

LaRouche on Gujarat Riots

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., in his March 5 radio interview with Jack Stockwell, was asked about the riots in Gujarat. "The targetting of India," he explained, "for operations such as the religious conflict which was orchestrated in Gujarat, comes from a circle inside the United States, from the period of late 1998. People like the Cato Institute, up from around Harvard, are typical of many groups which formulated this policy, of targetting India as the major threat to the United States. . . .

"What we're seeing in Gujarat, in India, is a directed, Anglo-American-directed orchestration, by covert intelligence special-warfare means, of an incident which is intended to set forth the destruction of India, by bringing this Clash of Civilizations religious-conflict philosophy into India, to destroy it from within. And if you go back to the letters from the Cato Institute, at the end of 1998, you'll find exactly this policy; it's very clearly expressed, when you read the Cato and Rand Corporation studies, in light of the Clash of Civilizations policy." (See *Feature* for the full text.)

tration. The BJP's electoral campaign stresses a stronger and better India under the leadership of those who are imbued with "Hindu consciousness." It is this window through which rabid Hindu mobs found their footholds in the BJP.

The Hindu consciousness campaign for political gains, however, has lost much of its steam. The Vajpayee Administration, during its three years of existence, has muddled along, doing little to alleviate the conditions of the poor. The message was sent across clearly in the four state assembly elections that took place in February. The BJP lost electoral ground in each one.

What has begun to dawn on the BJP leaders, is that those Hindus who abhorred the Congress Party's politics of riots and manipulations, and voted for the BJP in the earlier elections, are now having second thoughts. Hence, it is not unlikely that some, if not most, in the BJP leadership have begun to worry. Maybe the party's political strength can be restored by getting a chunk of the vast votebank of backward Hindus, some of these leaders think. For such BJP leaders, riots do polarize population and votebanks shift allegiance. Was the Gujarat riot, then, triggered by some such conscious calculations?

Immediate Measures

Prime Minister Vajpayee's concern, of course, is India as a whole, and not the party alone. The Gujarat riot and the temple issue have pushed him into a situation which must be attacked forthwith.

To begin with, the anti-Muslim campaign by a section of his party is fraught with danger. There is a growing number of radical anti-Islam voices within India's new-found friends, such as the United States and Israel, who seek a war with the Muslim nations. Israel is the leading proponent of such a dangerous policy. India has developed strong military links with Israel, and Israel has spread its influence within the BJP. This could very well be one of the reasons why the VHP is acting so stridently and recklessly. According to recent reports, despite Prime Minister Vajpayee's opposition to the Ram Temple construction plan, and the tacit support he secured from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological mentor of the BJP, still the VHP wants to begin construction on March 15. If this plan is not thwarted, much bigger riots are sure to break open in densely populated Uttar Pradesh.

Secondly, the Muslim leadership must weigh the situation correctly. One Muslim leader told the press that the Godhra incident was "unfortunate," but the BJP was fully to blame for what followed.

The Muslim leadership, in unison, should not only condemn the torching of the train, but should actively pursue bringing the criminals to justice.

Gujarat borders Pakistan, and India-Pakistan animosity has been at a very high level since the aborted terrorist attack on India's Parliament House on Dec. 13. New Delhi has produced evidence of Pakistani terrorist groups' involvement in that attack. Gujarat also harbors a whole range of mafia dons, most of whom are Muslims, and who are in direct contact with Saudi Arabia. This connection, as was proven earlier, has been exploited by the Pakistani ISI to create terrorism and chaos in western India, in particular.

Gujarat is also one of most developed industrial states in India. It is the home of a wide range of industries, from textiles to fertilizer. It is also a target area of foreign investors. There are reports that a large number of migrant workers from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, who came to work in Gujarat, are leaving. While most of these workers are Muslims, a significant number are Hindus as well.

Finally, the Muslim leaders must realize that the Ram Temple, though the campaign to build it is led by noxious Hindu fanatics such as the VHP and the Bajrang Dal, will be welcomed by the majority of Hindus. The Babri Mosque, not a significant mosque by any account, no longer exists. In the interests of Hindu-Muslim unity, and as a bargaining chip, the Muslims, as an act of generosity, should allow the temple to be built, and even send volunteers to take part in the construction. This will defuse the Hindu-Muslim tension and steal the thunder from the fanatic Hindu groups. This will also allow the Muslim leaders to bargain successfully on issues that would improve the lot of their community.

It is time that the Muslims make such a positive representation to Prime Minister Vajpayee. It is likely that he would listen.