

The controllers behind the assassins of Indian Prime Minister Gandhi

by Mark Burdman

On Oct. 31, the day Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated, London's Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan, self-professed head of the National Council of Khalistan and "Life President" of the World Council of Sikhs, told a caller that he and his associates were celebrating the murder and were hoping that there would be assassinations of other Indian officials over the period immediately ahead. He said that the assassination had been carried out by the Khalistan Army within India.

Chauhan and his network of Sikh-extremist assassins are not "lone" operatives. Jagjit Singh Chauhan is hard-wired into the nastiest terrorist-and-assassination networks of the Soviet KGB, the Swiss grain cartels, the Nazi International, and British intelligence.

Until 1966, Chauhan was a relatively obscure government official in India's Punjab state, serving at that time as finance minister. Suddenly, he resigned from the government, adopting an uncompromising attitude that the Sikhs must be granted an independent nation of "Khalistan," autonomous from the nation of India. By 1971, Chauhan had set up the "National Council of Khalistan" and was siding with Pakistan in that year's war with India, hoping to gain Pakistani support for his separatist plans.

By his own testimony, Chauhan in that period began to be cultivated by the Soviet intelligence services. He reports that from the early to mid-1970s, he made repeated visits to Tashkent, U.S.S.R. Tashkent is the center of Soviet intelligence operations into the Middle East and Indian Subcontinent, and is the place where 12,000 Iranian mullahs have been trained for religious-fundamentalist destabilizations of the region.

To this day, Chauhan maintains various channels into the secret services of the U.S.S.R. One of these is through his brother, resident in London, who is a leader of an Indian Communist Party cell in Great Britain and who operates as a channel for Sikh-separatist demands to Moscow. A second, related channel is through members of both factions of the Punjab state Communist Party, who have often advocated making deals with the Sikhs in the Punjab in a political alliance against the central New Delhi government. A third

channel, overlapping into Nazi International networks, is through Libya's Colonel Qaddafi, who has made more than one overture to provide Chauhan's Khalistan with money and political support during the 1982-84 period.

Chauhan and British intelligence

Living in exile in Reading, England, Jagjit Singh Chauhan is also a cultivated asset of leading factions of the British intelligence services and of the Anglo-Zionist political leadership; these connections overlap the AFL-CIO, the Heritage Foundation, General Danny Graham, the Anti-Defamation League in the United States, and elements of the Israeli Mossad.

Alongside the Heritage Foundation support for Chauhan is the more important connection to the Committee for a Free Afghanistan. The most active backer of Chauhan's cause among Heritage Foundation and Afghan Committee circles is a shadowy figure named Jon Speller. Speller and his father have a long history of association with U.S. intelligence in Soviet and Eastern European matters. Speller is very closely associated with Karen McKay's Afghan Committee, the Committee identified by Soviet agents and assets in India as the "proof" of the CIA backing for Chauhan Singh's terrorists. Speller, according to a report by an eyewitness in the Senator's office, was the person responsible for misrepresenting Chauhan Singh to Senator Jesse Helms.

Soviet proof of the connection between the Afghan Committee and Chauhan Singh's terrorists will include documentation that a large amount of weapons traced to shipment to Afghan rebels was diverted, to be delivered to Chauhan's forces inside India. Among the most prominent of the figures in British diplomacy closely associated with this terrorist cause is Lord Nicholas Bethel, a man identified by Jon Speller as one of his most important connections inside British intelligence.

The Nazi International connection

A particularly interesting Anglo-Soviet "hook" on Chauhan is that of one Richard Hauser, whom Chauhan described in a Nov. 2, 1984 phone discussion as a "very close guide."

An Australian Jew by birth, Hauser is one of the directors of the West Germany-based "Society for Endangered Peoples," one of the controlling institutions internationally for ethnic-separatist terrorist movements that in former times were under the control of the Nazi Abwehr and other intelligence divisions.

The Hauser/Society for Endangered Peoples control over the Khalistan terrorist movement is one component of a broader separatist-terrorist "international" based out of the Swiss old Nazi circles associated with Lausanne banker Francois Genoud and the Swiss grain cartels.

