

In memory: Indira Gandhi, 1917-84

November 19 marks the 75th anniversary of the birth of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, world leader and prime minister of India, who was brutally gunned down in her garden by two Sikh bodyguards on Oct. 31, 1984. Little does the world know the enormous vacuum of leadership that her death has left in the world today.

Indira Gandhi was born into the independence movement for India against the British empire, that was being led by Mohandas K. Gandhi, her father Jawaharlal Nehru, and her grandfather Motilal Nehru. As a youth, she read the play about Joan of Arc, *The Virgin of Orleans*, by the German poet Friedrich Schiller, and determined that the young maid of Orleans would be her inspiration to save her own nation, India.

This, Mrs. Gandhi accomplished. Mrs. Gandhi was prime minister of India from 1966 to 1977 and again from 1980 to her death in 1984. In those years, her selfless devotion to her nation, which she placed above all other concerns throughout her life, enabled her to steer the ship of state of a nation of 700 million people. After a famine of 1966-67, Mrs. Gandhi determined that India must end its dependency on U.S. PL-480 food shipments, which always carried the threat of political blackmail with them. India would become food self-sufficient, in defiance of the malthusian claim that an independent India was destined for famine and starvation. Through the work of agronomist C.S. Subramaniam and the Green Revolution, India had achieved this goal by the end of the 1960s.

In 1974, India detonated a peaceful nuclear explosion for a dam-building project, thus signaling to the world that India has a nuclear capability.

From this position of strength, Indira Gandhi gave India the ability to carry out an independent foreign policy, and in the last years of her life, she was seeking to vastly improve relations with the United States to balance its long-standing relations with the Soviet Union.

At the time of her death, Mrs. Gandhi was a world

leader, the premier spokesman for the rights of the poverty-stricken millions of the developing countries. Following in the footsteps of her father, a founder of the Non-Aligned Movement, she was its undisputed leader at the time of the March 1983 summit in New Delhi.

"Non-alignment is national independence and freedom," Mrs. Gandhi said in her speech to the summit. "It stands for peace and the avoidance of confrontation. It aims at keeping away from military alliances. It means equality among nations and the democratization of international relations, economic and political."

Then, Mrs. Gandhi threw down the gauntlet to the malthusians of the West: "Non-alignment may shield us from war, but science is important for us to eradicate poverty. However, at present 97% of the world's research



Indira Gandhi is welcomed in Srinagar, the capital of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Where would humanity be today, if Mrs. Gandhi were still alive to uphold the inalienable rights of every human being?

plainclothes and he welcomed me. At this point the following persons were present besides Mr. Faouri and myself: Mr. Hafez Amin, Mr. Mohammed Hijazi and Mr. Abu Hashim and two more persons in uniforms.

The judge, the State Attorney and the Secret Service officer discussed what kind of passport I should get. They agreed on a Syrian and that I was supposed to have been born in Dir Alzur. This town is situated in Syria near the border to Iraq. The decision was motivated by my Iraqi dialect.

They thought that the defense would become the least suspicious about my true identity. I was also told to speak in Modern (High) Arabic.

These people also discussed what my testimony in court should look like. They suggested that I was to have received DM 300,000 from Iran to deliver the money to Mr. Shu-beilat.

It was further decided that I would receive an artificial beard, a moustache, and Arabian clothing. Then the meeting



Indira Gandhi speaks in Washington at the National Press Club in July 1982. To her left is her son Rajiv Gandhi, the future prime minister who was, like his mother, assassinated by the enemies of a sovereign India.

is not relevant to us because it is earmarked for the priorities and to the induced appetites of technological leaders. . . . Each of our countries must strengthen its domestic base of science and technology and collectively we should devise more effective mechanisms for the pooling of our experiences. Earlier Non-Aligned gatherings have considered this subject. At this summit, let us move forward to make collective self-reliance a reality.”

Under Mrs. Gandhi’s leadership, the 1983 Non-Aligned summit put forward the boldest demands for ending the financial and economic tyranny of the western banks and their enforcer, the International Monetary Fund. The final declaration called for an “international conference on money and finance for development,” to be held outside the auspices of existing financial institutions, and stated that the mission of this conference should be to create a new world monetary system whose purpose would be to finance global development. “I am amongst those who believe that no sustained revival in the

North is possible without the development of the South,” Mrs. Gandhi stated in a subsequent Unctad meeting in June 1983.

It was at this point, when Mrs. Gandhi’s stature as a world leader in the fight for a new just world economic order was also at its height, that the British-orchestrated Sikh secessionist movement in Punjab dramatically escalated. *EIR’s* 1985 book *Derivative Assassination* fully documented the British origin of the plot to murder Mrs. Gandhi. The final go-ahead for Mrs. Gandhi’s murder came in August 1984, when the London *Economist* published a cover caricature of Mrs. Gandhi as Kali, the Indian goddess of destruction. By the end of October, Mrs. Gandhi had been killed by bodyguards, as she was on her way to an interview with British Trust operative Peter Ustinov.

“She is no more” came the announcement of Mrs. Gandhi’s death.

In the years since Mrs. Gandhi’s assassination, world events have redefined the global strategic chessboard. The collapse of the Soviet empire and the liberation of eastern Europe from the communist yoke offered humanity a unique opportunity to create the new just economic order that Mrs. Gandhi and the Non-Aligned Movement had fought for. Instead, the IMF and the looters of the West have descended upon the East like vultures; the Non-Aligned Movement stands in disarray, questioning its very existence. Where would humanity be today, if Mrs. Gandhi were still alive to demand the inalienable rights of every human being to economic development and national independence? Would the Anglo-Americans have been able to carry out the U.N. war to obliterate Iraq, if Mrs. Gandhi had been there to speak out against it? Would London-trained bureaucrats in the U.N. be able to dismiss national sovereignty as a bygone concept, with Mrs. Gandhi still on the world scene?

Like Joan of Arc before her, Mrs. Gandhi’s life was an inspiration for those who would take all of humanity into their hearts and summon the courage to give the leadership the world so desperately needs today.

—Linda de Hoyos

ended in this office.

The next day I was taken to the building of the Secret Service. I met there with a small, fat person wearing a moustache and another tall person of ca. 1.80 meters and fair hair. They had a suitcase full of cosmetics out of which they took a beard and moustache and put it on me. Then they took photographs. One person told the photographer that he should be careful not to get any chairs or doors of the room into the picture. He should only have the empty wall as

background. They took about six photos of me without the Arab clothing. But they gave me a different dark jacket to wear.

After that I was taken back to the villa for lunch.

Soon afterwards Mr. Abu Haithem arrived and thanked me for my collaboration. He told me that I would be paid back for the loss of the DM 18,000 and that I would receive more. I told him that I didn’t need anything else except what I had spent on expenses.