

Pakistan's caretaker President in China; numerous questions remain

by Ramtanu Maitra

Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan characterized his Sept. 20-23 state visit to China as "most rewarding and constructive." But although several agreements were signed, and Islamabad is crowing loudly over it, the visit, which took place amid the din of the Asian Games in Beijing, may have fallen short of the Pakistani President's expectations. There are reasons also to believe that the real purpose of the visit had little to do with public agendas and official press statements. Given the long Sino-Pakistani relationship, President Ishaq Khan's visit would ordinarily have caused no surprise. But President Ishaq Khan, as the far-seeing Mandarins in Beijing are well aware, heads a caretaker government that will in all likelihood cease to exist after the Oct. 24 general election in.

The agreements signed and the bonhomie offered by China's top leaders to Pakistan's President are certainly a feather in Pakistan's cap. Addressing newsmen at the State Guest House in Beijing, Ishaq Khan said that cooperation for increased interaction between China's Xinjiang province and its neighbors in Pakistan's northern regions was discussed. Tourist cooperation along the strategic Karakoram Highway, exploitation of the Lakhra coal mines and proposals for transfer of technology were included, he said.

Negotiations were also held on the nuclear power plant offered to Pakistan by Premier Li Peng during his 1989 visit, and on China's agreement to carry out a large-scale copper mining project in the Pakistani province of Baluchistan, including an \$84 million credit to kick off the project. Baluchistan is a strategically located province bordering Afghanistan that has long been considered vulnerable to the Soviet Union's reputed desire for access to a warm water port. The province has also become a major drug-trafficking route, acting as a gateway to the West for huge amounts of hashish and refined heroin from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Striking a pose in Gulf policy

On the political side, much has been made of the "total accord" between Beijing and Islamabad in condemnation of the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait. According to an editorial in *The Muslim*, the Islamabad-based English daily

owned by pro-establishment politician Agha Hassan Pooya, China has adopted "the singularly correct attitude of preparing itself for the havoc which the Middle East tinderbox may cause to the regional balance." China has backed the U.S. Desert Shield deployment from the outset, if so far without troops.

But the Pakistani President's strident anti-Iraq outbursts in Beijing may backfire. Pakistan's increasing alignment with the United States on the Gulf crisis has already generated heated argument within the country, where a strong and vocal lobby believes that Iran's support for Iraq justifies, and even requires a more sophisticated stance on Pakistan's part. Though China was not shy about climbing on board the Anglo-American Gulf bandwagon, it can just as easily get off or adjust position. For Pakistan there is no such maneuvering room, and Ishaq Khan's blustering in Beijing will only further serve to tar the country as a lackey of the Anglo-American combine, and even of their policy-puppet Israel.

Things may be still more complicated, if a recent report that Pakistani military officers sympathetic to Iraq's President Saddam Hussein approached Beijing for arms and ammunition for Baghdad, is true. According to the Hong Kong-based *Far East Economic Review*, Chinese officials, including those from the arms-exporting firm Norinco, confirmed that such discussions did take place, but it is not known whether any sales were made. In the event, Pakistani channels or pro-Iraqi channels in Turkey, it is speculated, would be used to circumvent the U.N. embargo.

Chinese term Kashmir issue 'internal'

President Ishaq Khan must have been disappointed in failing to elicit any India-baiting from China on the Kashmir issue. Prior to his departure it was anticipated that the President would be able to revive the issue with China. Pakistan has been quietly sulking since Chinese Premier Li Peng described the Kashmir issue as an "internal" matter, implying that what was happening in the Indian part of Kashmir was purely an Indian affair. Ishaq Khan reiterated Pakistan's position that Indian authorities are ruthlessly suppressing, even committing genocide against, the "indigenous uprising" in

the Kashmir Valley, but Ishaq Khan got no seconds from China.

This failure may well have something to do with what is probably another unofficial agenda item in Beijing, namely the rise of Muslim fundamentalism in China's Xinjiang province bordering Pakistan. President Ishaq Khan protested a bit too much, when he insisted to inquisitive journalists in Beijing that the only reason he could not visit the Xinjiang Autonomous Region—in spite of the announced plans for “cooperation” there—was because of the exigencies of the Oct. 24 general election in Pakistan. “Pakistan and China are great friends, and Pakistan could not possibly be involved in any design aimed at destabilizing China,” he added in response to persistent questions from the press.

