

Palmerston crowd tightens the screws on Pakistan

by Ramtanu Maitra and Susan Maitra

At a three-day conference held in Ilford in the United Kingdom on July 28-30, the Ahmediyya sect, created by the ideological descendents of British Prime Minister Lord Palmerston in the 19th century, announced the establishment of a new television channel called the Muslim Television Ahmediyya in London. Making the announcement, Tahir Ahmed, the spiritual leader of the sect, made no bones about who will be targeted by the MTA.

At the convention, reportedly attended by 13,000 sect members representing 65 countries, Tahir Ahmed gave the clarion call to start a fresh vilification campaign against the Pakistan government, and issued a warning to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Ahmed said that all those who had confronted him were either disgraced or dead. Ahmed said that on Aug. 12, 1988, he had predicted the end of then-President of Pakistan Gen. Mohammed Zia ul-Haq, who had carried out a campaign of persecution against the sect. "Five days later, on Aug. 17, the world saw Zia's body blown to smithereens when his plane crashed in mid-air," gloated Tahir Ahmed.

Why the sect was created

The Ahmediyya sect was founded in 1889 by one Mirza Ghulam Ahmed in Qadian, now part of Punjab in India. Rejecting the Islamic tenet that Prophet Muhammad was the last prophet, Ghulam Ahmed claimed himself a prophet representing—all in one—Imam Mahdi, the Messiah of the Shias; Jesus Christ; and the Hindu incarnation of God, Krishna. Despite the ecumenical mix the sect pretends to represent, Ghulam Ahmed claimed himself to be the Prophet of the Muslims, and said that a new prophet will be born every 1,000 years.

The rise of the Ahmediyyas naturally caused a split among the Muslims, but the timing is also important. Throughout the 19th century, the Palmerston foreign service crowd, with Giuseppe Mazzini's secret service network, had created a number of new movements in Europe based on race and dedicated to decimating sovereign nation-states on behalf of the oligarchs and colonialists. The Ahmediyya sect was formed just after a major uprising in British India, in which the minority Muslims had joined hands with the majority Hindus in 1857 to reinstate the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar, and challenge British might. The British suc-

ceeded in quelling that uprising, and resorted to ruthless suppression of the Muslims, whom they had considered as allies before, as well as the Hindus. In 1889, the Muslims were united with the Hindus against British colonialism, and had shown a willingness to pick up arms once again to drive the British out—a picture which changed drastically by the beginning of the 1930s because of the success of the Palmerston crowd. The Muslim mullahs' council, *ulema*, in British India was also then protesting against the invasion of the Allied forces against the Ottoman Empire.

Mirza Ghulam Ahmed served the British interest to the hilt. He announced that *Jihad* (holy war) by sword had become obsolete, and he also opposed the *ulema* in denigrating the invasion against the Ottoman Empire. The role of the Ahmediyya, however, is not unique. Earlier, in the 1860s, the Jamaat-i-Islami was created to split the Sunni consensus which even today dictates Muslim views in the subcontinent. Resembling the Wahabi Sect of Saudi Arabia, the Jamaat challenges the mainstream Sunni Muslims who follow the Hanafi legal code within Islam. While the Ahmediyya are anti-confrontational, the Jamaat is ready to declare *Jihad* at the drop of a hat.

In Iran, the Bahais

In Iran, in the early 1870s, the Bahai movement was launched through Mirza Huseyn Ali Nuri, who assumed the title of *Bahauallah* (Glory of God) and declared himself to be He Whom God Shall Manifest (man *Yazhirullah*). Bahauallah claimed that the Koran is an infallible revelation of God, but that Islam is out of date. Bahauallah, like Mirza Ghulam Ahmed, was also cultivating those Muslims who opposed confrontation.

But the real nature of the sect became clear when it was learned that the Bahais were involved in splitting the Shias. The Bahais formed an alliance with the Jews in Iran and became a wealthy and powerful factor in Iran politics.

The Bahais sided with the British- and Soviet-controlled coup, plotted through then-Prime Minister Dr. Mossadeg, to oust Shah Reza Pahlavi. In later years, when the Shah became isolated in his own country because of his despotic rule, it was the Bahais who provided him support. As a result, Bahais were slaughtered by the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini, and the sect has since reportedly moved its headquarters to Tel

Aviv in Israel.

