

# London declares war on U.S.-Pakistan revival

by Linda de Hoyos and Ramtanu Maitra

On April 5 through 19, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will be in the United States, in an attempt to revive her country's relations with the United States.

Since 1971, when Henry Kissinger orchestrated the U.S. support of Pakistan against India during the Bangladesh war, Pakistan functioned as the fulcrum of U.S. policy in South Asia, a role heightened when the 1979 invasion of Afghanistan turned Pakistan into a "front-line state." But under the administration of George Bush, relations with Pakistan went on the skids. In 1990, the year before the Anglo-American war against Iraq, Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan—without protest from Washington—summarily dismissed the government of Mrs. Bhutto, who had come to power in 1988. In the same year, the United States cut off all economic and military aid to Pakistan, because of its failure to open up its nuclear program to international inspection. Relations reached a nadir in early 1993—in the wake of the New York City World Trade Center bombing and the killing of two CIA employees in Langley, Virginia, allegedly by a Pakistani—when the State Department made a bid to place Pakistan on the list of "terrorist states." Gradually, relations have improved, with the return to power in October 1993 of Benazir Bhutto.

The American decision to revive operations with Pakistan hinges on Washington's projected use of Pakistan as the gateway to Central Asia. The other hinge for the United States into this key region is Turkey. Unlike Kissinger's policy of "tilt," the Clinton administration is simultaneously seeking to improve relations with India. Washington is also seeking to settle the most contentious issues between India and Pakistan—such as the Kashmir dispute—as a necessary step in gaining both countries' acquiescence to nuclear non-proliferation.

Against the realization of this policy, London has hurled itself full-force. London's unmistakable declaration of war came with the March 8 killing of two employees of the U.S. consulate in Karachi, Pakistan, an embattled city reminiscent of 1980s Beirut.

## London pulls the strings

British intelligence has utilized a simple strategy against Bhutto: Render Pakistan ungovernable and thereby deny territory to either Pakistani or U.S. interests. London has no lack of assets to do the job.

Operations have focused on Karachi, the 10-million population port city in Sind province, home of the Bhutto family. In the past six months, nearly 1,000 people have died in political murders there. On March 31, British Labour Party Member of Parliament George Galloway declared in session that "the prime minister of Pakistan was right to say in Karachi . . . that to some extent, violence is being encouraged and in part financed by foreign powers." Galloway pointed the finger at Iran for fomenting conflicts between Shia and Sunni Muslims, and also to India, charging that the Indian consulate had been shut down in Karachi because "of the role played by Indian secret intelligence agents in fomenting communal violence."

Galloway, who claims to have been a guest of the prime minister and to hold Pakistan's "highest civil award," failed to mention London's own "invisible hand" in Karachi, a city that has been mentioned by one Londoner as a possible "second Singapore," a free port on the Arabian Sea coast servicing the already heavy flow of drugs and dirty money zipping toward London.

Accordingly, one line of conflict in Karachi is between the Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM), the organization of Indian Muslims who moved to Karachi with the British partition of India in 1947 and who constitute the major business community there, and the city's drug barons, many of whom are offspring of Afghanistan-refugee drug-and-guns culture.

The drug barons, which Pakistani police assert have deployed 4,000 terrorists for operations in Karachi, are offspring and remain linked to the "Afghansi" networks that were created, owned, and operated by both British intelligence, the Bush administration's errant Iran-Contra intelligence nexus, and the rogue elements of Pakistan's own Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI). The multinational "Afghansi" have been publicly identified as responsible for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, plots to assassinate Pope John Paul II, and murders and assassinations throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

MQM leader Altaf Hussain, in turn, is headquartered in London. In late March, Bhutto's main political opponent, Pakistan Muslim League chief Nawaz Sharif, announced that he would travel to London to meet with Hussain in "an effort to save Pakistan" from dismemberment. Yet Nawaz emerged from the meeting with Hussain to announce an electoral alliance with the MQM against Bhutto. Nawaz further declared that Bhutto is "part of the Karachi crisis."

The other fracture line in Karachi is between the Sunni and Shia branches of Islam, with Iran a major backer of the Shia. More than 10 mosques have been attacked in Karachi this year, leaving scores of people dead, in this apparently internecine strife. On April 6, police announced that they had arrested five Sunni militants on charges of murder and terrorism in regard to the March 11 massacre of 22 Shiite worshippers at a Karachi mosque. The five are members of the Sipat-e Sabha Pakistan, an extremist Sunni organization.

London has a paw in this one, too. According to the London *Sunday Telegraph*, the leader of the group, Zia Rehman Farooqi, has been on a month-long recruitment and fundraising tour of Britain and claims to have recruited 40,000 adherents there—unhampered by British law enforcement! Rallies of the Sipat-e Sabha in England are replete with bloodcurdling chants against Shiites.

The extreme violence in Karachi, highlighted by the murder of two Americans, has surpassed efforts to bring the city to heel. In 1992, the Army had been sent into Karachi, but was called back by Bhutto in December 1994 after its efforts had proved to be a total failure. In mid-March, the Bhutto government charged the Rangers, Pakistani's paramilitary organization, with policing duties in Karachi, and said it would refrain from deploying the Army into the city.

Bhutto's stated determination to end the killings in Karachi quickly elicited protests from that subsidiary of British intelligence, Amnesty International. Noting that 300 suspected terrorists had been arrested since March 11, Amnesty complained that "calls by the Pakistani government for the police to use ruthlessness to curb violence may be seen as the signal that human rights violations . . . will be condoned."

