

Muslim League, sponsored by the British in the wake of the Sepoy Rebellion of 1858; its activities ultimately led to the vivisection of India in 1947. His father, who was the 48th Imam, Sir Sultan Mohammed Shah Aga Khan III, was very close to the British royal family during his 72-year reign, and held the post of chairman of the League of Nation's General Assembly for a year. The 49th Imam, Prince Agha Khan IV, was given the British title "His Highness" by Queen Elizabeth II in 1957 at the death of his grandfather. Prince Sadruddin's title is likewise recognized by the British royal family.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan's career began in the 1950s, when he became publisher of the *Paris Review*, one of the more important Anglo-American intelligence operations of its day, peddling the degenerate "Children of the Sun," who were precursors of the rock-drug-sex counterculture. The managing editor of the publication, John Train, had been Prince Sadruddin's roommate at Harvard. Train went on to become a top Wall Street financial adviser, while continuing to play a key behind-the-scenes role in diverse intelligence operations, including in Afghanistan (see article, p. 18). Train and Prince Sadruddin continue to form a team.

In the mid-1950s, Prince Sadruddin became a career U.N. civil servant. By 1962, he was U.N. deputy high commissioner for refugees, and he served as high commissioner for refugees during 1967-77. Since that time, he has been brought back to handle special crises dealing with the mass relocation of impoverished people, especially in war zones. Thus, he was made coordinator of the U.N. Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programs relating to Afghanistan, working closely with John Train, in what was code-named Operation Salam.

Operation Salam was officially intended to organize the repatriation of Afghan refugees after the Soviet withdrawal. But under this pretext, it also oversaw the dispersal of Afghan war veterans and refugees throughout the world, and even before the fighting had stopped. Prince Sadruddin's program also reportedly was involved in the military training and covert military supply of the Afghan mujahideen, who often operated out of U.N. refugee camps that he administered on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Even earlier, Prince Sadruddin was asked by his longtime tennis partner, Vice President George Bush, to undertake secret negotiations with the Iranian government, on behalf of freeing the U.S. hostages. During the same period, some of the arms flowing into Pakistan for use by the Afghan mujahideen were being diverted to Iran on behalf of the "Iran-Contra" deals.

Great Games and the WWF

Prince Sadruddin has also been a key figure in Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the British royal family's most important intelligence agency. Since its creation in 1961, he has been one of its primary funders, as

has his nephew, the current leader of the sect. Through his London-based Aga Khan Foundation and the associated Geneva-based Bellerive Foundation, Prince Sadruddin has emerged as a top environmentalist. Here too, we find John Train, an activist in WWF Africa causes especially. Train's cousin Russell Train was president of the U.S. chapter of the WWF from its inception until his recent retirement.

In 1983, the WWF successfully persuaded the Pakistani government to create two national parks directly on the Afghan border in the northern region of Chitral. The remote region is not particularly renowned either for its abundance of animal life or the existence of endangered species, and presumably the flow of eco-tourists into the region diminished during the Afghan War. Chitral is, however, renowned for the quality and abundance of its opium poppy, which was assiduously cultivated by the mujahideen. It was also a primary staging area for smuggling arms into Afghanistan.

Around the same time that the WWF established its Pakistan parks, followers of the Aga Khan began pouring into Chitral, and the nearby regions of Gilgit and Hunza, also adjacent to Indian Kashmir. There, they have formed alliances with the British-steered Kashmiri independence movement, and are reportedly working on establishing an independent Ismaili State carved out of Pakistan.

Afghansi groups: the Peshawar Seven

by Adam K. East

Most of the Islamic "fundamentalist" parties that were the beneficiaries of the aid for the Afghan War against the Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan, were actually in existence years before the Red Army marched across the Oxus River.

The better educated of these leaders received their Islamic training at the Al-Azhar University in Cairo, where they were imbued with the idea of "Pan-Islamicism," as opposed to the concept of the nation-state. In the 1970s, these Islamic parties were in the opposition. But in 1973, violent destabilizing operations began in Afghanistan, after President Daud ousted his cousin King Zahir Shah. As a Pushtun nationalist, Daud wanted the detachment from Pakistan of the North West Frontier Province, which the British had cut off from Afghanistan in 1893.

To counter the pro-Pushtun activities coming from Kabul, the Pakistan government, then under Prime Minister

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, sought the help of the Afghan "Islamist" opponents of Daud, who accepted the British-drawn Durand Line dividing Pakistan and Afghanistan. With funding provided from Pakistan, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Rabbani Khalis, Ahmad Shah Masood, and others led several "uprisings" in various parts of the country in 1974. The uprisings failed, and were followed by a brutal government crack-down, forcing many of the groups to flee to Pakistan.

