

The Bhutto Family, EIR, and the Right to Economic Development

Going back 30 years and more, the LaRouche movement has fought for the right of Third World nations to economic development and justice, a right murderously opposed by the international financial oligarchy. Pakistan is a case in point.

Two years after the 1976 Non-Aligned Movement's conference in Sri Lanka, which endorsed Lyndon LaRouche's call for a new, just world financial system, the democratically elected pro-development Prime Minister of Pakistan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was behind bars, overthrown by a military coup. He was Benazir Bhutto's father.

In January 1979, *EIR* published a special report, *The Pakistan Papers*, some of which was smuggled from Bhutto's cell, along with his appeal to the Supreme Court of Pakistan, and a letter to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

In his September 1978 letter to Waldheim, Bhutto wrote: "The conscience of the world community gets aroused when the representative of a firm is arrested for alleged blackmarketing of currency, but what happens to the same world community when the undisputed leader of his people is subjected to physical cruelty and mental torture for inter-alia waging a dauntless struggle against oppression, for valiantly upholding the banner of justice for the Third World and for equipping an Islamic state with a nuclear [reprocessing] capability."

Clash With Kissinger

In his appeal, Bhutto wrote of the pressure he came under from Henry Kissinger, to stop Pakistan's nuclear program. "After three years of intense negotiations, the Nuclear Plant Reprocessing Agreement was signed between France and Pakistan in March 1976," he wrote. "France was fully satisfied on the *safeguards*.... The International Atomic Energy Commission at Vienna *confirmed* the Agreement....

"Dr. Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State for the United States, has a brilliant mind. He told me that I should not insult

the intelligence of the United States by saying that Pakistan needs the Reprocessing Plant for her energy needs. In reply, I told him that I will not insult the intelligence of the United States by discussing the energy needs of Pakistan, but in the same token, he should not insult the sovereignty and self-respect of Pakistan by discussing the plant at all."

What kind of threat was Bhutto under? Statements elsewhere in his appeal are suggestive. He described his meeting early in January 1977 with Rafi Raza, a friend and advisor who was in charge of Pakistan People's Party affairs. Characterizing Raza's remarks as the beginning of "reports on the hidden hands" steering operations against him, Bhutto went on: "He told me that the Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) was coming into being [in opposition to Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, PPP], he told me who would be the President of the PNA and who would be the other office bearers. He gave me the reasons for the design, the strategy, and the aim. At the end of his exposition, he told me that I had three alternatives:

"(a) *Forget the Nuclear Reprocessing Plant, and the imminent unity of the Opposition will not materialize.*

"(b) Postpone the elections, or,

"(c) Face very grave consequences.

"He kept emphasizing that I should not press him to reveal his sources, but that he was speaking with full knowledge of what was taking place. I asked him to make his suggestion. He advised me to forget the Reprocessing Plant....

Rafi Raza said he had no doubt that we would win the elections in a fair contest, but that he had considerable doubt if we would be allowed to reap the benefits of the victory."

When Bhutto reaffirmed that he was unwilling to abandon Pakistan's nuclear technology, even if it meant losing the election, Raza said, "But, Sir, I am trying to tell you that more than an election or an Office is at stake." Bhutto wrote, "I replied cryptically, 'I got your point, and you got my answer.'"

Bhutto ended his appeal with a quote from Jawaharlal Nehru's *The Discovery of India*, written from prison: "Man's dearest possession is his life, and since it is given to him to live but once, he must so live as not to be seared with the shame of a cowardly and trivial past, so live as not to be tortured for years without purpose, that dying he can say, 'All my life and my strength were given to the first cause in the world—the liberation of mankind.'"

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was hanged on April 4, 1979.

