

time is likely to result in a change in Pakistani policy toward Afghanistan and an effective neutralization of Pakistan.

Junejo was aligned with the State Department's line on Afghanistan, the delusion that the withdrawal of Soviet troops would bring peace to the region, despite the lack of any political settlement in Kabul. During his visit to Pakistan for Zia's funeral, Secretary of State George Shultz made a point of visiting Junejo.

There are also indications that the United States would be prepared to accommodate to a Bhutto government. U.S. intelligence sources say that if Bhutto were to drop her demands for an election based on parties, and reach agreements with some section of the military, then she would receive the backing of the United States. However, Miss Bhutto, since her 1986 return to Pakistan from exile, has been a favorite of the State Department's Project Democracy and has been likened to Philippines President Corazon Aquino. However, despite her "people's power" reputation, Mrs. Aquino came to power on the back of a U.S.-backed military coup, and even Bhutto told the *New York Times* Aug. 24, "No one in Pakistan is naive enough to believe that an opposition party could come to power without the Army's tolerance."

Miss Bhutto stated Aug. 22 that she and her party are "committed to the implementation of the Afghan accords, as they are widely interpreted." PPP strategist Syed Tariq Sohail was further quoted by the *Wall Street Journal* Aug. 22 as saying that if the PPP comes to power in November, it will try to find factions within the Kabul government that could be persuaded to work in coalition with the Afghan Mujahideen. "That notion," the *Journal* points out, "isn't likely to sit well with the Mujahideen commanders, who want to overthrow the Kabul government."

Afghan refugees a pressing problem

For all Pakistanis, the most pressing issue is the return of the 3 million Afghan refugees who have come into the country over the last nine years. One of Bhutto's big rallying cries has been her demand that Zia get the refugees out of Pakistan by reaching a settlement with Kabul (i.e., Moscow). But it is to be wondered how refugees, whose homes, cattle, and livelihood have been devastated by the Soviet scorched-earth policy in Afghanistan, are to return to a country under a hostile government or under an accord which has no provision for their economic survival or the rebuilding of their country. The more likely prospect, is that the Mujahideen, whose major protector was Zia and who will become increasingly desperate in their perceived betrayal, will turn on Pakistan itself. The Afghan accords will have created a "new Palestinian" population of millions of displaced persons, a key asset in making a new Lebanon of Pakistan. This is the eventuality which General Zia was committed to avoiding, and which it is believed the Pakistani military without him, will have difficulty withstanding.

IRA sets off summer terror vs. Britain

by Mark Burdman

During the month of August, the Irish Republican Army has dramatically escalated its 1988 terrorist offensive. Since February-March of this year, 27 members of the British Army have been killed by the IRA. For the entirety of 1987, only three British soldiers were killed.

The IRA's "Hot August" began on the morning of Aug. 1, with the bombing of an army barracks in North London, close to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's home election district of Finchley. Between that date and Aug. 19, the IRA struck several times in Northern Ireland. It also hit a British Army barracks in Düsseldorf, West Germany on Aug. 5, and shot and killed a British soldier the following weekend in the port city of Ostend in Belgium.

The peak of terrorist activity came early in the morning of Aug. 20, when Provisional IRA men blew up a British Army bus carrying soldiers returning from leave as it traveled along the main Belfast-to-Omagh road in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Within 72 hours, 8 soldiers had been pronounced dead, and more than 20 wounded. The bomb device, set off by remote control, was reportedly composed of 200 pounds of Semtex, a high-powered plastic explosive made in Czechoslovakia and supplied by Libya.

Over the Aug. 20-21 weekend, the British cabinet was called into emergency session by Prime Minister Thatcher, to discuss new strategies against the IRA. The sessions occurred against the backdrop of faltering morale and increasing frustration in the British security forces in Northern Ireland, including the regular Army, the Ulster Defense Regiment, and local police, because of the inefficacy of actions taken so far, even though the identity of key terrorist "operators" is well known.

Following these meetings, British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Tom King visited soldiers who had been wounded in the Aug. 20 outrage, and told them, "Violence cannot win. If it does, it is the end of civilization. As a democracy, the United Kingdom is not prepared to concede to terrorism and will take whatever steps are necessary."

In the next days, however, the terror continued. On Aug. 22, a British Royal Navy recruiting officer was killed in Belfast, by an IRA booby-trap bomb in his car. On the night of Aug. 23, two officers in County Londonderry narrowly escaped being blown up when a bomb went off in their parked van. On the morning of Aug. 24, police sealed off a 400-

pound bomb in a parked car that exploded in one of the busiest sections of Belfast.

