

Shanwar Bhutto on Muslim fanatics

An exclusive interview with the son of Pakistan's executed modernizing leader.

On Sept. 19, Executive Intelligence Review correspondents Thierry Le Marc and Edith Hassman interviewed Shanwar Bhutto, the youngest son of the late Pakistani Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in Germany. Since the execution of his father by the military regime of General Ziaul Haq in April 1978, the younger Bhutto has lived outside of Pakistan. He is currently touring Western Europe speaking to the overseas Pakistani community and others in his capacity as a leader-in-exile of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

EIR: What is your assessment of the present situation in Pakistan?

Bhutto: The situation inside Pakistan has come to such a point that it seems like dynamite just waiting for a match to light it for it to explode. People are being terrorized into obedience, they are being flogged, they are given the worst sort of treatment in jails, being tortured in jails.

Basically, it is terrorism. It is not the rule of the government, it is the rule of terrorists. The will of the majority is being ignored, and a small minority clique is using terrorist tactics against the majority of people. The people are fed up, they are tired and they want a change.

We have used every avenue, every method possible to achieve this through democratic and electoral manners, but we have failed because of the stubbornness of the military government of General Zia. For these reasons we have come to the conclusion that we have to use limited means of armed struggle. I am not saying armed struggle, because armed struggle is used by the minority against the majority, in certain cases.

There are cases, of course, where armed struggle is used by the majority against minorities. But a lot of people say if you use armed struggle you'll be showing that you are a minority, that you cannot use any other methods, you're using terrorist tactics, that you're not better than the enemy. We tried to explain to them that we have tried every other tactic, we have tried every other means, but now we have come to the level the military understands. They don't understand the meaning of a discussion, the meaning of a conference table. They are

military men. They only understand the meaning of a bullet, the meaning of a war, and we are going to confront them in that way from now on.

As you know, as everybody knows, nobody can stand in front of the will of the people. Nothing can stand in front of that, no one, no obstacles. Obviously, there are foreign agencies supporting this government, very large foreign agencies. Intelligence agencies have been ruling and influencing our country for the last 200 years. But we are going to bring about a change with the will of the people, to give the people rights to advance technologically, to build the nation, to educate the people, not to move them back to the 14th century.

EIR: How will you deal with the mullahs, with the Jamaat-i-Islami (the Pakistani branch of the Muslim Brotherhood)?

Bhutto: Well, the Jamaat-i-Islami of Mawdoodi, now dead, of Mufti Mahood . . . the people are fed up with them also. The people have seen their real characters, their real role in Pakistan. They fully support the military junta. They are part of the military junta. They are involved in the government of the military junta. The people have seen their real face, they cannot hide behind their beards any longer. The people have understood their real meaning. The people are not going to be fooled by them any longer.

The problem is not a religious problem in Pakistan, we are all Muslims. It is not a religious problem. Our problems are socio-economic ones, not a problem of who is a Muslim and who is not a Muslim, we are all Muslims. Islam in Pakistan was not created on the 5th of July, 1977. It is much older than that. I do not see the mullahs, the Jamaat-i-Islami and these groups being much of a problem because people know the real facts about them in the last three years.

EIR: Could you just elaborate a bit further on how the government of Zia is dealing with political prisoners, and your people?

Bhutto: The military government, as you know, is sup-

ported by the Jamaat-i-Islami, itself supported by other groups. It is a whole process, a whole line of people who are ruling Pakistan, not only from within, but from outside Pakistan.

As you know in China there was the opium trade a long time ago, and they used opium to feed the people that they would have no time to worry about political problems because they would be trounced. The same thing is being used in Pakistan, in jails in Pakistan. The government is feeding the people with drugs so they would not have the time or the consciousness to think about the real problems inside Pakistan. They are released from jail, and they go around in a trance, like zombies, because of the influence of drugs in the jails.

It is a problem of Amnesty International, but A.I. has not brought this up. They have ignored this problem. They must bring it up. There are no human rights in Pakistan, but nobody talks about that. Carter and Brzezinski and all say, "Human rights! We depend on human rights. Our policy is human rights. . . ." But there are no human rights in Pakistan and they forget about those things.

