian* claiming that Israel was trying to use Liberia as a staging post for a coup d'état attempt against the Qaddafi-backed ruler of Ghana, Gerry Rawlings.

Israeli operatives are establishing themselves at strategic choke-points in the west African nation of Cameroon, in expectation that this will soon blow up. “If I were Qaddafi, that is where I would move next,” an Israeli specialist told *EIR*. “It has oil, uranium, copper, and much else, everything one needs. It is more unstable than Nigeria, and is a key flank on Nigeria. . . . Look at a map. If Qaddafi consolidates what he has in Chad and moves on Cameroon, he has control over quite a swath of African territory!”

Inside Chad itself, the Israelis are increasingly directly involved. Reliable sources have told *EIR* that Israel has recently trained mercenaries from the Angola-Zaire-based Unita guerrilla group of Jonas Savimbi for counterinsurgency and other actions inside Chad, and that the first contingents have been deployed. These join with Israeli-linked capabilities deployed out of Zaire into Chad.

Israel's protection-racket operation, which has received the blessing of the State Department, is the next phase of what *EIR* has dubbed the “Lavie Project,” whereby Israel uses its U.S.-financed program for mass production of F-16-equivalent Lavie jets to transform itself into the world's third largest arms manufacturer and exporter. A crucial aspect of this project is the creation of an Israel-South African cartel arrangement for control of strategic raw materials across Africa.

But the Israelis are not as clever as they think, because Moscow has a quite simple calculation: As long as the politics of farce and appeasement prevail in the West, Africa in the medium term will fall under Mother Russia's sphere of influence.

Interview: Former Vice-Premier Gen.

Thai leader looks to to take a new role in

When President Ronald Reagan visits Asia this November, one of his stops will be in Thailand. On many counts, Thailand plays a pivotal role in the region. It is one of the five members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which, collectively, has shown one of the highest economic growth rates in the world over the past several years. The ASEAN region is regarded as the keystone of any Pacific Basin development concept. One proposal much discussed by Pacific Basin proponents is to build a canal across Thailand's Isthmus of Kra in order to shorten sea transport between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. In addition to these economic issues, Thailand plays a “frontline state” role in the ASEAN policy toward Kampuchea, and much of Thailand's internal debates on foreign policy revolve around its attitude towards the Kampuchea issue, toward Vietnam, and toward neighboring China.

Prior to Reagan's arrival, Thailand will be subject to important political and military changes in October, when a reshuffle takes place in the highest levels of the military. General Saiyud Kerdpol, presently supreme commander, will retire, creating a vacancy. The holder of this post can influence the makeup of Thailand's civilian coalition government.

EIR special correspondents Sophie and Pakdee Tanapura, who recently spent two weeks in Thailand, spoke on these issues with General Pramarn Adireksarn, a former vice premier of Thailand and the chairman of the Chat Thai Party. His party, known to be a political lobby for Thai industrialists, has almost without fail taken part in every government coalition, the rare exception being the current government formed in April of this year. The party holds the largest number of parliamentary seats—107 out of 320.

EIR: On the eve of President Reagan's visit this fall, we would like you to comment on U.S.-Thai relations.

Gen. Pramarn: United States interests in the region are different from Japan, for example, whose needs are primarily economic. American economic need here is almost nil because of the United States' industrial and agricultural self-sufficiency. Their problem, unlike Japan's, is not one of looking for raw materials. It seems to me that the main American concern is strategic. If they help any country economically, it is more a policy of seeking to make friends. We can

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see that the United States is presently trying to establish more bases everywhere. Therefore, the key U.S. interest in our region will be one of trying to establish bases more than anything else.

EIR: Do you think the United States can in this way play a stabilizing role in the region?

Gen. Pramarn: I think America's apparent intentions have always been to favor democratic governments. However, past examples have shown that America usually ends up supporting dictatorships more than democratic governments.

EIR: You mean to say that America's policies tend to favor political instability?

Gen. Pramarn: You can say that it goes in that direction. . . . [Laughs.]

We only know U.S. policy from the outside. But what their true policy really is, is difficult for us to find out.

U.S.-Thai relations go back quite far. Thai people generally like the United States very much. But sometimes the United States play a hard-to-get game, as if it doesn't care at all about Thailand. This kind of policy left our country disappointed several times. As you know, Thai people have fought alongside the United States in many wars. You can say that Thailand is a very good ally of the United States. However, the United States has given so little in return, something which makes it sometimes almost not worth the friendship we show.

EIR: How do you evaluate the conflict over Kampuchea?