In Pakistan, Bhutto allowed them to open up offices, and some were also provided military training by the Pakistani Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI). Saudi Arabia also provided funding for the groups.

Following the communist coup in 1978, the Peshawar-based groups were largely ignored, and found themselves in total disarray, until the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. At this time, Pakistani President Zia ul-Haq hand-picked the so-called "Peshawar Seven" groups—known by most Afghans as the "gang of seven"—who had served Pakistani interests in the past as the primary beneficiaries of funding and arms, to wage the war against the Soviet Union. Nationalist and other anti-communist leaders were deliberately ignored and sometimes even threatened with open hostility, in favor of Hekmatyar et al.

Here is a summary of the history and activities of the original "gang of seven":

1. **Hezb-i-Islami (Party of Islam)**. Led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who was affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood since the 1970s. As a student of engineering in Kabul University, he led most of the demonstrations in Kabul from 1967 to 1972. He himself was a Pushtun, and most of Hekmatyar's followers belonged to this ethnic group, the biggest in Afghanistan. Since he lacked a classical Islamic education and opposed the traditional clergy, the *ulama* did not trust Hekmatyar. During the war, Hekmatyar's gang was responsible for the assassinations of a few Afghan nationalist figures in Peshawar.

Hekmatyar was strongly backed by Pakistan and also heavily funded by Saudi Arabia. Some of his income came from the poppy-growing regions in the south of the country, parts of which were under his control. (Heroin was virtually unknown to the region until 1979, when modern western laboratories were introduced to the area and farmers were encouraged to grow the cash crop, instead of wheat.)

Hekmatyar presently has a small army situated northwest of Kabul, but is no longer a major powerbroker, his operations having been superseded by the Taliban ("religious students"), a group which now controls two-thirds of the country.

2. **Jamiat-i-Islami (Islamic Society)**. Led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, a former professor and theologian at Kabul University, whose party consists primarily of ethnic Tajiks from the north of the country. His group is also dominated by Pan-Islamists and members of the Ikhwan. Rabbani, of Sufi Naqshbandi background, is a graduate of Al-Azhar

University.

Rabbani is currently President of Afghanistan, although his term expired late last year. Ahmad Shah Masood, also of Tajik background, is defense minister. Masood attended the French school in Kabul, and French aid agencies, particularly Doctors Without Borders, almost exclusively helped Masood's group. French propaganda also helped make Masood a household name in the West. Current backers of the Kabul government are Russia, Iran, and India.

3. **Itehad Islami (Islamic Unity)**. Islamic Unity is led by former university professor Abdul Rasul Sayaf, who received most of his support from radical elements in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and other Muslim countries. Sayaf converted to Saudi Wahabism at the onset of the war. The "University of Dawa and Jihad" was founded by Sayaf in 1985, in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province. Sometimes referred to as the "Islamic Sandhurst," the university provides training for Islamic militants. In spring 1995, the university came under investigation by Pakistan authorities and the U.S. FBI, according to the Pakistan press, for reports that it was training Afghani terrorists showing up in Asia and North Africa. Based in Kabul, Sayaf is still funded by Saudi Arabia.

4. **Hezbi-Islami (Party of Islam)**. Led by Maulavi Younas Khalis, an Islamic scholar, former teacher, and journalist. Originally with Hekmatyar, Khalis, being a traditional Islamist, split from the former in 1979. Khalis's group, primarily led by Haji Din Mohammad, led the military actions against the Soviet Army. Its major military commanders were: Abdul Haq, Jalaludin Haqani, Abdul Qadir, Qazi Amin Wardak, and Mullah Malang. With his group now barely in existence, Khalis is entirely removed from the political arena.

5. **Mahaz-i-Milli Islam (National Islamic Front of Afghanistan)**. The National Islamic Front is led by Pir Sayed Ahmad Gilani, leader of the powerful Qadiri Sufi sect. The group used to be strong in the Nangarhar province and surrounding areas.

Gilani, who prior to the war was the representative in Kabul of the French auto company Peugeot, is a strong royalist. He was also associated with Lord Bethell of the London-based Radio Free Kabul. Gilani is now an insignificant figure in the overall political configuration.

6. **Jabha-i-Nijat-Milli (Afghan National Liberation Front)**. The Liberation Front is led by Sibgratullah Mojaddidi, a religious leader from Kabul and royalist. Although his party had no significant military command, Mojaddidi was frequently chosen as a compromise leader, and was the first interim President of Afghanistan following the collapse of the communist regime in 1992.

7. **Harakat-i-Inqilab-i-Islami (Islamic Revolutionary Forces)**. Led by clergyman Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, whose party's membership was derived from intellectuals. He is presently based in Peshawar.