In 1982-83, investigators discovered that Chauhan was being given extensive publicity in the Swiss press and other forms of support by Swiss "journalist" Madelline Chevallaz, sister of then-Swiss Defense Minister Georges Chevallaz. Chevallaz is an agent for private Swiss financier and grain cartel interests involved in destabilizing potentially rich food-producing regions in the developing sector; in 1981, she organized a secret conference of Ethiopian tribal-separatist groups in Geneva, Switzerland.

One of Chevallaz's employers and Chauhan's chief supporters is the de Maurex banking family of Lausanne, which has made its fortune in Ethiopian coffee plantations. The de Maurex financial empire is an adjunct of the Swiss André grain company interests, one of the world's five leading grain companies with extensive trade and intelligence connections into the Soviet Union. Through the de Maurex interests and other means, the André family, which otherwise funds Christian-fundamentalist religious cults, has been discovered putting money into the coffers of Chauhan's Khalistan movement.

Chauhan has made numerous attempts to integrate his movement with other separatist movements in the Indian Subcontinent and the Middle East. One of these is the Islamic Council of Europe, headed by former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, a protégé of Genoud. The ICE's British-based affiliates, including the Indian Muslim Federation and the International Islamic Center, have been organizing separatist movements among Muslims of India's southern regions.

Both organizations have received financial support from the Saudi Arabia-based World Muslim League, headed by former Syrian fascist leader Maarouf Dawalibi. At a press conference in New York's LaGuardia airport in 1981, Chauhan defended his strategy of supporting Sikh separatism from outside India by referencing the example of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, who "could achieve more by sitting in Paris" than by organizing from inside Iran. From Great Britain, Chauhan meets with and coordinates destabilization policies with leaders of other Indian separatist movements.

Chauhan's Khalistan movement also is integrated into other organizations supporting "minority rights" and "minority resistance" movements in the developing sector, including an entity called CIRPO, led by France's Pierre de Villemarest.

Chauhan has been actively cultivated by both the "right" and "left" in Europe. In 1982, he attended a meeting in Vienna of the Socialist International, and has built support among the networks of Indian Socialist leader George Fernandes. During that same year, he attended a meeting of the International Department of the Hanns Seidel Stiftung in Munich, a top "right-wing" think tank linked to the Pan-European Union of Otto von Hapsburg, the claimant to the Hapsburg monarchy, and of Count Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi.

Chauhan's U.S. tour

Prior to that European tour, Chauhan had traveled to the United States and had built support in several Congressional offices, including those of Senators Alan Cranston, Mark Hatfield, and Jesse Helms. In addition to the U.S.-based connections referenced above, Chauhan also made a circuit of leading American universities for lecture spots. These included Georgetown, Harvard, and Stanford. At Georgetown's Center for Strategic and International Studies, Chauhan later reported, he discussed with South Asia experts the establishment of a special task force to investigate the Sikh-Punjab situation.

One resident CSIS scholar responsible for the Subcontinent and the Middle East, Robert Neumann, maintains regular private back-channels with Yevgenii Primakov, head of the U.S.S.R.'s Oriental Institute, with whom he discusses how "crisis-management" arrangements might be maintained with Moscow for this region.

One of the chief points of contact for the Khalistan movement in the United States is the campus of the University of California at Berkeley. Berkeley's Graduate Theological Seminary employs the leading profiler on "Sikhism" in the United States, Martin Juergenmeier, who has been coordinating a major study on "Sikhism." Juergenmeier's group at Berkeley worked with a group of India profilers at Harvard Divinity School's Center for the Study of World Religions on a foundation-funded project on India.

Berkeley is also one of the hubs of activity for political support for the Khalistan movement by that minority of California's Sikh population which supports the dismemberment of India. Chauhan receives extensive financial backing from elements of the emigré Sikh populations in California and in cities north of the American border in Canada, including Vancouver. In California, the office of Senator Cranston has become a special-advocacy office for Sikh-extremist interests; Cranston met with a representative of the Sikh extremist faction in June of this year.

Over the past year, the creation of the World Sikh Organization has provided an expanded institutional framework for advocacy of the Khalistan cause. The World Sikh Organization has itself gained support from British intelligence's Amnesty International and the offices of Representatives Stephen Solarz and Gus Yatron.