

Kissinger and Soviet Union push for war on the Indian subcontinent

by Linda de Hoyos

"I fear there will be a sixth Indo-Pakistani War, with the United States and China drawn in on the side of Pakistan and the U.S.S.R. on the side of India." This was the word from "Colonel X," a researcher on international security for the Soviet Armed Forces in an Oct. 21 interview with the *London Observer*. No matter whether "X" is reflecting actual Soviet assessments or putting out diversionary disinformation, the fact is that the Soviets have been deploying doubletime to foment such a war.

The opening shots in this campaign began with the Aug. 9 TASS announcement that Moscow possessed evidence that Pakistan is preparing an imminent invasion of India. The Soviets recommend that India carry out a military strike against the Pakistani nuclear facility at Kahuta, 35 miles from the Indian border. The same war beat fills the Soviet-linked press in India.

Then, in the second week of October, the Soviet Institute of Oriental Studies dispatched its director of International Relations Research, Professor A. I. Chicherov, to India for a tour. Chicherov is now going through the country making speeches denouncing as "provocative" the U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan and "the American role in Pakistan's nuclear ambitions." Chicherov is also stressing that "Pakistan's involvement in the recent happenings in Punjab and Kashmir is a sign of American-inspired belligerence." The United States, Chicherov further complains, is "opposed to a normalization process" between Afghanistan and Pakistan—that is, does not permit Pakistan to recognize the Soviet-stooge Karmal government.

For the Soviets, an Indian invasion of Pakistan is the shortest route to Moscow's seizure of total hegemony over the Indian subcontinent. Furthermore, the exacerbation of tensions between India and Pakistan and the United States is an efficient Soviet mechanism for exerting control over the Indian government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who stubbornly retains a non-aligned stance toward both superpowers.

Next to their own assets in India, the biggest boosters in the Soviet game are in Washington, specifically the U.S. State Department and its controlling institution, Henry Kissinger's Center for Strategic and International Studies. For every provocation issued from Moscow, Kissinger and com-

pany are echoing back counter-provocations around Pakistan.

As Chicherov was running around India, U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Deane Hinton made a speech in Islamabad that was taken by Indian policymakers as a downright provocation. Speaking before the Pakistani Council on National Security, Hinton declared that given Pakistan's status as an ally of the United States, it was unlikely that there would be any attack on the country from the northwest—that is, from the Soviet Union or the Soviet troops in Afghanistan. Hinton chose to ignore the fact that the Soviets have moved two fresh divisions to the Afghan-Pakistani border and have begun a campaign of air raids against Pakistani villages along the border and terror-bombings in Peshawar. He ignored the report in the Karachi newspaper *Nawa-e Waqt* on Oct. 2 that the Soviets have installed SS-22 missiles 150 kilometers from Herat, at Soviet air and army bases in Shindand and Jalalabad. The population has been evacuated from these areas. The missiles have a range that allows them to hit Teheran, Islamabad, and Quetta.

The Soviets have made no attempt to hide their demands that Pakistan either accede to Soviet occupation of Afghanistan or face destabilization or even military attack.

By dismissing the threat from the Soviets, Hinton meant to imply that the real threat from Pakistan comes from the east—that is, India. Hinton also indicated that "if the contingency you are talking about is from the east, we will not be neutral if there is an act, committed by anybody, of flagrant aggression."

At the same time, James Buckley, a former undersecretary of state, was in Islamabad, at the personal invitation of head of state Zia ul-Haq, delivering the same message.

The danger in the remarks of Hinton and Buckley is not their effect in India, but in Pakistan. It is widely understood that the first casualty of a sixth Indo-Pakistani war would be Zia ul-Haq, whose regime depends upon its ability to provide Pakistan with some domestic and regional stability. Hinton and Buckley's pronouncements serve as green lights to that faction in the Pakistani military which has been chomping at the bit to take revenge against India for the loss of East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, in 1971.

By his statement that the U.S.S.R. is in Afghanistan in order to defend itself against Islamic fundamentalism, Hinton

betrayed his association with CSIS's Zbigniew Brzezinski, the man who declared in 1979 that "Islamic fundamentalism is a bulwark against communism." The CSIS is the same institution whose members regularly meet with Yevgenii Primakov, Chicherov's boss at the Soviet Oriental Institute.

Some questions for Washington

As Moscow was trumpeting its demand for an Indian military strike against Kahuta, the United States in September released a report to the Pakistanis that two squadrons of Indian fighter planes were heading for Pakistan's nuclear facility. This report, which then turned out not to be true, concerned the Indian government, not because U.S. satellites were surveilling India, but because the report showed the extent to which the State Department is interested in provoking tensions on the subcontinent.

The Indians also took exception to the reported letter of President Reagan to Zia ul-Haq to the effect that Pakistan should desist from building its own nuclear capability in exchange for gaining a U.S. nuclear umbrella. New Delhi fears that this is a foot in the door for U.S. basing rights in Pakistan.

On Oct. 20, India called U.S. Undersecretary of State for South Asia Richard Murphy on the carpet to explain U.S. actions. Murphy, on an unscheduled stopover in India during a trip to Sri Lanka, met with all of India's leading foreign policymakers. According to news reports from the Indian press, Murphy was asked such questions as: "Why did the United States release the false report on the squadrons heading for Pakistan? Why did Deane Hinton issue such inflammatory statements? Is that U.S. policy? If it is not, how is it possible that he could make such statements without the approval of the secretary of state? Why is the U.S. delivering such sophisticated weaponry to Pakistan, if it is not meant for a strike against India?"

Indian Foreign Secretary G. Parthasarathy informed Murphy that if the United States were attempting to load up Pakistan with armaments in order to counter Soviet influence in the region, it would not work. In fact, it would have the opposite effect, compelling India to go to the Soviet Union for weaponry to match the Pakistani arsenal.

Despite the fact that neither Pakistan's Zia nor India's Prime Minister Gandhi wants war, the heightening of tensions between the two countries—especially since the insurgency in the Punjab this spring—has forced war preparedness deployments on the ground. India has sealed off the entirety of the border between the two countries. At the end of October, Pakistan carried out the largest maneuvers it has ever executed close to the Indian border. The Pakistanis are also reportedly digging tunnels close to the disputed border in Jammu and Kashmir. On Oct. 22, Indian and Pakistani troops clashed. This is not an uncommon occurrence, but the fighting resulted in the destruction of a building, indicating that, for the first time, heavy weapons were used.

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