

# Pressure mounts on Zia's Pakistan

by Linda de Hoyos

Benazir Bhutto, daughter of the late Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who was executed by the government of President Zia ul-Haq, plans to return to her home city of Karachi, Pakistan, on April 12, after several years in exile, to lead the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) to power in Pakistan. Her return, Miss Bhutto stated in a press conference in London in early March, will test whether Zia's lifting of martial law will permit her to do political work, which she has vowed to do "whatever the consequences."

In Karachi, the stronghold of the Bhutto family, preparations for her arrival have already begun. In a major show of strength on March 28, the parties in the MRD coalition ignored the ban on unauthorized marches to hold a demonstration of 60,000 people demanding the resignation of Zia. One banner read "Benazir, Benazir, qaum ki taqdir" (Benazir is the destiny of the nation). Civil war is now being talked of openly. In a public statement to the Pakistani newspaper *Muslim*, MRD Secretary General Khwaja Kairuddin declared that civil war in Pakistan was imminent, given the huge amount of arms in the country. Massive violence, he said, could be expected to break out at any time in the Sind and the Northwest Frontier Province, where Soviet-allied tribesmen have already clashed with the government.

The return of Bhutto as the flagbearer for revolution is but one of the pressure points being applied on the Zia government, as the Soviet Union and the United States look for a New Yalta resolution to the tensions in the region. According to Afghanistan President Barbak Karmal, in a press conference Feb. 18, "Zia must go." There will be increasing "political turmoil" in Pakistan until there is a return to full civilian rule, Karmal declared, as if the President of this Soviet-occupied country could credibly pass himself off as a champion of democracy. But Zia's removal is to one of the preconditions set for a "political resolution" to the Afghanistan problem. "If a real civilian government, relying on the will of the people, took power, the government of Pakistan would then act in line with the will of the people, who have always wanted a political solution in Afghanistan."

Karmal's words were echoed a week later by Soviet Politburo member Geidar Aliyev, the "Muslim card" player with a pedigree from Andropov's KGB who has the Soviet fran-

chise for the region. "Ask your government if there is any progress in terms of preventing counter-revolution from reaching Afghanistan from the territory of Pakistan," Aliyev told a Pakistani correspondent during a press conference in Moscow Feb. 27. An Aliyev man, Abdul Rehman Oglu Vezirov, whose career was launched in Aliyev's Azerbaijani Communist Party bureaucracy, is now the Soviet ambassador to Pakistan.

Miss Bhutto claims to have purged the Moscow-directed separatist elements from the Pakistani People's Party, who transformed the MRD agitation in 1983 from a call for democracy into a call for the demise of the nation. However, in Baluchistan and in the Northwest Frontier Province, Soviet-endorsed separatism is flourishing, in the latter based on the poppy-growing Pushtun tribesman. There is also evidence that Libya remains very much involved in the agitation against Zia. Muammar Qaddafi was one of the key sponsors of Miss Bhutto's terrorist brothers. On March 10, Pakistani authorities arrested the Libyan deputy managing director of a joint holding company for his suspected links to Libyan intelligence services and on charges of providing funds to anti-government terrorist groups.

## Arab fundamentalist pressure

On the other side, Zia faces continuing agitation from the Islamic fundamentalists of the Jamati-i-Islami, who have announced that they will not accept a political settlement to the Afghanistan conflict unless it leads to majority rule in Afghanistan. The Jamati leadership declared on March 27 that it is prepared to militarily defend Afghan rebels and refugees in Pakistan—numbering 3 million—against any conspiracies against them.

For its part, the United States publicly has vowed its continuing support for the Afghan rebels. Secretary of State George Shultz declared March 21 that there could be no solution to the Afghan situation until all Soviet troops are withdrawn from the country, and claimed that all reports that the United States is planning to "cut a deal" behind the backs of the Afghan guerrillas is "disinformation" and "speculation." And Attorney General Edwin Meese, speaking in the Northwest Frontier Province capital of Peshawar March 26, the chief center for the Afghan refugees, stated, "I come here on behalf of my President to promise to you, the Afghan people, that we, the people of the United States, will continue to support your heroic struggle against the Soviet empire."

Nevertheless, the acquiescence to Soviet domination over Afghanistan, and implicitly Pakistan, is a known clause of the New Yalta deal between Moscow and the Shultz faction in Washington. And the Pakistani government might have some questions as to why Benazir Bhutto, before her arrival in Karachi, will stop in United States, where she has friendly relations with Senate Foreign Relations staffer Peter Galbraith and Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), and in Saudi Arabia—the two foreign powers, other than Moscow itself, with the greatest influence over events in Pakistan.