

Daniel Sneider and the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Gandhi

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

If former *EIR* associate Daniel Sneider, the son of U.S. diplomat Richard Sneider, retains any part of the conscience he used to exhibit, he will come forward to tell all the relevant facts about the Soviet KGB's direct part in his own break with *EIR*. Although Daniel Sneider did not know, during the summer of 1983, that he was a pawn in the process leading up to the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, there is no excuse for his blinding himself to the facts today. He did, once, genuinely admire Indira Gandhi; he owes it to her, to India, and to himself, to assist in bringing the whole truth to the surface.

The core of Sneider's culpability was his effort to discredit a 1983 *EIR* dossier (*The Hot Autumn '83*, August 1983) which contained highly accurate forewarnings of a number of the key elements of the plotting which later proved integral to the assassination of Mrs. Gandhi. Although the dossier had no specific indication of an assassination plot against Mrs. Gandhi from these plotters, had the dossier been acted upon, her assassination might have been prevented. Moreover, the statements adopted by Sneider, in his efforts to discredit that dossier, were false; he was told those statements were wild falsehoods, and he should have known that those statements were falsehoods.

What Sneider did was dishonorable. More significant, is the influences operating upon him, to cause him to behave so despicably. Two principal influences are known to have contributed to his conduct in this matter. One was U.S.-based. The second was Soviet intelligence, and was known by Sneider to be Soviet intelligence, a Soviet channel operating on both Sneider and Dr. Steven Bardwell.

The role of Soviet intelligence, in steering Sneider's behavior of the summer 1983, is more or less thoroughly known to us. The question is: What role did the U.S.-based influences play in this affair? Does their part dovetail, in more than a coincidental fashion, with the Soviet operation? For example: Did Sneider, then or more recently, have any links to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), an organization collaborating with Dr. Jagit Chauhan Singh's terrorist Khalistan Liberation Front?

There were two, overlapping, features to the Soviet side of pressures operating upon Sneider et al., during the spring and summer of 1983. Following President Ronald Reagan's televised announcement of his Strategic Defense initiative, on March 23, 1983, the Soviet government, at the highest political level, ordered escalated adversary operations against this writer. By late spring and early summer of 1983, Sneider et al. came under heavy Soviet-directed pressures, transmitted inclusively through New Delhi circles under the influence of Soviet Politburo member Geidar Aliyev, Evgenii Primakov, and Rostislav Ulianovsky. The pressures were radiated through the circles of one K. R. Ganesh, an Indian government official, also the key figure of the India-Soviet Friendship Association, and radiated, secondarily, through New Delhi *New Wave* publisher, Ganesh Shukla. Under these pressures, *New Wave* radically reversed its editorial policy on a number of major issues, and Mr. Shukla himself underwent a manifest sharp change in behavior: The lurking Soviet fist had come down on certain circles in Delhi, and had come down brutally hard.

During the months prior to President Reagan's March 23, 1983 announcement, *New Wave* had been persuaded by this writer and others, that the kind of Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) later (March 23) announced by the President, was the proper fresh approach to the strategic situation. *New Wave* had published this view, and had worked otherwise to promote sympathetic discussion of the proposed policy among influential Indian circles.

It was disgusting, but not completely astonishing that *New Wave* would abruptly reverse itself on this issue after March 23, 1983. During the months prior to March 23, 1983, the Soviets bragged confidently, that high-level Democratic Party circles would prevent the President from adopting the SDI; as long as they believed this, there was no need for Moscow to muscle *New Wave* out of supporting this policy. After March 23, 1983, Moscow did muscle *New Wave* and others on this issue. Considering Moscow's escalating rage against me personally, over SDI, and also considering Moscow's resources for bringing pressure to bear on K.R. Ga-

nesh's circles in New Delhi, *New Wave's* abrupt about-face on SDI, was disgusting, but not really astonishing.

What was astonishing, was that Ganesh Shukla would go much further than merely turning against the SDI. He is professedly, and most credibly, a "north India brahmin," with a fierce, and admirable, patriotism respecting threats to India's local interests at home and in the Indian Ocean region. That he should go beyond the issue of the SDI, to turn against India's own most vital interests, was truly astonishing; and yet, under brutish Soviet pressures, that is exactly what he did during the summer of 1983. He rattled off a litany of wildly false assertions, against *EIR's* documentation of the destabilization threat to India, and Sneider adopted and echoed that litany, like a cracked phonograph record.



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The significance of Sneider's behavior on this account, was that, since he spoke with the authority of an "insider" on relevant aspects of *EIR's* activities, Sneider's lies did do important damage to the circulation of that warning dossier. In that fashion, and to that degree, Sneider contributed to the later assassination of Prime Minister Gandhi. Sneider was almost certainly not aware that the forces identified in the dossier would go so far as to assassinate the Prime Minister, but, witting of that fact, or not, as when a fellow climbs in drunk behind the wheel, he is morally responsible for what follows such an immoral decision. He would help to remedy his complicity in this chain of events, by coming forth with the relevant facts best known to him.

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