

THE PAKISTANI AMERICAN

Editor: M. Wasiullah Khan, Ph. D.

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SPECIAL REPORT

TOM BROKAW, anchor:

AMERICA CLOSE UP tonight--in the world that Bill Clinton is inheriting, the Cold War is over, but the threat of nuclear war is not. At least eight countries have the bomb, with several more threatening. NBC's Pentagon correspondent Fred Francis has this exclusive report on Pakistan, which has not just the atomic bomb, but an arsenal built with help from the USA.

FRED FRANCIS reporting:

Here things have changed little in a millennium; here the faith is everything; here people work hard and die young. So it is surprising that where the common bond of 117 million is poverty and Islam, that the Pakistanis, not the rich Arabs or the zealous Iranians, have built the first arsenal of Islamic bombs. A small arsenal, but emblematic of what Clinton faces over the next four years--unstable, impoverished, and increasingly fundamentalist states with nuclear weapons. After a six-month investigation, NBC News has learned that the Pakistani military, with a lot of deceit and help from the US and other Western states, has built at least seven nuclear weapons, each the size of the weapon which destroyed Hiroshima. Senator Larry Pressler, in a candid interview, revealed what the CIA told him about the Pakistanis.

Senator LARRY PRESSLER: They have the capability within a matter of hours to have a bomb in an airplane and flying it someplace and dropping it.

FRANCIS: The Pakistani quest was not secret. In 1974, the late prime minister Ali Bhutto

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PRESS RELEASE

The Pakistani American Congress is holding a special convention at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 10, 1993 at Oakbrook Hills Hotel, 3500 Midwest Rd. Oakbrook, Ill 60522. The convention will highlight the human rights violations and plight of eight million Kashmiris. Two of the speakers, who have just come back are prominent human rights activists and managed to slip into the area banned by the Indian Government. These include Professor William Baker of Las Vegas, Nevada and Mr. Abdul Gani Lone, an attorney and former member of Kashmir Assembly. I have a feeling that members of the media will find the information "Eye Opening".

The convention will also discuss broad areas of U.S.-PAKISTAN relations and the role Pakistani Americans can play in improving those relations. Other guests and speakers at the convention include Honorable Congressman Dan Burton (R-IN), one of the most outspoken human rights supporters, Honorable Congressman Harris Fawell (R-IL), and Her Excellency Abida Hussain, Pakistan's Ambassador to the U.S.

Please call me if an interview is desired with any of the speakers.

Sincerely,

Sakhawat Hussain, M.D.

President, The Pakistani American Congress

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pledged the Pakistani people would eat grass to match the nuclear cache of their mortal enemy, India. They didn't have to eat grass because in 1979, the Soviets invaded Afghanistan. The West, needing an ally in this crescent of crisis, made it easy. The Islamic arsenal was acquired because the Reagan administration let Pakistan's dictator Zia buy highly-sophisticated US technology. Steve Bryant, then a Pentagon official, says the Reagan White House refused to let his office review any technology sales to the Pakistanis.

Mr. STEVE BRYANT: My sense is that they were having a field day getting whatever they wanted from western Europe and the US, and clearly there was very little to block them.

FRANCIS: In 1984, Islamabad received a warning from Congress--if Pakistan were to build a bomb, no administration could continue giving foreign aid. Here in Islamabad, many thought it was 'a wink and a nod' policy, because while Congress was prohibiting the Pakistanis from building a bomb, the US Commerce Department was letting Pakistan buy weapons technology by the tens of millions of dollars. So the Pakistanis insisted that their nuclear program, hidden in six facilities around Islamabad, was for energy only. Senator John Glen confirms it was one big Pakistani scam.

Senator JOHN GLENN: They lied to us when we were there; they said they were not making nuclear weapons. They were. We now know that.

FRANCIS: When Benazir Bhutto became prime minister in 1989, the lies of the Pakistani military and the administration's blind faith began unraveling. Despite her late father's promise to build a bomb, the populist Bhutto promised the President and Congress her government would abide by the US restrictions in order to keep getting billions in aid.

Ms. BENAIZIR BHUTTO (June 28, 1989): We do not possess, nor do we intend to make a nuclear device.

FRANCIS: Yet as she made that speech, Bhutto was aware secrets were being kept from her. Only the day before, the CIA had told her more than her own military. Benazir Bhutto, then defense minister and prime minister, knew little.

