

Aviv in Israel.

There is a great deal of similarity between the Ahmediyyas and the Bahais, obviously because they were both cooked in the same pot. Both sects have highly educated personnel, most of whom were educated abroad, and these individuals have become successful financially, making the entire sect wealthy. Equally important is the fact that both sects were persecuted by militants, who also were serving the Palmerston crowd's interests.

While the Ahmediyyas in Pakistan are very active in the high and middle-level bureaucracy—very much like the Mormons in the United States—the Bahais in Iran were wealthy businessmen. This accumulation of wealth and power has been used to instigate persecution against the two sects. Another commonality is that members of both sects have many contacts abroad, particularly in Britain.

Why the Ahmediyyas again?

But in this game among Palmerston's heirs, there are no winners. In Pakistan, the British-controlled Jamaat persecuted and apostatized the Ahmediyyas, creating a wave of sympathy for them internationally. In Iran, mindless killings of the Bahais by Khomeini adherents have also strengthened the Bahais' cause internationally and earned them the "respectability" of a victim.

The Ahmediyyas have been persecuted by two Pakistani Presidents, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Zia ul-Haq, both of whom were instigated and lured by the street muscle of the Jamaat. Zia ul-Haq was himself a Jamaati, and very much controlled by the same Palmerston crowd.

The decision to reactivate the Ahmediyyas after a lapse of almost 12 years is to put further pressure on Islamabad by destabilizing the Pakistani province of Punjab. The Ahmediyyas enjoy some support among Punjabi Muslims, not particularly because of their beliefs, but due to their success and emphasis on education and "good upbringing."

Turmoil in Punjab comes on top of the major crisis in Karachi, and Sindh province generally, where yet another product of the Palmerston crowd, Altaf Hussain, leader of the Mohajir Qaum Movement, is virtually at war with the Benazir Bhutto government. Altaf Hussain and his followers even today, after almost five decades of residence in Pakistan, refuse to be identified as anything other than Mohajirs, or "immigrants." Karachi is the only port in Pakistan and a major sea connection to the new republics of Central Asia. Besides its vast strategic importance, Karachi has also become a major outlet for narcotics and guns.

The impact of the devastation of Karachi has been felt throughout Pakistan. Nonetheless, Punjab, being the most populous and wealthy of the provinces, continues to function as if not much has gone wrong. The reintroduction of the Ahmediyyas into the scene by the Palmerston crowd is to reinject another source of tension in the most powerful province in the already-weakened Pakistan.

Geopol chief Hafner goes to jail

by Dean Andromidas

Pierre Hafner, president of Geopol Services SA, is currently sitting in a Geneva jail. Judge Denis Mathey ordered his arrest at the end of June, following several official complaints for *gestion déloyale*: He is accused of issuing false statements to his clients following the mismanagement of their private portfolio funds. It is believed that he lost up to 100 million Swiss francs following the failure of several high-risk investments.

Hafner, as a director of CBI Holding, a Geneva-based holding company, is directly linked to Union Bancaire Privée (UBP), a private Swiss bank that has been linked with international dirty money operations in Europe, South America, the United States, and Africa. For the last two years, it has been the target of investigations by the intelligence services and police authorities of several nations. Most significant were investigations by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, for money laundering (see *EIR*, Dec. 16, 1994), and by South African authorities, for its links with that country's largest gold-smuggling ring (see *EIR*, Aug. 16, 1994). As president of Geopol Services SA, Hafner was part of a British intelligence operation that included leading Swiss political and intelligence operatives who have been involved in major international arms deals, high finance, and U.N. operations in former Yugoslavia (see *EIR*, Feb. 12, 1995).

A closer look at UBP will show that this case has potentially broader significance than just another colorful case of financial fraud. Edgar De Picciotto, chairman of UBP, is a man who brings one directly into the center of the Club of the Isles, the group of oligarchical families led by Prince Philip, consort to Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain. De Picciotto, as a board member of the Quantum Fund of speculator George Soros, is a tool of the Rothschilds, traditional bankers to Europe's oligarchy. In fact, according to one Swiss source, UBP would be nothing if it weren't for the "Rothschilds and the British." UBP is a merger of Picciotto's bank, CBI Bank, and the Trade Development Bank. The latter was formerly owned by Edmond Safra, a major funder of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and the American Express Corp. Safra and Picciotto had been schoolmates in Lebanon, and both come from Levantine banking and merchant families. Mrs. De Picciotto is a member of Prince Philip's 1001 Club, and last year was one of the organizers of a fundraising event

in Geneva for Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature. De Picciotto's Milan office is run by Rodolfo De Benedetti, whose father Carlo De Benedetti heads one of Italy's richest families, and is also a member in good standing of the Club of the Isles. The bank is at the center of the dirtiest financial and intelligence operations of the Club of the Isles.

