

EIR Investigation

The Anglo-Soviet plot for the destruction of India

by Joseph Brewda and Nancy Spannaus

The recent upsurge of separatist violence in India, and the surfacing of Sikh assassin networks in the United States and Western Europe, raise once again the crucial questions provoked by the assassination of Indira Gandhi last October: Who is running the international network of Sikh terrorists?

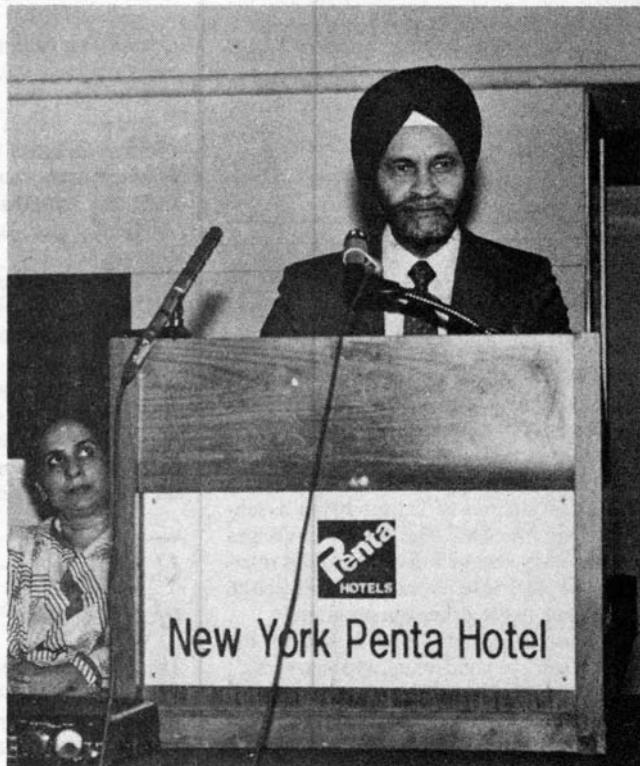
Despite arrests of key participants in the Gandhi assassination by the Indian government, there has been no hiatus in the activity of the network which deployed them. Threats against the current prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, and against the integrity of India as a whole, continue to spew out of self-appointed Sikh spokesmen, and are taking increasingly violent form. Yet, except for a low-key but consistent, lying and self-serving Soviet propaganda campaign to blame the CIA, there has been deafening silence on the identity of the international controllers.

Immediately following the Gandhi assassination, *EIR* published a fact sheet with relevant leads on the controllers of the assassin networks, and announced that it was initiating work for a book entitled *Derivative Assassination*, that would outline both the special character of, and the guilty parties in, the murder of one of the world's most important political leaders. The work for that book is now close to completion.

Given the activation of the networks currently, we have decided to preview the book's publication by printing relevant sections from the chapter on the British controllers of the Sikh assassin cult.

There are four threads to the investigation which lead to the unravelling of the network that controls the Sikhs, three of which come under the general heading of Anthropology.

1) The Tavistock Institute for Social Research, British



NSIPS/Stuart Lewis

In July of 1984, four months before the murder of Indira Gandhi, the World Sikh Organization was formed in New York City, in protest of the "desecration" of the Golden Temple by the Indian Army, and to promote a Sikh separatist state. Above, Dr. Gurcharan Singh, at a press conference that month in New York City, proclaimed the aims of the Sikh separatists.

intelligence's leading brainwashing institute, which currently works hand in glove with the Soviet Oriental Institute, the leading London universities, and the KGB in profiling and steering ethnic groups.

2) The Swiss grain and pharmaceutical companies, which fund many of the international "anthropological" networks.

3) Certain history departments in U.S. universities, which have been given the franchise by the British to guide separatist insurgencies.

4) The World Bank bureaucracy, which is a direct carryover from the British Colonial Office.

