

Schiller Institute in Malaysia

‘Capital Controls Help Human Rights’

A Schiller Institute delegation led by U.S. human rights representative Gail Billington visited Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from Jan. 20 to Jan. 25. The aim of the visit was to determine directly the impact of the capital controls and other economic policies enacted by the Malaysian government to combat the effects of the international financial crisis.

In Kuala Lumpur, Billington interviewed Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad and Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin for *Executive Intelligence Review*.

On Jan. 25, Billington addressed a seminar at Malaysia’s leading thinktank, the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (I.S.I.S.). She spoke on “Human Rights and Wrongs: An American Perspective,” to a forty-person audience, half from foreign embassies, including the U.S., and the rest Malaysian businessmen and members of the intelligentsia. Billington described the role to be played by sovereign nation-states in realizing the new, just economic order proposed by Lyndon LaRouche since the 1980’s. And, she discussed the fact that the imprisonment of LaRouche and his associates, including her husband, Michael Billington—



Schiller Institute representatives Gail Billington and Dino de Paoli interview Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad (left).

who remains imprisoned, serving a 77-year sentence in the state of Virginia—was a political operation, aimed at preventing the realization of this new order. Leaders of the developing nations, committed to this new order, are also under attack—often under the cover of “protecting human rights,” said Billington.

Favorable Response

Billington’s presentation received favorable coverage on the government-owned TV channel, and was publicized in a wire by the government news agency Bernama. Channel 2 TV featured Billington addressing the I.S.I.S. policy seminar on the subject of capital controls as the only way to defend the human rights of all people from financial speculators.

The Bernama wire appeared in the *The Star* newspaper, the second major English-language

daily in Malaysia, on Jan. 26. It read as follows:

“Kuala Lumpur: An international non-governmental organization, the International Schiller Institute, gave the thumbs up yesterday to Malaysia’s selective capital controls, saying the measures give priority to people’s welfare over financial interests.

“Its human rights representative Gail G. Billington said, by imposing the controls, Malaysia had become the first country to place the human rights and general welfare of the people before financial interests.

“It is the ideal of national sovereignty that the primary responsibility of government is for citizens, not for financial interests, not for speculators, and not for the international market,” said Billington.

“She said this after speaking at an international affairs forum on Human Rights and Wrongs: An American Perspective, held by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (I.S.I.S.) here.

“She suggested that other countries take the cue from Malaysia and implement the controls which were introduced last September.”



Malaysian Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin poses with Schiller Institute delegation.