

end of the book.

In the story, Gales is hired by a Swedish businessman by the name of Lennart Holmstroem, a multibillionaire in the banking business belonging to “the most influential business family in Sweden,” as Grow describes it. (When the book appeared, Swedish media pointed out that this was a clear reference to Peter Wallenberg.) Holmstroem is angry at Olof Palme, because Palme is a socialist and wants to “nationalize the Swedish banks,” something which he sees as a threat to his interests. However, Holmstroem does not act alone, he is encouraged by two influential Americans: the first, Jack Pallon, a billionaire and childhood friend of Holmstroem; and the second, Bertrand Norris, is involved in secret intelligence operations, and gives Holmstroem the address of a “bureau” where Holmstroem can hire a mercenary.

The American billionaire is portrayed as belonging to an influential family, dealing with food production worldwide. He himself is a “born again” Christian, who wants to kill Palme because he threatens the secret political and business operations of the Pallon family in Latin America, by “supporting” regimes led by “communists.” The author also describes his religious fundamentalism as one of the motives: Jack Pallon thinks it is his “almost holy” responsibility to oppose “friends of the communists,” such as Palme.

The other American, Norris, is a tall, conservative, “born again” Christian, who works for the government in secret intelligence operations, and who also works with Pallon in Panama. Rather like Oliver North, perhaps.

### **The 12333 serial murder ring**

The only ones who so far have linked Oliver North’s “Iran-Contra” intelligence operations to the assassination of Palme, are the co-thinkers of Lyndon LaRouche. *EIR*’s Special Report, *George Bush and the 12333 Serial Murder Ring*, delved into the secret political operations of this network, involving, among other things, the secret arms trade to Ibero-America and the Middle East. This report circulated extensively in Sweden.

Grow’s book points to the same network, even if it wrongly implies that Palme was the “good socialist” who fought against the evil Americans. Reality was more complex: The communists in East Germany helped Palme’s “socialist” regime to smuggle explosives to Iran and Iraq, in cooperation with the “capitalists” of the Bush-North Iran/Contra apparatus. The move in 1985 to stop the Swedish involvement in this secret trade, by allowing the Swedish Customs to raid Bofors, clearly threatened the cooperation between East and West that the European arms cartel and the Iran/Contra group had established.

The book and the film can help to crack the cover-up around these operations. In fact, sources close to the film team claim that one of the motives of those calling for a new trial against Christer Pettersson, is a desperate attempt to suppress the expected effects of the book and the film.

## **Terrorist dangers intensify in Pakistan**

by Ramtanu Maitra and Susan Maitra

The sudden outburst of “sectarian violence” in the second week of January in Lahore should serve as a signal to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, that his recent victory over the Presidential-judiciary combine was a small one, compared to the dangers he continues to ignore. The nature of the violence, although it contains all the necessary ingredients of continuing Shia-Sunni conflicts within Pakistan, nonetheless was clearly a terrorist act. The Islamabad government must look in the right places to find the cause of this burst of terrorism.

The graveyard massacre of 23 Shias who were attending the funeral of one of their slain leaders was claimed by a little-known Sunni group, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, which has gone underground since. Several Shia leaders, including those who belong to the militant Tehrik-e-Jafriya, blamed Anjuman-e-Sipah-e-Sahaba—a better-known militant Sunni group that has been linked to assaults on Shias in Pakistan. Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, meanwhile, from underground, has blamed Teheran for backing Shia militants in Pakistan.

The Shia-Sunni conflict in Pakistan is well established by now. It is quite easy to provoke shadowy militant factions within either sect to commit insane acts of violence. This has been the modus operandi in Karachi where violence between Shia and Sunni, or MQM and PPP, or Pathan and Sindhi, can be triggered in no time. Islamabad has spent years trying to impose law and order in Karachi and Sindh. In the process, the entire law and order machinery, including the Army, has been discredited, and Karachi, the commercial hub and the only major port-city in Pakistan, remains vulnerable to total disruption.

Despite the Karachi experience, Islamabad continues to deal with the Shia-Sunni conflict, centered mostly in the province of Punjab, as an independent sore which needs law and order medicine to cure. This shortsighted approach has made Karachi extremely vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

In Karachi, the MQM, a non-political, ethnic-based grouping, has been involved in terrorist acts and has emerged as the powerhouse among the terrorists in the city. MQM’s supreme leader, Altaf Hussain, resides in London, under the protection of the British government. Britain has so far refused the Pakistan government’s requests for his extradition.

