

The targeting of New Yalta's opponents

by Linda de Hoyos

Pakistan's President Mohammed Zia ul-Haq was assassinated Aug. 17 by operations involving both the United States and the Soviet Union. That is the conclusion of a confidential working paper prepared by the Pakistani People's Party, now being circulated among specially selected circles. Zia, the paper states, "was sacrificed on the altar of the new spirit of détente between the two superpowers. He had outlived his usefulness."

Zia's death Aug. 17 was but the most dramatic and highly publicized removal of a political leader who was acting as an obstacle to the U.S.-Soviet regional agreements. The pattern also includes the June 18 attempted assassination of Turkey's Premier Turgot Özal, the sudden death of the chairman of the West German Christian Social Union, Franz Josef Strauss, and the murder in April of Evo Fernandez, foreign affairs secretary of Renamo, the guerrilla group operating against the Soviet-backed government in Maputo, Mozambique.

Zia was killed in the mid-air explosion of a Pakistani Air Force C-130 Hercules transport aircraft. Gen. Akhtar Rahman, chairman of the Pakistani Joint Chiefs of Staff who had directed Pakistani support to the Afghan mujahideen, was also killed, along with the U.S. ambassador to Islamabad, Arnold Raphel. Despite subsequent investigations showing that the plane had been sabotaged, the U.S. State Department systematically balked at admitting that the Pakistani President and others on board had been assassinated.

Zia was becoming bothersome for his opposition to the Afghan accords of April 15, his attempts to militarily defeat the Soviet troops with the Afghan mujahideen, and his insistence that a political settlement was required in Afghanistan. In addition, his strong backing to Islamic fundamentalist rebel chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar created unease in New Delhi and Washington.

No matter who actually "pulled the trigger" in the Zia case, the beneficiaries were not ashamed to admit the opportunities opened by Zia's sudden elimination. "Providing Moscow and Washington can keep their lines of communication open, there is a chance that President Zia's departure could contribute to a more clear-cut solution to the Afghan problem," wrote the London *Financial Times* Aug. 19. "Washington cannot squeeze much more mileage from the Afghan resistance and the Geneva agreement has had the effect of reducing Pakistan's geopolitical resistance."

Moscow had been threatening Zia in the days immediately before his death. On Aug. 15, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov declared, "The Soviet Union reserves the right to take whatever steps the situation requires" in the face of continued Pakistani violations of the Geneva accord. This declaration, he said, could be viewed as an "official warning to Pakistan." On Aug. 19, Gerasimov officially commented on Zia's death, "Soviet-Pakistani relations were not so good. George Shultz called President Zia a great fighter for freedom. I do not find this correct. Freedom and democracy go together."

The tip-off that Zia was in trouble with the New Yalta dealers was the June 18 attempted assassination of Turkish leader Özal, who has brought Turkey into close coordination with Pakistan. Turkish sources describe Özal as the "guarantor" of Turkey's pro-West orientation toward the European Community and NATO. In addition, Özal's work to broaden the base of his Motherland Party has created a strong coalition and ensured political stability. Turkey has been the target of Soviet-directed Kurdish separatist-terrorist operations. As a pro-Western defender of his nation's sovereignty and defense, Özal is a target for early elimination.

The circumstances of the attempt on Özal's life, however, remain shrouded. His would-be assassin, Kartal Demirag, appeared to be a carbon copy of Mehmet Ali Agca, who made the attempt on Pope John Paul II, as both are felons and members of the terrorist Grey Wolves. Demirag was reportedly safehoused in West Germany by a businessman who was interrogated for past connections to Agca. But there is also speculation that Özal was targeted by Turkey's cigarette mafia, with routes into the Warsaw Pact's Bulgaria.

The circumstances surrounding the Oct. 3 death of West German conservative political leader Franz Josef Strauss recall the "suicide" death a year earlier of Christian Democratic leader Uwe Barschel. Although Strauss officially died of a heart attack, the events leading to his death indicate murder. Strauss was a point-man for various networks opposing Soviet hegemony over Western Europe. Only one week before his death, on Sept. 26, Strauss was piloting his Cessna from Bulgaria toward Germany, when the plane suddenly went out of control, forcing Strauss to dive from an altitude of 10,000 meters. On Oct. 1, Strauss was stricken as he was climbing from a helicopter. Two days later, he died of heartbeat malfunction, and the collapse of his lungs and kidneys. The removal of Strauss left a political vacuum in West Germany, leading to the November Jenninger affair.

In the case of Evo Fernandez, assassination is definite. The leader of the Renamo guerrilla group in Mozambique was gunned down in Lisbon, Portugal, by a three-man hit team. Investigation by *EIR* showed that Fernandez was the victim of operations run by Tiny Rowland's Lonrho Corporation, with Angolan UNITA head Dr. Jonas Savimbi, Zaire President Mobutu, and other Renamo officials also on the hit list.