Hafner, through his Private Management Hafner SA (PMH), is a private portfolio fund manager who works directly with UBP. Most of these management funds are placed in care of UBP and are substantial enough to have made him a board member of the bank's holding company for the better part of the last decade. According to Judge Mathey, who issued the indictment and arrest warrant, proceedings were brought against Hafner following complaints filed by several clients. He is accused of investing their funds in high-risk investments contrary to their contractual agreements. He is also accused of issuing false statements to clients in an effort to hide the losses. He is currently being held without bail, because it is feared he would tamper with evidence.

Michel Halperin, Hafner's attorney, told *EIR* that the case began over a year ago, when several former clients, who were not Swiss citizens, accused him of investing their funds in financial scams. Hafner claims their funds were invested in "venture capital," including international telecommunications. But Halperin disclosed that the real target of the clients is UBP. "They hope to get to the bank over Hafner's dead body," he said. Although Halperin claims the case should really be a civil proceeding, the attempt by UBP to cut off ties to Hafner demonstrates that the case is far more serious than Halperin alleges. UBP issued an official statement announcing that Hafner was no longer on the board of the bank or its holding company, CBI Holding, and therefore, they claim, they bear no responsibility. This move was taken last year, precisely at the time when the case against Hafner began. If Hafner had been on the bank's board at the time of his indictment, it would have been the worst case for the bank.

This denial, in fact, is merely a legal maneuver, because the office of PMH is the same as that of CBI Holding. The president of the board of PMH continues to be Daniel Alain De Picciotto, a relative of Edgar and member of the board of CBI Holding. While Judge Mathey refused to affirm that UBP was a target of the investigation, he said that they have a great deal to "explain." It should be noted that the official address of Geopol Services SA is the same as PMH, Place Camoletti 8.

Enter Geopol

The *Tribune de Genève* on July 30 and other Swiss newspapers highlighted Hafner's presidency of Geopol Services SA. They had good reasons. Geopol Services SA was founded in June 1993 and claims to engage in studies dealing with "geopolitics" and "geoeconomics" upon the request of its clients. According to the minutes of the "founders

meeting," it has a paid in capital of SF 100,000, which is held in a numbered escrow account at UBP for "safekeeping." Although the activities of the company are alleged to be in the "intellectual" field, its directors hardly appear to be intellectual types. On its board of directors is Elisabeth Kopp, former Swiss justice minister and wife of Hans Kopp, a Zurich-based lawyer. Mrs. Kopp was forced to resign as justice minister when she informed her husband that one of his clients, Shakarchi Trading AG, was the target of an investigation by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Hans Kopp is believed to have been at the center of various arms and munitions sales to Iran and Iraq in the 1980s. His brother, Dr. Max Kopp was general manager in the 1980s of *Crédit Suisse*, one of Switzerland's largest banks, which was deeply involved in financing such arms deals. Following a recent conviction for financial fraud, Hans Kopp has had his license to practice law in Geneva revoked.

Another board member of Geopol is Helmut Raiser, whose Zug-based Consen SA played a key role in Argentina's Condor Missile project. Raiser was top man at Bohlin Industries GmbH, which is owned by the brothers and family of the late Alfred Krupp, of the famous German industrialist family and weapons producer. Although Krupp was forbidden to produce weapons after World War II, Bohlin is a munitions manufacturer and is believed to have been part of the so-called "explosives cartel" which sold billions of dollars of munitions, in contravention of an embargo, to Iran and Iraq during their war.

Another Geopol director is Peter Arbenz, a Swiss brigadier and chairman of the Swiss Officers Association. Arbenz formerly worked for the International Red Cross in Geneva and later had been in charge of refugee affairs in the Swiss government. Between April 1994 and September 1994, he was General Inspector of Unprofor in Zagreb, Croatia. At this time, Hans Kopp was president of the Zurich branch of Yugotours, the official travel agency of the Yugoslav (Serbian) government which is notorious for functioning as a cover for Serbian intelligence operations.

The last member of Geopol is Laurent Murawiec, a former associate of Lyndon LaRouche. While he is the only one who might pass as an "intellectual," for want of any other skill, Murawiec is the author of the company's only known "geopolitical" and "geoeconomic" studies. These were four studies dealing with China. A review of one of them demonstrated that Murawiec plagiarized several well-known works on China. Nonetheless, Murawiec is a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, where he has collaborated with IISS's China expert Gerald Segal. Segal is currently *persona non grata* in China because he has advocated a breakup of China through civil war. It is therefore believed that Geopol is used as a front for potentially more sinister activity, by a group of directors capable of anything, from selling weapons, to questionable financial dealings.