

# Bush administration is sheltering Kashmiri terrorists

by Joseph Brewda

Over recent weeks the Bush administration has claimed to be gravely concerned about the possibility of a new Indo-Pakistani war, and together with the Soviet Union sponsored a meeting of the Indian and Pakistani foreign ministers on this very real threat. Despite its pronouncements, however, the U.S. administration has continued to harbor Amanullah Khan, the leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front. JKLF kidnaping and murders have played an important role in the ongoing crisis in the Indian-controlled state of Kashmir, over which two previous Indo-Pakistani wars have been fought.

On April 10, Khan gave a speech at the United Nations announcing the death of an Indian television executive and five Indian air force officers who had been kidnaped by his organization just days before. The victims were killed by his followers the next day. Despite the fact that Khan ordered an execution on U.S. soil, the Bush administration has only belatedly responded—and only after intense diplomatic pressure—by revoking Khan's visa. The U.S. government has refused to order the murderer's deportation. Khan has lightly dismissed this visa revocation, accurately noting after a Washington press conference on April 20, that he could remain in the U.S. for years fighting out the administration's slap-on-the-wrist measure, if he wanted to.

It could hardly be said that the U.S. embassy in Islamabad did not know who Khan was when he applied for his visa earlier this year. Indeed, U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley used to lead the State Department office on counter-terrorism. That office's publications have formally listed the JKLF as a terrorist organization.

## Who is protecting this terrorist?

That the U.S. government is protecting Khan can not be reasonably denied. The main base of Khan's Washington activities is the Kashmiri American Council, directed by Dr. Ghulab Fai. The most extraordinary feature of this obscure council is that its public relations are handled by Black, Manafort and Stone, a firm closely tied to the U.S. intelligence community. Charles Black, the founder of the firm, had earlier founded the National Conservative Political Action Committee together with the late Terry Dolan in 1975. NCPAC was one of the more important covert financial conduits for

the Reagan/Bush administration's Iran-Contra operations, as court and U.S. Senate testimony has since determined.

Peter Kelley, another partner in the firm, is the treasurer of the National Democratic Institute, one of the four formal arms of the National Endowment for Democracy which oversaw Iran-Contra funding. The NED was established in 1985, in the explicit pronouncements of its founders, to run overtly what State Department intelligence and the CIA's propaganda and covert operations division had previously run covertly. It was Kelly's NDI, for example, which ran the 1986 overthrow of the Marcos government in the Philippines. The NDI has repeatedly demanded that India open up its economy to external investment if it wants to be considered democratic.

## Indira Gandhi's killers

It is also no surprise that Amanullah Khan's U.S. operations are sustained by the same circles which killed former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. For such reasons, Khan has worked out of the World Sikh Organization offices in Washington. The WSO had been formed by Khan's decade-long associate, Dr. Jagit Singh Chauhan in London in 1984, with the express purpose of assassinating Mrs. Gandhi. When Gandhi was assassinated later that year, Chauhan took the credit, and the then British-based Khan praised the murder.

Didar Singh Baines, the wealthy Yuba City, California-based prime funder of the WSO, is reportedly the main U.S. funder of Khan's JKLF. Khan admits that one of the prime reasons for his trip to the United States, and recent meetings in California, is to acquire funds for his operations. Most weapons used by both the Sikh and Kashmiri separatists are still reportedly obtained from U.S. arms shipments to the Pakistan-based Afghan Mujahideen. Former WSO president Ganga Singh Dhillon has been credibly reported to be a U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency asset.

Yet another figure who has provided crucial assistance to Khan has been Nayyar Zaidi, news correspondent with the Pakistan daily *Jang* and a one-time employee of the U.S. Information Agency in Karachi. Zaidi reportedly played a similar role for Sikh terrorists. Zaidi is overtly hostile to the Pakistani government of Benazir Bhutto, and has often taken to defending Henry Kissinger, the murderer of her father, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Zaidi's role, among other evidence, indicates that those who are fomenting the Kashmiri crisis are also intending to destabilize Pakistan, and are not merely anti-Indian. This is coherent with the fact that the ultimate backers of Khan are actually centered in London, whose policy toward the subcontinent has always been one of "divide and conquer." Unfortunately, ever since the Dulles brothers-dominated Eisenhower administration, the White House has tended to follow this traditional British policy against the subcontinent—whatever Bush may now claim about his alleged fear of a new Indo-Pakistani war.