

A tribute to Shahpour Bakhtiar

The following was said in 1979 when Shahpour Bakhtiar became Iran's prime minister, by Prof. Dr. Sadiqi, who had been a member of the cabinet of the "Persian De Gaulle," Dr. Muhammed Mossadeq. It is taken from a conversation with Dr. Sabri-Tabrizi of Edinburgh University, reprinted in the latter's book *Iran* (Mainstream Publishers, Edinburgh, 1988) on p. 263:

"Dr. Bakhtiar, as I know him, has two distinct qualities. First, he has a strong personality which makes him outstanding among many national leaders. He has the courage to step forward in these circumstances, when all are thinking about how to become a hero or achieve a position. Second, he loves and is interested in his own homeland. His interest in the independence of his country is a theme that he has stood by unwaveringly for many years; and I think, at this time in history it is a victory for our nation to see someone like Dr. Bakhtiar in charge of forming a Cabinet and highlighting the everlasting name of Dr. Muhammed Mossadeq . . . a man whose name the mass media could not even dare mention. Bakhtiar had the courage to step in and it is our duty and that of all national leaders to help him and save the country."

ment by MP Kenneth Coates, a member of the Inchcape family. If the European Parliament declines to carry out such an investigation, Pakistan is demanding that it authorize Amnesty International—headquartered in London, of course—to carry out an "independent" investigation.

Pakistan was also active at the summit Aug. 9 of the Organization of Islamic Conference held in Ankara, Turkey. According to press reports, the World Islamic Council pushed a resolution demanding that the OIC take immediate steps toward sanctions against India, and undertake relief work in Kashmir "before the Kashmiri people are annihilated." The actual resolution passed by the OIC calls for a tripartite fact-finding commission to investigate the Kashmir situation, and calls upon India and Pakistan to reach a peaceful solution to the conflict, demanding that both countries withdraw their troops to peacetime positions. The resolution also offers an OIC mediating mission to help defuse tensions. While calling for the Kashmiri right to self-determination, the resolution also invokes the Indian-Pakistan Simla agreement.

Especially since Lord Avebury's conference on Kashmir in Virginia, the Pakistanis appear to be receiving succor from

Washington on the Kashmiri issue. "We do not accept the Indian claim that this [Kashmir] is a part of India," proclaimed U.S. Ambassador to Islamabad Robert Oakley Aug. 11 in an interview with a Lahore daily, "and I daresay if you could get an honest reading of the positions of the governments of the Soviet Union and China, you will find out just about the same. . . . This is an unresolved issue. . . . We certainly think that the people of Kashmir have the right to have a say in determining their own government and their own future."

Oakley also stated that the issue was bringing India and Pakistan to the brink of war. In immediate response, Indian Home Minister S.B. Chavan protested before the Indian Parliament that Oakley's statement was an attempt to fan war hysteria on the subcontinent, and took the American ambassador to task for "disregarding the fact that it [Kashmir] is a bilateral issue, and he is internationalizing it without consideration" of the countries involved.

However, there is no question that Kashmir is a potential flashpoint for war, as pointed out by the Indian Defense Minister Sharad Pawar July 19. Pawar told the Indian Parliament then that Pakistan's acquisition of an unspecified number of M-111 Chinese missiles poses a serious threat to India. India is taking appropriate measures to ensure full defense preparedness, the Press Trust of India reported.

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