

India In Turmoil After Gandhi Arrest

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was placed under arrest by the present Indian Home Ministry October 3. Also arrested were other former cabinet ministers and three industrialists. Less than twenty-four hours later, following Gandhi's refusal to accept release on bail, a New Delhi High Court judge humiliated the Desai government by ordering her release without bail. The judge declared emphatically that the charges were flimsy, unsubstantiated, and insufficient to warrant her detention.

The arrest, ordered by Home Minister Charan Singh, came less than a week after progrowth Janata Party executive member Nandini Satpathy was similarly

detained on "corruption" charges. The offices of newspapers and associates of Mrs. Satpathy were ransacked.

Both arrests are conspicuous features of a campaign by the Home Ministry to discredit all institutions, particularly the Congress Party, which represent organized resistance to International Monetary Fund policy for India. Scientists, economist, planners and leading journalists have all experienced this harassment.

Also immediately at issue is the ascendancy of the chief actor in the affair, Home Minister Singh, a caste-chauvinist in the worst colonial tradition, the effect of whose hegemony would be to promote overtly com-

LaRouche: British MI-6 Runs 'Sunni Caper'

The following statement was issued October 4 by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., U.S. Labor Party chairman.

The Oct. 3 arrest of India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, coming in the context of the Pakistan military dictatorship's announcement indefinitely postponing elections, portends a British effort to set into motion a religious war between Pakistan and India. British MI-6 operatives centering in Saudi Arabia and Peking are the key points of the projected general destabilization of the Asian subcontinent.

On the Moslem side of the British MI-6 operation is British promotion of the most reactionary potentialities among right-wing Moslem fanatics. In general form, the British manipulation of its Islamic dupes is based on the precedent of the Seljuk Turks' destruction of Arab culture during the eleventh century, through the promotion of the corrupt Seljuk demagogue, Al-Ghazali. Just as Al-Ghazali's burning of the books of the great Ibn Sina signaled the resulting general collapse of Arab civilization, so the Al-Ghazalis of the modern British MI-6 have manipulated poor Islamic dupes into resuming that suicidal course in a general anti-technological witchhunt against the influences of "Western culture" in the Islamic world.

On the subcontinent, the key to British MI-6 operations is the military overthrow of Pakistan's Bhutto by a military clique being manipulated by British agents into a frenzy of Al-Ghazalian religious fanaticism. To get the fight going, the same British MI-6 is heating up the Hindu right-wing fanatic crowd within the Janata ruling alliance. In order to get a religious India-Pakistan war going, British MI-6 rightly considers it indispensable to get such responsible, sane figures as Mr. Bhutto

and Mrs. Gandhi well out of the way. Hence, Pakistan elections have been cancelled on orders from London, and Mrs. Gandhi has been hustled off to the slammer.

The Peking-Saudi link is most relevant to this. Peking is deploying its significant agent networks in the Indian Ocean region, including Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, as well as Cambodia, to generate as much nastiness and general destabilization from Vietnam to the African Horn and elsewhere as it can contribute, all in a pragmatic co-conspiracy with British intelligence and certain Saudi factions.

The whole operation is as obvious as a skunk at a Baptist Sunday School picnic. The only general capability for this sort of operation is British intelligence, and the only force with such capabilities which thinks along such lines are the old British imperialists, who fostered cultural backwardness and fostered religious and ethnic fanaticism since the days of William Pitt the Younger, as the characteristic British method for keeping the natives under British Colonial Office subjugation.

The damnable fools in London (and other Lazard-affiliated quarters) responsible for this general atrocity are committing a very foolish mistake if they imagine that progrowth forces in the United States and Western Europe will not get down to some very relevant conniving with the Soviet leadership to put a halt to such monstrosities. The applicable principle is that no 85-year-old man ought to undertake carrying off the bulk of the world's wealth in a brown paper bag. If necessary, military means will and should be used as required to put a stop to this nonsense, if other remedies are not adequate. The human race will not sit by and suffer indefinitely, out of respect for the pretensions to sovereignty of a handful of raving lunatics.

munalist tendencies throughout India.

The Charges

Accusations by Gandhi and the Congress Party that the arrest order was "politically motivated" are substantiated by the nature of the charges. According to one charge, Gandhi, and the former Petroleum Minister K.D. Malaviya, also detained, awarded a major oil contract to the French national oil company (CFP) instead of a U.S. company which bid lower. "Every decision was taken in the national interest," said Mrs. Gandhi, far from denying the charge. "One does not bother about a little money when national interests are involved."

The second, more serious charge is corruption and misuse of power through all government levels and ministries — an attempt to implicate the entire Congress Party in the excesses of the 1975 "State of Emergency" engineered actually by a small clique around Sanjay Gandhi.

The Congress, as a party, has already countered, by organizing mass demonstrations.

Why the Arrest

During the last month Mrs. Gandhi has strongly re-emerged from her election defeat of last March, to tour the country, denouncing the Janata government, particularly its economic policies, to crowds of peasants. Gandhi has ridden the wave of discontent with the government among the landless peasants, "untouchables," and other layers who have been victimized by the communalist, prolandlord policies for which the Singh wing of the government has pushed hard. With the flush of the Janata coalition's victory now faded into strident factionalization among the coalition's members, Mrs. Gandhi's pointed attacks on the Janata's communalism and her defense of the Nehru tradition of industrialization and "self-reliance" are having a considerable impact.

Presently, the outcome of her arrest is clouded in ambiguities. Home Minister Singh's action has served to discredit the actual investigations into the "state of emergency" period, and has already resulted in calls for his resignation for misuse of power. The main "Emergency Period" investigatory panel has suspended work in protest. Singh's own future now seems to hang on the success of a flimsy case against Mrs. Gandhi.

The Janata cabinet generally is wholly split on Singh's

action. One cabinet meeting has already been cancelled. A group which includes Defense Minister Jagjivan Ram, and possibly Prime Minister Desai, has abstained from providing support for Singh.

There are now, however, fears among certain Indian circles that the main outcome will be to make Mrs. Gandhi a political martyr, polarizing the political situation around her personal position, and obscuring the actual programmatic issues.

Prospects for the Subcontinent

Observers can recall only one period in the subcontinent's history when political and communal turmoil was so near the surface. In 1946, when British Viceroy Lord Mountbatten masterminded the India-Pakistan partition, communal violence exploded. The Hindu, in particular the Rastriya Sevak Sangh (RSS) — "cultural" arm of Singh's Jan Sangh party — provided the fire on the "India" side, aided by the procaste elements of other British duped sections and parties. (The "Muslim" answer was the Jamiat-Islami, which in 1971 split in two with the creation of Bangladesh.)

However, within the nations of the subcontinent subjected to the MI-6 operation, there is already indication of a backlash against the chief operatives in the destabilization.

In Pakistan, the "clean military" image of the MI-6's General Zia is now destroyed by the double arrest of Bhutto, the cancellation of elections, and by Bhutto's denunciation of Zia's "regionalist" plotting which has been underscored by the resignation of a top officer in Zia's junta.

In India, similarly, two outcomes are now evident possibilities. One is the intended MI-6 outcome, communalist violence, and war with India's neighbors. The second, now a demand of sections of the Desai government, is the resignation of Home Minister Charan Singh. Such a demand could result in an alliance of progrowth factions in all major parties around their common secular commitment to a national development strategy. What direction the trials of Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Bhutto take will depend largely on this fight. The uncertain factor, however, in the demand for Singh's resignation is the Jan Sangh right wing of the Janata Party. This group is calling for Singh's ouster and a special tribunal trial for Gandhi.