

would cut the supply lines from Serbia so that they could not supply the Serbians in Bosnia and Croatia. There are supply lines from Serbia to the Serbians in Bosnia through Montenegro, and to the Croatians in Bosnia through Croatia, while the Bosnian nationals are not getting anything.

They should cut the supply lines. Or, if they don't want to do that, they should lift the embargo on Bosnia. If they were to lift the embargo on Bosnia so that Bosnia could receive weapons, Mrs. Vebel feels confident that the war would be over in less than two months.

She would also like to comment on the Vance-Owen plan: She says that there is an exact parallel between Lord Owen and Neville Chamberlain. The only difference is that Chamberlain always carried an umbrella.

EIR: We have had reports that Russian soldiers are fighting with the Serbians and that they have Russian military advisers. Can she confirm this?

Vebel: Yes, there are Russian soldiers who are fighting on the Serbian side, but they don't know whether there are Russian officers actually helping in conducting the war. But there are definitely Russian soldiers fighting on the Serbian side.

They are very angry about the Russians participating in the United Nations effort because, since they are working together with the Serbians, they are not justly applying their authority there as a United Nations force.

EIR: How is the Serbian Army intervening in Bosnia?

Vebel: It is true that the Yugoslav Army is fighting alongside the Chetniks. They were told that the Yugoslav Army pulled out from Bosnia, but she said it is not true. They are there and fighting alongside the Chetniks. There are a lot of Serbian people from the Vojvodina region that are fighting in Bosnia. The Milosevic government does not acknowledge it, but there are people from her region who are fighting in Srebrenica and all those other parts.

Another thing she would add, is that ethnic cleansing is going on in the Yugoslav National Army. Any officer, whether high-ranking or low-ranking, who is not Serbian is being gotten rid of—anyone, even if they were faithful. Now, her group has appealed to every government internationally, and the Milosevic government has had much pressure put on it so they are slowing this process down. They appealed and she is going to send material on that.

EIR: Is there anything she would like to say to the people in the United States?

Vebel: She wants to ask: "How can the world and the United States idly watch the terrible things that are happening there, when we are almost into the 21st century? How much longer are they able to simply watch when people from around five years old on are raped, and people are dying from hunger, people are actually freezing in the mud in Bosnia?" That's what she wants to ask the American people.

Pakistan in iron grip of Ghulam Ishaq Khan

by Linda de Hoyos

Despite the stated commitment of successive U.S. administrations since Jimmy Carter to make "human rights" the centerpiece of American foreign policy, particularly when it comes to developing countries, no notice has been taken of one of the more formidable and long-lasting potentates on the world scene today: Ghulam Ishaq Khan, President of Pakistan.

The reason may lie in Ishaq Khan's role as the *éminence grise* in Pakistani politics, making or breaking politicians—on behalf of the Anglo-American elites that have sought to control this country since its inception in 1947. At the time of the 1977 coup against Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, which *EIR* and other sources documented to have been orchestrated by Henry Kissinger, it is reported that it was Ghulam Ishaq Khan, then secretary general of defense, who contacted Zia ul-Haq and told him to make his move against Bhutto. One of the first acts of the Zia regime was to promote Ishaq Khan to secretary general in chief of defense, with cabinet rank.

Ishaq Khan is the most senior civil servant in Pakistan, having served as chairman of the Water and Power Development Authority, governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, secretary of finance, secretary general of defense, finance minister, governor of Pakistan to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and, since 1988, President of Pakistan.

From this last post, Ishaq Khan retains his iron grip over Pakistan's policy. Despite his civilian status, Ishaq Khan has cultivated ties to the Army, which is his real base of power, and the Army chief of staff and the Pakistani secret intelligence services (ISI) report to him and not to the prime minister.

Now, Ishaq Khan has emerged the winner in a power struggle with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Over the past few months, Nawaz Sharif, in loose alliance with his political rival Benazir Bhutto of the Pakistani People's Party (PPP), launched an effort to prevent Ishaq Khan from enjoying a second term as President. To do this, Nawaz Sharif initiated a campaign to repeal the Eighth Amendment to the Pakistani Constitution.

The Eighth Amendment affirmed the martial law regime of Zia ul-Haq and his appointment as President. As such, it makes the President, not the prime minister, the supreme power in the country. The President appoints the chiefs of

staff of the three armed forces and chairman of the Joint Staff Committee, state governors, and the chief election commissioner. The amendment also gives the President the power to dissolve the National Assembly without the advice of the prime minister—that is, bring down the prime minister's government. The President can install any caretaker prime minister of his choice. The President, not the prime minister, holds the supreme command over the Armed Forces. The prime minister must report directly to him on all matters.

