

In almost coordinated moves, the Carter Administration has stepped up its flow of "human rights" statements against other governments in the region, with the aim of shifting balance of power in the Indian Ocean:

\*Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto has been plagued by "Islamic" riots in all major cities. As the *New York Times* fans these riots by calling Bhutto "(Gandhi's) fellow authoritarian," he has been forced to use the Pakistani military to maintain "peace." The great gainer in this situation has been the Pakistani military establishment, trained by the CIA and known to be very anti-Indian. Reliable source indicate that Bhutto has been captured by the military to push these repressive policies under a threat of a coup.

\* In Southeast Asia, following Congressional hearings on "human rights" violations in Indonesia, the March 22 *Washington Post* carried a major feature naming a successor to President Suharto and charging Suharto with corruption and other malpractices in fabricating scandals just before Indonesia's elections this May.

\* A Series of "human rights" attacks against Vietnam have appeared as well, on the aftermath of Trilateral Commission member Leonard Woodcock's mission to Vietnam. *The New York Times* led this campaign, designed to tie U.S. reconstruction aid to the war-battered nation to "human rights." In an editorial March 21, the Times warns that "Russian totalitarianism" is being implemented in Vietnam!

## How The World Reacted

*Il Giorno*, Italy, March 23: "Gandhi decided to resign before the whole results were known to create a political vacuum...to throw the country into chaos with an obvious calculated plan...The Opposition leaders are only held together by their common hatred for Mrs. Gandhi. This cannot last very long...She will be invited again on the scene to save India from total chaos...and this will be an indefinite coup d'etat..."

*London Times*, March 23: Mrs. Gandhi said to the people: Choose. Doubtless she expected them to choose her. Yet the choice offered was genuine...But what of India's daunting and intractable problems, of which we hear so much? He knows India little who knows not how many of these problems have been, if not created by bad and meddlesome government (then made worse by it)...The incoming ragtag may not agree on much."

*West Germany*, high-level confidential source: "Through electoral means or other means, there is no choice. She must be returned to power."

*Le Monde*, March 22: Gandhi lost because reality was hidden from her by "courtesans...The Soviet Union must be the first concerned, as they have lost a powerful ally."

*Le Figaro*, March 24, Alain Vernay, "The Meaning of a Defeat": "The first (lesson-ed) is that the behavior of Mrs. Gandhi exonerates her of all the calumnies and insults. By deciding to hold elections, something she could postpone into the future, and insuring freedom in the electoral campaign, she has proved that she had used the 'state of emergency' not to 'institute her dictatorship or impose her dynasty' but for the triumph of her conception of greatness and national independence through the struggle against the profiteers, through forcing the bureaucracy to work, and the relaunching of productivity, alas accompanied by numerous excesses in the execution. The choice she made of calling upon the Indian people is not the outcome of an error but of an option, comparable to that of General De Gaulle taking his distances before the last referendum which he lost. When I met Mrs. Gandhi two weeks ago she was ready for her destiny. Second given, India is weakened in her unity.

For a long time the only national movement, the Congress, threatens to become, at best, a Southern party. India now needs a leader whom it could follow. This is no doubt beyond the scope of either Mr. Ram or Mr. Desai. This void in the country constitutes a grave threat."

Joseph Kraft, *Washington Post* columnist, March 23:

"The setback suffered by Mrs. Gandhi and the Congress Party in India tilts the world balance of power. It offers fresh opportunities to this country and — even more — its quasi-ally China to advance their positions at the expense of the Soviet Union...In international affairs the forward foreign policy favored by Mrs. Gandhi will come in for review — if only because it has strained Indian resources so greatly and tended to isolate the country internationally. The outlook is for a deeper understanding with China, and even a settlement of the border dispute. Together China and India will probably work to limit Soviet influence in Indochina...Similarly with the traditional rival Pakistan. There is at least a chance now for a new effort at settlement of the Kashmir problem, which has bedeviled relations...and destabilized the whole region from Iran to Burma...All these possibilities represent something of a windfall for Washington. There is reason now, as there was not in the recent past, for this country to pay attention to India — which means, first of all, appointing an ambassador to New Delhi who can command Washington's attention."

*New York Times*, "India Reclaims Its Freedom":

"The news from India is an inspiration to all democracies. A people repressed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi through 18 months of 'emergency' seized a moment of freedom to turn on her government and party, even though they were subject to the threat of further suppression. An impoverished people rejected the siren song of authoritarians everywhere that bread must be bought at the price of freedom. This historic election will reverberate through many lands. Even some Americans had begun to despair of the fate of democracy before the seemingly inevitable march of tyranny..."

It is apparent now that the Prime Minister was herself

taken in by it, as dictators are so often taken in by counselors who tell them what they want to hear. Otherwise she would have probably tried to rig the election just as her fellow authoritarian in neighboring Pakistan rigged his recent election, using armed power to make the result stick...