And even as Bhutto was preparing her trip to the United States, the U.S. Public Broadcasting System, which enjoys close links to the British Broadcasting System, ran a 30-minute documentary pinning Bhutto with the blame for what

they allege to be Pakistani support for terrorism. Featured in the broadcast were Yosef Bodansky, the Israeli-linked staff director of the House of Representatives Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, and George Bush's secretary of state, James Baker.

### **Who runs the renegades?**

Despite Bodansky's charges, Bhutto is herself politically hemmed in by the drug-terror networks identified. In the last two months, her government, at high political risk, has launched a crackdown against those Amnesty would seek to protect, in an effort to draw a clear line between Pakistani national interests and the drug-terror gangs running amok in the region:

● On Feb. 7, Pakistani police arrested Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, who is believed to be the mastermind of the World Trade Center bombing. Ramzi, confirmed by his New York lawyer to be an "explosives expert," is believed also to be the man behind a 1994 bomb blast in the city of Mashad, Iran, which killed 25 people. This information emerged when Pakistani police arrested six terrorists in Peshawar, near the Afghan border, who told of Ramzi's role in the Iran bombing.

One of the six also confirmed charges from Mrs. Bhutto that Ramzi had been directly involved in an assassination plot against her in 1993. "He came here in a car toward this house where we are sitting today," Mrs. Bhutto told the

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## South Africa: Queen is on the scene

Though going to great lengths to praise "Nelson Mandela's South Africa" as the "democratic giant" of the continent, Great Britain is in fact involved in a multi-faceted operation to isolate President Mandela from his base, a tactic which would make him vulnerable to assassination. South African sources believe that such an event would lead to near-civil war conditions in South Africa.

With 40% unemployment and most of Mandela's electoral promises to provide the masses with housing and basic utilities unfulfilled, the Queen of England's recent tour of South Africa was designed to further drive a wedge between the South African President and the grassroots base of his African National Congress (ANC) party. Mandela's estranged wife, Winnie Mandela, who since the Queen's visit has been fired as deputy minister of arts, culture, science, and technology, assailed the visit. She has recently slammed the ANC leadership for "its failure to live up to its promises." Following the assassination in

April 1993 of her factional ally Chris Hani, Mrs. Mandela is seen as heading the "Stalinist" faction. Hani's assassination had all the pawprints of Britain's M-6.

Mandela's decision to oust Winnie Mandela from the cabinet was widely praised by British and U.S. establishment press as showing resolve to fight "corruption." Unrest in the slums around Johannesburg, where Mrs. Mandela is most idolized, has thus far been minor, but statements coming out of these camps make the sentiment clear: "With Winnie Mandela gone, there can be no stability in South Africa." At an ANC meeting on April 6, the Mandela leadership was accused by other ANC officials of lies and incompetence.

Nelson Mandela, however, is not seen by the international financial oligarchy as showing the same resolve on the economy as he did in sacking his estranged wife. The establishment press complains that Mandela has not gone far enough in accepting the prescriptions of the International Monetary Fund; that foreign exchange controls are still in place, in spite of the abolition of the financial rand (a parallel currency that was set up 10 years ago to protect the rand from exchange-rate shocks); and that South Africa is still far from allowing businesses and individuals to "move their money freely in and out of the country."

press, from her home in Karachi. "But one of the explosives went off accidentally, wounding Ramzi, and he was subsequently taken to a hospital in Karachi. . . . The question that arises is, who was the mastermind that said the World Trade Center should be bombed and that I should be eliminated from the October 1993 elections?"

- In Karachi itself, police have arrested and incarcerated 1,600 people, but this has not slowed down the rate of violence. Between 4-10 people are being gunned down every day in the city.

- On March 15, a major drug bust was staged by 2,800 paramilitary forces in the semi-autonomous Khyber Agency in the Northwest Frontier Province, where heavily armed tribes manage huge drug operations. Authorities seized 7 tons of heroin, 31 tons of hashish, busted up 15 heroin laboratories, and arrested 12 men.

- On March 21, Islamabad authorities, in a joint operation with U.S. officials, arrested two people in Quetta, Baluchistan. One is suspected of being involved in the World Trade Center bombing, and the other is believed to be Aimal Kanshi, suspected of killing two CIA officials in Langley, Virginia on Jan. 25, 1993.

- On April 6, Pakistan extradited two alleged drug barons to the United States, who are accused of running the country's largest heroin- and hashish-trafficking networks.

- In addition, the Bhutto government is attempting to

moderate the role of the Islamic religious schools which were established throughout Pakistan during the Zia ul-Haq regime (1977-87), and which are believed to be involved in training young militants for the Taleban invasion of Afghanistan and terrorist activities. The University of Dawat and Jihad on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border is also under investigation by Pakistani authorities and the FBI, according to the Pakistan press. Terrorists arrested in the Philippines and believed to be operating in Central Asia and North Africa were reportedly trained at the university, which is located outside the Afghani headquarters of Peshawar.

These actions put Mrs. Bhutto right up against the drug-terrorist gangsters that overlap with the ranks of so-called Islamic terror. Since Henry Kissinger gave the green light for the 1977 coup against Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and since London's favorite, former Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, ensured that the Kissinger policy would be carried out, the drug-terror networks have eroded Pakistani political and military institutions. It remains to be seen whether between them, the Clinton administration and Benazir Bhutto can maneuver the defeat of this occupation of Pakistan, thus enabling Pakistan to emerge as a sovereign nation-state capable of contributing—in concert with neighboring nations, including India—to the development of the subcontinent and Central Asia. One thing *is* certain: London is not on their side.