EIR: What is the strength of your party?

Bhutto: Our support inside Pakistan, as it is outside, is very great. If the elections would be held today, we would sweep the vote. There is no doubt about that. If there was any doubt about it Zia would hold elections, but he knows we are going to win, therefore he doesn't hold elections.

Regarding international policy, I am not a policy-maker. The policy line comes from the Pakistani People's Party within Pakistan. We are not going to deviate from the policies of the People's Party of 1970. It is going to be the same policy. We have a mission! We say we have to complete that mission, we have to make Pakistan into a progressive nation, we have to give it technology, we want it to advance technologically, we want to industrialize the nation, we want to build dams, we want to build schools, we want to get nuclear reactors for peaceful purposes, not to make a bomb.

We have to worry about our people first. We have to worry about our industrialization program. We want to educate the people. The Jamaat-i-Islami doesn't want to educate the people. Of course they have their own reasons, because they don't want the people to become conscious, they don't want the people to realize the farce behind which the Jamaati is hiding.

EIR: How would a government led by the PPP approach regional problems such as the Afghanistan crisis?

Bhutto: We say that if democracy is established, we would do everything in the power of the people to solve the crisis. . . . In a democratic government, you have a parliament, the parliament sits and decides. There is a

structure, a proper channel. We will go through such channels to solve the regional problems, not through the gun and the bullet. That is not our method!

EIR: What is your view of the Afghan developments over recent years?

Bhutto: The man who made the coup against King Zahir Shah [king of Afghanistan, overthrown in 1973 ed.] was a Khalqi [a member of the Khalq, or People's Party faction of the currently ruling Afghan People's Democratic Party]. They had been able to make a coup of their own and take over five years earlier, but they didn't, for their own reasons. They had their own reasons and we do not know them, but they were capable of doing it. I do not think that it is the Soviet Union which forced them to make the coup, because in any case they had the capabilities, they worked from within the military. They still had the capabilities five years later, and they decided this time to do it. They did it when they thought the time was ripe.

The problem of the intervention of the Soviet Union, came two years later. It was not immediate. When Afghanistan was in complete danger of being occupied by reactionary forces supported by Pakistan and the Jamaat-i-Islami—that's when the Afghan government asked for help from the Soviet Union.

Egypt has asked for help from America, why doesn't anybody shout about that? Why doesn't anybody cry out and say, "Egypt has been invaded"? Egypt is giving bases to America, Somalia is giving bases to America, nobody shouts and cries about that.

The Chinese are in Pakistan. Whether they are there for construction work or what, nobody shouts about that, although they are also a communist country! The Americans are not Muslims, the British are not Muslims. . . .

It is propaganda from certain channels through certain radio stations to create internal problems so that the people cannot progress technologically, cannot advance, cannot be educated. They remain fourteen hundred years behind, to be under the influence of a small clique of people determined not to let them progress, to keep them in poverty, to make them dependent on certain nations so that these nations can control them. . . .

The Afghan government wanted to change that, but the Jamaat-i-Islami is not letting them do it. Each time a nation wants to progress, wants to educate its people, wants to create industries, wants to create technology, the Jamaat-i-Islami has had a hand in stopping it. They stopped it in Pakistan, now they are stopping it in Afghanistan, they are trying to create problems in the Middle East. Syria is a very famous example because right now it is in the press [Syrian government suppression of the Muslim Brotherhood—ed.] but it is all over the Middle East!

