

Why Neo-Cons Really Hate Malaysia's Dr. Mahathir

by Mike Billington

The lords of the international financial institutions found yet another reason to spew their hatred of Malaysia's Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad this month, when he took the helm of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) summit on Oct. 16 in Kuala Lumpur. Only three weeks earlier, at the UN on Sept. 25, Mahathir had given a General Assembly speech, strongly suggesting a new order of fixed currency parities, capital controls, and currency controls—a form of New Bretton Woods. And a major confrontation took place between Dr. Mahathir and the western financial oligarchy, after the so-called “Asian financial crisis,” in 1997-98, when he counter-attacked against mega-speculator and drug-promoter George Soros and his backers at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Mahathir not only exposed their systematic looting of the nations of Asia, but also implemented the “politically incorrect” policy of partial currency controls on the Malaysian ringgit, successfully closing the door on the thieves. He was roundly accused of scapegoating the IMF for supposed “structural failings” in the Malaysian economy, and denounced as an anti-Semite for daring to name Soros (as if the gnostic money-worshipper Soros were really Jewish!) as a “dunce” and a crook.

Strong Advice to Muslims

Dr. Mahathir was proven correct by history, as Malaysia succeeded, without IMF “assistance,” in surviving the crisis far better than its several neighbors, who were placed under IMF tutelage—and without the collapse of living standards which accompanies every IMF program. The controllers of the dying IMF-based financial system have never forgiven him. It was thus no surprise, after Oct. 16, to see Western leaders and their press respond to Mahathir's dramatic keynote speech to the OIC with a deafening chorus of denunciations, calling it the “crudest and most vile anti-Semitism in history” (American Jewish Committee chief David Harris), and comparing him to Osama bin Laden (Australian Labor Party official Kevin Rudd)! For those who actually *read* the speech, however, it is self-evident that Dr. Mahathir:

- reprimanded Muslims for deserting their historical dedication to science and ecumenicism in favor of a literalist and fundamentalist interpretation of the Quran;
- called on Muslims to renounce suicide bombings, as a totally impotent response to Israeli oppression and the occu-



Malaysia's outgoing Prime Minister and statesman Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, who on Sept. 25 at the UN proposed a return to a Bretton Woods-like system of fixed currency parties and controls, further infuriated the "Washington consensus" with his Oct. 16 call for a new Islamic renaissance, in his summit speech as chairman of the OIC.

pation of Palestinian lands, one which only plays into the hands of their enemies;

- praised the Jews for withstanding centuries of hideous persecution across Europe, culminating in the slaughter of six out of the 12 million European Jews under the Nazis, but surviving through the use of *reason*, not reaction, to become the powerful force they are in today's world; and
- called on Islam to follow that path of *reason* today, in league with well-meaning people from all cultures, to realize the great potential of the 1.3 billion Islamic people of the world.

One could certainly say that Dr. Mahathir was imprecise, in confusing the fascist Jabotinskyite leadership of Israel, and their supporters internationally, with "Jews." But this is a lawful part of the effect of the way in which Muslims have been treated over the recent period. Look at the toleration of the wave of attacks on Islamic peoples, at the acceptance of the fascist Sharon government, and its genocidal policies against the Palestinian people. Look at the way in which mega-speculator George Soros is permitted, by Jews and others, to pawn himself off as a leading "Jewish" philanthropist. If it appears to Muslims that "Jews" run the world, that may be, in part, because the likes of Sharon and Soros have been permitted by cowards, to usurp the name.

The Western press, especially those supporting the neo-conservatives' drive for "perpetual war" with Islamic-majority countries, were equally incensed at the standing ovation

Mahathir received, and the public defense of him from across the Islamic world—including from those counted as the allies of the U.S. war on terrorism, such as Afghanistan's interim President Hamid Karzai and Pakistan's President Gen. Pervez Musharraf. The imperial tone was clearest in the *New York Times* editorial of Oct. 18, which denounced Mahathir's "toxic statement of hatred of Jews," and then proceeded, unashamed, to berate Muslims for holding "feckless summit meetings."

Defense By Egypt

A strong defense of Dr. Mahathir came from Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher, who said on Oct. 21, that accusing the Malaysian Prime Minister of anti-Semitism served to "deflect attention from Israeli acts" against the Palestinians. "What is said about this speech shows bad faith," Maher said. "These are lying allegations aimed at protecting Israel and deflecting attention from Israeli acts. We hope that those who condemned Dr. Mahathir's speech lend more attention to the words of the American general . . . who demonstrated hostility toward Islam."

Maher was referring to Gen. William Boykin, who in June, was named U.S. Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, and who has ranted to Christian fundamentalist audiences that Muslims are idol worshipers, and repeatedly boasted, "My god is bigger than his god." When challenged on Boykin's role in appraising intelligence in the Islamic world with such a view of Islam, his boss, Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, called him a great general, and said that "we're a free people."

In his Oct. 21 interview with the *Bangkok Post*, Dr. Mahathir noted that "The greatest Jewish philosopher [Moses] Maimonides wrote his works in Arabic. There was no quarrel between Jews and Muslims, and Jews and Arabs. Until, of course, you take away Palestinian land to solve the European-Jewish problem, by creating the State of Israel. Since then, there seems to be no more peace in the Middle East. . . . It would seem that these people do not appreciate my suggesting that we should stop acts of terror. They would like to see acts of terror go on. Perhaps, this would give them an excuse to take pre-emptive action."

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