

22/10/2003

Global sheriff in Asian roundup

SHERIFF George W. Bush is in the midst of a six-day, six-nation Asian roundup to reward members of the American posse to hunt international outlaws, recruit new adherents, admonish the recalcitrants, and browbeat the wayward into submission. Deputy Sheriff John Howard was promoted to Sheriff and Thailand was embraced as a new major non-Nato ally. On the sidelines of the Apec Summit in Bangkok, the United States used the new United Nations Security Council resolution to press those countries who have hitherto been reluctant to contribute troops or money to the reconstruction of US-occupied Iraq. It also promoted a plan in which five nations would give a written assurance to North Korea in return for its promise to dismantle its nuclear programme. Although Beijing is not one of the targets in the war against terrorism, the US has been blaming China for the loss of American jobs, and used the occasion afforded by Apec to push Beijing to appreciate the renminbi.

The American action in Bangkok was an object lesson in how the world's hegemon relentlessly expands its role as international police, judge and executioner as it pursues the strategic vision of global dominance as spelled out in the National Security Strategy. The US scorns multilateral action, acts unilaterally and expects everyone else, including the United Nations, to trot behind dutifully afterwards.

The recent US veto of a Security Council resolution condemning Israel's "security" wall is yet another example of the steadfast defence and protection of Israeli aggression and violations of UN resolutions and international law. Their bias and double standards were also exposed by the diatribe against Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the plain language he used in describing the Jews at the OIC Summit last week.

At the instigation of the proIsrael lobby, the US House of Representatives approved the Syria Accountability Act which aims to penalise Syria for keeping its forces in Lebanon and backing militant groups opposed to Israeli occupation. What the world needs is an America Accountability Act. The world needs an America that uses its power responsibly and respects the rule of law.