

Kashmir Sentinel

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Masacred Kashmiri Pandits at Wandhama

ISI build up on LOC, Islamist mercenaries to strike hard **Chemical weapons not ruled out**

Special Correspondent

JAMMU: In its bid to escalate proxy war to a new level, Pakistani rulers have started issuing threats of a nuclear war in case Kashmir question was not settled. Hours after it exploded the nuclear devices, Pakistan declared a state of emergency. Disguised as 'Rangers' Pak army has been moved closer to LOC and is positioning heavy weaponry besides Radar systems towards the border. Heavy shelling and gunfire has been going along the entire LOC. Pakistan has created a war like situation

along Siachin, Kargil, Uri, Kupwara, Bhimber Gali and Poonch sectors.

To create war scare among the people Pakistan is trying to build war hysteria over possible Indian attack on Pak nuclear installations and terrorist training camps. The pro ISI Urdu daily JUNG in a speculative lead story said that ISI has 'unearthed' a blueprint of an Indian plan to attack POK in Aug Sep this year.

Reacting to Pakistan's new belligerency, Prime Minister Mr. Vajpayee warned Pakistan that any attempt to

take J&K by force would not be tolerated. Pakistan is pursuing a two-pronged approach in raking up war scare. One, under its cover, it wants to push nearly 10,000 mercenaries on Lashkar-e-Toiba into J&K to worsen the situation on the ground. Secondly, it wants to create a situation in which, western imperialist powers, nursing their own strategic ambitions in the region, to force a third party intervention. Muted international reaction to its nuclear tests has made Pakistan extremely hawkish on proxy war against India.

The Indian Govt. had conveyed in no uncertain terms its rejection of third party intervention on Kashmir. The Union Home Minister Mr. LK Advani has explained that his 'proactive' stand on Kashmir meant only preempting of acts of terrorists in J&K. Elaborating on security threats, Mr. Advani added that recent murders in Jammu, Udhampur districts was meant to create terror among Hindus in Jammu to quit the region.

The Chief of the Army Staff Gen V.P. Malik also categorically denied that In-

dian troops had crossed into POK in Kargil sector. Mr. Kuldeep Nayar had speculated that Indian army had crossed deep into POK territory following heavy casualties of Pakistanis.

Meanwhile Pakistan has stepped up campaign for vigorous pursuit of second phase of Operation Topac. This phase talks about "exerting maximum pressure on Siachin, Kargil and Rajouri Poonch to force Indian Army to deploy reserve formations outside the main Kashmir Valley". Hameed Gul, the no-

(cont. on P11)

Puri labours under illusion

Dear Sir

Refer to Mr. Balraj Puri's interview published in the Kashmir Sentinel (April 15-30, 1998)

Only a few days after the publication of his interview, Mr. Puri wrote in the Kashmir Times (May 8, 1998) that "while in the valley pro-India Muslims & members of establishment were the main targets of the militants. But in Jammu region the targets were not political but communal". Astounding as it sounds, ethnic purge of a community with 5000 year old history as its background setting is not tinged communal. The gory massacres at Sangrampura & Wandhama do not contribute communal content to the ongoing terrorist movement in Kashmir. He has also deftly omitted to make a mention of the blatant massacre of three Kashmiri Pandit academics in the hilly regions of Jammu by the armed fanatics regimented into bigotry and parochial hatred. Mr. Puri has not only ignored the present condition of exile and diaspora of Kashmiri Pandits, but also the total vandalization of their religious and cultural symbols of mind-boggling decimation of their habitations generating an ethos and identity. After Dhanwantri & K.D. Sethi, Kashmiri Pandits are his bete noir now.

About the massive exodus of Kashmiri Pandits, Mr. Puri has set afloat a barrage of lies and half truths which have been lavishly lapped by Kuldip Nayyar, Inder Mohan, Rita Manchanda, Sumantra Bose et al. After eight years of Muslim insurgency ravaging the valley, now spilling over to Jammu region at alarming, he continues to cling to the view that 'Jagmohan might have helped some (Pandits) to leave more out of humanitarian considerations that with the intention to malign Muslims'.

It is regrettable that Mr. Balraj Puri is said to have launched the worst disinformation blitz against Kashmiri Pandits when they were in total mess in camps and streets of Jammu and other regions of country. In his meeting with Mr. James M. Prince, Professional Staff Member of Foreign Affairs Committee of U.S. House of Representatives in April, 1994, Mr. Puri is said to have informed him that Kashmiri Pandits are in Jammu as a matter of routine 'as they usually migrate in large numbers during winter months and hire accommodation in Jammu and elsewhere'. He is said to have conveyed that 'amidst the total scenario in Kashmir the factor of Kashmiri Hindus is redundant and engineered as they are a cunning and deceitful community.' He is also reported to have said that the strife and discontent in the valley is basically due to the fact that large sections of Muslims are bereft of normal political and economic rights. Mr. Balraj Puri had practically no role in stopping the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in 1986 when they were blatantly aggressed and looted by the fanatic hordes.

He again claims to have stitched a committee with Justice Farooqi and Gh. Nabi Hagroo as its members, the former well known ideologue of JKLF and the latter on hard core secessionist with off betrayed parochial and antediluvian tendencies. It is dismaying that Mr. Puri still labours under a self nursed illusion that the committee would have stemmed the tide of exodus in 1989.

Prof. M.L.Koul
Bakshi Nagar, Jammu

Dear Sir,

This has reference to the interview of Sh. Balraj Puri published in your esteemed fortnightly.

It is a fact that Sh. Balraj Puri had taken pains to visit Kashmir in January 1990. He in fact, visited my maternal uncle's residence in Peer Bagh Hyderabad where I was staying at that time as my family had already left for Jammu.

To our utter shock, Sh. Puri chose to visit these Pandit houses accompanied by known secessionist leaders who had direct links with the terrorist outfits. In fact, some terrorist operatives were also seen moving around during these visits of Mr. Puri.

It is not understandable how Mr. Puri could assume that we could speak the truth and tell him about our perceptions in such circumstances. The entire methodology employed by Mr. Puri was bereft of any sensitivity and a concern to understand the truth. We could know that these visits had a covert motive to help the secessionist/terrorist flanks. The subsequent tabling of the controversial and biased report of the PUCL substantiated our fears.

- P.Mattoo
Kaupur (U.P.)

THOSE WHO LEFT US

(May 16-31 1998)

Kashmir Sentinel and Panun Kashmir Foundation mourn their sad demise and pray for peace and rest to the departed souls.

1. **Kashi Nath Raina** r/o 45, Karan Nagar, Sgr, presently at Karan Nagar Jammu. 14-05-98
2. **Shambhu Nath Raina** s/o Late Thakurjoo Raina r/o Chattabal Sgr, presently at 668-A Vikram Nagar Rehari Colony, Jammu. 15-05-98
3. **Smt. Sampkuji** w/o Sh Gasha Bhat r/o Kulgam, presently at Q.No. 57-58 Migrant camp Purkhoo 14-05-1998.
4. **Sat Lal Trakroo** s/o Sh Kashi Ram R/O Kralpora presently at H.No. 46, Housing Colony, Udhampur 14-05-98
5. **Srikanth Bhat** s/o Late Prasad Bhat R/o Verinag, presently at H.No. 249, Sector 13, Lane No 3 Nanak Nagar Jammu, 16-05-1998.
6. **Master Karan Sumbali** s/o Sh. Raj Kumar Sumbali r/o 13 B/B Gandhi Nagar Jammu 18-05-1998.
7. **Sh. Prithvi Nath Kaul** r/o karan nagar Sgr presently at DI 203, Vinay Marg Chanakyapuri N. Delhi, 15-05-98
8. **Raj Kapoor Tikoo** s/o S.L. Tikoo, R/O Anantnag at present Qrt. No. 496 Nagrota Camp Jammu, 16-05-98
9. **Radha Krishan Bhat** R/O Mattan Anantnag at present Camp Misriwala Jammu, 17-05-98
10. **Kaka Jee Koul** R/O Fateh Kadal Srinagar, presently at H No 9, Lane 1, Gole Puli Talab Tilloo, 18-05-1998.
11. **Prem Nath Pandita** s/o Lt. Shiv Nath Pandita r/o Vill. Deeri Muran, Pulwama presently at Qr No 98/A Muthi Camp Phase II, Jammu. 17-05-98.
12. **Smt Jagat Mohini Machama** w/o Lt Sh Onkar Nath Machama r/o Rainawari, Srinagar presently at Kong Posh Colony, Delhi. 18-05-98.
13. **Smt Tarawati Matoo** w/o Lt Sh Sonu Koul Matoo r/o Manigam,, Ganderbal, Kashmir presently at H No 17 Sector A-1, Laxmipuram, Chinore, Bantalab, Jammu, 19-05-98.
14. **Smt Roopawati Koul** w/o Lt Sh Kashi Nath Koul r/o Bagat Barzulla, Kashmir presently at H No 180 Sector 2 Pamposh Colony,, Janipur, Jammu. 20-05-98.
15. **Smt Soomavati Koul** r/o R N Mandir Srinagar,, presently at E-2, BC Qtrs, Jammu. 20-05-98.
16. **Smt Tarawati** w/o Lt Sh Vishwanath Raina r/o Patlipora Bala, Chattabal, Srinagar, presently at 270, Sharika Nagar, Gole Puli Talab Tillo, Jammu. 19-05-98.
17. **Pt Prithvi Nath Kakroo** s/o Late Sh Sarwanand Kakroo R/O Ganpatyar, Srinagar Presently at Qr No 232/228, Muthi Camp Ph I, Jammu. 20-05-98.
18. **Smt Saidlakshmi** w/o Lt Sh N Bakshi R/o nazuk Mohalla, Anantnag presently at A-2/20-21, Upper Shiv Nagar Jammu. 23-05-98.
19. **Kanya Lal Gadroo** r/o Bemina colony, Srinagar presently at AD 2 Qtrs HMT Colony, Pinjore, 22-05-98.
20. **Smt Sonabatni Dhar** w/o Lt Hakim amar Nath Dhar r/o Safa Kadal Srinagar presently at 133/9 Kishori Garh, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi Date not available.
21. **Pt Prem Nath Pandita** r/o Karlyar, Rainawari, Srinagar presently at H No 7 Ber Sarai, New Delhi. 21-05-98.
22. **Triloki Nath Ganjoo** r/o Mohalla Malyar, Habba Kadal Srinagar Presently at 370-B, Sector 1, Durga Nagar Jammu 16-05-98.
23. **Smt Gauri Shori** w/o Sh Som Nath Bhat r/o Nagam Badgam, Kashmir, presently at Lanme No 19, Rajpura Jmu. 23-05-98
24. **Ratan Lal Bujoo** s/o Lt Sh Vesh Nath Bujoo r/o Kralyar, Rainawari, Sgr presently at Katthu. 24-05-98.
25. **H N Punjabi** presently at 20 A/C Gandhi Nagar Jammu 25-05-98.
26. **Dina Nath Koul** r/o Zandar Mohalla Habba Kadal, Srg presently at GH 587, Flat No 63, 2nd Floor, Mira Bagh, Paschim Vihar New Delhi. 24-05-98.
27. **Smt Lalita Bhat** w/o Lt Sh Autar Krishan Bhar r/o Keni Mohalla Rainawari srg presently at H No RD/18, Mandlik Nagar Toph Sherkhaniyan, Jammu. 22-05-98
28. **Tej Krishan Kak** s/o Sh Radha Krishan Kak r/o Sathu Barbarshah Sgr Presently at EC 36, Railway Colony West, Railway Stn Jammu. 25-05-98.
29. **Jia Lal Pandita** r/o Ramlal, Anantnag presently at Chandan Vihar, Muthi, Lane-1,, Jmu. 25-05-98.
30. **Smt Radha Rani Machama** w/o Lt Sh Nathji Machama r/o Rainawari, Srg presently at c/o 2/14 Pandoka Colony Paloura, Jmu. 24-05-98.
31. **Sh Brij Nath Koul** r/o Sirmoo Pulwama presently at 200 sector 1, Vinayak Nagar, Muthi Jammu. 23-05-98.
32. **Moti Lal Bhat** s/o Lt Sh Shivjee Bhat r/o Nazuk Mohalla Anantnag, presently at H No 3, Zero Lane Anand Nagar, Bhaori Patta, Talab Tilloo Jammu. 26-05-98
33. **Smt Tulsi Machama** w/o Lt Sh Radha Krishan Machama, r/o Rainawari Srg 24-05-98.
34. **Master Sandeep Kachroo** Sh. T N Kachroo r/o Mattan, Anantnag presently at Qtr No 373,, Muthi Camp Ph I, Jammu 26-05-98.
35. **Smt Shobhawati Koul** w/o Sh K N Koul r/o maharaj Ganj Srinagar presently at 24-B Govt Qtrs Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. 29-05-98.
36. **Pt Jagger Nath Koul** r/o Nazuk Mohalla Anantnag presently at 87-89 Block A Lane 2, Roop Nagar Enclave, Jammu 28-05-98.
37. **Pt Moti Lal Dhar** r/o Gmd Dalipora I, Teh Handwara Kashmir presently at B 15, Muthi Camp Ph II, jammu 25-05-98
38. **Pt Jia Lal Raina** (Harkar), r/o Salia Anantnag presently at Paloura BSF Road Jammu. 29-05-98.
39. **Smt Prabha Vati Handoo** w/o late Sh Naranjoo Handoo r/o H No 17 Street No 18 rainora, Jammu. 27-05-98.