Ms. BHUTTO (From File Footage): And I think it's criminal that the prime minister, who is ultimately responsible in the eyes of the people and in the eyes of history, should not be taken into confidence of such a major issue.

FRANCIS: Not only was Bhutto ignored, she was overthrown in what some describe as the first nuclear coup, overthrown after she confronted those who built the Islamic bomb. Fred Francis, NBC News, Islamabad, Pakistan.

BROKAW: Tomorrow on AMERICA CLOSE UP, we'll have part two of Fred's exclusive report--how Pakistan and India in 1990 actually came to the nuclear brink.

TOM BROKAW, anchor:

AMERICA CLOSE UP tonight--Pakistan and the bomb. We have word from that country following our CLOSEUP report last night about how Pakistan now has built seven atomic bombs. The Pakistani government admits it had nuclear capability and refuses to say it won't use the capability. Pakistan, after all, has a wary eye on neighboring India, which is also an enemy and a member of the nuclear club. NBC'S Pentagon correspondent Fred Francis tonight with part two of his exclusive report.

FRED FRANCIS reporting:

In Pakistan, brute force overshadows hopes for democracy. Here, Benazir Bhutto has long intrigued the world as a courageous female politician challenging the male-dominated fundamentalist state, standing up to batons wielded in bitter confrontations. But now there is another reason to focus on Pakistan. Without Bhutto's knowledge it has built the Islamic bomb. The Clinton White House must worry--will Pakistan use the bomb against its old enemy, India? Will it sell nuclear technology to its new friend, Iran?

Ms. BENAIZIR BHUTTO (September 11): I hope nobody would be so foolish as to believe that Pakistan can export nuclear technology and get away with it.

FRANCIS: But Pakistan got away with acquiring the technology, legally and illegally, much of it from the US. Senator John Glenn says the list of legal exports is worth tens of millions.

Senator JOHN GLENN (Democrat, Ohio): Computers, high capacity computers. Certain types of oscilloscopes; certain electronic equipment that can be used in bomb design.

FRANCIS: The illegal effort was headed by retired Pakistani General Inam ul-Haq. We found him in a Philadelphia apartment with a security device, awaiting sentencing for attempted smuggling. He's glad Pakistan has the bomb like its arch-enemy India.

General INAMUL-HAQ: Look, as a soldier, if you have to fight with a man, and if you have a stick and I'm without a stick, I would like to have a stick myself.

FRANCIS: In the spring of 1990, the Pakistan military fabricated the ultimate stick and prepared to use it. Then during a continuing border dispute, when the Indian army conducted ominous war games, Pakistan's generals felt they had no choice but to prepare for a holocaust. The CIA quickly learned that Pakistan had flipped the switch, started the machinery to actually make a bomb.

Senator LARRY PRESSLER (Republican, South Dakota): Our scientists and CIA said that they now have the capability to put a bomb together very quickly if they don't actually have the bomb together.

FRANCIS: NBC News was told a C-130 cargo plane would have dropped

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the bomb since Pakistan could not obtain the US technology to use an F-16. Pakistan's decision to build seven bombs cost it a new fleet of F-16's, now stored in Arizona. Congress withheld them as part of its punitive billion dollar aid cut off.

Senator LARRY PRESSLER: I wish we'd do more of it than we have done, because basically, American taxpayers are paying indirectly for a bomb.

FRANCIS: Benazir Bhutto, then prime minister, was told by the US Ambassador that her military had flipped the switch to go nuclear. Bhutto protested to the military and was overthrown.

Ms. BHUTTO (September 11): I have no proof for this, but I feel that someone may have turned on the switch in the spring of 1990 to justify the dismissal of my government, and now having done that, does not know how to turn that switch off and explain to the people who turned it on, that she was right and they were wrong.

FRANCIS: The men who now run Pakistan dismiss Bhutto's charges.

Mr. SHAHRYAR KHAN (Pakistan Foreign Secretary): Can you really believe that the prime minister is--does not even know that certain things are happening in this vital area?

FRANCIS: And some weapons experts and diplomats now fear that the Pakistanis, feeling seduced and abandoned by America, are looking for a new sugar daddy, and the oil rich mullahs of Iran are willing to pay anything for the Islamic bomb. Fred Francis, NBC News, Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

January 21, 1993

Mr. Michael Gartner,
Vice President,
N.B.C. Nightly News,
30 Rockefeller Plaza,
New York, N.Y. 10112

Dear Mr. Gartner,

I am writing to you about your N.B.C. exclusive, reported by Fred Francis on December 1 & 2, 1992.

