

## Editorial Comment

by Nora Hamerman

# Bhutto and Gandhi

A year ago the EIR published as a special supplement a major document written by the Pakistani Prime Minister and leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Entitled "The Pakistan Papers" the document had been written from Bhutto's jail cell and smuggled out as Bhutto awaited the judgment of the military junta which had overthrown his democratically elected government in July of 1977 and which planned to eliminate this popular leader. Several months after publication, Bhutto was legally murdered—hanged by the neck following the rigged verdict of a controlled court.

Last week Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was remembered in a way which would have given him pleasure—by the smashing victory of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, staging one of the greatest political comebacks in recent history. Mrs. Gandhi, to her credit, had been in the forefront of the battle to save Bhutto's life despite the fact that the two South Asian leaders were also great rivals. Mrs. Gandhi had understood that the forces that deposed and murdered Bhutto were the same which had destabilized her previous government, and that the instability of Pakistan under the murderous regime of General Ziaul Haq was a threat to the stability of the entire region.

Bhutto and Gandhi share the distinction of being true national leaders, brought up and educated in the struggle against British imperialism and dedicated to the establishment of true nation-states, striving for the industrialization of their backward societies. Bhutto in that final document from his death cell ended what became his last words with a quote from his private hero—Jawaharlal Nehru, Gandhi's father and the founder of modern India.

Mrs. Gandhi's victory bears great promise—the promise of a return to strong and stable government in that great nation and a return to the policies of scientific and technological development which Nehru created in India. The task of

nation building is immense but Mrs. Gandhi has proved herself to be the only person with the confidence of the Indian people to lead them in that effort.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto also enjoyed that confidence of the Pakistani people. The present regime has only eliminated his body but not his spirit. This must be understood at a moment when the Carter administration proposes, with its Chinese "allies," to pour arms into the brutal Zia regime which has the support only of a tiny minority of Islamic fundamentalist fanatics, the Jamaate Islami, the Pakistani branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. The Jamaate was the organizer not too long ago of the mobs which burned the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad leaving two Americans dead.

It is already apparent that Brzezinski and Vance prefer the General Zias to the leaders of a stature of Indira Gandhi. The result of this policy is not only to betray American national interest. It will be an abysmal failure in their own terms as it becomes apparent that Zia cannot control his own nation in putting them on a path of Anglo-American-Chinese confrontation with the Soviet Union.

Not so far under the surface the Bhutto forces, legally banned from politics after the regime cancelled elections they knew they would lose, are waiting. Not one Soviet Red Army soldier will have to cross through the Khyber Pass for the Zia regime to fall. At the first crack, perhaps from within the shaky Pakistani military establishment itself, the repressive apparatus of Zia's "Islamic republic" will fall.

It would be the greatest vindication of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's vision of his nation's future, a future of economic cooperation and peace with India, if his wife, the leader of his party today, could come to power and join hands with Mrs. Gandhi in a new partnership that would shift the strategic realities of the region and beyond in the most profound manner.