In other words, the "citizens above suspicion" who are running the separatist terror against India, are precisely the same networks which succored, financed, and directed the movement which put the barbaric Khomeini regime in power, and have turned the entire Middle East into a seething cauldron of barbaric ethnic strife, and depopulation, under the military supervision of the Soviet Union.

Unless these networks outside India are stopped, we can expect to see the same process destroy the Indian subcontinent in the immediate months ahead.

The assassins

It took British and Russian intelligence a long time to disturb the peaceful coexistence between Hindus and Sikhs in India. But as a result of that process, certain sections of the Sikh religion were turned into an anti-technology, mystic cult of assassins.

Two leading organizations of this cult are the Babbar Khalsa and the Dal Khalsa, both of which were founded in 1978, and are dedicated to separating the Punjab state from India in the cause of "religious purity."

From their beginnings, both organizations were involved in random and targeted shootings and bombings. By the time of the June 1984 Indian government siege of the Golden Temple, over 550 civilians had been killed by these groups.

Babbar Khalsa/Dal Khalsa has carried out murders of numerous prominent Sikhs who opposed their activity, as well as the hijacking of an Indian airplane.

Due to this pattern of activity, the leader of Babbar Khalsa, Talwinder Singh Parmar, was forced to leave India several years ago. Talwinder Parmar has taken credit for the murder of one of his opponents, Lala Jagat Narain, and has been involved in murders against other religious sects.

Since he has left India, Talwinder Parmar has by no means separated himself from terrorist activity. He first traveled through Nepal, Thailand, Singapore, and West Germany, where he was arrested, but then let free. Currently he resides in Vancouver, Canada, one of the major training centers for Sikh assassins. According to reliable sources in telephone contact with Constable Beant Singh—the assassin of Mrs. Gandhi—one week prior to the assassination!

Shall we then conclude that Talwinder Parmar is the conceptual author of the Gandhi assassination? No, not at all.

The clue is provided by an individual by the name of Brigadier (ret.) Iqbal Singh, a former strategist of the Indian army war college, and now a rabid promoter of the creation of a separate Sikh state. Singh is intimate with Talwinder Singh, and also with Gen. (ret.) Jaswant Singh Bhullar, chairman of the terrorist-supporting World Sikh Organization. He unabashedly defends the murder of Indira Gandhi.

And where is this terrorist controller located? At no place other than the University of Chicago, working under a professor of history!

In fact, this is the way the entire Sikh terror movement has been molded, and controlled, as our outline of the leading institutions and individuals below will show.

The Tavistock network

The Sikh separatist movement, as distinct from the religious sect, came directly out of the Tavistock Institute for Human Relations, the center of British intelligence's psychological profiling, and the University of London. Both of these "academic" centers cooperate closely with the Oriental Institutes of Moscow and Tashkent.

The way these intelligence operations work is classic. Through field operations and profiling, an ideology of separatism is created, into which various individuals are recruited. By playing upon this ideological profile, the controllers can then manipulate its victims into any kind of action they want—particularly terrorism.

The result of this kind of activity is notorious in Northern Ireland, and other British counterintelligence havens: the bloody clashes of gang-vs.-countergang, the destruction of nation-states. What is less known, however, is that the Soviet academies have developed similarly sophisticated techniques for manipulating ethnic groups.

This is particularly relevant in the case of the Sikh movement, since the breaking-up of India and Pakistan, which is the aim of the Sikh fanatics, will serve to turn these areas directly over to the Soviet Union, and no one else.

Two of the British "academics" working most closely on the Sikh project are: 1) **Prof. W.H. McLeod**, an Oxford-trained scholar working at the University of New Zealand; and 2) **Prof. Christopher Shackle**, chairman of the Indology Department at the Oriental school at the University of London.

Shackle's mode of operation shows how the London network works. While maintaining the appearance of exclusive concern with Punjabi linguistics, Shackle fields a network of on-the-ground anthropologists including **Prof. David Taylor**, who was deployed to India immediately after the Gandhi murder. In addition, Shackle uses his "credentials" in order to produce reports that give credibility to the Sikh terrorists, like the report on the Punjab by the British Minority Rights Coalition.

