

Israeli lobby activated in India

by Linda de Hoyos

Rajiv Gandhi is a "victim of the changing new world order," stated former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto upon learning of Gandhi's May 21 assassination. In the election campaign weeks before the bombing-murder of president of the Indian Congress Party, calls appeared in the press from various quarters demanding that India join the Anglo-American new world order. As a corollary to this proposition, India is also to immediately and drastically improve relations with Israel.

The full policy shift demanded of India by some quarters was elaborated in a April 19 an opinion column in *The Hindu* by Maya Chadda which called upon Delhi to give up any further pretense to non-alignment—or equidistance from the superpowers. "Non-alignment," Chadda contended, "has trapped Indian policy makers in a sterile exercise of balancing priorities that no longer exist." After this shift (undoubtedly toward the West), India should upgrade ties with Israel and support the United Nations-sponsored conference on Palestine.

Israel was also the focus of an article appearing April 13 in the *Business and Political Observer* by one P.M. Kamat, a professor in the Bombay University. In 1988, Israel was permitted to establish an interest section in Bombay for business purposes. Kamat asserted that in this changing unipolar world, India's relations with Israel need upgrading.

Most importantly, Kamat claims, the road to Washington leads through Tel Aviv, and renewed ties with Israel will activate the pro-Israeli lobby in the United States which will help to weaken American support to Pakistan. Second, relations with Israel will aid Delhi in "correcting" its flawed pro-Arab policy. Third, if India has a pro-Israeli stance, it will weaken Pakistan in all international fora, most importantly the United Nations. Pakistan wants the Kashmir conflict with India settled through U.N. referenda, while India wants the conflict settled bilaterally.

On May 7, K. Subrahmanyam joined the chorus. Subrahmanyam, a former director of the Institute for Strategic Defense Analysis, also spent time at the Swedish International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) think-tank along with Emma Rothschild.

In his column "Global Watch," Subrahmanyam stated: "We have to look at the West Asian situation in the light of current realities. Israel is here to stay as much as Pakistan. We should now consider our relationship with Israel on the basis whether our having normal diplomatic relations with them would benefit the Palestinian cause better than our not having our relations."

Subrahmanyam was, of course, an outspoken supporter of the U.S. war against Iraq.

Hindu fundamentalists front for Israel

The electoral stalking horse for India's joining the "new world order" and establishing ties with Israel is the Bharatiya Janata Party, the party of Hindu fundamentalism in India. The alliance between the BJP and Israel is based on their mutual hatred of Muslims.

On many occasions Israel has tried to take advantage of India's antipathy toward neighboring Pakistan, for example, to force India to order its Armed Forces to "take out" the Pakistani nuclear facility at Kahuta (see *EIR*, June 14, 1991 p. 55, "Sabotage Charged at Pakistan Ammo Dump.")

On May 7, former Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. J.F.R. Jacob announced that he was joining the Bharatiya Janata Party. Jacob said he believed the party would be able to benefit from his "experience in different fields, like defense, geopolitical, economics and foreign affairs," reported the *Times of India*. Jacob, a member of the Indian Jewish community, is known to have had strong ties with Israel's foreign intelligence agency the Mossad throughout his career. Moreover, he is known to have been part of the group within the Armed Forces which expedited Israeli Gen. Moshe Dayan's secret tours of India during the government of Morarji Desai during 1977-80, and which has been instrumental in opening up the nation of Nepal—another of India's neighbors—to Israeli intelligence operations.

'Winds of change'?

Jacob told reporters that "winds of change are blowing throughout our planet. We should take a new look at events in the world. We have to improve our relations with other democracies [believed to mean Israel] as well as our neighbors." According to sources, Jacob is slated to be the Indian ambassador to Israel if the Bharatiya Janata Party comes to power.

Since Jacob's announcement, 15 other retired senior officers of the Armed Forces have announced their entry into the BJP.

The view that India must ally itself with Israel has also long been put forward by current Commerce and Justice and Law Minister Subramaniam Swamy. Swamy was a key operative in the Janata Party's operation to overthrow Indira Gandhi as prime minister in 1977, and was trained in the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), the Hindu fundamentalist cadre organization that runs the Bharatiya Janata Party.