In fact, the Islamic uprising that rocked China's Muslim majority Xinjiang province last May was widely reported to have been armed by the Afghan Mujahideen from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Following these reports, in August, Chinese security arrested two Pakistani nationals in Xinjiang on charges of incitement. The Chinese were furious, according to the *Far East Economic Review's* report of the matter, because the pair turned out to be employees of the Inter-Services Intelligence, Pakistan's premier spying organization with which China has close contact. Reportedly Beijing was not satisfied with Islamabad's explanation that the two were “former” agents.

A gnat on the dragon, for now

It is not clear which faction within the Pakistani military is fishing in Xinjiang waters. And, however startling, at this point its impact on Sino-Pakistani relations cannot be more serious than a gnat's bite to a dragon. Sino-Pakistani ties go back about two decades, and the relationship has been consistently reciprocal. While in 1972 Pakistan helped to thaw the ice between Beijing and Washington, and later opened the door to the Persian Gulf for Chinese arms sales, China has been helpful in return. China's contribution to the establishment of an indigenous arms industry in Pakistan is noteworthy.

The Heavy Rebuild Factory at Margola was built with Chinese assistance to overhaul and rebuild T-59 tanks and their engines; China helped establish the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex at Kamra, which rebuilds F-6 fighter planes and stocks 500 items of spares; China also helped set up the Light Aircraft Manufacturing Factory and develop the K-8 trainer jet. To these few examples must be added a steady stream of military hardware sold to the Pakistani military since 1966. If hardware sales from China fell a bit short of supplies from the United States, China's financial assistance to keep the Afghan Mujahideen intact made up the difference.

In return, of course, Islamabad judiciously ignored the June 4, 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre and later brought Mr. Li Peng back into polite society in the international arena with the first invitation for a state visit after the bloodbath.

Beijing revives Mao's 'asinine lunacy'

by Mary M. Burdman

The People's Republic of China, the most repressive regime on the face of the Earth, is again in the throes of Maoist fundamentalism. All the horrors of the Cultural Revolution and earlier Maoist debacles are in force: mass arrests and public executions, brutally stupid economic policies, and the hounding of intellectuals. The most basic truth about Communist China, as U.S. congressional candidate Lyndon LaRouche stated on Sept. 26, is that “Communist China *does not work*.” Under the present regime, China is doomed to holocaust because of the combined insanity and idiocy of her rulers—from Mao Zedong, Chou En-lai, and Deng Xiaoping down to Prime Minister Li Peng and Jiang Zemin today.

China is “still undergoing a very bloody revolution, which has been continuing since the days of the massive slaughter of the cream of China's young intellectuals, the students in Tiananmen Square, in June 1989,” LaRouche said. It is against this irrepressible, *genuine* revolution that the Maoists have unleashed their terror.

Inhumanity as a system

In a remarkable Oct. 11 article in the *New York Review of Books* China observer Simon Leys described the work of the just-deceased Laszlo Ladany, a Jesuit priest and scholar who dedicated his life to *not* being deceived by the Maoists. It was Father Ladany, who was driven from the mainland in 1949, who consistently exposed the nightmare of Chinese communism. The chief method of controlling the population is through brainwashing, using techniques Mao used to consolidate control of the Party after the Long March. The communists sparked one upheaval after another as “political campaigns,” reducing the economy and peoples' lives to chaos. Intellectuals were ostracized: “Mao explicitly denounced the concept of a universal humanity; whereas the Soviet tyrant [Stalin] merely *practiced* inhumanity, Mao gave it a theoretical foundation, expounding the notion—without parallel in other communist countries of the world—that the proletariat alone is fully endowed with human nature. To deny the humanity of other people is the very essence of terrorism: Millions of Chinese were soon to measure the actual implications of this philosophy,” Leys wrote.

But “if the Maoist horrors are well known, what has not been sufficiently underlined is their asinine lunacy,” Leys continued. Such lunacy was Mao's Great Leap Forward in