Just how operational these professors' role is, is shown by the case of anthropologist **Joyce Pettigrew**, who was

trained by both McLeod and Shackle at various points in her career. Pettigrew was convinced through her “education” to convert to Sikh fanaticism, and she has married a Sikh. Currently she has become the adviser and aide to **Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan**, the fanatical Sikh spokesman who has proclaimed himself the president of a Khalistan government-in-exile.

Chauhan, who went public with his pleasure at Indira Gandhi’s murder and has called for the murder of her son Rajiv, continues to live a protected, charmed life in London. Yet Chauhan is not only controlled through the Anglo-KGB networks in London; his strings are also pulled from Switzerland.

The Swiss anthropologists

The evidence that the Sikh terrorist movement is directed from Switzerland is hard for any intelligence specialist to overlook. It has three tracks: first, the André grain company; second, the pharmaceutical companies; and third, the anthropological neo-Nazi movements themselves.

Chauhan himself has admitted to the first and third ties.

Chauhan and his leading Sikh financiers have both told reporters that the André grain family has put lots of money into their movement, and that Chauhan travels frequently to Switzerland to meet with the family head.

On the anthropological side, Chauhan cites as his “moral guide” **Richard Hauser**, a member of the editorial board of *Pogrom* magazine, the magazine of the West German-based

Society for Endangered Peoples. The SEP, and its U.S. branch, Cultural Survival, deploys approximately 8,000 anthropologists into the former colonial sector to organize against the nation-state among tribes such as the Misquito Indians.

Hauser is a specialist in creating separatist insurgencies, a job he learned at the knee of the former director of the Allied High Commission’s Economic Branch in Rome directly after World War II, Harlan Cleveland. He went on from there to other work in social manipulation, including as head of the United Nations’ Minorities Commission.

Hauser has nothing but praise for the Sikhs as “determined troublemakers.” And when asked about Chauhan, right after Chauhan had taken credit for the Gandhi assassination, Hauser said, “I like Chauhan enormously, he’s a very capable man. I first met him six to eight years ago. We have worked together quite a lot.”

The Society for Endangered Peoples has a relatively high profile in India, supporting primitive tribes in Assam, Manipur, and other eastern states against the central government. One of its close Indian collaborators is Dr. Fizo of the Naga tribe, a former operative of the Nazi Abwehr, who, from his base in London, is seeking to separate Nagaland from India.

The Sikh separatists are also promoted by the Swiss pharmaceutical companies, through one of their major U.S. branches, Eli Lilly. **Eli Lilly Endowment** of Indianapolis is one of the most generous funders and creators of religious cults and counter-cults in the United States, as a history of the creation of Jonestown in Guyana and of Maurice Davis’s

The creation of postwar Sikh terrorism

1953: *Sikh Review* magazine is established in Calcutta, India, under British patronage, as funding conduit and propaganda arm for scholars, arguing that Sikhs constitute a separate people.

1953: Tara Singh, president of the Sikh Separatist Akali Dal, patronized by wartime Nazi collaborator the Maharajah of Patiala, begins first postwar agitations for Sikh independence from India.

1960: *Sikh Courier* established in London as British university arm of *Sikh Review*.

1960: UNESCO prints *Selections from the Sacred Writings of the Sikhs*, to foster illusion in West that Sikhs represent a distinct people in India.

1962: Punjabi University established in Patiala, as part of constellation of universities in Punjab patronized by the Maharajah of Patiala, to serve as propaganda centers for Sikh separatism.

1966: Indian government capitulates to Akali Dal demands and establishes Punjab as a separate Indian state; agrees to some of the linguistic demands of Akali Dal previously formulated by British anthropologists.

1967: Kapany Singh, graduate of the University of London and current top controller of General Bhullar’s terrorist World Sikh Organization, forms Sikh Foundation in San Francisco.

