

EIR's Windsor report shakes up Pakistan

by Saqlain Imam

For the first time, the British-Pakistani elite in Pakistan has been forced onto the defensive, with the serialization of *EIR's Special Report*, "The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor" (*EIR*, Oct. 28, 1994), in the Islamabad-based weekly *Pulse*, beginning on Dec. 29.

Coincidentally, the Islamabad weekly had published a report in its Dec. 23 issue on the murder of Mohammad Salahuddin, the editor of the Karachi-based Urdu weekly *Takbeor*, linking it with the arrival in Pakistan of Prince Philip, consort of the reigning queen of the United Kingdom, and Prince Agha Karim Khan, imam of the Ismaili sect, and with the installation of an Ismaili as deputy chief executive of the Northern Area Council by the Benazir Bhutto government, at the expense of her former ally, Tehrik-e-Jafaria Pakistan (TJP), a Shia majority group in the Northern Area. The TJP had emerged as the largest single political group, as it secured 8 seats in the recently concluded election, out of a total of 24. It wanted to get the office of the deputy chief executive, the only position of power left for elected people. But Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) managed, through wheeling and dealing, to install the Ismaili-sponsored Pir Karam Shah as the deputy chief executive instead.

Power politics

Prince Philip was the guest of Syed Babar Ali (his father and grandfather minted money by serving the British soldiers during their stay in India before Independence). The prince awarded a shield to Shoaib Sultan, a retired civil servant and ex-general manager of the Agha Khan Rural Support Program (a non-governmental organization in the Northern Area) for his services to "protect nature and the environment."

The Northern Area Council (NAC) is a newly created body of elected representatives in the strategically important Northern Area of Pakistan, consisting of Ghilgit, Hunza, Deer, and Sikardu. The political games being played there were preceded by the arrival of Prince Philip and Prince Karim Agha Khan, and the murder of Salahuddin.

According to the report published in *Pulse*, the two princes ensured, through Benazir Bhutto, that no one from the TJP should be allowed to become deputy chief executive of the Northern Area Council. According to PPP sources, Benazir Bhutto had told the TJP, her erstwhile ally, that she could give anything to the TJP, but not the office of deputy chief

executive. Interestingly, all non-TJP members of the NAC, including those from the camp of parliamentary Opposition Leader Nawaz Sharif, formed an alliance and blocked the TJP candidate's election. Mohammad Salahuddin had published an article three years ago on how the creation of an Ismaili state in the Northern Area was in order to fulfill the interests of the CIA and the British intelligence agencies in the regional power game. He was a great critic of the foreign games and interference in Pakistan.

Right after the election of the deputy chief executive of the NAC and the murder of Salahuddin, Maulana Abdul Sattar Edhi, a renowned social worker alleged to be a British/Mossad agent, suddenly left Pakistan for England, from where he issued a statement which virtually bailed out the foundering government of Benazir Bhutto. Ever since, the Bhutto government has been making a political comeback, despite the fact that it has become very unpopular following the step-wise increase in the prices of utilities such as electricity, gas, and oil, on the instructions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The Islamabad-based weekly's report had connected the murder of Salahuddin with the arrival of the two princes in Pakistan and the flight of Maulana Edhi to England, establishing that all of this was engineered to promote the vital interests in the region of the British foreign intelligence agency MI-6. Upon the publication of this report, the British High Commission in Islamabad threatened the editor of *Pulse*, Shireen Mazari, with serious consequences. She decided to give a tough fight to the British diplomats.

Meanwhile, the editor received a copy of *EIR's Special Report* on the House of Windsor and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), which challenged the unassailable position held by the elite environmentalists in Pakistan. The publication of the report has changed the tone of the discussions among political circles, and a change is expected not only in the government, but also in political trends in the country in the foreseeable future.

Bhutto and the British

Apparently, Benazir Bhutto has been bailed out, but her policies will still cause instability, as she is bent upon refusing to share political power with the urban-based Mohajir Quami Movement, known as an ethnic organization, but which in fact is a political expression of the urban-based lower and middle classes that have been denied their due share in the political system of the country. At present, the MQM leader, Altaf Hussain, is in the "protective custody" of the British government in London, which has engineered a bailout for Benazir Bhutto. She recently admitted that the price hike in utilities is due to IMF-World Bank policies. She has now started talks with MQM local leaders. Meanwhile, Opposition Leader Nawaz Sharif has unofficially called off, after an unannounced visit to London, his campaign to topple Bhutto's government.