Kashmir Sentinel INFORMATION

The office of Kashmir Sentinel has been shifted to
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- EDITOR

RSS opposes move

BJP KAC toes NC line**Special Correspondent
Jammu**

The statement of RSS Chief Professor Rajinder Singh quoted by a local daily, rejecting the possibility of an early return of displaced Pandits, has mollified the feelings of BJP-RSS cadres amongst displaced Pandits in Jammu for a while. However speculations about the machinations of the BJP Kashmir Affairs Cell headed by Sh K.N.Sahni and Sh Chaman Lal Gupta who reportedly are seeking an early return of displaced Pandits more or less as per the plans of ruling National Conference, have not as yet died down.

Internal sources point out a deep alienation amongst the old cadres of BJP-RSS from Kashmir. This alienation is primarily being attributed to the handling of the issue of displacement by BJP Kashmir Affairs Cell. This Cell is being reportedly charged of cultivating an ethnic and caste bias against the Pandits. These cadres view the indirect alliance between BJP and ruling National Conference with suspicion.

In the experience of many RSS-BJP workers [who wanted to remain anonymous], during the internal briefings of the organisation and even direct contact with the leaders of Kashmir Affairs Cell, the issue of internal displacement of Kashmiri Pandits was no longer viewed with priority and sensitivity.

In fact, many of these workers openly admit that this coterie of BJP Kashmir Affairs Cell has similar opinion on the issue of return of displaced Pandits as that of Farooq Abdullah.

The experience of non-BJP activists also substantiate these observations. Last year when a delegation of displaced employees from AG's Deptt. tried to seek help from Sh Sahni on the issue of their forced transfer to Kashmir, they were rebuffed. "If Army can stay their why can't you!" said

Sh. Sahni, as per one of the members of the delegation, Sh Rajinder.

Interestingly, Dr Farooq Abdullah's contention in favour of return of displaced Pandits is almost along similar lines. "They have to return; if Muslims can fight terrorism why can't Pandits; Pandits have developed a vested interest against return' etc., etc. are the main themes of propaganda against displaced Pandits unleashed by NC.

This process had its impact and in fact some Pandit leaders were even bluffed into a dialogue with the Govt. on the issue of return. Aftermath of all this propaganda hype was fatal in the form of massacres in Sangrampur, Gool and Wundhama.

Alarmed by these undercurrents, Kashmir BJP-RSS cadres are trying frantically to send their message across. In the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha national meet at Delhi recently, Kashmir Unit had openly canvassed for a direct representation to displaced Pandits in the National Forum. In fact, since the displacement of Pandits in 1989 the representation of Kashmiri Pandits in the important organizational fora has been almost nonexistent. This is being primarily attributed to the machinations of BJP Kashmir Affairs Cell.

"After the martyrdom of Sh Tika Lal Taploo then State BJP Vice President and Head of Kashmir Province, Sh A N Vaishnavi, the Sangh Chaalak of Kashmir Vibhag of RSS was forced to join BJP and fill the vacancy, but only temporarily. This was a deft move to force him to submit to the overall leadership of Sh. Chaman Lal Gupta. Vaishnavi ji at that time was emerging as an undisputed leader of displaced Pandits. After curtailing his emergence the Kashmir Affairs Cell unceremoniously shunted him out of the Party hierarchy" observed an old Swayam Sevak.

Interestingly, the new in-

cumbents in the BJP amongst displaced Pandits are hand picked faces unknown to senior RSS-BJP Cadres from Kashmir.

Even these new incumbents into BJP appear to be feeling inconvenient about the local policy of the Party on the issue of return. Rellegation of this sensitive issue to a non-priority in party agenda is putting them into an embarrassing position amongst the displaced Pandits.

According to internal sources, in the recently con-

Special Report

cluded National Executive meet of BJP on 3rd and 4th May 1998, 4 Resolutions were moved by the Kashmir unit of BJP. The Resolutions concerned mainly with geopolitical restructuring of Kashmir where social demography will be relatively positive towards Hindus of Kashmir; economic package for displaced Pandits; granting of minority status to Kashmiri Pandits and announcement of reward to any civilian who kills a militant in the militant infested areas of Jammu province

All the four Resolutions were rejected without any debate. Interestingly, more than 140 amendments to the main resolution were accepted in the National Executive meet.

Intellectual sections of the displaced Pandits are however disturbed more by a different trend in the BJP-RSS circles. They allege that within RSS-BJP circles frequent reference are made to the failures of Nehru-Gandhi ideology. They also allege that disdainful references are also made towards coterie of Kashmiri Pandits Civil Servants who rose to eminence during the Nehru-Gandhi era. "In fact, anti-Nehruvian rhetoric of Sangh Parivaar reflects some times as an anti Kashmiri Pandit attitude. If somebody in Sangh thinks that KPs were responsible for the emergence of Nehru or Indira Gandhi or KPs were the beneficia-



Taken for a ride? Union Minister for Tourism, Mr ML Khurana enjoying a shikara ride during his visit to the Dal Lake.

ries of Nehruvian policy, it reflects a gross ignorance of history," said Prof Bansi Lal. He further added that Pandits were the worst victims of Nehruvian model of Nation building.

In a recently concluded meet of old RSS workers from Kashmir on 12th & 13th April 1998, many Swayam Sewaks forthrightly communicated their views to RSS General Secretary, Sh KS Sudarshan. "It's an insult to our dedication and the spirit of RSS ideology if RSS workers develop a sectarian bias against KPs simply because Nehru happened to be a KP," commented an old Swayam Sewak who attended the meet.

Although alarmed by the flirtations of BJP with National Conference and particularly the speculations about BJP toeing NC line on issue of return, Pandit leadership would not like to jump to conclusions and is adopting a wait and watch policy.

"We should not judge BJP by the attitude of a lobby. Statements of Sh Atal ji and Adwani Ji in no way indicate that the BJP is out to accommodate the NC view on the return of displaced," said Dr Ajay Chrungoo, Chairman Political Affairs Committee of Panun Kashmir.

Even the Kashmiri Muslim representatives in the local BJP have resented the Pro-NC thinking in the Kashmir Affairs Cell on the issue of return. According to reliable sources the fe-

male Muslim representatives from Kashmir in the BJP, openly confronted Sh M L Khurana and cautioned him against any hasty experimentation with displaced Pandits, during his recent visit to the State.

Categorical statement from BJP stalwart, Sh KL Sharma rejecting any possibility of early return of KPs until restoration of complete normalcy, reflects that Kashmir affairs have not been totally left to the discretion of Kashmir Affairs Cell of BJP.

