

Youth group exposes 'Get Mahathir' gang

by Lydia Cherry

The Zionist movement in Australia is "attempting to topple" Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, according to the United Malays National Organization (UMNO), the youth group of the ruling party. The group, whose membership includes high-ranking officials in Kuala Lumpur, insists that the campaign launched by the Australian side is not just to discredit Dr. Mahathir but to topple him. The Australian Zionists "fear the intensive growth of Islam in the region and Malaysia is a bulwark against their intentions," said Haji Mustapha Yaakub of UMNO's international affairs bureau, according to Malaysian press April 27. The spokesman also said that Umno Youth had found that the Zionist movement in Australia had links with certain leaders in the Malaysian province of Sabah, where there is separatist unrest. "They are given special treatment in Australia, and Umno Youth believes that the Zionist movement there and the anti-federal campaign carried out in Sabah have certain connections," he said in a statement. He noted that the Asia-Pacific Jewish Association, which is backed by the World Jewish Association has made Australia its regional center of operations. A day later, a Malaysian police inspector was quoted saying that police would now closely monitor the connection between the two groups as alleged by Umno Youth.

The statements by Umno Youth make no reference to what the American and Australian elites see as an unforgivable initiative that Dr. Mahathir launched last December in proposing the "East Asian Economic Group" (EAEG). Mahathir's economic grouping would include the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, and Indonesia—and add Japan, China, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. It would specifically exclude Australia, Canada, and the United States. The United States and Australia have been emphatic that were Mahathir's idea to be realized, the bloc would directly compete with the economic group founded by Australia in 1989 with U.S. backing, the Asia-Pacific Economic Group (APEC).

This bloc initiative has incurred the wrath of Henry Kissinger and has spurred U.S. officials to go to "all the countries in the region trying to prevent the EAEG's formation," according to *New Straits Times* April 30. Nonetheless Dr. Mahathir continues to organize for the initiative "like a determined insurance salesman," a U.S.-run wire service bemoaned. Malaysia's International Trade and Industry Min-

ister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz has also been moving around the region explaining Mahathir's initiative, insisting that "ASEAN should not be intimidated by threats by superpowers to withdraw funds or grants" if countries go along with EAEG.

On April 1, the Malaysian finance minister met with State Department counselor Robert Zoellick, and later told reporters he had explained to the U.S. side—once again—that EAEG is a "loose venture to protect the region . . . a diluted version of the North American Free Trade Agreement." He explained: "It is not true that we want to exclude the U.S. from the region. . . . They have APEC."

The kind of economic alliance envisioned by Dr. Mahathir, however, is very different from NAFTA, as it has been proposed with Mexico. While the latter entails putting into operation what has been termed an "Auschwitz on the border," Mahathir has consistently addressed the question of the developing sector. As he explained in Bali, Indonesia March 4: "Membership of the group by developing countries should serve to remind the other members of their responsibility to the developing world. A concerted effort can then be made to boost the economic growth of the weaker members." In Bali, with Henry Kissinger present, Mahathir also addressed, as has the Malaysian press since then, the "severe erosion in [America's] economic position and welfare" and warned that the U.S. is not beyond using military force to back up its economic intentions.

APC exposes Australian wing of the destabilization

Umno Youth spoke of a press release from an Australian political group, the Australian Peoples' Conference, that was carried by Malaysian press April 26. "The attacks on Malaysia's prime minister have all the pawprints of the Anglo-American-Zionist establishment," writes the Australian People's Conference in the cited press release. The APC notes, for example, the role of one Michael Danby, the editor of *Australia-Israel Review*, a member of Prime Minister Hawke's faction of the Australian Labor Party, and a key figure in the Zionist propaganda machine. Danby personally penned a poisonous editorial attack on Mahathir. In the February 1990 issue of the same magazine, Danby had run a virulent slander of Lyndon LaRouche and *EIR*. Danby's piece against Mahathir, according to the APC, was then "disseminated in the Australian media and to Australia's leading politicians."

Noting the distortions in *The Australian* regarding remarks made by Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew on the EAEG, Malaysia's *Business Times* quotes the APC: "It may be no coincidence that *The Australian* is owned by Rupert Murdoch, a business partner of Sir Peter Abeles, and a close friend of Australian Prime Minister Hawke and a longtime supporter of Australia's Zionist community." Concludes the APC: "Australia is clearly acting as an Anglo-American junior partner in keeping the [EAEG] proposal from being realized."