1968: Research Committee on Punjab formed in the United States by Prof. Paul Wallace at the University of Missouri. Committee directs work on Sikh “revivalism.”

1970: Smuts Memorial Fund sponsors top British anthropologist Hew McLeod, in lectures under the auspices of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, Kings College Cambridge, on “The Evolution of the Sikh community.” British anthropology project to create “Sikh revivalism” and fragment India begins in earnest.

1970: Hew McLeod, Dr. Joyce Pettigrew—later on-the-ground controller of terrorist Bhindranwale—and Edward Shils of Tavistock, collaborate in a series of Sikh profiling projects. Work done in collaboration with London Institute of Race Relations.

1971: Former Punjab Finance Minister Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan calls for the creation of an independent “Kalistan” (separate Sikh state) at a press conference in London, his base of operations ever since.

1978: Terrorist Babbar Khalsa sect created in Punjab, which insists on separating Punjab from India to protect Sikh “religious purity.” Babbar Khalsa begins assassinating other Sikh sects figures, such as the Nirankaris, on charges of heresy to Sikhism. Murders ritualistically modeled on Namdhari cult assassinations of 1870s, a period intensively studied by British anthropology’s Research Committee on the Punjab.

deprogramming operation will show. Thus it is indeed appropriate that the longterm head of the Eli Lilly Endowment, **Landrum Bolling**, has been one of the most important backers of Chauhan in the United States, and was the sponsor of Chauhan's speaking tour in Indianapolis in 1982.

The U.S. university circuit

Since World War II the lower levels of the anthropologist networks radiating out of Oxford and the University of London have been transferred to the United States, as part of an effort to give an American label to British insurgencies in the former colonial sector. The U.S.-based centers for Punjab destabilization on behalf of the Anglo-KGB include: the University of Chicago; Kansas State University; and the University of California at Berkeley.

By 1966 this project had reached sufficient maturity to begin centering the more public efforts for Sikh separatism in the United States.

In 1968, **Prof. Paul Wallace** at the University of Missouri formed the Research Committee on the Punjab, which he has chaired to the present date. The central focus of the Committee is "Sikh revivalism," which the members have been working on under British direction since that time. Wallace's role in the Gandhi assassination is indicated by his meeting with **Brig. Iqbal Singh** within days of the murder.

Iqbal Singh, currently based at the University of Chicago, is one of the most rabid promoters of the creation of a separate Sikh state, and admits maintaining very close contact with

the Sikh terrorist group Babbar Khalsa.

Among the first results presented by the Research Committee was the 1976 Berkeley Conference on Sikh Studies, which was funded by the Sikh Foundation, and organized by **Mark Juergensmeyer**, a Berkeley-based leading figure in the Research Committee on the Punjab. The Conference brought together leading scholars and anthropologists, including such close collaborators with the Sikh Foundation as: **Prof. W.H. McLeod**, whom we have met before; and **Dr. Ainslee Embree**, who was cultural attaché in the Indian embassy during the Carter administration, when a Kissinger-orchestrated coup brought Moraji Desai's Hindu extremist Janata Party into power, together with putting the Akali Dal Party (the Sikh separatist political party) into power in the Punjab.

After Indira Gandhi's assassination, Ainslee Embree told an interviewer: "Violence has been the characteristic of Mrs. Gandhi's regime. It is the result of the failure of her policies. Her death came as no surprise to anyone who knew of her activities. A change in government might be the only hope to end the violence. She created this violence in the Punjab." Ainslee Embree, the man upon whom Juergensmeyer relies for his political contacts, is today chairman of the History Department at Columbia University.

Embree sponsored a follow-up conference to the one at U.C.-Berkeley, which continued the profiling of the potential for the destabilization of India. This conference, in turn, became the model for one held at the Cathedral of St. John's

1978: Terrorist Dal Khalsa formed in Punjab with intention of creating a Sikh separate state. Founder is Giani Baksh Singh of Birmingham, England, a Naxalite (Indian communist terrorist).