Faced with impending displacements of Hindus from the higher reaches of Rajouri, Poonch, Doda and other parts of Jammu province, the RSS leadership is under a tremendous pressure. Thus, it appears to be taking a different line on the issue of return of displaced Pandits to the inconvenience of many pro-NC sections of local BJP.

Sh. Inderesh Kumar, Prant Pracharak of J&K and Himachal Pradesh stated the policy of RSS on return. He said, "economic package is not the criteria for return of Pandits. Unless the basic issues which lead to the exodus and cleansing of Hindus in Kashmir are addressed, their return is not possible. RSS cannot allow Pandits to become cannon fodder."

As conflicting signals keep emanating from different sections of the Sangh Parivaar, the displaced Pandits shall continue to be tossed between hopes and fears.

Puri releases Paper

Serious rift in RAC

KS Correspondent

Jammu : Serious conflict appears to have surfaced in the Regional Autonomy Committee after its working chairman, Balraj Puri released the Concept Paper on Regional Autonomy to the Press on May 25, 1998. The Concept Paper is supposed to constitute Chapter 1 of the envisaged Report on regional autonomy which is reportedly in its final stages of completion.

The release caused a surprise in the highest echelons of the National Conference leadership. Dr. Farooq Abdullah immediately contacted Mr. Puri and is reported to have sought explanation for this unilateral decision on the part of Sh. Puri. Another important member of the Regional Autonomy Committee (RAC) the Finance Minister Mohd. Shafi Uri publicly condemned Mr. Puri for releasing the paper and charged that RAC had not been taken into confidence.

Mr. Puri strongly contested

these allegations and informed that the Concept Paper released by him had been formally adopted by the RAC in its meeting on Oct 25, 1997. When contacted by the Kashmir Sentinel correspondent, Mr. Puri expressed his shock and surprise on the public outburst of Mohd. Shafi Uri. He said, "My experiences of the past are bitter. NC leadership on many occasions has backtracked from its earlier commitments on the issue of regional autonomy. When out of power they support the issue, but when in power they eventually develop cold feet".

Whereas Sh. Puri seems to have taken the incident quite seriously, the office of the RAC appears to be playing it down. The circles within the office hold the view that the conflict has been overplayed by the media. They also seem to believe that such matters only reflect the individual attitudes of some members and would not affect the release of the final report.

Mr. Puri seemed to be quite at pains explaining why he was unable to carry other RAC members on the issue with him. He avoided to answer directly the question about the difficulties and opposition faced by him in finalizing the report. Mr. Puri raised many more questions on the issue and commented, "I would like to finalize and submit the report at the earliest. I should not be expected to spend rest of my life in the autonomy committee. I have many more things to do".

NC leadership' reaction and Puri's unilateral moves have put a big question mark on the outcome of the RAC exercise. Speculations are rife that Mr. Puri is preparing ground to quit like his counterpart, Dr. Karan Singh, in the State Autonomy Committee a few months back.

Opposition to the RAC report by known hard-liners in the NC, like Mr. Uri, indicate deep ideological differences within the RAC.

Capt. Tikoo : An Interview

"Things have gone worse"

Sentinel Correspondent N.Delhi

Q. How do you sum up your assessment of last two years of the elected government in the State ?

A. Things have gone in many ways from bad to worse. Worst carnages took place during these two years in the state. Recent killings of over 30 people in Mahore is an indicator about the state of terrorism and insurgency. Earlier we had Sangrampura and Wundhama massacres when everything was proclaimed to be fine capturing of anti aircraft guns from Kupwara is very alarming. The S.P. of the area has said that there are seven such pieces. Such weapons have a range of 5000 ft. and can hit any aircraft. Can you claim that militancy has been brought under control.

Economically we are worse off, here are no jobs available. In fact jobs are on sale. Everybody knows that for getting a job you have to pay money. There are different price tags

Capt. S.K. Tikoo, is a prominent KP intellectual who joined Awami League at the very founding of the organization. He is the main ideologue and spokesperson of the organization. Our Special Correspondent had an exclusive interview with him. Excerpts are produced here.

for different jobs. For example for the constable post price tag is Rs. 40,000/-. Even for appointment of SPO Ten to twenty thousand rupees are being paid.

Q. What is government doing about this state of affairs particularly corruption ?

A. It is within Dr. Abdullah's power to curb such corrupt practices. He does not have to enact any law but change the rule and anybody can be suspended and dismissed from police service. But he is not keen to act. NC MLA has accused, Provincial president of NC of Kashmir for appointing his matriculate

son on the post of Asst. Regional Transport Officer.

Q. What is your view about Jammu agitation?

A. It again reflects upon the performance of NC. Regional discontent has reached its peak. For last 55 days Jammu is on fire but Nero is still fiddling. Dr. Farooq continues to be undisturbed. He is attending marriages, parties and shopping.

Q. What about the state of affairs in National Conference?

A. Abdul Ahad Wakil has resigned. We are being told that he was shunted out for delay in clearance of a file. Should a cabinet minister be dismissed on such ground. Fact is that there are dissensions in the party. Ab. Ahad Wakil is a hard-liner. He is a typical plebescite front man.

Q. Do you think that present state of affairs in the State is because of misgovernance or there is some thing more to it ?

A. It is because of both.

(cont. on P11)

Excerpts of Balraj Puri's statement on concept paper on regional autonomy

...The essence of conceptual framework that the committee has adopted is the widest sharing of political power and equitable criteria for financial allocation and development process among the regions of the state and within regions. The committee firmly believes that a balanced development in the political, economic, cultural and social fields of all the regions and within regions is the surest way to promote integrity and emotional harmony of the state. Much of the emotional energy of the state has been wasted in tensions and allegations regarding lack of equitable treatment meted out to the regions.

...The committee has drawn upon the experiences in the rest of the country as also foreign countries to come to the conclusion that only a federal constitution can unite various kinds of diversities within a democratic system. For this reason, even the erstwhile unitary form of governments are switching over to a federal set.

...As Jammu & Kashmir state is a conspicuous instance of a state that cannot be divided without generating communal troubles and creating other grave implications which can have repercussions in rest of the country, it is a fit case for replacing the present unitary form of con-

stitution by a federal system. Further due to diversities within the regions there is equal need for extending the federal system within the regions also linking it with the three tier Panchayat Raj which has come into vogue in almost all the states of the country. The empowerment of Districts, Blocks and Panchayats would be truly effective only with a similarly political empowerment of regional tier. A five tier system, the committee believes, alone can ensure unity of the state and sense of participation to the people.

...Apart from vertical decentralization of political power, a truly federal and democratic system must also ensure adequate safeguards of the aspirations and interests of non territorial identities which transcend the boundaries of districts and regions. In particular adequate measures should be provided for safe guarding and promotion of their distinct cultures.

... Financial autonomy is an important ingredient of political autonomy. Every unit of democratic system from Panchayat to regions must not only get adequate power for raising resources but the financial allocation by the state should be governed by an objective and equitable formula and should not depend upon arbitrarily, political and subject to considerations.

Displaced Students face hostile KU

KS Correspondent

Jammu : Once again, the vested interests in Kashmir University are bent upon spoiling the career of displaced Pandit students, studying in the camp colleges. These students who already suffer from many disadvantages, have flayed the KU authorities for the delay in the examinations. For months together, the students are kept in dark about the date of examination and then at a very short notice the examination schedule is announced. The students feel frustrated. Their performance has been deteriorating year after year, besides the loss of some academic years.

There is a definite design, the aggrieved students

allege, to impose educational genocide on the community. Meanwhile the Kashmiri Migrant Government College Teachers Association under the Chairmanship of Prof. B.L.Zutshi expressed serious concern over the delay in examination for the camp college students of first year undergraduate courses.

It lamented that Kashmir University had not heeded to the recommendation of the principals of the camp colleges regarding the conduct of examinations.

The association had reiterated the demand of delinking of the examination schedule for the camp students from that of the Valley as it did not coincide with the academic calendar of Jammu province.

News Brief

BJP decries China's INTERFERENCE

New Delhi

The BJP today decried the China's criticism of Home Minister L.K.Advani taking over the charge of J&K affairs. " We take strong exception to the Chinese description of Mr. Advani as being intransigent . It is none of their business", party Vice President K.L.Sharma said.

Mr. Sharma added that the CPM "echoing china's views, had described Mr. Advani's statement asking Pakistan to roll back its anti-India policy as "provocative" and asserted " we will defend our territory at all costs".

Terrorists attack Dessa again

Doda : In their attempt to force minority out from this area, terrorists again attacked the house of a VDC member of Sher Kund area in Dessa area of District Doda . Reports reaching here say that VDC members Om Prakash and his brother Ram Prasad were sitting in their house when they were attacked.

Undeterred, both the brothers took positions and fired upon the militants. In the encounter, which lasted one hour, Ram Prasad sustained bullet injury in his right arm. The police which reached after some time, however, failed to nab the terrorists.

Historic building gutted in a mysterious fire.

Srinagar : The 105 year old magnificent emporium building was completely gutted in a mysterious fire on May 26. This building set in an idyllic garden was originally constructed for viceroy and later became the permanent resident of the British Resident.

15 Houses gutted in Canpatyar

Srinagar : 15 houses were gutted in a mysterious blaze in Canpatyar, once a predominant Pandit locality.

Political Migrants' racket exposed

KS Correspondent

Jammu : Insurgency in Kashmir has created its own vested interests. Large scale criminalisation, frauds, cheating, grabbing the property of displaced Hindus, etc. have become the order of the day. In Medical College Hospital in Srinagar, touts have been duping the helpless patients in getting early dates for surgery. They charge from Rs 1500 to 2000 and escape. The cheated patients have no one to complain to, thanks to the total misgovernance.

In the district Anantnag some 'surrendered militants' and other vested interests have invented a novel method to cheated the people. They collect lush money from the unemployed people on the promise of providing a government job. This gang is also involved in flesh trading and transport innocent girls to Jammu. These girls, who are promised government jobs, are asked to seek 'migrant status'. Reportedly these girls are also assigned the job of trapping local girls in their net.