Anjuman-e-Sipah-e-Sahaba, the group blamed by the Shia militants for the graveyard massacre, is active all over Punjab and the Pakistan-held part of Kashmir. Its leader, Zia Rehman Farooqi, went on a month-long tour of Britain in



*Pakistan's Prime Minister Mohammed Nawaz Sharif, if he wants to stop "sectarian" violence, should follow the example of Egypt's President Mubarak, and identify the British role in harboring terrorists.*

1995, looking for money and recruits, claiming afterward that he had gained 40,000 recruits at rallies, etc., according to the London *Sunday Telegraph*.

Along with the Anjuman-e-Sipah-e-Sahaba, Ahle Hadith, a militant Sunni group, has been working under the umbrella of Harkat-ul-Ansar, a hard-core terrorist group. Harkat has been recently acknowledged by the United States as a terrorist organization. Harkat collects donations from individuals and groups functioning in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf, and other Islamic states.

### **What is at stake?**

The reason that Pakistan has become a target of ethno-religious and sectarian violence, is that the country, which once was corrupted by those who used it as a frontline state against Soviet expansionism, stands at the crossroads linking South-Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and East Asia with Europe. Pakistan, in other words, is part of the battleground for the new Great Game.

Although the Cold War is over, Pakistan remains a very important state, but for an altogether different reason. A stable Pakistan means the linking up of Europe with Central Asia and East Asia, and of Europe with South and Southeast Asia, through modern high-speed railroads and highways. Such a linkage would provide the necessary impetus for economic development all along the transport corridors and areas feeding into those corridors. Such a massive project, which will encourage exploitation of resources and building of new work facilities, will need peace and tranquility and cooperation among nations. This is a difficult task, particularly due to various artificial conflicts sparked between the neighboring countries during the Cold War period, created and nurtured by the colonialist forces led by Britain; but, the effort promises a great reward. Its success would mean large-scale development of

countries in the impoverished areas of South and Central Asia.

Since the electoral victory of Mian Nawaz Sharif in the 1997 elections, Pakistan had taken a number of steps to create the ground for cooperative relations among neighboring nations. Islamabad, after playing the colonialists' Great Game in Afghanistan for years, has taken actions which indicate a better understanding of realities. It is this understanding which was displayed when Pakistani leaders had a meeting with former Afghan President Rabbani recently. Rabbani represents the Tajiks in the Afghan conflict, and Islamabad's recognition of the necessity of Tajik involvement in bringing about peace in Afghanistan is a positive shift. Earlier, Pakistan had recognized the Pushtoon-led Taliban as the only legitimate ruler of Afghanistan.

At the same time, despite intermittent terrorist acts within Pakistan which involve both Shia and Sunni militant groups, Pakistan has maintained a close relationship with Iran, and Prime Minister Sharif has helped to improve relations further. Sharif's continuing efforts to sort out problems with India have also been noted in New Delhi, as well as in Washington.

It is precisely these developments which make Pakistan a prime target for terrorism. The jailbreak in Dera Ghazi Khan (the town bordering Punjab and the North West Frontier Province, and where Aimal Kasi, the killer of three American intelligence officers, was safehoused) a few days before the graveyard massacre and the escape of a known Sunni terrorist, is indicative of the internal problems that Islamabad faces.

But, at the same time, Prime Minister Sharif must identify the source of terrorist acts, as Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak has done. On Nov. 23, following the terrorist killing of 62 tourists and others at Luxor, the Egyptian President told a press conference in Aswan, that the terrorists "live in Britain, Afghanistan, and other countries, where they plan and finance their crimes. If these states had cooperated in eliminating these criminals, such crimes would not have happened. . . . The terrorists live in England, and in other countries, like Afghanistan. They have committed crimes, and some of them have been sentenced. Despite all that, they are still living on English soil, and raise money, and plan." In a Dec. 8 interview with the German weekly *Der Spiegel*, Mubarak charged: "I do not understand, why people on whose hands there is blood, are granted asylum in England. Why they are being granted the freedom to call, in interviews and newspaper articles, for the assassination of people who think differently. Why is the convicted assassin of a girl, Yasser al Sirri, being allowed to move and act freely? London asked us for documents on his criminal record. Well, we sent those documents, but nothing has moved, so far."

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who is fully aware of the MQM machinations behind the killings at Karachi and the role of the Sipah-e-Sahaba, should also point out that Britain is harboring the terrorists involved in trying to bring down his government, turning Pakistan into a violent state, and threatening to destroy all possibilities to develop the country.