1979: Chauhan escalates pro-separatist actions in Punjab, leading marches with the daughter of Tara Singh.

1980: Babbar Khalsa murder of Nirankari leader Babba Gurbachan Singh.

1981: Murder of publicist Lala Jagat Narain for criticism of Nirankari leader murder. Babbar Khalsa leader Talwinder Singh Parmar takes public credit for Narain assassination.

1981: Sant Bhindranwale—associate of Dr. Joyce Pettigrew—arrested in connection with Narain murder. Dal Khalsa hijacks plane to Pakistan in protest.

1981-June 1984: Escalating random killings by Babbar Khalsa in Punjab lead into Indian army raid of the Armitsar Golden Temple, where Babbar Khalsa, Dal Khalsa and Bhindranwale's following maintain an armed camp.

1982-83: Chauhan travels to United States on two separate trips, sponsored by publicist Jon Speller. Trips used to propagandize for an independent Kalistan.

1983: Babbar Khalsa leader Talwinder Singh Parmar is based in Vancouver, Canada following flight from India, and jail in West Germany, for involvement in terrorist assassinations. Terrorist training begins by former bodyguard of Queen Elizabeth,

Jon Vanderhorst, in British Colombia. Links of Parmar to University of Chicago Brigadier Iqbal Singh upgraded.

June 1984: Indian army forced to raid Golden Temple, which then housed a thousand armed men.

July 1984: World Sikh Organization (WSO) formed in New York City, in protest of "desecration" of Golden Temple by Indian Army and to promote a Sikh separatist state. Founding members include Generals Bhullar and Iqbal Singh, former close associates of Bhindranwale's military adviser. Sponsors informally include the Committee for a Free Afghanistan of Lord Nicholas Bethell; the American Jewish Committee; then U.S. State Department Human Rights director Elliott Abrams.

July 1984-Oct. 31, 1984: WSO and Chauhan call for the assassination of Indira Gandhi for alleged desecration of Golden Temple. Assassination of Gandhi proclaimed as God's vengeance, with credit for killing taken by Chauhan. Assassin Beant Singh had held meetings with Chauhan a year prior to the assassination.

November 1984 to the present: WSO, Babbar Khalsa and other terrorist organizations call for murder of Rajiv Gandhi for alleged repression of Sikhs; call for independent Kalistan.

Jan.-Feb. 1985: British Minority Rights Coalition issues report on "oppression" of Sikhs by Indian government.

May 1985: Sikh assassins arrested in United States, as wave of blind terror by Sikhs against Hindus escalates in India.

Peace Research Center in New York shortly after the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. It is this Cathedral with which Richard Hauser most closely works.

The Cathedral's conference brought together the controllers of Islamic fundamentalism who had run the coup on the ground that toppled the Shah of Iran. Among those present at the Cathedral conference were: Carter Secretary of State **Cyrus Vance**; **Richard Falk** of the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies, who had led the Mujaheddin riots against the Shah with former Attorney General Ramsey Clark; **Bernard Lewis**, also of the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies, who was the architect of the "Bernard Lewis Plan" that calls for a tribal, separatist, and religious cult breakdown of the Middle East, spilling over into India; and, **Hamid Algar**, who, as one of British SIS's leading experts on Sufi mysticism and a Sufi himself, shares close ties with the Iranian mullahs to this day.

Algar is today a colleague of Mark Juergensmeyer at the U.C.-Berkeley South and Southeast Asia Study Center. Shortly after the murder, Hamid Algar said that Indira Gandhi's assassination may lead "to the breaking up of India into a more natural configuration." Algar was a classmate at Cambridge University of **Lord Nicholas Bethell**, who plays a key role in controlling Chauhan. Although he has not been directly involved with Bethell's Committee for a Free Afghanistan program, he has carefully monitored the influence of Sufism upon those sheiks who are guerrilla leaders there.