All indications from the victorious alliance, known as Janata, are that a friendly attitude can be expected toward the United States, with a noticeable cooling of feelings for the Soviet Union...

"Whatever its foreign policy, India has begun to earn a new claim on American sympathies, and perhaps aid. All who love freedom are measurably safer today than before the Indian election and they have an obligation to encourage the spread of the democratic habit."

*Baltimore Sun*, "India: Democracy Wins":  
 "Indian election results should substantially restore

the faith of those who had always wanted but not recently dared to believe, that the rights of the people...are universal values...In India, it was said the trampling of civil liberties during Prime Minister Gandhi's 19 month state of emergency was the mere loss of privilege for a thin Anglo-Indian educated veneer on top of society...

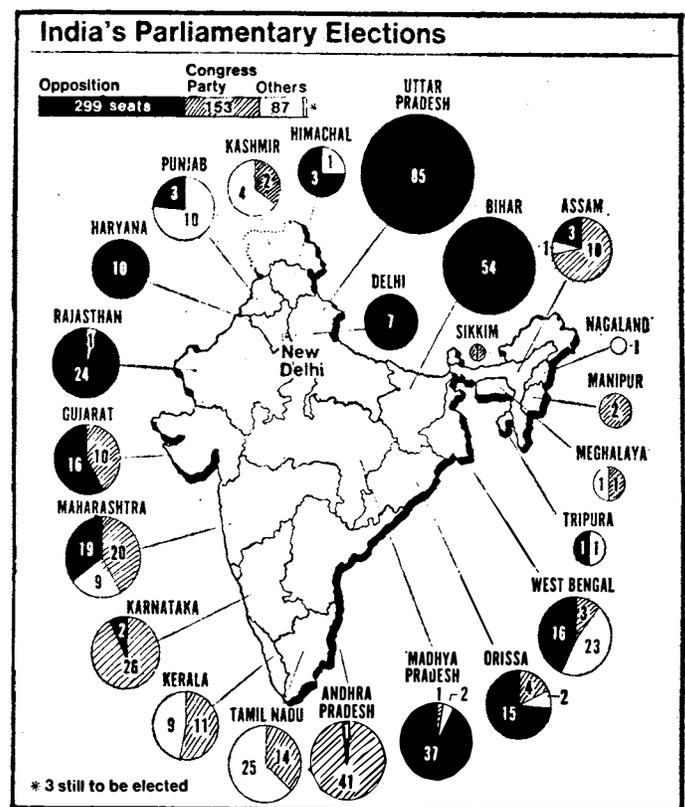
"But the meaning of the election goes far beyond India. It stiffens the opposition in Pakistan that courts prison by calling foul at Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's reelection. It demonstrates the deep worldwide yearning for freedom on which President Carter's human rights crusade depends. It suggests that in the Philippines and Russia, South Korea and Czechoslovakia, Chile and Poland, handfuls of courageous dissidents may indeed be speaking not for the self-interest of a small elite, but for the basic beliefs of the greater part of humankind."

## How The Congress Was Defeated

The Janata Party, a four party coalition will form a government next week as final parliamentary returns in India's lower house elections gave it 271 seats, exactly half the total 542. Janata allies in independent parties and the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPM) captured another 40 seats and any support in parliament for the Janata by the Congress for Democracy (CFD) will give that disparate grouping a two-thirds majority to pass legislation. Indira Gandhi's Congress Party plummeted from a two thirds control of the Lok Sabha, achieved in 1971 elections, to a dismal total of 153 seats. Gandhi, who has been Prime Minister since 1966, lost her parliamentary seat as did at least five other cabinet ministers, and many leading Congress party figures who contested in northern Indian constituencies.

The electoral patterns not only show up the devastating defeat suffered by the Congress, the party which had governed India without interruption since 1947, but isolate the electorate's no-confidence motion against the Gandhi government around one issue: the compulsory sterilization program, initially formulated by the Ford Foundation and energetically carried out in northern India against Gandhi's own public position, by her son, Sanjay Gandhi and World Bank sympathizers in all government ministries.

The situation in the country now is extremely unstable as the Janata comes to power. The Congress Party has begun to regroup its forces, choosing former foreign minister Y. Chavan as its parliamentary opposition leader. Chavan, in his first statement, paid tribute to Mrs. Gandhi's leadership and indicated that she will continue to play a very significant role in the Congress party organization. A close aide to Mrs. Gandhi, according to the London Times, revealed that Mrs. Gandhi has rejected an offer to take a seat in the Upper House or take the seat of another Congress Party member in the Lower House. Instead, she is weighing the launching of a major reorganization of the Congress Party to put it in shape for a bid to return to power in six months. Various



state government elections are already scheduled for that period.

India is full of apprehension in assessing both the devastating Congress defeat and how its new disparate leaders will govern. Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister, was the very man who in the 1960s enforced the International Monetary Fund's austerity mandate against India's Soviet-aided state sector based economy. Further, he has gone on public record opposing India's bank nationalizations and any concessions to industrial