The British daily *The Independent* warned Aug. 24, "The IRA is also assumed to be planning another attack on targets in England and on security forces personnel stationed on the continent." On the same day, King denounced Libya as the main weapons supplier to the IRA.

In an Aug. 23 discussion, an informed London source stated, "The IRA campaign seems to be a 'death-a-day' campaign. I wouldn't be surprised by something ghastly again tonight. I fear they'll regularly go on killing people, to create a political environment in which demands will be for British troops to leave Northern Ireland."

The Soviets and 'Europe of the regions'

In fact, the IRA's strikes on the continent, and its warning that it has declared "open season" on British forces in Europe, betrays the group as one element in a Soviet-backed "irregular warfare" offensive against NATO forces in Western Europe. British and continental security experts claim that the IRA is one part of an integrated "Euro-terror" command, that works closely with the German Red Army Faction, France's Direct Action, and the Basque secessionist ETA, among others. A base of operations and safehouses is Holland.

The IRA August offensive coincides with terrorist outrages in other parts of Europe by groups like the ETA and separatists in South Tyrol. All have one common characteristic: They are fanatically committed to breaking up nation-states and reorganizing Europe along ethnic-regionalist lines. Their aim notably coincides with that of the Western oligarchical elite that supports the "Europe 1992" project for a "Europe of the regions," that would be dictatorially run by a supranational bureaucracy based in Brussels, Strasbourg, and Luxembourg.

As IRA and other terrorism escalated, "Europe 1992" supporters stated, in private discussions, that they hoped that such actions would improve the climate favorable to a "Europe of the regions" restructuring. Said one such individual, who works with former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's Inter-Action Council, "We could see a solution for the Basque region in the context of 'Europe 1992.' It could be made an autonomous region between Spain and France. Some of these border problems are soluble only in the context of bigger entities. In a United Europe, there would be no fight between nations as now. I foresee a solution for Ireland in this context, too. Also for Corsica. In a broader Europe, where a lot of borders would disappear, some of these problems with no solution today, would find a solution in a multilateral, or regional, framework."

Mrs. Thatcher has become a prime target of the "Europe 1992" architects and their Russian allies, precisely because of her repeated attacks on "Europe 1992" as an "airy fairy" idea. The British prime minister is legitimately worried that

an outbreak of particularist unrest across Europe could lead to the break-up of Great Britain itself. At the end of July, as she expressed her opposition to the "Europe 1992" project, the French left-liberal daily *Le Monde* editorialized that Mrs. Thatcher is, "after all, not eternal." Soon thereafter, the "Hot August" of the IRA began.

The Dukakis factor

The "Europe 1992" factor in the IRA identifies it as a "joint stock venture" of Eastern and Western intelligence services. To combat the terrorists effectively, the British authorities would have to complement the necessary security, military, and legal measures with a political offensive penalizing the Russians and backers of "Europe 1992." This could mean taking on what might be called the "Dukakis factor" in the IRA.

Privately, many British influentials express horror at a potential Dukakis presidency. The IRA is a factor. Dukakis, as governor and presidential candidate, has made deals with foolish Irish-American political machines in Massachusetts and elsewhere who romantically believe the IRA to be an army of liberation for "Irish" aims. More fundamentally, Dukakis is heavily dependent on the powerful "Kennedy machine," whose support for the IRA was put on display during the trip earlier this year to Northern Ireland of Rep. Joseph Kennedy, Jr. (D-Mass.), who actually got into fights with British security forces. The July 17 edition of the British weekly, *The Mail on Sunday*, identified "the IRA sympathizer" Kennedy, Jr. as one of Dukakis's "closest advisers."

Mrs. Thatcher has recently taken an initiative which could prove quite embarrassing to Michael Dukakis and his backers, even if that was not her intent.

On Aug. 15, Mrs. Thatcher released a letter on behalf of her government stating, "Our intention is to broaden and strengthen the existing offenses in the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1984. They will apply to certain categories of international terrorism as well as Northern Ireland terrorism.

"The definition of the prohibited conduct will be expanded so that it will more clearly cover the sort of activities and transactions carried on by banks and other financial institutions, and accountants and other financial advisers. Facilitation of the retention or control of terrorist funds will also be an offense. . . .

"Linked with the new offense, will be new powers of investigation modeled broadly on those in the Drug Trafficking Act 1986 to enable the police to carry out investigations into suspect funds."

The immediate target will be various extortion rackets in Northern Ireland. But sooner or later, the spotlight must fall on the Kennedy machine and related Dukakis-linked circles. One British insider portrayed the Thatcher letter as a "coded warning" to Dukakis on the IRA question. Will messages in the future be so coded?