The President, however, is not an elected post. He is appointed by the Senate, the upper house of the Assembly. However, if there are moves to remove the President or to repeal the Eighth Amendment, then the President can simply dissolve the Assembly that threatens to take such action.

IMF man in Pakistan

In Pakistan, there is a nexus of three people who stand opposed to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the PPP on the basis of strict adherence to IMF policies. They are Mahbubul Haq, Pakistan finance minister under Zia ul-Haq and now "special adviser" to William Draper III, the malthusian who heads up the United Nations Development Program; Shahed Javi Burki, who wrote a book against Bhutto's development policies and is now in charge of Mongolia and China for the World Bank; and Ishaq Khan.

Whether he is finance minister or not, Ishaq Khan has for all practical purposes run the economy for a decade and a half. During the Zia regime, it was through Mahbubul Haq. Under Prime Minister Junejo, Yasin Wattoo was finance minister but Ishaq Khan reportedly drew up the budget and ran the ministry. The present finance minister is Sartaz Aziz, a career bureaucrat who was inducted by Ishaq Khan into the caretaker cabinet of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi in 1991, and who Ishaq Khan ensured was retained under Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

When Benazir Bhutto, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's daughter, came to power in 1989, Sultan Ahmed, a columnist for *Dawn* newspaper, reported in March of that year that she had been forced to keep Ghulam Ishaq Khan as President and Yakub Khan as foreign minister because "powers that be, including the U.S. playing a significant role, insisted on [their] continuing and power sharing."

Although she was able to pry Mahbubul Haq from the post of finance minister, IMF policies prevailed. According to Pakistani press reports at the time, right before Bhutto was to take office, the IMF suggested to Ishaq Khan that then-Finance Minister Mahbubul Haq sign on with the Fund. The new Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto came into office already under the IMF thumb. A few days after she had come to power, on Jan. 4, 1989, Ishaq Khan laid out a five-point charter for the national economy which fit with standard IMF prescriptions: reduction in government expenditures, elimination of subsidies and decrease in public sector investments, and increased production of cash crops.

It is also interesting to note that Ishaq Khan's general role places him in the center of activities around the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), founded by Pakistani Agha Hasan Abedi.

Ishaq Khan is believed to have been instrumental in Pakistan's procurement of the nuclear bomb, of which the United States was fully aware. According to recent statements by nuclear scientist Dr. Abdul Qadir Khan, the alleged mastermind for Pakistan's nuclear capability, Ishaq Khan "is the person who was in charge of our nuclear program for the last 16 years." In a statement to the press on March 10, Dr. Qadir Khan said that the President had given "unflinching moral and material support to our program as chairman of the Water and Power Development Authority, governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, secretary of finance, secretary general and later as finance minister."

Calling the shots

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has emerged the clear winner in the fight around the Eighth Amendment and his second term will begin in about 18 months. On March 28, Ishaq Khan pulled out three of Nawaz Sharif's cabinet ministers. Resigning were: Environment Minister Anwar Saifullah, who is Ishaq Khan's son-in-law; Planning Minister Hameed Nasir Chatta, and Asad Junejo, son of the former prime minister and an adviser to Nawaz Sharif. Two days later, Haji Gul Sher Khan Afridi, minister of state for Islamic tax, also resigned from the Nawaz Sharif cabinet. At the same time, 16 members of the National Assembly announced their support for Ishaq Khan in the fight on the Eighth Amendment. Afridi and all the others are from the tribal area of the President's home state, the Northwest Frontier Province.

To retain power, Nawaz Sharif had to back down and acknowledge that he rules at the largesse of the appointed President.

Ishaq Khan's most bitter enemy, however, appears to be the Bhutto family. In 1991, Ghulam Ishaq Khan read out the charge sheet that forced the dissolution of Benazir Bhutto's government. Only one day before, Ishaq Khan had met with U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley, considered the viceroy of Pakistan. Ishaq Khan has also consistently backed the secessionist MQM, movement of Mohajirs, against Bhutto in Sindh province.

The seamier side of Ishaq Khan began to come to light last year when a very close friend of Benazir Bhutto was brutally raped in Karachi. It became evident through press reports that Ishaq Khan's son-in-law Irfanulla Marwat was involved in this "political rape."

Although Ishaq Khan has been a faithful ally of the United States—going along with the U.S. demand that Pakistan sign the Geneva Accord on Afghanistan, for instance—it remains to be seen how Washington views Ishaq Khan, the chief of the Pakistani Army and czar of its intelligence services, when it threatens to label Pakistan a "terrorist state."