Gen. Pramarn: The main problem has to do with Vietnam and the Soviet Union. Vietnam has the ambition of controlling the whole Indochinese peninsula. At the same time, they depend on the Soviets for help. Vietnam alone does not have enough strength to cover all this territory. As for Thailand, we have to be very careful. If Vietnam is allowed to strengthen their troops on the Lao-Thai and Kampuchea-Thai borders, this can be very dangerous for our country. We don't have to worry yet, but we have to be careful and protect our territory so that they do not step over the borders or edge away parts of it.

EIR: We had the chance to talk recently with Japanese representatives here in Thailand as well as in Europe. They often bring up Asia as one of their happier economic results. What do you think of Japan's contribution to developing the Thai economy?

Gen. Pramarn: There's economic development and then there's economic development. It depends on what kind of development. In this Southeast Asian region, countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and others all offer very interesting and attractive raw materials for Japan. As you know, Japan has virtually no raw materials of her own. Therefore, the key reason underlying their economic development efforts is mainly the self-interest of the Japanese people.

Their efforts have a two-way benefit. On the one hand, they help to develop Southeast Asian nations, and on the other, they hope to have this benefit—in a big way—for the Japanese people. Therefore, Japanese economic help to any country is not a "give-away." Japan does expect a return on her investments.

EIR: Japan is proud of their economic cooperation with Asia. They think that it should be the model for Europe toward Africa or for the United States vis-à-vis Latin America. Do you think Japan will want to play a still bigger role in the region?

Gen. Pramarn: In my opinion, Japan will want to increase her role even more. One of the reasons is that Japan's national territory is small and limited but with a growing population. This kind of situation can be domestically dangerous for the Japanese governing elite if it is not tackled properly. I think that Japan will want to extend her role even more in both industrial and agricultural development abroad due to necessity.

EIR: How do you see China in the region?

Pramarn: China is in a transition between epochs. The period in which China was content to only prevent her population from starving is now over. People in China now have enough to eat, and they are turning more and more of their attention to developing their industries and technologies. . . .

EIR: We are very interested in the economic development potential of Thailand. Can you tell us about the discussions on economic strategy inside Thailand? For example, your party started with a strong offensive in parliament against the government's budget. Why?

Gen. Pramarn: The government was weak in allocating sufficient credits to stimulate an economy that is showing great potential for growth. The present budget is merely a day-to-day support for the government and not for economic progress. Therefore, we consider our intervention a warning to and a criticism of the government. We should be much more prepared for the economic problems to come. The problem is unemployment, a problem constantly worsening. The

government has not done much to alleviate this problem. If economic progress is not accelerated, unemployment will never diminish. The budget is not taking into account the fundamental problems. This is the main concern behind our recent offensive.

EIR: How much of the budget goes toward industrializing the economy? Is it less than when you were in the government?

Gen. Pramarn: If you are talking about the figures, they do show an increase over last year's—say in the order of 100 million [bahts] to 110 million. But if you look at the real expanding rate, it is decreasing. Not only that, the budget tends to be too heavy on the security side.

The defense ministry, of course, gets a big chunk because it is necessary to defend and protect our nation. But then again, to defend the nation, we have to know where our enemies are and what are they up to. What is their real threat to our country? I think there has been some exaggeration on the question of our enemy in general.

EIR: Just before the change of government, some of your party members as well as your former communications minister spoke up in favor of the Kra Isthmus Canal. What do you think of the Kra Canal project?

Gen. Pramarn: Only one or two members spoke up in favor of the canal. It is a question of personal opinion. We have not yet discussed the matter within the party.

Sometimes the United States plays a hard-to-get game. . . . This left our country disappointed several times. . . . You can say that Thailand is a very good ally of the United States. . . . But the United States has given so little in return. . . .

The Kra Canal has been a continuous subject of discussion for the past decades, as well as the use of peaceful nuclear explosions. It will take a long time to dig the canal—up to 12 years. Some say that it should not be built. If you dig a very wide canal at the narrow spot, you will still have a problem of uneven sea levels between the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand. So in digging the canal, we will be facing a similar problem to that of the Panama Canal, with the complication of having to set up an elaborate system of dikes. In our modern times, it is perhaps possible to build

instead a railway and a pipeline from one coast to another, which would be quicker to build than a canal. It would need the same type of equipment as that used in docks, the same “cradle-like” crane used for lifting whole ships. So you see, ideas are still being tossed around.

EIR: But water transportation must be much cheaper than going through this complicated system of rails and pipelines.