These 'political migrants' have been threatening the Relief Commissioner with dire consequences if the fake list of 2200 new 'migrants' was not released forthwith. It may be recalled that a list of 3300 new migrants is pending for verifi-

cation. The issuance of new list was stopped following a missive from J&K CID Headquarters, Srinagar that a gang operating from Anantnag has been producing fake threat perceptions certificates to avail the migrant status'

The Relief department cleared 696 cases, out of which 151 were found to be fake. Fearing threat from the people whom they have duped of thousands of rupees by promising Govt. jobs these elements have found Jammu a safe pasture for making a somersault after registering themselves as 'migrants'.

Sources said these 'political migrants' in connivance with some officials in the relief organisation and local goons have been instrumental in the preparation of these fake registration lists. These elements have been inducing more people for 'migration'.

Despite the fact that security situation in Anantnag has been relatively better since 1995, the number of 'political migrants' registered from Anantnag is 2200 while the corresponding figures Pulwama and Kupwara are 52 and 41 respectively.

Visibly harassed Relief Commissioner, Mr.Pritrhipal Singh Betab has sought transfer to escape the wrath of 'political migrants'.

Farooq's anti-Pak hysteria: diversionary; alleges Mufti

KS Correspondent

Jammu : Mufti Mohd. Sayeed, Congress (I) MP from Anantnag today accused Dr. Farooq Abdullah of whipping anti Pakistan hysteria as a diversionary policy. He said Dr. Abdullah was acting as a super patriot, echoing the "jingoistic" slogans of BJP to hoodwink the people disillusioned with his nonperformance. Mr. Mufti said the alienation of people was deepening due to total misgovernance of NC government. He added that BJP and NC were hand-in-glove and their unholy alliance has only added to the people's miseries. While BJP was talking of discrimination against Jammu, it has

been fully backing Dr. Abdullah in his designs to divide the people on communal lines. Mufti Mohd. Syeed accusing NC government of wasting central funds meant for development of the state. He said that situation in J&K was far better during Governor's rule than today. The militancy was contained to a larger extent during President's rule but the failure of NC on political and economic fronts have once again alienated masses.

RDX recovered

Srinagar : Police recovered 42 Kgs of RDX from a terrorist hideout at Shar Shalli area in District Pulwama on May 21st.

Unrelenting attacks on minority in Doda

Sentinel Correspondent Jammu

In its campaign for repeating ethnic-cleansing in the Muslim majority district of Doda, terrorists remain unrelenting in their attacks on the Hindu minority of the district. On May 21, they kidnapped a forest contractor Hari Chand S/O Shiv Lal from his house in Village TIPRI in Thatgru tehsil. He was first brutally tortured and then his dead body was thrown near a Nullah.

In the Kishtwar town in a sensation killing, terrorists gunned down Chaman Lal Shan, a serving Medical Assistant during broad day light. On 19th May, two terrorists fired a volley of shots on him from point blank range outside the main Hospital gate. He was on way to hospital, when terrorists struck. Chaman Lal fell down bleeding profusely, while as usual terrorists managed to escape. Kishtwar became tense after the killing. Apprehending trouble, the authorities immediately clamped down curfew, which remained in force for two days.

Reacting sharply to the campaign of selective killings district BJP leaders Bali Ram Bhagat legislator from Ramban and Mr. D.K.Kotwal, state BJP Chief demanding handing over of the district to Army.

Bhagat alleged that the situation in the district was as grave as in the year 1992-93 and demanded use of IAF to destroy hideouts of mercenaries in upper reaches. He warned that the people would be forced to migrate to safer places if timely and effective steps were not taken immediately.

Mr. Bhagat quoted statements of the injured victims from Chirala Village of Thathri to say that the locals actively connived in these selective killings. He alleged that Sajid Hussain alias Tita, Abbas of Amrigarh area, Mushtaq, Amjed, Nissar and Sajad Ahmed of Chirala and three other villagers from Joura in Gandoh as per them were involved. Mr. Bhagat also alleged that militants and some locals have created panic in Kuntwara in Kishtwar and Kandhota in Thathri tehsil in Doda district.

Fresh KP exodus

Sentinel Correspondent

Jammu : Even as BJP toes Farooq Abdullah line on coercive symbolic return of Pandits, the 4,800 odd Pandit souls putting out in Kashmir, despite adverse conditions have begun serious thinking on bidding good-bye to their homeland. After braving the worst dangers through compromise or leaving their fate to God in 1990, these Pandits had felt relatively secure from 1994 onwards, when counter-insurgency was at its peak.

The return of 'popular rule' destroyed all the gains as far as safety of holed up Pandits was concerned. The entire world knows that National conference is not serious in return of the entire displaced community. Dr. Farooq Abdullah, understands the madness in mad Indian politics. His rhetoric on Pandit return was sim-

ply to hoodwink the national opinion. But the price for this sinister rhetoric had to be paid by innocent Pandits first in Sangrampura, Gool and then Wardhama. Rhetorics remain rhetorics.

Sangrampora and Wandhama shattered many illusions of beleaguered Pandits . Prior to 1996 many conversions also had taken place, as per a report in Sunday Mail.

After Wandhama Pandits feel more insecure. Recently six Pandit families from Renipora village in remote belt of Anantnag, three families from Bandipora and five Pandit families from Ganderbal area have shifted to Jammu. They have given not only gruesome picture of law and order situation prevailing in the valley, but also narrated woeful stories of harassment and threat to their lives.

Kashmir Sentinel

(June 1-15, 1998)

Return of Displaced

Notwithstanding the BJP's repeated talk of a proactive approach in Kashmir, the displaced families from Kashmir, Doda, Poonch, Rajouri and Udhampur seem less and less convinced about the possibility of an early return to their homes.

It is not surprising if the displaced would be skeptic about the very intention of the administration to create conducive situation for a viable rehabilitation of the minorities in these vulnerable areas of the state. The displaced have time and again alleged that the entire approach of the state in this context has been primarily of their physical retention. They have also alleged that there is hardly any appreciation of the fact that besides fulfilling a basic prerequisite of maintaining pluralism, the minorities are an extension of the civilizational frontiers of the Indian state.

Pursuing a Nehruvian model based on socialistic concerns, the Indian state failed to develop a civilizational perspective of its strategic and geopolitical concerns. Thus, the state failed to defend its frontiers and rebut aggression from both the north-eastern and northwestern frontiers. Nearly a hundred thousand square kilometers of its territory continues to be in illegal possession of both China and Pakistan.

After BJP's takeover in Delhi, expectations have been galore regarding developing a basic civilizational perspective and thus consolidating the nation building process through strengthening a social base of strategic nationalist segments in these frontiers of India. Both Kashmiri Pandits as well as the displaced Hindus of Doda, Rajouri, Poonch and Udhampur in Jammu are such strategic minorities. Their viable long-term rehabilitation in these hostile terrains, where foreign based terrorism is aiming to destroy the civilizational presence of the nationalist pro-India population, acquires a strategic significance. The nation shall pay heavily if its concern would rest only on their coercive physical retention.

It is expected therefore that a BJP government would just not toe a line of its predecessors and seem only to be following a National Conference line on the entire issue. The definitional status of the displaced must be addressed at the earliest to fix the conceptual framework of return and rehabilitation. Deprivations in exile should also be delinked from the issue of return in order to demonstrate the responsibility of the state towards them.

Euphemism on the subject has done tremendous harm. Further dithering on addressing the core-issues which have lead to religious cleansing is bound to fall upon the sovereignty of the Indian state. Long-term measures to reverse the situation are the need of the hour.

By Garry Kessler

This point by point article is not intended to drag the two great democracies (one very old and one very young) over the coals or to offend nationalistic feelings. It is meant to inform, educate and help create a debate, hopefully leading to purposeful and positive actions.

India needs to get tough with Pakistan and China for openly interfering in its internal affairs. Its Foreign Ministry is far too passive. Too much talk. Diplomacy is fine but India needs to wield the big stick once a while and why it does not is beyond comprehension. Vulnerability invites aggression. No country puts up with the acts of war. Nations respect another that will hit back and hit back hard. Maybe India should funnel arms and conduct training for the Mohajirs, Baluchis and Pathans seeking autonomy from Pakistan and to indigenous groups in Southern China. Bangladeshis should be firmly discouraged from crossing Indian lines. This will change the stereotypical attitude that India and its people are pushovers and that its leaders lack resolve. India should act/react with moral authority in its best interests and not care what the world has to say.

America is the only superpower around to day. But it has to be careful before it lords it over the rest of the world. America needs to look inwards for all is not well at home. Great empires fell, not necessarily from threats without but from decay within. America today is spreading itself too thin, militarily, economically, diplomatically and culturally.

There cannot exist two qualities of goods and services - one for export and one for import. This is a slap in the face of Indian consumer. Indian women spend hours every week cleaning stones out of their grains and ready to cook. India makes world class goods but its image of filth and

poverty and political and bureaucratic inefficiencies eclipse all its achievements. As long as it stays poor, petty and pregnant, progress towards



meeting the basic needs of all its people will evade it.

America is no perfect nation no matter how it glitters on international TV. America has build on the tragic genocide and blatant destruction of native tribes (two thirds of the 50 million natives of the Americas, ignorantly called Indians, perished by the gun and foreign diseases after the Europeans arrived). The awful slavery of the African people and underpaid and overworked Chinese and Latinos. These unfortunate groups helped build a great nation and are still kept at peripheries of American social and economic life. Signs of social disaster can already be seen. Nation-building contributions of the European immigrants are not being discounted here. America today has made excellent progress towards equal opportunities for all of its diverse citizenry, but still remains a very Eurocentric nation. India always acts when it is too late. Terrorism is battled after the arms are in border fences put up after millions have crossed. over, bridges repaired after fatal crashes, police called in after deadly riots and the list goes on and on. Will the country ever learn? The nation has to over from a lethargic "fate" state of mind (what will be will be) to a "faith" state of mind (which is progressive and active). Of late Indians are di-

rectly or indirectly hurting another. Has Indian life ten that cheap?