The top terrorist and anthropologist controllers within, or tied to, the Research Committee on the Punjab are:

Lloyd Randolph, University of Chicago

Ainslee Embree, chairman of the History Department, Columbia University

Mark Juergensmeyer, Pacific School of Religion at Berkeley

Murray Laes, University of Texas in Dallas

Kenneth Jones, Kansas State University and author of a study of Indian religious movements for Cambridge

Jerry Barrier, University of Missouri

Steve Cohen, close collaborator with Iqbal Singh and major profiler of the vulnerability of the Indian Army to communal tensions

Brigadier Iqbal Singh

Professor Christopher Shackle

Selig Harrison, Carnegie Endowment and director of its Indian project.

World Bank sponsors

The economic policy of the murderers of Indira Gandhi is totally in keeping with the British-KGB imperial design for the subcontinent: the destruction of India's agriculture. The area targeted by the Sikh movement is the Punjab, the most productive agricultural area of India, which has made the difference between the starvation of the early 1970s and the survival of today. But if Jagjit Singh Chauhan, the titular

head of an independent Khalistan, succeeds in taking over the region, the entire area will be turned over to the British colonialists at the World Bank, and destroyed!

Chauhan admits that his proposed economic policy for an independent Punjab has been formulated by such British intelligence and World Bank agents as:

Professor Agit Singh of Cambridge University, a protégé of Lord Kaldor

Shamsher Singh, Office of Economic Planning, director's office, World Bank; recently reassigned to finance ministry of Ghana

Mr. Kalcat, Agricultural Division of the South Asia Project of the World Bank

Dr. Inderit Singh, senior economist of the South Asia project of the World Bank, and son of Dr. Kapur Singh, former adviser to the Sikh separatist patron, the Maharajah of Patiala

Dr. Bagicha Singh, U.S. Department of Agriculture, water conservation economics division.

This fact is totally coherent with the London roots of the Sikh separatist movement. For in fact, the World Bank is, in function and policy, the successor to the British East India Company. Its economic arguments are coherent with, and based upon, anthropological assertions of tribal identity and culture, each of whose functions is to prevent industrial and high-technology development of the Third World.

This is more than documented by looking at World Bank programs, which call for so-called "appropriate technology," "labor-intensive development," and "indigenous projects."

Chauhan and his collaborators insist that even if the Punjab does not become independent in the short term, it must be granted regional control over food, water, and related policies. Chauhan and all of his economic advisers repeatedly condemn the Indian national government's setting of wheat and other agricultural prices, so that the population can afford to eat. This condemnation is repeated by the anthropologist advisers of the Research Committee on the Punjab.

Chauhan and his advisers specifically demand the right, immediately, of increasing the price of Punjabi wheat by 100%. This demand also coheres with Chauhan's close relationship with the André grain family of Switzerland.

Perhaps the document which best summarizes the views of these Sikh separatist advisers is Inderit Singh's study for the World Bank, entitled "The Small Farmers and Landless in Asia." Inderit Singh explicitly condemns modern agricultural technology in favor of primitive "appropriate technologies," whose implementation would mean starvation in India. He then condemns farm mechanization, as offsetting increases in labor intensive, as opposed to capital intensive agriculture employment. Singh demagogically attacks large-scale, and hence productive, Indian farming as the "enemy" to the rural poor. He even goes so far as to endorse high interest rates—because they are detrimental to high-technology farms!

U.S. Sikh networks are still operative

by an EIR investigative team

On the morning of May 13, the FBI moved in and arrested five Sikh terrorists, on charges of conspiring to murder Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during his scheduled visit to the United States June 11-15. Intelligence sources report the arrests were made on direct orders from Attorney General Edwin Meese, over the strong opposition of the Bureau. Unhindered, the FBI would have permitted the Sikh group to carry out its terror operations, covering its own complicity by arguing that the FBI was in the process of conducting deeper penetration of the terrorist organization.