I am deeply appalled by your Network's "creative" reporting. You have distorted the facts so much that the viewers would automatically draw conclusions to your liking. You have no right to call Pakistan's defensive nuclear deterrent program as "Islamic Bomb". You have not labelled an American Bomb as Baptist, British Bomb as Roman Catholic, Indian Bomb as Hindu, Israeli Bomb as Jewish. Why have you labelled the Pakistan's Bomb as Islamic? Are you trying to start a holy war between different religions? Has Pakistan passed this technology to any other Islamic country? Has Pakistan taken any money from an Islamic country and pledged that in return they will get a nuclear weapon/ Do you

have any evidence supporting such allegations? You have failed to inform your audience of the whole truth, the major wars fought between India and Pakistan with loss of tens of thousands of lives and dismemberment of Pakistan. You have failed to inform the American public that India has the third largest army in the world; that India has 10:1 ratio against Pakistan when it comes to manpower and weapons. You failed to inform that more than any other country in the world, India is the one which has constantly fought wars with its neighbors. If there is a country which genuinely needs nuclear deterrence, it has to be Pakistan. You have taken Pakistan's nuclear deterrence program out of context and made it what it is not, namely, "Islamic arsenal of bombs". In my opinion you are deliberately sowing the seeds of hate crimes. You are creating hatred by stereotyping and putting the dreaded label of a "fundamentalist state" so as to discredit Pakistan and its long standing friendship with the U.S. Do you call it a "field day" to stand up against dreaded U.S.S.R. or to absorb five million Afghan refugees? Frankly your report is a shame to the very word of journalism.

Also bizarre and totally illogical is your reporting that Pakistan wanted to use its nuclear bomb by transporting it aboard a C-130 cargo plane and then dropping it on India. Do you really believe American public is dumb enough to believe that an enemy cargo plane carrying a nuclear weapon will be able to fly more than a few miles without being brought down by sophisticated defenses and in return face an all-out nuclear counter-attack. The sheer idea of you counting the number of bombs suggest how speculative your reporting is.

I suggest you give up this cheap sensational journalism by withdrawing religious labels from weapons and calling them what they are, i.e. Indian, Pakistani, Israeli, or Chinese weapons. I suggest you start giving comprehensive news as the Night Line does, not a cheap shot of mud slinging, distortion and fabrication. I suggest you tell the American public that Pakistan is openly committed to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, if India does so. I suggest you tell your audience Pakistan along with China has accepted the call of U.S. Government to attend the five nation summit on the nuclear issue and the only nation not responding is India.

Finally, the Pakistani American Congress represents Americans of Pakistani origin. Being the first generation immigrant Americans we love our birth place, Pakistan. We do not represent the government of Pakistan or any Pakistani political party. We do not know whether Pakistan has a bomb or not, and we suggest you interview Her Excellency Begum Abida Hussain, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, to get badly needed facts.

I also believe that in many ways you have accomplished what Pakistan could not, namely making Indians believe that Pakistan has a bomb and is willing to drop it upon India if she starts another aggression against Pakistan. As you know it is this threat of nuclear holocaust which makes the bomb a potent deterrent, which Pakistan has been hoping to achieve all along. I thank you for making that deterrent a reality and I sincerely hope this deterrent works.

Sincerely,
Sakhawat Hussain,
President, The Pakistani American Congress

January 21, 1993

Honorable Bill J. Clinton,
President of the United States,
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

My sincere congratulations to you and Honorable First Lady. God Almighty has chosen you to lead our nation to a brighter, safer and more prosperous future and has given you the wisdom, courage and strength to make tough decisions. Let me assure you, all of us stand firmly behind you and shall fully support you all the way. May God's blessings be always with you.

While you have so many domestic issues to focus upon, the following three areas await your immediate intervention to stop bloodshed and restore basic human dignity.

1. To stop blood shed in Bosnia immediately: Mr. President, you must make it very clear, by your action, that bloodshed will not be tolerated whether on the streets of Chicago or in the villages and towns of Bosnia. We as human beings cannot accept substitution of fancy words such as "ethnic cleansing" for genocide, massacre, gang rapes, and murders. These barbaric acts must be stopped and we must have the political and executive courage to take strong action. We must not wait for Europe before we take any action. Rather we must provide leadership to Europe and the rest of the world. We must, by our action, send a strong signal that we mean every single word that we say.