America's people are ignorant about world affairs. This in spite of its efficient communications and media network. Only one in ten Americans can point out a nation on a world map. Geography and world history not stressed in American

Perspectiv

India should never negotiate with terrorists. It should do everything to detect and destroy them. Its strength should be displayed in prevention through good leadership, not going through endless tragedies. Its Black Commandos are now world renowned. They should have operational expertise and the support to neutralize the enemy anywhere in the world taking the fight to the enemy and not waiting for the enemy to come in.

schools. No wonder the public goes along easily with eminent interventions and tactics on foreign soil.

India has far too many people. That's the root of its problems. Throw inocracy and you've got a demographic mix. When too many people chase too few goods and vices you have the ingredients for a thousand related problems.

India & US

Two great democracies

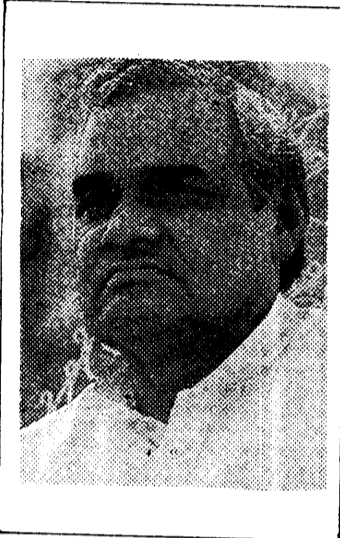
Strengths & shortcomings

SA

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one lems, corruption being one of them. All communities need to limit their offspring. Democracy cannot function with irresponsibility. India is now so



tion, sexual promiscuity and homosexuality and lack of commitment to parenting and marriage. Americans tend to handle their coins as irresponsibly as they handle their loins. Corporate America, which keeps raising the high-jump bar of success, is one guilty party. If a nation's families are under attack then so is that nation.

India should never negotiate with terrorists. It should do everything to detect and destroy them. Its strength should be displayed in prevention through good leadership, not going through endless tragedies. Its Black Cat Commandos are now world renowned.

They should have the operational expertise and the support to neutralize the enemy anywhere in the world, taking the fight to the enemy and not waiting for the enemy to come in. The Indian police and intelligence must improve their undercover operations and have their own regional anti-terrorism squads. They should remain apolitical without religious or communal affiliation and execute the law irrespective of the criminal's religious background or political connections. Crime (political or otherwise) should not be tolerated. India cannot ignore the important role played by its men and women in uniform.

They should be supported and not interfered with. The Indian army should not be used to douse local fires but to protect international borders. This army is respected the world over of its fighting ability. But it will take on a Banana republic image if it is seen in places where the police should be. The legal system should be quick, efficient, updated and secular. A nation can not have different laws for Hindus, Muslims or Christians. Equitable secular laws should be introduced. Politicians should not be elected on the platform of religion and Indians should not vote for such men or women whose only talent is playing the religion of caste card.

busy dealing with the symptoms that it forgets what the problem is. A nation of such great intelligence and resources should come out on top of its problems not constantly buckle in.

America's people have tremendous creativity which is why America invents. But lack of discipline and long-term commitment robs it of its edge. Americans know that the world steals its many creations and produces them enmass and cheap with total disregard to international patent laws. It needs to wake up and get tough or it will totally cease to be a manufacturing nation. Americans are tired of subsidizing the rest of the world.

India needs one language, whether Hindi, English or a mix of its major languages. One wonders why its linguistic experts, through the use of computers and extensive field research, cannot produce a language that is a proportionate combination of all major languages. Sure it will take a generation in time to implement but the rewards are well worth the efforts, especially to its children who will inherit all the good (and bad) that is left behind.

American families are under attack due to poor choice of priorities, departure from Judeau-Christian values, media-hype. 50 percent divorce rate, gross materialism, greedy and must have it now genera-

BJP assumes power

Dangers of Congressisation

By Jagan Kaul

We are pleased that there is a change of government in New Delhi. The United Front had become simply an instrument of delaying this change. The people of India have been working for decades for bringing about a change and now the BJP has a unique opportunity for revitalizing the Indian politics and cultivate a true kind of patriotism capable of initiating national unity and

OPINION

solidarity. We hope and pray that this organization keeps the faith, stays the course and fulfills the dreams and aspirations of our citizens.

The most important thing the BJP leaders have to do and should do is to stay away from those divisive factors which weaken the faith of the general public in the goodness and worthiness of the public service. This can happen only when there are no contradictions between their words and actions. The citizens of India are craving for political honesty and integrity. They want to be proud Indians having faith in their system and leaders.

Action taken by the BJP leadership in recent past which have put some important issues on the back burner have been interpreted as "dilution of their traditional policy". These issues include : a) a single national code; b) section 370 of the Indian Constitution, and ,c) building a temple at Ayodhya. The traditional supporters of the party cannot be expected to be pleased about withdrawing, these issues from the agenda, particularly when they played a pivotal role in mobilizing the masses behind the BJP, Political horse trading, violating and sacrificing, convictions and opportunism have been the traits and traditions of the Congress and United Front regimes for clinging to power at any cost. The last thing India needs today is a major political party turning into another Congress party. Such a development would only hasten the collapse of the Indian democracy.

We understand the "Political compulsions" faced by the new ruling party and we sympathize with them on this dilemma. At the same time we want to make it abundantly clear that we do not believe in the philosophy of "power and cost". More importantly we want our BJP friends to know

dullah dynasty and the National Conference after taking every thing from us they have launched a genocidal war against our community.

All we, the original inhabitants of Kashmir, are asking is that the BJP is committed to creating three new states in India. The experiment of 50

Action taken by the BJP leadership in recent past which have put some important issues on the back burner have been interpreted as "dilution of their traditional policy". These issues include : a single national code; section 370 and building a temple at Ayodhya. The traditional supporters of the party cannot be expected to be pleased about withdrawing, these issues from the agenda, particularly when they played a pivotal role in mobilizing the masses behind the BJP, Political horse trading, violating and sacrificing, convictions and opportunism have been the traits and traditions of the Congress and United Front regimes for clinging to power at any cost.

that notwithstanding, their overtures to Farooq Abdullah and the National Conference for cooperation in the parliament we were determined to defeat the Pakistan originated sinister plan of the liquidation of the Kashmiri Pandits. The question for us is very simple i.e. should 800 million Hindus of India allow the anti-Hindu conspiracy hatched by 100 million Pakistani Muslims succeed in Kashmir? And our answer to this question is a resounding No. Therefore, we will invite the Hindus of India to join us in this crusade. We reject the chameleon like role of Farooq and we hope that the BJP does not, in the interest of political expediency, let the Hindus of Kashmir down.

The KPs have paid the heaviest price for India's distorted sense of secularism. From 1947 more than a million Hindus had to leave Kashmir in the face of religious persecution. The Hindus there have suffered enormous economic, political and social deprivation initiated by the Abdullah dynasty and their allies. While India was intoxicated by the spirit of phony secularism, they succeeded in sending into the exile the entire Hindu community of whom tens of thousands were murdered and or killed by the harsh conditions of life imposed upon them in the refugee camps. Thanks to the Ab-

years of secularism has utterly failed in Kashmir because its majority community does not know how to function under the secular discipline. Instead of punishing the majority for its "dysfunctionality" the Indian authorities have rewarded them by sacrificing the KPs and thereby completely Islamizing Kashmir. This is wrong and totally unacceptable to us. Therefore, we too are asking for a "home land" to resurrect our community and save our culture. Unlike Abdullah and his supporters our allegiance to India has been, is and will continue to be unconditional and every Indian will enjoy nondiscriminatory citizenship rights in such a homeland.

As a sign of their determination for rooting out the institutionalized discrimination against Kashmiri Hindus the first and the foremost thing the BJP Govt. needs to do is to dismantle the anti-KP cells, established over the years, by the Congress and United Front Government, in most of the prominent foreign missions, Washington DC included, and recall the mujahids manning them. Under the BJP's own nondiscriminatory policy for the minorities there should be no place for such cells which deal with nothing but a campaign of disinformation and distortion which strengthens the hands of the communalists in India.

INDIA

Pakistan's grand scheme

Maj Gen (Retd) AFSIR KARIM

Pakistan continues to suffer from acute identity crisis even after 50 years of its existence. Despite frantic efforts, geographical and historical realities have denied it a leading role in the Muslim world.

The drubbing at the hands of India and finally the bifurcation of the country with the emergence of Bangladesh in 1971 just added to its identity crisis, in spite of the military and economic largesse from the USA and the Arab world.

All these factors led the Pakistani leaders to look for the ways and means to neutralize India's geo-strategic advantages.

Gradually the Pak strategists developed a 'grand design' to expand its strategic frontiers, by making inroads into Afghanistan and Kashmir. At the same time, Islamabad started contemplating acquisition of nuclear weapons to offset India's conventional military.

The steps considered necessary for creating strategic depth, in order to reduce the geo-strategic vulnerability of Pakistan were:

- Unsettling the Afghan polity to control the balance of power between various factions, so as to weaken the national identity by launching militant groups.

- Waging low intensity conflict in J&K, after gradually subverting the secular Kashmiri culture into a militant Islamic ethos.

- Abetting and arming separatist and fundamentalist groups to wage violent struggle to undermine India's political cohesion; and

- Creation of a nuclear deterrent;

- The events in Afghanistan, after Soviet intervention, sculpted

- As a US front line state, Pakistan was given physical control of arms supply and secret funds, meant for Afghanistan. The Americans also helped Pakistan's ISI in establishing two se-

cret schools to train terrorist and insurgent cadres. One school sabotage techniques and various methods of assassination. The second school trained large groups for cover of operations in Afghanistan and Kashmir.

It also created a power vacuum which Pakistan was able to fill through the Pukhtoon Mujahideen, Hekmatyar, their chosen leader, failed to deliver a complaint Afghanistan. However, he was the first to suggest a Pakistan-Afghanistan confederation, a concept which later crystallized as the Islamic Confederation of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Kashmir (PAK).

By then Pakistan's psychological war specialists had created several Islamic fundamentalist groups in Kashmir, ready to take up arms at the behest of ISI. According to the original time frame by the year 2000 AD several areas of Kashmir were to be liberated, and a puppet regime established in Kabul.

However, by 1997, it became clear that neither of these two objectives could be achieved in this time frame. Even the Taliban failed to achieve the desired political objectives, despite spectacular military advances.

In Kashmir the proxy war ran into trouble due to lack of popular support and a strong counter action by the Indian Army against the mercenaries.

Afghanistan proved a quagmire, with a destabilizing backlash directly affecting Pakistan. The proliferation of weapons and training of armed groups escalated interaction violence, Shia-Sunni riots turned increasingly lethal, the Mohajir Movement spread violence to large parts of the country, the Pukhtoonistan issue was resurrected and narco-terrorism acquired menacing proportions.

In these circumstances the 'grand design' of 'Greater Pakistan' had to be put on hold. The PAK plans have not, however, been given up, only postponed.

A study of various state-

ments emanating from top leaders of the Jamaat-e-Islami, retired Army Officers and certain media comments, indicates that Pakistan's action plan from 1998 to 2000 may be as under.

- Consolidation of present position in Afghanistan with efforts to establish a Taliban dominated, broad based government acceptable to the global community;

- Intensification of insurgency in J&K by providing heavier weapons to mercenaries, to inflict maximum casualties on the Indian Army;

- Increasing the level of violence in Urban areas in J&K to disrupt normal life with the aim of discrediting the elected government and eventually overthrowing it;

- Indulging in ethnic killings to embarrass the state and central governments; and

- Increasing the flow of funds to separatist and fundamentalist groups in India to escalate violence in various parts of the country.

India cannot remain a passive spectator to Pakistan's attempts to reshape the geopolitical landscape of the region. India needs to formulate a long-term strategy to counter Pakistan's nefarious designs. India should also make concerted efforts to draw the attention of the international community to Pakistan's continued sponsorship of terrorist and insurgent groups to wage proxy war in neighbouring countries.

Only elected MPs of India and Pakistan can solve Kashmir angle.

Tirupati :

The Lok Sabha speaker G.M.C. Balayogi today claimed that the Kashmir Tangle can only be resolved through interactions between the elected representatives of India and Pakistan.

Courtesy :
Sunday Observer

**International NGOs concerned about
Pandits' plight**

Wandhama carnage draws condemnation

Special Correspondent

Geneva: International Non Governmental Organizations have started taking a strong notice of the suffering of internally displaced Pandits and continued terrorists assaults on them.

In the 54th session of United Nations Commission on Human Rights several NGOs speaking on various aspects of Human Rights violations and rights and protection of minorities, spoke at length about the discrimination against Kashmiri Pandits on the basis of faith and violation of their rights as religious minority. There was also a forceful and outright condemnation of Wandhama massacre.

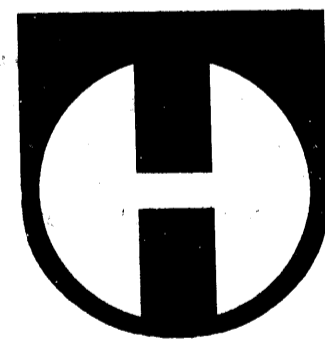
Geneva based NGO for 'Religious Freedom' was the first to intervene on the Pandit issue, which surprised many. Its representative Mr. Rossi drew the attention of the commission to the violation of most basic human rights namely right to life and expressed surprise that religious minority of Kashmiri Pandits had been left out of the jurisdiction of Indian Minority Commission. He questioned the legal sanction of this

discrimination against the religious minority of Pandits by the Indian Government. Mr. Rossi stated that there was a direct ethno-religious cleansing of the Pandits in their age old habitat of Kashmir.

Even known anti-India NGO namely the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities conveyed its unhappiness on Wandhama massacre.

President of European NGO namely, International Progress Organisation, Prof. Hans Koechler in his intervention drew the attention of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights on the plight of 300 thousand internally displaced Pandits and appealed to the commission to 'undertake an international investigation on the acts of terrorism in Kashmir and sent fact finding team to the area so as to determine the responsibilities for these acts of ethnic cleansing and genocide.

The Asian chapter of African Commission for Health and Human Rights Promoters made the most detailed intervention on the same issue.



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Theatre in exile

Who will play the Queen in Ak Nandun? This what the Kashmiri Bhaands, ask for one another. Shamima who won applause emoting as the queen is no more. The terrorists had kidnapped her, strangulated her and thrown her naked body on a Srinagar street. This the prement in Bhaand Duhayee, a play directed by M.K. Raina for the National School of Drama Repertory Company.

Shamima, however, is not the figment of dramatic imagination. She actually existed and made a name for herself as a stage, television and radio artist. Her bare, strangulated body thrown in a street sent the message loud and clear. Stop performing or die.

Bhaand Duhayee, which opened on Sunday as part of the International Mask Festival, is no mere indulgence in exhibiting the folk exotica. It is a play which unmasks the contemporary pain of the terror-struck Valley while using the folk form which is an inte-

gral part of the Kashmiri culture.

The violence in Kashmir is muffling elements of culture. The playwright highlights the plight of the traditional Bhaand community of performers who have not been able to perform for the last eight years. The denial of freedom to performs is the denial of their freedom to exist, "says Raina.

The strains of the shehnai open the play with part from a famous folk drama called the Shikargaah in which the paradise in which men and animal live in harmony is shattered by the royal soldier. He is, of course, chased away. And then we have the ageing troupe leader, Rasool Bhaand, stepping out of his hut determined to do a show for he has been suffocated by not performing

for eight long years. He beats the nagara and his actors, musicians and masqueraders come out of their homes. They all decide to perform for them-

CULTURE

selves and Rasool's son Nunda who is a junior recruit in a terrorist outfit takes on himself to guard the village lest the terrorists kill the performers. The anxious mother who has been only a housewife decides to play the Queen of Ak Nandun, replacing Shamima.

Thus the play within the play brings forth a mother's longing for a son and her sorrow at losing him. This old folk

tale is interwoven with the plight of the Bhaands who decide to perform. Terrorism in-

tervenes and both father and son are killed by the mother takes it on herself to transcend her tragedy and uphold the freedom to perform.

The form of the play has been evolved with the help of the Bhaands from Kashmir who were so afraid of being a part of the show that they did not dare to accept payment by cheque from the repertory, Said a performer, wishing to remain anonymous. "Gone are the days of touring freely and performing. We are sometimes able to play under army protection. Other times we have to seek permission from the militant leaders." The Bhaands are Muslims who have upheld the Sufi and Shaivite traditions.

The play is a creative exercise by Kashmiris living in exile. Moti Lal Kemmu, playwright, says: "My home in

Srinagar was looted. I have been living in Jammu. Shamima's death was a great tragedy. She was one of the first Muslim women to enter the all male reserve of folk theatre."

Translated by Shashi Shekhar Toshkahani, the play has haunting mountain melodies by Pandit Krishen Langoo.

The play has the unmistakable Raina stamps in narrative as well as viewpoint. For communal violence has been the theme of two major plays by the director in the early nineties: Karmanwali and Mvazve. He says. "A turning point for me as an artiste came with the 1984 killings of Sikhs in Delhi. Theatre has to address the contemporary pain and not just talk of myths. It is to the Meghdoot. Open Air theatre, adjoining Rabindra Bhavan, every evening till Saturday for play in the days of terror.

History

The 'Mad' Lauther

Special Correspondent

Roti agitation (1932) is one among the few successful agitations launched by Kashmiri Pandits. This agitation witnessed unprecedented mass, mobilization. Even Primary school children took part in the demonstrations. The strong resistance put by Pandits forced the State Government to at least partially modify the Glancy recommendations, perceived as discriminatory by the agitationists.

Unprecedented Pandit mobilization caused strong disquiet in the Imperial government. The British had been covertly supporting the Muslim upsurge to force Maharaja to lease Gilgit out. One Mr. Lauther, a maverick British IPS Officer from Frontier Province was appointed as the State's Inspector General of Police. He was known for ruthlessness and had the reputation of not adhering to any rules or procedures.

Lauther took it as a personal challenge to crush the

Roti agitationists. He chose high profile and became a shadowy figure resembling Joseph Conrad Kurtz, waging what many regarded as private war. Lauther became an object of ridicule among Pandits.

In his over zeal, Lauther in many instances, went alone to tackle the agitationists. Once news reached him that some Pandit youth were going to organize a meeting near S.P. College. Lauther, who had come without his paraphernalia was badly manhandled. After tearing off his pant trousers, the Pandit youth pushed him into the adjoining bush of nettle.

Pandits also made fool of Lauther. For nearly two months, the Police failed to locate the Printing press, which published the agitation prop material. Some Pandit youth, who feigned as pro-government informers told Lauther that they could lead him to the Press if he came along. He consented and reached the spot, agreed, near Rainawari. These youth told

Lauther that the Press was being operated from an island. (Vitaal -where Pandits of Rainawari cremated dead) in Dal Lake. He was pushed into a country boat. After Lauther got down from the boat at VITAAL, Pandit youth left along with the boat. There was terrible commotion in the government circles as State IGP remained missing for as many as six hours.

Lauther also violated all the rules/procedures in appointing and promoting officers. He felt sadistic pleasure in following a policy of pick and choose and favouring his blue-eyed boys. Any handsome young boy in search of Job, visiting his residence would catch his discerning eye and return with the empty cigarette packet with orders for his appointment as sub-Inspector police inscribed on it.

During Lauther's tenure as IGP, one police sub-inspector was promoted directly to the rank of DIG Police within six months of his posting. One Wazir Khan, a Havaldar pro-

moted as SSP. Another Moshar Nath Koul was promoted from SHO to S.P. However, some Pandit Officials, who served during Lauther era felt he was harsh and discriminatory towards them.

There was no one to challenge his decisions. After issuing extra ordinary promotion orders later Lauther would regret over what he had done. He had great sense of history. After Lauther was forced to relinquish his office, he penned down his experiences in Kashmir. This booklet "My madness in a mad state" runs into about 80 pages.

Lauther was replaced by another tough British IPS Officer, Mr. Pele, who promulgated 19-L to counter Pandit agitationists. The slogan "Lauther Hai Hai" was replaced by "19-L, Peel's fail i.e. Boils to Pele "Lauther's "My madness in a mad state" is no longer available to researchers in any library, including India Office Library, London.

Shabir Shah to participate in elections Floats a new Outfit

Sentinel Correspondent

Srinagar: Shabir Shah the leader of the separatists People's League, has said that he would participate in future elections, if these were held under "fair" conditions and under the 'supervision' of Indian NGOs. Announcing the formation of a new outfit - The J&K Democratic Freedom Party, Mr. Shah called for bilateral and unconditional dialogue with the centre.

Rejecting what he called emotional approach, Mr. Shah said, "Rigidities have led Kashmiris nowhere." He added that it gave nothing except distancing them from their 'logical goal'. Shah also said that he would appeal to the militants to shun the path of violence and announce a cease-fire.

About the return of the displaced Pandits, Shabir Shah on a note of ambiguity remarked, "Our organization stands for return and rehabilitation of all those residents of the state who have been displaced one way or the other as a result of unresolved Kashmir issue".

Training Camps of ISI

1990

(Further information is awaited and shall be released subsequently)

1992

S.No	Location of Training CAMP	when established	Details
1.	PAANDARI (POK-OPoonch)	1987	JKLF terrorists given training
2.	PALANGI (NQ -1084)	1989	Details not known
3.	HAJIRA (NQ - 9770)	1989	Details not known
1.	SAMBLI DAM Islamabad	1/90	Kashmiri separatists given commando training by ISI instructors.
2.	KAMRI 9 NL-9693)	1/90	Training given to clean shaven Sikhs.
3.	MAAKRI	1/90	Training camp for JKLF groups.
4.	MUZAFFARABAD	1/90	-DO-
5.	MIRPUR (NL-8351)	1/90	-DO-
6.	RAWALAKOT	1/90	Joint training-camp for JKLF, Hizbul Mujahidin
7.	CHAKOTHI (NL-9212)	1/90	Training camp for JKLF
8.	CHAKLALA AIR BASE	1/90	Joint training camp for JKLF & Hizbul Mujahidin
9.	ATHMUQAM	1/90	Training imparted to JKLF & Dukhtaran-e-Milat (female wing of Hizbul Mujahideen) terrorists.
10.	DUDHNIHAL	1/90	JKLF group.
11.	GOJRIAN (nl-4939)	1/90	To counter MQM, some Muhajir women also given training here.
12.	GUJRANWALA	1/90	JKLF Group.
13.	CHINARI	2/90	Details not clear.
14.	CHIRAT	2/90	Training imparted by ISI to JKLF & other groups.
15.	DOMEL	2/90	Training camp for JKLF
16.	DADIAL	2/90	-DO -
17.	RAWALAKOT-II	2/90	JKLF separatists trained by PAK Army.
18.	JARI KAS near NANGLA	2/90	50 Kashmiri separatists trained by ISI instructors on behalf of Pak Army.
19.	FATEH JANG located in SAKESAR Jungle of Distt: Attock.	2/90	Training camp for JKLF
20.	MANG BAZARI(NQ-7391)	2/90	Training camp for Muslim JANBAZ force.
21.	RUDAN	3/90	Training imparted by Ex- Servicemen of Pak Army.
22.	BHIMBER	3/90	Training camp for JKLF terrorists.
23.	BATRASI (NL-3444)	4/90	Kashmiri terrorists trained
23.	BATRASI (NL-3444)	4/90	Kashmiri terrorists trained by Afghan instructors.
24.	BALAKOTE (NL-3562)	5/90	Details not clear.
25.	GOJRIAN II	5/90	Muslim Janbaz force training camp.
26.	KAHUTA (NR-1685)	6/90	Details not clear.
27.	NILAM (NL-9578)	6/90	Training camp for Kashmiri women terrorists.
28.	BIMBER II	6/90	No details.
29.	BERI	6/90	Training camp for JKLF and Hizbul Mujahideen groups.
30.	BHEREK	6/90	Training camp for DUKHTARAN-e-MILAAAT and JKLF.
31.	CHAL-KOT	6/90	Training camp for JKLF.
32.	CHEELA (NQ-7193)	6/90	-do-
33.	CHAKAR SURMA	6/90	-do-
34.	CHATTAR	6/90	Details of the trainees affiliation not clear.
35.	BAGH (NQ-9295)	8/90	Camp for JKLF.
36.	GOJRIAN III	8/90	Training imparted to People's League activists.
37.	HAIALPUL	8/90	Training was being imparted by SSG.
38.	KOHAM SERA	8/90	Details not clear.

S.No	Location of Training CAMP	when established	Details
1.	GARHI DUPATTA (7623) III	1/92	Training imparted to Women of Dukhtarian Milaat.
2.	CHAK MUQAM (NL 8539)	1/92	-do-
3.	CHELA BANDI GOJRA	2/92	Training imparted to Kashmiri school teachers and Hizbul Mujahideen activists.
4.	GARHI HABIBULLAH or Muzaffarabad- Abbottabad road.	2/92	JKLF activists trained.
5.	BRARKOTE 17 Kms from Muzaffarabad Authumuqam road.	2/92	36 HMU, 45 MJF and 30 other Kashmiri terrorists trained.
6.	NOOR BANGLOW 65 Kms. from Muzaffarabad	2/92	150 Harkatul Mujahideen terrorists trained.
7.	LOHAR GALI II	2/92	Training imparted to school teachers and Hizbul Mujahideen.
8.	CHAK MUQAM II	2/92	-do-
9.	NAUSERI	2/92	-do-
10.	SANDOK PAWNGRAM	2/92	-do-
11.	DHANNU PAHARI	3/92	40 JKLF activists received armed training by Pak Army.
12.	GARHI DUPATTA IV	3/92	Training imparted to school teachers from Kashmir and Hizbul Mujahideen activists.
13.	ATTOCK I	3/92	Training centre of Hizbul Mujahideen.
14.	ADHBURY CAMP	3/92	-do-
15.	MANSHERA	3/92	-do-
16.	RAWALPINDI	3/92	-do-
17.	PESHAWAR III	3/92	Training centre of JKLF. Foreign settled Kashmiri youth undergoing training.
18.	ATTOCK II	3/92	Training centre of Hizbul Mujahideens.
19.	ATHBERY II	3/92	-do-
20.	MANSHERA I	3/92	-do-
21.	OJHERI CAMP	3/92	-do-
22.	SHOUKAT LINE	3/92	-do-
23.	CHELA BANDI GOJRA II	3/92	-do-
24.	ATHMUQAM II	3/92	-do-
25.	SHAHKOT	3/92	Training camp for Kashmiri women terrorists.
26.	GULPUR	4/92	60 JKLF Kashmiri terrorists trained here.
27.	IBBALLA LALIYAN near Kotli Bazar	4/92	13 Kashmiri militants trained by F.I.U.
28.	CHELA BANDI III	4/92	Boys training centre of two months duration.
29.	LOHAR GALI II	4/92	-do-
30.	NAUSERI II	4/92	-do-
31.	GARHI DUPATTA V	4/92	-do-
32.	CHATAR HIRE II	4/92	-do-
33.	JHELMUM II	4/92	-do-
34.	SANKOT II	4/92	-do-
35.	JURA	4/92	-do-
36.	MANGALDAR	4/92	-do-
37.	DUDHNIL II	4/92	-do-
38.	LIPA	4/92	-do-
39.	TILWARI	4/92	Training Centre for girls from Kashmir Valley.
40.	CHELA BANDI III	4/92	Training camp for Muslim Janbaz Force activists.
41.	RAWALAKOT	4/92	Details not clear
42.	KHATTA	4/92	Hizbul Mujahideen activists received training.
43.	KOMRI II	5/92	New Hizbul Mujahideen training centre.
44.	DRAVA	5/92	Training Camp for JKLF & Jamaat Islami
45.	MURREE	7/92	Afghans being trained in Kashmiri language and topography of the Valley.
46.	PESHAWAR III	7/92	-do-
47.	CHITRAL	7/92	-do-
48.	CHZAMM CHHATRIAN (NL -9919)	7/92	Details not clear
49.	RESHM GALI	7/92	Details not clear
50.	KANGA GALI	7/92	400-500 militants being trained by Jamaat Islami
51.	ABBOTABAD	7/92	600 militants being trained by ISI.
52.	GULPUR II near Mangla	7/92	400-500 Kashmiri terrorists being trained by ISI and FIU.
53.	JAR KAS II	7/92	300 terrorists from Kashmir border area trained by ISI.
54.	NIKIAL CAMP II	7/92	

Use of chemical weapons not ruled out

(cont. from P1)

notorious ex-Chief of ISI has asked separatist in Kashmir to widen their operational areas. In a recent interview to a Pak Daily, The News, he said that in the past he had been advising the terrorists to restrict their activities in the Valley.

Other features of the second phase are large scale settling of Afghan mercenaries in POK and then infiltrating them into J&K.

Informed sources have revealed that Pakistan has created a 10000 strong force of mercenaries, drug addicts, convicted criminals, etc. to infiltrate into Kashmir. Alongside this force hundreds of Pak army officers, have been moving in and out of J&K and are coordinating activities of Taliban. Some of these officers were captured by anti Taliban forces in Afghanistan.

Lashkar-i-Toiba, the notorious outfit, currently active in central and Northern parts is the best trained outfit in Kashmir. The real control of the outfit rests with ISI

officers. The training is imparted by the Taliban instructors.

In 1993, ISI had shifted operational command from Hizbul Mujahideen to Harkatul-Ansar, when it first started sending international Islamist mercenaries to Kashmir. Now the same has been handed over to the Lashkar. ISI has also helped Jamaat takeover of Hurriat. Hizb supremo Syed Sallahudin alias Yussuf has been given the charge of 13 splinter fundamentalist outfits.