There is a great deal of similarity between the Ahmediyyas and the Bahais, obviously because they were both cooked in the same pot. Both sects have highly educated personnel, most of whom were educated abroad, and these individuals have become successful financially, making the entire sect wealthy. Equally important is the fact that both sects were persecuted by militants, who also were serving the Palmerston crowd's interests.

While the Ahmediyyas in Pakistan are very active in the high and middle-level bureaucracy—very much like the Mormons in the United States—the Bahais in Iran were wealthy businessmen. This accumulation of wealth and power has been used to instigate persecution against the two sects. Another commonality is that members of both sects have many contacts abroad, particularly in Britain.

Why the Ahmediyyas again?

But in this game among Palmerston's heirs, there are no winners. In Pakistan, the British-controlled Jamaat persecuted and apostatized the Ahmediyyas, creating a wave of sympathy for them internationally. In Iran, mindless killings of the Bahais by Khomeini adherents have also strengthened the Bahais' cause internationally and earned them the "respectability" of a victim.

The Ahmediyyas have been persecuted by two Pakistani Presidents, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Zia ul-Haq, both of whom were instigated and lured by the street muscle of the Jamaat. Zia ul-Haq was himself a Jamaati, and very much controlled by the same Palmerston crowd.

The decision to reactivate the Ahmediyyas after a lapse of almost 12 years is to put further pressure on Islamabad by destabilizing the Pakistani province of Punjab. The Ahmediyyas enjoy some support among Punjabi Muslims, not particularly because of their beliefs, but due to their success and emphasis on education and "good upbringing."

Turmoil in Punjab comes on top of the major crisis in Karachi, and Sindh province generally, where yet another product of the Palmerston crowd, Altaf Hussain, leader of the Mohajir Qaum Movement, is virtually at war with the Benazir Bhutto government. Altaf Hussain and his followers even today, after almost five decades of residence in Pakistan, refuse to be identified as anything other than Mohajirs, or "immigrants." Karachi is the only port in Pakistan and a major sea connection to the new republics of Central Asia. Besides its vast strategic importance, Karachi has also become a major outlet for narcotics and guns.

The impact of the devastation of Karachi has been felt throughout Pakistan. Nonetheless, Punjab, being the most populous and wealthy of the provinces, continues to function as if not much has gone wrong. The reintroduction of the Ahmediyyas into the scene by the Palmerston crowd is to reinject another source of tension in the most powerful province in the already-weakened Pakistan.

Geopol chief Hafner goes to jail

by Dean Andromidas

Pierre Hafner, president of Geopol Services SA, is currently sitting in a Geneva jail. Judge Denis Mathey ordered his arrest at the end of June, following several official complaints for *gestion déloyale*: He is accused of issuing false statements to his clients following the mismanagement of their private portfolio funds. It is believed that he lost up to 100 million Swiss francs following the failure of several high-risk investments.

Hafner, as a director of CBI Holding, a Geneva-based holding company, is directly linked to Union Bancaire Privée (UBP), a private Swiss bank that has been linked with international dirty money operations in Europe, South America, the United States, and Africa. For the last two years, it has been the target of investigations by the intelligence services and police authorities of several nations. Most significant were investigations by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, for money laundering (see *EIR*, Dec. 16, 1994), and by South African authorities, for its links with that country's largest gold-smuggling ring (see *EIR*, Aug. 16, 1994). As president of Geopol Services SA, Hafner was part of a British intelligence operation that included leading Swiss political and intelligence operatives who have been involved in major international arms deals, high finance, and U.N. operations in former Yugoslavia (see *EIR*, Feb. 12, 1995).

A closer look at UBP will show that this case has potentially broader significance than just another colorful case of financial fraud. Edgar De Picciotto, chairman of UBP, is a man who brings one directly into the center of the Club of the Isles, the group of oligarchical families led by Prince Philip, consort to Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain. De Picciotto, as a board member of the Quantum Fund of speculator George Soros, is a tool of the Rothschilds, traditional bankers to Europe's oligarchy. In fact, according to one Swiss source, UBP would be nothing if it weren't for the "Rothschilds and the British." UBP is a merger of Picciotto's bank, CBI Bank, and the Trade Development Bank. The latter was formerly owned by Edmond Safra, a major funder of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and the American Express Corp. Safra and Picciotto had been schoolmates in Lebanon, and both come from Levantine banking and merchant families. Mrs. De Picciotto is a member of Prince Philip's 1001 Club, and last year was one of the organizers of a fundraising event