2. To issue a strong warning followed by sanctions against states killing their innocent civilian populations: As you know thousands of innocent men, women, and children have died in the last six weeks in India since militant Hindu fundamentalists have demolished a four hundred year old place of worship. The Indian Government has miserably failed to protect its minorities from the wrath of the ever growing militant majority. It has failed to guarantee the sanctity of religious shrines and religious freedom of its minorities and continues to violate their human rights. I am afraid we are witnessing the transformation of the world's largest democracy into the world's largest fundamentalist state.

3. To declare an all out war against famine and hunger: In this day and age no human being should die because of lack of food. While the food relief efforts in Somalia are beginning to show some hope, we must not procrastinate to a point where an entire population becomes a vanishing species. We must not pull our army out without establishing an adequate infrastructure for continued distribution of life supporting food and other materials.

Not only this nation but the nations of the entire world, especially the deprived, the indigent and the destitute which make most of the world population, are looking forward to your presidency with great expectations and hope. Please don't let their hopes down. As I see it, the task facing you, Mr. president, is extremely tedious, complex and may on the surface appear insurmountable. Yet I am confident, with the help of God Almighty, dedication and commitment of a fine team of talented individuals you have gathered, and with firm support of the entire nation, you will overcome all the obstacles and make not only this country but the whole world a safe and prosperous human habitat. I hope and pray your administration will be known in the world as the one most 'caring' for all human kind.

Sincerely,

Sakhawat Hussain, M.D.
President, The Pakistani American Congress

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 1, 1993

Sakhawat Hussain, M.D.
President
The Pakistani American Congress
525 Aberdeen Road
Frankfort, Illinois 60423

Dear Dr. Hussain,

Thank you for your letter of support and encouragement.

I feel very strongly about the points you raised in your letter. Ethnic and religious violence presents unique and difficult challenges to international stability. America cannot shrink from these challenges, and we must address the problems caused by the reemergence of old animosities and by new dangers.

Please continue to keep me aware of your ideas. I look forward to working with you and other Pakistani Americans on issues of deep concern to us both.

Sincerely,



AMERICAN MUSLIM COUNCIL CONVENTION *Pakistani American Congress sends 13-man delegation to Washington*

A delegation of the Pakistani American Congress participated in the third annual convention of the American Muslim Council which was held in Washington, D.C. from February 18 to February 21.

The PAC delegation consisted of Sakhawat Hussain, Muhammad M. Arain, Wasiullah Khan, Saleem Akhtar and Tasleem Raja from Illinois; Tauseef Butt, Zaheer Chaudhry, Riaz Malik and Hafeez Malik from Pennsylvania; Abdul Muqtadir from Michigan; Rizwan Arain and Maqbool Arshad from Wisconsin; and host Mian Muhammad Saeed from Virginia.

Two other prominent Bosnian Muslims, who joined the PAC delegation, included Elias Zenkich, the Republican candidate against Dan Rostenkowski, and Hashim Alag.

The other two Pakistanis who proved to be very helpful were Dr. Agha Saeed of Berkeley, California, and Farooq Ansari of Boston, Massachusetts.

From 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on opening day was a very interesting and informative session on How to Lobby after which the delegates were broken into state-wide groups.

An informal discussion between PAC members of Illinois and Pennsylvania was held from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the cafeteria in the Supreme Court building.

This was followed by a meeting with members of the Senate and House of Representatives from 2 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

The PAC delegation as well as Elias Zenkich and Hashim Alag met with Sen. Paul Simon (Dem., Illinois), Rep. Henry Hyde (Rep., Illinois), Rep. Dennis Hastert (Rep., Illinois), Rep. Dan Burton (Rep., Indiana), Rep. Charles Wilson (Dem., Texas) and Rep. Harris Fawell (Rep., Illinois).

These meetings, and a separate one with Rep. John Dingell and Rep. Joseph Knollenberg on February 19, focused on human rights violations of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, India, Kashmir and elsewhere with emphasis on Bosnia.

The PAC delegation sincerely believed the meetings were extremely fruitful, productive and should contribute to bringing peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina.