

Pakistani resistance targetted by cultists

by Mary Lalevée

It is now six years since Pakistani dictator Gen. Zia Ul-Haq's military coup in Pakistan, on July 5, 1977. Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the only democratically elected prime minister of Pakistan, was overthrown, and hanged for a trumped-up murder charge. Martial law was declared, and opponents summarily imprisoned. Hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis fled abroad to escape persecution.

In many European countries and in the United States, Bhutto's political party, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), is organizing opposition to Zia's dictatorship. The PPP is being targeted by harassment, persecution, deportation, and more insidious operations.

One of the latter is being conducted by a pseudo-Islamic cult called the Ahmadiyya sect. The Ahmadiyya activities against the PPP vary from country to country—from collaborating with Zia against the PPP, to trying to infiltrate the PPP, hoping to confuse the strategy of the party and render it impotent. The cult's stance is reflected in its *Wathan* newspaper, which praises Zia, attacks the PPP, slanders Murtaza Bhutto as a "terrorist," and runs ads from the government-owned, narcotics-linked Pakistan International Airlines.

In Germany, where Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher collaborates with Zia, an Ahmadiyya member reportedly officially advises the German authorities on which Pakistanis to grant asylum. He aided the German foreign ministry's recent spate of deportations of leading PPP members back to Zia's jails and hangings. This man travels regularly to Pakistan.

In New York, Ahmadiyya members meet with the Pakistani consul and cooperate with the consulate in anti-PPP activities through the Pakistan Federation, set up by Zia during his December 1982 trip to New York.

In some countries of Europe, the Ahmadiyya cultists are trying the opposite tactic—working their way into the PPP. They claim to be opposed to Zia because of the history of violence between the Ahmadiyya and Zia's main backer, the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami (Muslim Brotherhood). Yet, at least one PPP member has been told that if he tried to stop the Ahmadiyya, he would "have problems with [his] family in Pakistan." Some Ahmadiyya members in Sweden, Yugoslav members not involved directly in the anti-PPP activities, have been arrested for drugs and arms smuggling.

One source said that while the Pakistani regime was using

the Ahmadiyya to disrupt the PPP, the cult is "actively preparing for the post-Zia era."

Whatever the rivalry between the Ahmadiyya and Zia's Jamaati backers, they have become united against the PPP by their common creator, British intelligence, against their common enemy, the modernization and independence of Pakistan begun by Bhutto.

Ostensibly, the Ahmadiyya sect was created in 1889 by Hazrat Ghulam Ahmad Sahib, who claimed to have discovered the tomb of Jesus in Kashmir and the "fact" that Christ did not die on the cross, but went to Kashmir and lived to be more than 100 years old. The sect has members worldwide, but, not surprisingly, was officially declared non-Islamic in 1974 by the Islamic Conference in Saudi Arabia and by Prime Minister Bhutto in Pakistan.

The cult's origins are more secular than its mystical trappings might have one believe. It was created by the British, the colonizers of India, to manipulate the Indian Muslim community against the independence struggle. The founder was treated as a virtual "adopted son"—some say adopted pet—of Queen Victoria. The current head is a knight of the British realm. The sect opposed the independence struggle against Britain, rejecting both the creation of a united, independent India and the partition into separate states of India and Pakistan.

Following the 1947 partition, the cult—which concentrates on recruiting elite bureaucrats, businessmen and military officers—infiltrated the Pakistani government. The first foreign minister of Pakistan, "Sir" Muhammed Zafrulla Khan, another knight of the British realm, was a sect member. The cult was particularly influential in the military dictatorships before Z. A. Bhutto's election as prime minister, and ran a protected "state within a state" at Rabwah in the Punjab area of Pakistan.

The 1973 constitution established during Prime Minister Bhutto's administration declared the sect non-Islamic. Bhutto dissolved the protected status of the cult, and many of its leaders went into exile. The grandson of the founder now lives in Washington, D.C., where he served as an important World Bank official. The cult responded to Bhutto's moves with "prophecies" that Bhutto would be hanged, a "prophecy" borne out when Zia launched his coup in 1977 and hanged Bhutto two years later. It was not the first of such strangely accurate "prophecies."

Despite the Muslim Brotherhood's supposed antagonism to Ahmadiyya, Zia condemned Bhutto's moves against the Ahmadiyya and loosened many of Bhutto's restrictions. One leading member of the Ahmadiyya sect, Pakistani nuclear physicist Abdus Salam, a member of the Malthusian Club of Rome, and trainer of Israeli nuclear physicist Yuval Neeman ("father of the Israeli nuclear bomb") is widely suspected of aiding Zia's atom bomb efforts. In October 1981, the British magazine *New Scientist* quoted Abdus Salam wildly attacking *EIR* for its exposés of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Club of Rome in the Islamic world.