Gen. Pramarn: If we dig the canal, we must see who will profit from it—only the Japanese who depend on oil tanker transportation. Now, if you look at the oil supply, it is available in the Middle East but also more and more so in the Pacific area. The Japanese may well soon decide to import increasing amounts from the Pacific. They could get oil from Thailand, for instance. Yes, even Thailand has oil, and we are exploring for more. Therefore, this is a very complicated problem that still has to be discussed for a long time.

EIR: The canal will not only be for oil tanker transportation but for other goods as well. In addition, a twin industrial city complex to be built on both ends of the canal would contribute to solving the security problem in the southern part of Thailand.

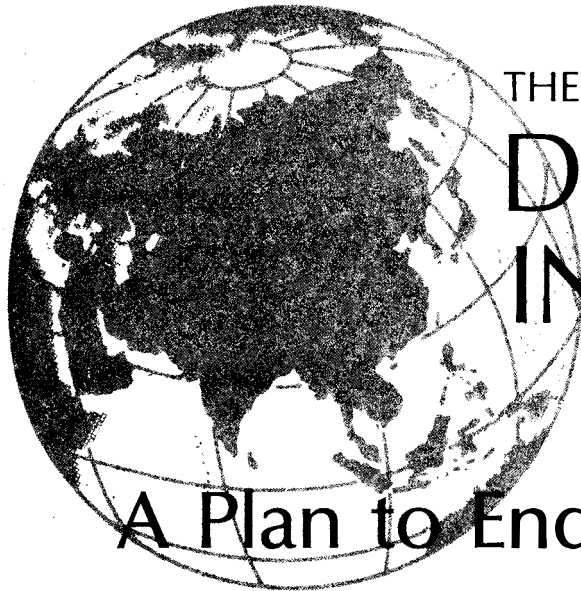
Gen. Pramarn: Here again there are differing views. Some people think that the security problem in the south can be solved without the Kra Canal. In fact, you don't really need a canal to launch a new industrial complex in the area.

EIR: Are the Thai environmentalists an obstacle to development? They have already protested against the building of the Nam Jone Dam, the soda ash factory, and other projects.

Gen. Pramarn: Some say that the recent earthquake started at the site of the Nam Jone Dam. On the other hand, the EGAT [Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand] people insist that the construction of the dam creates no such problem. I don't think that this is a major problem: to build or not to build this particular dam is not of much importance.

As for the soda ash plant and the Eastern Seaboard Project as a whole, we have discussed absolutely every angle of the project and it is now up to the government to decide. I think that the whole project should definitely be pursued, in particular the deep sea port planned at the Chabang Point. The port should have been constructed a long time ago. Are we going to wait another seven or eight years before it is built? In eight years, the cost of construction will have increased by around 5 percent per annum at least. We know we need to build this port. Why wait?

You can see that Thailand has a very long coastline, but there is not a single deep sea port in our country. When we were in the government coalition, we tried to push this project very much. I was, however, not the economics minister at the time and therefore had no real power to realize the project. In any case, we did accomplish one thing: the project is now being discussed. But it is still far from being realized due to various delaying tactics.



THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE
INDIAN AND PACIFIC
OCEAN BASINS
A Plan to End the World Depression

Thursday, September 15

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

2 P.M.-4 P.M.

World Stability and Global

**Development: The U.S. Role in
Indian and Pacific Ocean Basin
Development**

Speaker: **Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.**,
Founder, *EIR*; Chairman, Advisory
Board, National Democratic Policy
Committee

4 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

**The Strategic Parameters of Indian and
Pacific Ocean Basin Development**

7 P.M.-10 P.M.

**Great Projects for Indian and
Pacific Ocean Development**

Speakers: **Uwe Parpart**, Research
Director, Fusion Energy Foundation;
Dr. Steven Bardwell, Editor, *Fusion*
Magazine.

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In late October President Ronald Reagan will be making an extended visit to Asia, including the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Korea and Japan. The President will visit a region spanning the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean Basins, where almost two-thirds of the world's population lives. The region includes some of the fastest-growing economies in the world, economies that have continued to grow even under conditions of world depression, and is strategically vital to the security of the United States and the world. This is a region that many people believe will be the new economic and strategic center for the world in the next century.

It is vital that the United States approaches the Indian Ocean/Pacific Ocean Basin area with a coherent policy: a comprehensive strategy for stability and economic development. The *Executive Intelligence Review* will present such a strategy at this conference.

EIR founder, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., who has just returned from a tour of India, Thailand, and Japan where he had extensive discussions with political and economic leaders from those nations, will present the key concepts which should guide American policy for the future. The conference will present for discussion detailed plans for large-scale infrastructure development projects, including a new canal across the Kra Isthmus of Thailand, a second Panama canal, and large-scale riparian water-control projects for South Asia, Southeast Asia, and China.