

state of Israel,” and concluded, “Progressive masses from around the world must recognize this U.S.-Zionist dagger [the LaRouche movement] at the heart of our movement. We must strike fear into their hearts for daring to degrade our noble cause.”

Danby has earned a reputation for his scribblings in Leibler's *Australia-Israel Review*. According to *Axis*, the newspaper of the Australian Union of Students, of May 24, 1976, “The president of the Students Representative Council at Melbourne University has been acting as an informer for the Commonwealth Police. The president, Michael Danby, has admitted to having five contacts with the police since February.” Among other things, Danby provided a profile of a PLO-connected student who was then applying to study at Melbourne University, a profile used to deny the student entry into Australia. He also reported to the police on a planned student mobilization against the visit to Australia of one of the Rockefeller family.

Danby joined the Labor Party during or after his university days, and though a Labor Party member, held numerous secret meetings with leading figures in the Liberal Party to plan a purge of Labor's pro-Palestinian left wing. One such meeting took place in the headquarters of Western Mining Corp., an anti-union, pro-free trade outfit which is a major financier of the Liberals.

Danby maintained some intelligence ties in other directions. In the late 1980s, his wife worked in the library of the U.S. consulate in Melbourne, while Danby himself organized intimate Friday night soirees at the consulate where Australians could come and rub shoulders with the leading lights of America's neo-conservative movement, such as longtime CIA official Vernon Walters. Reflective of these connections, Danby spent time in the United States on a State Department scholarship.

Investigation of whom?

The November issue of *Without Prejudice* featured a 17-page diatribe against LaRouche as “anti-Semitic” and “extreme right wing.” The article complained that a major purpose of what they called LaRouche's “intelligence network” in Australia, is to “spy on . . . Melbourne Jewish community figure Isi Leibler and businessman Sir Peter Abeles.” It further contended that the major purpose of the rapidly expanding LaRouche movement in Australia is to conduct espionage, and that this “makes a thorough investigation of this group, and its plans for Australia, imperative.”

A preliminary look at the Leiblers, in fact, points to the opposite conclusion. The evidence of the Leiblers' reportedly corrupt dealings on behalf of foreign governments in Australia, and their tax-evasion schemes from which they and their friends have earned considerable pecuniary reward, more than merit a parliamentary investigation of the Leiblers and company.

S.E. Asia cements Subcontinental ties

by Lydia Cherry

The nations of South Asia (the Indian subcontinent) and the Southeast Asian countries have historically operated very much in their respective orbits. However, now there is an effort to narrow the gap. Much of the rapid-fire economic and military diplomacy involves new-found ties between India and the various countries that make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—in particular with Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia, but not exclusively so. At the time of this writing, Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad is in Pakistan, having just come from Bangladesh, discussing the ASEAN consensus that there is a desperate need for “greater unity and cooperation” between the Asian regional groupings.

India, Malaysia sign defense pact

In the first week of February, much press attention was given to the signing of a memorandum of understanding by India and Malaysia involving military cooperation. The agreement was signed during Indian Defense Minister Sharad Pawar's four-day official visit to Malaysia, the first ever by an Indian defense minister. All-India Radio Network quoted Malaysian Defense Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak saying that India and Malaysia can in the future think of joint development of parts, logistical support, and in-country servicing of common equipment and aircraft of the two countries. Najib added that the new memorandum provides the basic umbrella of political commitment. Najib added that Malaysia viewed the MOU as an effort to enhance cooperation in technical training and logistics support for, in particular, the Royal Malaysian Air Force. Indian press also reported that Malaysia announced it was willing to share its expertise in countering insurgency, while India would assist Malaysia in the transformation of a largely counterinsurgency force into a modern conventional army.

Indian Defense Minister Sharad Pawar also offered to train Malaysian pilots on the Russian-built MiG-29 jet fighters which Malaysia may buy from Russia, the Indian press reported. Malaysia is considering buying 30 MiG-29s from the Russians, which have been offered at US\$24 million each, and has been looking to India to provide parts and service for the fighters.

(The United States had offered Malaysia F-16 and F/A-18 Hornet fighters, but Malaysian defense officials say their

prices are almost double that of the MiG-29.)

Press coverage from the Indian side has been upbeat, describing the agreement as a milestone, not only in New Delhi's relations with Kuala Lumpur but with the entire ASEAN group. Indian commentator T.G. Nallamuthu noted on Feb. 3: "Though India's eastern sentinel, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, are just a stone's throw away from Malaysia and Indonesia and not far from Thailand and Singapore, we have been keeping a safe distance from each other, also in defense." He added, however, that "India has now started looking east."

In the Cold War days, a significant distance was maintained between the U.S.-linked Southeast Asian countries and Japan on the one side, and India on the other. But the ball game has changed, Indian sources insist, for numerous reasons:

1) From the standpoint of strategy, Southeast Asia strongly hopes that China will not become adventurous. However, were that to happen, the countries of Southeast Asia would benefit greatly from having India as a close ally.

2) India has construction and infrastructural capabilities that could benefit Southeast Asia. There is also the factor that some of the Southeast Asian countries have not been able to keep up the fast pace of Japanese technological development. Here, India represents a middle level of available technology, that in some cases has been phased out in Japan.

3) Though still heavily dependent on the Arab world for oil, India has wearied of the political complexity of the Arab world and is drawn to the more economically oriented ASEAN diplomacy.

4) The Southeast Asian countries with predominantly Muslim populations have been careful not to create any more problems for India than it already has in the Hindu-Muslim conflict that is being fueled by Britain and other western countries.

On Feb. 10, India commenced a four-day naval exercise with the Singapore Navy. India is also expected to hold a naval exercise, the first of its kind, together with Thailand and Malaysia sometime in the spring or early fall. Similarly, a naval exercise, the second, has been scheduled with Indonesia for later this year.

In early February, India also sent high-level diplomats to Indonesia and Thailand to upgrade relations and to propose enhancing trade and industrial cooperation. The Bangkok press reported on Feb. 9 that India has proposed the expansion of fishing cooperation between the two countries; cooperation in Southeast Asian and Buddhist studies between Thai and Indian academics; and has communicated that India wishes to increase trade and investment cooperation.

The India-Pakistan rub

Within a week and a half of the announcement of the signing of the memorandum of understanding with India,

Prime Minister Mahathir was in Islamabad, Pakistan, and to no great surprise was grilled by journalists about the "military pact with India." According to the Bernama wire service, Mahathir countered the query by going into the specifics of why his country needed to purchase component and spare parts from India—that some of these are available only in India. For example, he noted that the Allouete helicopters are no longer manufactured by France, and in fact the license to produce spare parts for such weapons has been given to India. He mentioned that Malaysia had always welcomed Indian and Pakistani military officers to attend courses in the defense college in Malaysia, and that he hoped officers from both countries would continue to come. Referencing the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex that he visited the day before, he noted that the complex was very similar to the Airod complex in Kuala Lumpur, and suggested that the two facilities could cooperate so as not to duplicate their activities. He added that Malaysia would like to use Pakistan's air, sea, and road links as a gateway with the Central Asian republics.

In Pakistan, Mahathir apparently was also asked about what can be done when there is a Muslim minority in an Asian country that is being discriminated against. According to Bernama, his response was that his country stood for the rights of the minority to be treated fairly, but not for the group in question to secede.

Three regional organizations

In his banquet speech in Islamabad on Feb. 14, Prime Minister Mahathir suggested that in the upcoming period there must be close collaboration between the three Asian regional organizations—ASEAN; the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), recently joined by the Central Asian nations of the former Soviet Union; and the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which groups the nations on the subcontinent—to stabilize and develop Asia as a whole. He proposed that such collaboration could enhance the economies of these regions. Discussing ECO, he noted that the inclusion of seven more countries of central Asia has created an important economic nexus that will be crucial in guaranteeing the future development and stability of the Central and South Asian regions.

In Bangladesh, Mahathir enunciated the ASEAN position on the need for the United Nations to be restructured and the veto powers of the Security Council members terminated. "The veto powers of the five Security Council members must go. As long as such power is there, the U.N. shall not be able to wipe off its autocratic face," he said, speaking at a news conference in Dhaka.

In both Pakistan and India, sources say, there is much discussion and a fair amount of consensus that the Security Council should be scrapped and that the U.N. General Assembly be the basis for making decisions.