

this point and cited forces in Washington, London, and elsewhere who desire precisely that outcome, in tandem with the destabilization of Iran and heightened tensions and Cold War confrontation in the region.

At this moment there is no clear indication of what will happen when the Supreme Court begins its final deliberations. Bhutto's lawyer said last week that he and his client have "confidence in the judgement of the Court," a statement which reflects repeated rumors that in fact some of the judges are leaning toward an acquittal of Bhutto. However, everyone, especially the Court, is aware of the junta's strong desire to see Bhutto hanged as quickly as possible.

The stepped-up junta offensive against its opponents makes this clear. Most prominently reported was the arrest of the editor of the respected independent Pakistani weekly *Viewpoint*. The editor, Mazhar Ali Khan, is known to favor Bhutto and was a strong supporter of detente in the region, including friendly relations with the Soviet Union and India. This was backed up by the announcement of General Zia ul Haq, the junta chief, of the formation of special "Shariat" Islamic courts which would examine all legal rulings according to "Islamic law."

There is very little in the Western press on the reality of events in Pakistan. The *Executive Intelligence Review* is taking a special responsibility to fill the void. Several weeks ago the *EIR* received important papers smuggled out of Pakistan, including a 319-page document written by Bhutto in jail, a lengthy appeal to the court refuting the allegations made against him by the government in a special White Paper issued earlier this year.

The document has been banned in Pakistan and little covered outside of the country. After the *Financial Times* of London pub-

lished a tiny article claiming that the Bhutto document was incoherent, both Jack Anderson and the *Washington Post* obtained the document but refused to print a word about it or Bhutto's perilous situation. The document is a detailed account of the events leading up to and surrounding the coup,

including the role of "foreign" elements typified by Henry Kissinger. The *Executive Intelligence Review* will soon release an abridged version of the document, as a special supplement, hopefully before the jury tries to silence Mr. Bhutto forever.

—Daniel Sneider

## Japan's new government: 'low quality'

Japan's new Prime Minister, Masayoshi Ohira, announced his cabinet last week, and the new cabinet members are an extremely undistinguished lot. The new government includes political hacks from every major faction inside the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, many of whom have been waiting 20 years or more for a cabinet post. Not surprisingly, Ohira made one of his own faction members head of the powerful Ministry of Finance position, while the other key bureaucratic post, that of head of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, went to a follower of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, Ohira's major factional ally.

According to a top Japanese political expert in Washington, the reason for what he termed the obvious "low quality" of the new cabinet was that the struggle for the "balance of power" inside the LDP itself had not yet been resolved. According to the source, the two major interparty rivals are Takeo Fukuda and former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, whose unity is an absolute necessity if Japan is to be put back into its active position as the Asian organizer for the European Monetary System. Fukuda is enraged at Tanaka for his role in funneling in "dirty money" to Ohira's camp-

aign to virtually buy the election for Ohira, while Tanaka hates Fukuda for what Tanaka believes is the role Fukuda played in earlier helping to watergate Tanaka himself out of office in 1974.

The intense battle between Fukuda and Tanaka has been heightened by charges of China's role in funding the Ohira campaign. The Bank of China, according to rumors now circulating in the Japanese business community, used the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank as a funnel to launder money to Ohira.

Ohira's own limitations as a leader were described in graphic detail in a column in the Dec. 3 *Yomiuri Evening News*. The article quoted a Foreign Ministry official who said that when Ohira was Foreign Minister, "to brief Mr. Ohira we have to explain the same thing again and again. It's a lot of fuss to make him understand anything. When he was going to talk with a ranking foreign official he used to say 'I understand nothing. Please pass me a memo when I falter.' He was outspoken. But he used to be irresolute when he had to decide." The *Yomiuri* article also comments that when Ohira was Foreign Minister, "It is said that Kissinger in particular liked him."