

Ecuador harbors Sikh narco-terrorists

The Sikh terrorist drug-runners who carried out the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, now receive state protection from the government of Ecuador, according to evidence just received by *Executive Intelligence Review*. Indian newspapers have published proof, not only that Quito is the new Western Hemisphere headquarters of the Sikh terrorists, but that President Leon Febres Cordero personally approved their entry into Ecuador.

Febres Cordero's government is the Reagan administration's closest ally in Ibero-America today, the only government to oppose the Contadora Group's diplomatic efforts, break relations with Nicaragua, and endorse the U.S. "contra" policy in Central America. Ecuador's sponsorship of the Sikh operations makes their "anti-terrorist" posture a hypocritical lie.

According to *The Illustrated Weekly of India* of Dec. 15, 1985, and the Indian weekly, *Blitz*, of Feb. 15, 1986, the Sikh separatists opened a "High Commission" of their Khalistan "government-in-exile" in Quito on Oct. 3, 1985, with a reception attended by Ecuadorian government officials and cabinet ministers. Since then, "several batches of young Sikhs" have been sent to Ecuador, entering on so-called "Khalistani" passports, the London-based Sikh terrorist leader, Jagjit Singh Chauhan, boasts. Sikhs do not need visas to enter Ecuador, but are met at customs by the Sikh "High Commissioner," Chauhan told *The Illustrated Weekly*. "The Indian government might say whatever it wants, but the Ecuador government has virtually admitted that Khalistan exists," Chauhan said.

The official facilities enjoyed by the Sikhs in Ecuador were arranged in formal negotiations between Chauhan, head of the "Khalistani" separatist movement in London, and former Ecuadoran President Carlos Julio Arosemena during the summer of 1985. Arosemena is reported to have declared: "Come to Ecuador. It's a good land for the Sikh nation. We can take 20 million."

Arosemena served as the personal envoy of President Febres Cordero. Published in *The Illustrated Weekly*, is the facsimile of a telegram, signed by Febres Cordero, which addresses Chauhan as "President of the Khalistan Republic." It states: "I have received and thank you for your communication of April 10 of this year [1985] and I would be pleased to talk with your representatives. To determine the day and

time, please speak with Dr. Carlos Julio Arosemena, former President of Ecuador. Sincerely yours, Leon Febres Cordero, President of Ecuador."

The assassins of Gandhi

The Sikh plans to open Ecuador as a base of operations were first published in the *EIR* book, *Derivative Assassination*, which details Jagjit Singh Chauhan's role in the assassination of Indira Gandhi. On June 9, 1984, Chauhan told British Broadcasting Corporation that a special fund had been established to reward anyone who would kill Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. "The assassination will not be carried out by our organization; it can be carried out by any member of the Sikh community anywhere in the world," Chauhan stated. Then, one week before Gandhi was murdered on Oct. 31, 1984, Chauhan predicted, "Some man will come forward and take off the head of Mrs. Gandhi."

Reported also in *Derivative Assassination*, is that Assistant Secretary of State for Interamerican Affairs Elliott Abrams, both as head of the U.S. State Department's human rights division and then as assistant secretary, met regularly with members of Jagjit Singh Chauhan's "World Sikh Organization" and served as the "godfather" of the Ecuador deal.

The drug link

Chauhan is now in negotiation with some 20 to 25 countries for recognition of a Khalistan government-in-exile, with the idea, according to several Indian sources, of establishing a base of operations in narcotics cultivation areas, and gaining diplomatic accreditation and inviolable diplomatic pouches for arms and drug smuggling. Sikh links to drug trafficking include:

- In June, 1985, five "pro-Khalistan" activists were arrested in Queens, New York, for possession of hard drugs worth over \$40 million.

- Jarnail Singh Ranuan, arrested on Oct. 11, 1985 in Britain with 13 other Sikhs on charges of plotting to assassinate Rajiv Gandhi, has also been jailed for possessing and supplying narcotics.

- Sikh terrorist, Jaswant Singh Thekedar, head of the "Dal Khalsa" sect in Britain, runs an opium and heroin ring from the Afghanistan-Pakistan border area into the Punjab region in India, according to *Blitz* magazine. Thekedar is close to the "Khalistani High Commissioner" in Ecuador, Balbir Singh Nijjar, who had previously been a leader in Canada of Thekedar's Dal Khalsa sect. According to reports from several Western governments, Nijjar served as go-between in the secret negotiations between Chauhan, Arosemena, and Elliott Abrams, to set up the Sikh Ecuador project.

- Accompanying Arosemena in his London negotiations was the only Sikh resident in Ecuador, one Atma Singh Khalsa, a.k.a. Adelberto Calegari, a Milan-born convert to Sikhism who, according to *Blitz* magazine, is tied to the Italian Mafia.