

From New Delhi by Susan Maitra

Spy scandal a clean-out operation

Despite the loud cries from Moscow that the "spies" arrested in India are "all CIA," CIA versus KGB is not the point.

A close look at the "biggest spy case in India," which resulted in the arrest of 25 high-level Indian officials, and, as British papers like to describe it, has led to a "witchhunt" against 1,500 Indian "spies," shows that this affair is not a spy case at all. The Gandhi administration has acted to bust up a notorious nest of corrupt civil servants, businessmen, and diplomats, who politically share the genocidal views of the Club of Rome and the "Global 2000" crowd, and who for years have monitored Indian contracts in matters of science, security, finance, and defense in order to slow down or halt the country's economic, technological, and scientific development.

As such, it is part of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's campaign against corruption and his pledge to bring the world's largest democracy into the 21st century.

Sure, secret documents were stolen, and sure, they were given to "foreign agencies." But the matter is a bit more complicated than the line "another atrocity by the CIA" suggests—a line given out in unison by Radio Moscow and the British press immediately after the first arrests had been announced.

The known facts are as follows. In the middle of this corrupt network in New Delhi is the Indian businessman Kumar Narayan, who used his office as the central "information-pool," where the photocopies of the documents were collected. Civil servants, secretaries, and office clerks from government offices in New Delhi stole thousands and thousands of sensitive

documents over recent years, and photocopied them, even in little shops in the street if the machine in their office was too busy. Usually they were paid with a bottle of whiskey or bits of cash.

From the delicatessen, documents were disseminated to whomever would pay the highest price. Since the material consisted of classified documents on all important policy matters—from transcripts of cabinet meetings on the unrest in Punjab, Assam, and Sri Lanka, to so-called electronic secrets, defense production plans, and finance policy, *every secret service of every nation in the world* was very interested in procuring them and most probably did.

Police have recovered "truckloads" of sensitive government documents—on India's INSAT satellite program, its nuclear power program, the system of military intelligence, particulars of the defense pact with the Soviet Union, its finance policy, and proposed acquisition of laser technology.

So far, two foreign diplomats have been "withdrawn" from New Delhi: the deputy military attaché to the French Embassy, and, according to the weekly *Organizer*, a Soviet military attaché. The Indian *Statesman* reported that the spy-ring was working for "France, Pakistan, and the Soviet Union, among other countries." The Indian government has made no statement.

P.C. Alexander, influential senior advisor to both Indira and Rajiv Gandhi, resigned, after it became known that his personal assistant was in-

volved. Mr. Gandhi later exonerated his adviser officially in the Indian Parliament.

The investigation was launched as part of the overall investigation into the murder of Mrs. Gandhi and the failure of the intelligence apparatus to protect her. The uncovered spies represent obviously contaminated elements of the Indian intelligence and official bureaucracy.

Even so, India's enemies have attempted to portray the cleaning out of contamination as a "spy scandal" uncovering "those whose strings are pulled by Western agencies working for the CIA." The responsables for this phony line are the British and Moscow. After 37 years of Indian independence, the British still have a vast network of secret agents in India and have never given up their dream of destroying India's sovereignty. British papers rejoiced that "the French" had been caught red-handed in the scandal. Said the *Daily Telegraph*: The scandal "has drawn wry smiles from Britain's military salesmen," who are out of a job since the Indian government canceled the visit to India of British Defense Minister Heseltine last December, protesting against Britain's open support for Sikh terrorist Jagjit Singh Chauhan.

The Soviets, who do not approve of independent states near their border and want to prevent at all cost what they describe as India's "turn to the United States," have also been trying to make political hay out of the affair. The Indian Communist Party, other Moscow-controlled outlets in India, and Radio Moscow have been blaring the news that the "spies" were all "CIA."

These claims, however, do not appear to have deterred Mr. Gandhi from India's non-alignment. He announced this week that he will visit both Moscow and Washington in the spring.