Well placed sources said that nearly 1500 foreign mercenaries have crossed over to J&K while another 1500 have been brought closer to the LOC. Before August, as per sources, ISI aims to push several thousand Lashkars and Pak serving army personnel. Currently, as per intelligence reports 6000 Islamist terrorists are active in Kashmir. Of which 2000 are in Jammu region alone.

Induction of more sophisticated weaponry is also on the ISI agenda. The Home

Ministry of India is seriously worried over reports that a large stockpile of missing Russian nuclear weapons may have passed on to the ISI operatives.

According to Yusuf Bodansky, an international expert on pan-Islamic terrorism, Kashmiri terrorists were in possession of dangerous chemical weapons. He told a select gathering of security experts sometimes back in Delhi that these weapons of the size of an egg have the lethal potential of destroying small towns.

ISI has shifted some of the camps from LOC into Afghanistan, Blochistan and deep into Gilgit. The new camps for specialized commando training to Kashmiri mercenaries have been functioning in Nowsheri, Nowsada, Gaddi Habbi, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

A detailed list of the terrorists camps being run by Pakistani regular army and ISI is also being produced. We shall continue this list in next few issues.

Interview with Sh. S.K. Tickoo

(cont. from P4)

There is certainly misgovernance but there is something more to it. I have told you there are hard-liners within NC. Ab. Ahad Wakil, Shafi Uri, Rather and so many

others are there. Look what they speak on the floor of the house. One of the NC MLA said that they had made a mistake and should have joined Jinnah.

Q. Your party has been talking about ISI infiltration. How do you view state government handling of subversion?

A. Dr. Farooq seems to be helpless. He himself know people. He knows a lot. We also have given him couple of names. He does not seem to act. But we have to understand that between the period of 1990 and 1994 everybody in Kashmir was with militancy. People were in Pakistan and at the same time getting salaries for months. Government is certainly handicapped. From peon to DG everybody is involved. How many people could be thrown out. However, now at least at crucial positions we have persons who do not have any connection with militancy.

Q. There has been division among counter insurgent groups. How do you see the future of your party in the light of this happenings?

A. Our future is bright.

People are coming to us in large numbers. But they are not joining us openly. We have improved our performance in recent parliamentary elections. We came No. 3 in Baramullah parliamentary constituency. Not only did we maintain our lead in Sonawari, we also got majority votes in Bandipora. Efforts have been made to make us weak particularly by NC. They succeeded in breaking some of our constituents. Gh. Nabi Azad along with his Muslim Mujahidin are working for NC in Anantnag. Tehreeq-i-Wattan works for NC now. Ikhwan like Gh. Mohd. Saidpoori and Mohd. Kishtwari left us and work for National Conference. All of them are having close liaison with SOG. People are scared. Normally political activity is restricted and people feel if they oppose NC these persons would be used against them. Insurgency and counter-insurgency has become a big business. We do not know what is being done with 4.5 Crore rupees given by Central government for surrendered militants. But we have not given up. Thousands of people listened to us during recent election campaign. We openly talk against issues (which are actually non-issues) like Azaadi, Art 370, Autonomy, Rawalpindi road. Such issues have not helped common people. People continue to be poor and illiterate.

List of ISI run Training camps till 1990 and 1992 is produced on page 10 of this issue

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JAGMOHAN IN JAMMU, CAMPAIGN FOR KHAJURIA, DEFENDS NUCLEAR BLASTS

Bullet for bullet approach



Sh. Jagmohan addressing a Press Conference in Jammu.

KS Correspondent

The campaigning of Sh. Ashok Khajuria, the BJP candidate from Jammu East Constituency received another shot in its arm when the party MP from New Delhi and former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Sh. Jagmohan joined the campaign. Sh. Jagmohan arrived on a flying visit to Jammu, addressed a massive public rally in the constituency. He exclusively talked to

the Kashmir Sentinel Editor, Sh. Shailendra Aima at the airport besides talking to the media over a luncheon meeting.

Sh. Jagmohan was accorded a rather low-profile reception in Jammu and people irrespective of their caste, creed and party affiliations came to receive him at the airport and to listen to him.

Sh. Jagmohan wearing a sky blue and white combina-

tion, in the true spirit of a messiah of peace, declared that India's nuclear programme was not against anybody. He said that the entire exercise had heralded a new revolution in the life and culture of a civilization representing a billion people and a tradition of more than ten thousand years. He said that it was a divine intervention that his party had been assigned the task to herald a modern India and take it to the twentieth century.

He appealed to the entire opposition to stand with the nation and work in cooperation to make India a strong and vibrant state in the comity of nations. He lamented that it was a poor reflection of Congress and the left parties when some of their members even went to the extent of giving defence to Pakistan on the floor of the Parliament.

Sh. Jagmohan appealed to the voters of the Jammu East

Constituency to vote for Sh. Ashok Khajuria. Stating that Sh. Ashok Khajuria represented the tradition of Late Pt. Prem Nath Dogra, Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta and Vaid Vishnu Datt and that Sh. Kha-

juria was a great son of the Dogra soil, Sh. Jagmohan appealed to the voters to vote for him and thus strengthen the nationalist and patriotic forces and help in creating a new revolution in thinking.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

We reproduce below the excerpts of Sh. Jagmohan's interview to the Kashmir Sentinel Editor, Sh. Shailendra Aima, where in he talked about his party's thinking on certain fundamental issues concerning Kashmir.

Q. *What is BJP's approach on Kashmir after assuming power? How is it different from that of its predecessors?*

Ans. The question is of creating an environment. The facts on Kashmir remain the same. Our predecessors were avoiding to face them hard. The entire thing rests on whether you mean business and how quick you respond to a situation. You must have seen that the Home Minister dashed to Prankote in less than 24 hours. We have constituted the National Security Committee and are in the process of re-vamping the Unified Command. We mean business and would respond with a bullet for bullet approach.

The atmosphere of cynicism and demoralization is being changed. Both the security forces and scientists in the country were feeling demoralized because certain decisions were pending for decades. We have changed this environment during last two months.

Q. *We have talked about nuclear option and hot pursuits. What are our options after Pakistan's nuclear explosions?*

Ans. First, it should be specifically clear to all that Indian nuclear tests have not been carried out in response to Pakistan. India is a big nation of more than a billion people and a civilization thousands year old. Our strategic and defence needs are in proportion to these factors. With a nuclear China sitting right on our head, we can't afford a geo-strategic imbalance in the entire south and central Asian context. Then, the five nuclear cartel states can not dictate agenda to a big nation like India, this the world must realize.

As regards the question of Pakistan interference in India and its support to terrorist activities, we shall not allow this and Pakistan has been conveyed the message. The option of hot pursuit is always open and we shall exercise it as and when necessary.

Q. *Congress has been in the fore-front alleging an NC-BJP alliance. The local leadership of BJP has denied it but has even asked for Dr. Abdullah's resignation. What is central BJP's approach viz. a viz. National Conference?*

Ans. We would like the entire nation to cooperate with us on implementing the national agenda. The NC MPs abstained from voting. But there is no alliance between NC and BJP. In fact, there is an alliance between NC and Congress as Congress leader Iftikhar Ansari is a Cabinet Minister in the NC government. Then on several local issues there is an apparent antagonism between BJP and NC. Still, we think that the time has come when the entire nation should be one to challenges before the country. It is good that Dr. Abdullah is keeping his eyes and ears open in the national interests.

Q. *The Home Minister of India recently talked about minority cleansing in upper reaches of Jammu. The scenario is grim. How does the BJP intend to reverse this process?*

Ans. Again it is a matter of approach, commitment and sincerity. As long as terrorism is not crushed with an iron hand and confidence instilled among minorities, the scene shall not show any encouragement. We would like the minority Hindus to return to their native lands. But their rehabilitation has to be worked out keeping in view the entire gamut of the causes of their exodus. It is challenging task and needs utmost sincerity. BJP has demonstrated sensitivity and appreciation and would not allow any compromise with nations' sovereignty and integrity.

Religious cleansing on in Jammu hills

KS Correspondent
POONCH

The indicators are ominous. At a time when the Government officials were busy finalizing action plans to check the stepped-up militant activities in the border district of Poonch, the Hindus in Surankote were busy packing their stuff and escaping to the seemingly safe environs of Poonch township following the cold blooded murder of four Hindus by foreign mercenaries. Notwithstanding the claims by the Government officials that militancy was well under control the migration made mockery of the claims and put the state yet again on the volcano of demographic disaster. If exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from Kashmir Valley was the beginning of sinister plan to alter the demographic character in the state, migration of people from Surankote and adjoining places was continuation of the plan to eliminate those who were deterrent in the struggle for freedom",

as described by an official involved in counter-insurgency" Such exodus, aimed at altering the demography of a particular area, tend to put the security forces on a disadvantageous platform vis-a-vis the militants. For instance people who migrated from Surankote were the ones who used to provide information about militant movement", said the officer. Significantly, the people of Surankote had decided to stay put despite the swelling number of militants in the area. But the killing as well as rumours that a specially trained commando force trained to go after the Hindus in the area, shattered their confidence. "Even when people from Draba and other places migrated sometimes back, we decided to brave all odds. We never wanted to give up and what to do the government had failed to provide us adequate protection," says a migrant Chuni Lal And if intelligence reports were to be believed then the Inter Service Intelli-

gence (ISI) of Pakistani has formulated a exhaustive plan to dent demography of the state, particularly in the Jammu region. Intelligence sources said that based on hard inputs from across the border and information provided by the people in the higher reaches of Poonch and Rajouri district, the fresh "batch" which has infiltrated recently is dominated by regular Pakistani army recruits. "The way they speak and function, it is clear that they are not mercenaries. They speak fluent Punjabi and their attacks are more systematic and planned out than the mercenaries who were little reckless", disclosed an Intelligence Officer. The officer puts the number of this batch at 60. "This number is good enough to cause havoc in the district. And we have to consider the fact also that the group has been given a specific task and that is demographic alteration and this is where we are going to have problems", he warns.