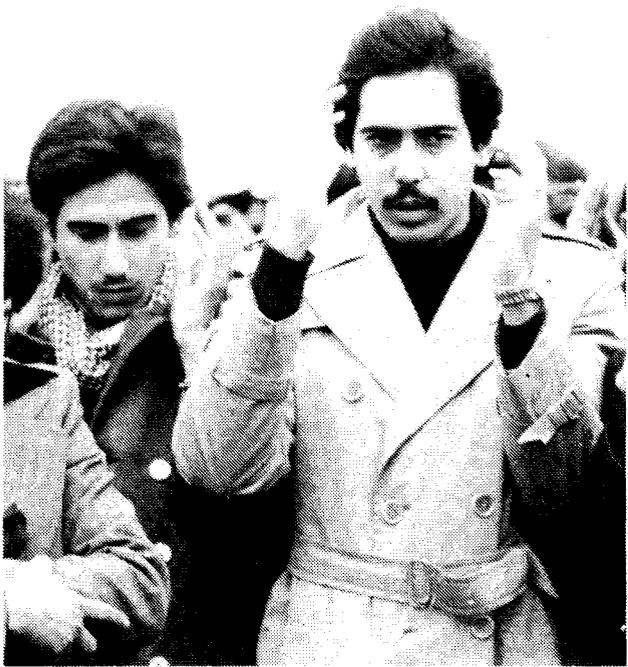


Photo: Wide World

Mr. Bhutto (c) and his brother Murtaza at an April 1979 rally in London protesting the death sentence against their father.

EIR: What is your review of the Afghan rebels, what do they represent really?

Bhutto: If you take ordinary Afghans from the mountains who have been fighting for two years, and ask him: "Why are you fighting? What is your reason?" He will not give you a social reason, or an economic reason. He will say, "The Jamaat-i-Islami, the leader of the Jamaat-i-Islami told me to fight." "Why do you listen to him?" you ask him, but he will not answer.

You say, "You don't have food, the Afghan government is giving you food, you should support this government." He answers, "No, no, the leader of my area of the Jamaat-i-Islami says that this government is bad, you have to fight against this government, so I listened to him. . . ."

This is a special kind of opium. It is not the drug opium, but a different kind of opium where the man does not think for himself. He depends on other people. He doesn't think logically. He doesn't think about his own social and economic problems. He is under the influence of this drug and he will just go according to it.

The Afghan people are very poor people. Why are they poor people? There is not a single industry in Afghanistan. The agricultural system is two or three hundred years old. The Afghan government wants to change that, they want to build industries, to modernize the agricultural sector and to educate the people. The Jamaat-i-Islami says this is "un-Islamic" so this poor man tries to get educated, tries to get his land cultivated, but he will not because this madman of the Jamaat-i-

Islami or whatever their special group is called, will say "No! This is un-Islamic!"

That is not correct. They abuse the name of Islam. They use the name of Islam to move towards their own ends. They themselves are not independent people, they are the puppets of intelligence agencies of the Western world.

EIR: How do these people act?

Bhutto: Any person who even has a moustache, which is slightly thick, is considered by the so-called Mujaheddin to be a Communist. He is taken and either they use that man to defuse mines, or if he survives that, he will be put into another mine. That is when they are feeling generous. That is when they are in a generous mood they do that.

Under normal circumstances they cut every part of the human body off, they take the eyes out. It is a fact that we have seen with our own eyes, we have seen the bodies. They mutilate the body completely, they cut people's hands and legs off and leave them on the mountains, barren mountains. They cannot walk, they cannot do anything, they are not dead, they die very slowly. They skin people alive completely. They hang people upside down from barges and they put them into the ice cold water of the Kabul River in the months of December or January. These are just a few examples of the ways they torture. They do not take any prisoners, they kill them all. Whether they kill them by skinning them or other means, they do not shoot them.

EIR: What message would you give to the Western countries?

Bhutto: The Western European countries must realize that Zia is not the alternative. Zia is going to make the Pakistani people move further and further away from the Western European nations. We do not want that!

Pakistani People's Party has got a certain policy, a certain foreign policy which was made by our late chairman and martyr, Ali Bhutto, and we want to follow the same policy. We do not want to go off the tracks. But, if Western countries continue supporting Zia the way they are, giving him economic and military aid, the people of Pakistan will have to look for another alternative.

It is in the hands of Western powers whether the people of Pakistan will continue to look to them, continue to ask them for support in the future in a democratic manner, or whether they want them to move away from Western democracy. It is in their hands.

It is not up to me to decide this, it is up to the people of Pakistan to decide, and the way things are moving at the moment, they are moving in the wrong direction.

They are moving away from the Western democracies, and this is going to be very harmful for the Western European countries. ■