Although the arrests have placed a damper on one potential source of violence against the Indian prime minister, intelligence agencies in Western Europe and the U.S. remain on high alert for broader assassination plots against Mr. Gandhi, reportedly run out of Western Europe. These aim to assassinate the Indian prime minister during his June 10 visit to Paris, his short stopover in London, or during his four-day visit to the United States.

Intelligence agencies responsible for the prime minister's safety have identified an underground railway for Sikh terrorists out of Punjab into Western Europe, Canada, and the United States. This route is identical to the course taken by Ali Agca, who tried to murder Pope John Paul II in May 1981. The Sikhs, like Agca before them, cross into Western Europe through Bulgaria. Further, Agca is known to have entered Bulgaria on an Indian passport, using the Sikh name "Joginder Singh."

In the aftermath of the June 1984 Indian Army assault on the Golden Temple, reports surfaced in the Indian press that Sikh terrorists were being airlifted out of Punjab by the Bulgarian airlines. While that report has not been confirmed, the route now known to be followed by the Sikhs—through Bulgaria, Western Europe, Britain, and then Canada into the United States—is one and the same as the shipment routes for Indian subcontinent and Middle Eastern opium and heroin.

The five Sikh terrorists arrested May 13 were reportedly among the terrorists trained in British Columbia, Canada, under the direction of Johannes Vanderhorst. Vanderhorst was an ex-member of the British Cold Stream Guard, the elite security force which guards the royal family. Reports specify that Vanderhorst's Canadian camp trains not only Sikhs, but the ASALA (Armenian terror group) and the Italian Red Brigades.

This places the Sikh terrorists in the crossroads of the international terrorist circuit, which operates under the shared

control of Soviet and British intelligence, and the Swiss-based Nazi International.

Jon Speller: contact point

The key question in the investigation into the Sikh terrorists threatening India and its prime minister, is how long the activities of one Jon Speller will be permitted to continue? Speller has been named both by Jagjit Singh Chauhan, the so-called "president of Khalistan" based in London, and by Sikh Maj.-Gen. J.S. Bhullar, now based in the U.S. and considered to be in operational command of the Sikh drive, as the man who has "opened the doors" for them in the United States.

Speller paved the way for Chauhan's two trips to the United States in the early 1980s, and introduced him to numbers of congressmen, including a credulous Sen. Jesse Helms.

Speller has close links to the Anti-Defamation League, particularly through Rabbi Rosenthal, who is in charge of the ADL's Latin American section. Through Speller's introductions to the ADL and through Rabbi Rudin, American Jewish Committee interreligious affairs director, Chauhan and the World Sikh Organization were put in contact with Elliott Abrams, former head of the Human Rights Division of the State Department, and now Assistant Secretary for Latin American Affairs. Abrams, report WSO officials, has been helpful to their cause.

Aside from his interest in the Sikhs, Speller has played a similarly helpful role for the Israeli fundamentalist-terrorists, around the conspiracy to rebuild Solomon's Temple on the site of the current Dome of the Rock on Temple Mount in Jerusalem, the second holiest shrine of Islam.

In Britain, Speller's closest ties are to Lord Nicholas Bethel, whose Committee for a Free Afghanistan has promoted the Sikh "cause" on both sides of the Atlantic, and to British intelligence operative, Sir Julian Amery.

Speller's dossier also contains numerous ties to the East bloc. He boasts that he has permanent access to Mount Athos as well as to every major monastery in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. He has repeatedly told contacts that he has a standing residency at a Russian Orthodox monastery in the Soviet Union, should the need arise. Speller's ties to these churches ran through his now-defunct *East Europe* magazine and the underground Russian railway run by him and his father, New York-based publisher and theosophist Robert Speller.

However, most relevant to the current investigation, are Speller's connections to Bulgaria. According to his own testimony, Speller is a not-unimportant figure with the Bulgarian Orthodox Church. He was, for example, instrumental in bringing Bulgarian Orthodox Bishop Simeone, formerly of Akron, Ohio, back into Bulgaria. At least one source has reported that Speller's Bulgarian Church connections were peripherally involved in the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II.