

Benazir hires Zionist

From



political
operator

Washington to represent Pakistan

WHAT may be among Benazir Bhutto's greatest political mistakes since taking office a few months ago has taken place here in Washington rather than in Pakistan itself.

Shortly after becoming prime minister, Benazir Bhutto personally directed that the firm the former Pakistan government had just renewed its contract with in Washington to lobby the American Congress be dismissed. Instead she ordered that a small new firm, one headed by a friend and strongly supported by another close American friend be given the Pakistani portfolio.

Whether Bhutto knew at the time that she was hiring a long-time active Zionist supporter whom many here consider to be part of what can be termed the extended Jewish-Israeli lobby cannot be ascertained. But in a not-for-quotation and extremely guarded discussion about this matter with the Pakistani ambassador here — Ambassador Marker — I got the very clear impression that if she didn't know before she certainly does know now.

The ambassador and his staff — though nervously refusing to say very much about this whole matter — nevertheless give all signs of being quite troubled and embarrassed by the situation.

Others in fact have told me that Ambassador Marker has been very upset about Siegel's appointment but has simply been unable to stop Benazir in view of his own connection to the Zia government and concerns for his own longevity.

The man in question in the centre of this Mark Siegel, a long-time Democratic Party operative who

Furthermore, it's possible Galbraith's efforts are being coordinated with others who are attempting to penetrate new political circles in conjunction, one way or another, with the Israeli-Jewish lobby here.

There's nothing new, actually, with Jewish persons being employed to work on behalf of various governments — even Arab and Islamic state governments. Indeed, a number of Jewish lawyers have been involved specifically with Pakistani affairs in this country for many years.

The real controversy is not Siegel's religious heritage at all; though he does what he can to try to make it seem this way every time he can.

What makes it so extraordinary that Mark Siegel is working on Capitol Hill for Pakistan is specifically his long-time association with the Zionist and Jewish lobbies — an affiliation he continues to cling to at the same time that he is now representing a major Islamic government.

Indeed, when asked about his political affiliations over the years, Siegel became extremely defensive in a recent phone conversation, insisting that all those who questioned his connection with the Pakistanis were plain and simply anti-Semitic. He refused in fact to discuss either his past or his political outlooks in regard to Israel, dodging all attempts to deal with the political ramifications of his new relationship with the new government of Pakistan.

However, a bit of research reveals some rather startling facts. Though never a high-ranking official of the Jewish lobby, Siegel resigned from the Carter White House in protest over Carter's "anti-Israeli" policies. He did so as part of a coordinated attack on both Zbigniew Brzezinski

fighter planes and other weapons to Saudi Arabia and Egypt. This, it was said, particularly troubled Siegel who believed, and apparently still believes, that the US should provide major armaments only to Israel.

Siegel didn't leave quietly as most are expected to do in Washington. Instead later in March he published an Op Ed in *The New York Times* harshly challenging the administration he had served in regard to arms sales to Arab states and general attitudes toward Israel.

"And as an American I am dismayed and saddened that my government now wishes to sell the most lethal offensive instruments of the American arsenal to Saudi Arabia, the country whose radio...labelled the recent Palestine Liberation Organisation attack in Israel 'a courageous and noble operation.'"

Many people change, of course. But in Siegel's case the little evidence that exists suggests that he remains today as much a part of the extended Israeli-Jewish lobby as ever. Indeed his basic attitude when questioned about these matters was exactly the accusations of anti-Semitism against the questioner that the Jewish lobby is famous for.

What has happened in this case is but a part of a new and disturbing political phenomenon in Washington that ironically has some friendly Muslim governments hiring persons who are known to be hostile to general Muslim concerns. Remarkably Turkey, for instance, has actually hired former employees of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) — the primary group that lobbies for Israel and against the Arabs — and paid one of its former executive directors, Morris Amitay,

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The man in question in the centre of this Mark Siegel, a long-time Democratic Party operative who served as President Carter's liaison to the Jewish community when he first took office.

How could such a thing happen? How could an active supporter of Israel, a man closely connected for years with the extended Jewish lobby in Washington, become the highly paid foreign agent of the government of a major Islamic country?

The answer is quite simple actually. In the years Benazir Bhutto spent in the US, she made various friends both at Harvard where she went to school and later in Washington. At Harvard she was befriended by Peter Galbraith. Indeed she mentioned Galbraith some 15 times in her book *Daughter of Destiny* even including personal letter that were exchanged between her and Galbraith.

Today Galbraith is an influential staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee working for the very pro-Israeli Senator Clairborne Pell of Connecticut.

And though he denies it there is much evidence to suggest that it was Peter Galbraith who orchestrated the dropping of the pro-Arab lobbying firm, Neill & Co., in favour of Mark Siegel's firm.

Galbraith denies having been the one who planted the idea in Bhutto's head. But when pressed whether or not he discussed this subject with the new prime minister during his frequent visits to Islamabad late last year he refuses to discuss the matter.

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However, a bit of research reveals some rather startling facts. Though never a high-ranking official of the Jewish lobby, Siegel resigned from the Carter White House in protest over Carter's "anti-Israeli" policies. He did so as part of a coordinated attack on both Zbigniew Brzezinski and Jimmy Carter for their attempts to seek a "Palestinian homeland," "comprehensive peace," and "an international peace conference."

Among the immediate precipit of Siegel's resignation on March 7, 1978 was the heckling and boing he received a week before when he spoke to young leaders of the United Jewish Appeal. This writer was at that affair and was himself struck by Siegel's emotional reaction.

During that speech Siegel told the more-than-a-thousand young Jewish leaders that he wanted "to take off my White House hat and tell you what I feel as an American, a Jew and a committed Zionist." But even that didn't stop the audience from its vocal attacks on Siegel, surrogate as he was for Jimmy Carter.

The other important precipit of Siegel's resignation was his opposition to the sale of advanced American

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The theory seems to be that since the Zionist lobby is so strong one should get them on your side if you want to get things from the American Congress.

In a sense it's the Egyptian strategy played out so sadly here for the past few years. The Egyptians have even taken things further, attending major gatherings of various groups associated with the Israel lobby — the only Arabs to do so — in hopes that the next time Egypt is having a tough time getting what it wants from Congress Egypt's new Zionist lobby friends will help.

In 1986 before Benazir returned to Pakistan her new acquaintance, Mark Siegel, bought her a bullet-proof vest. Now Siegel may have got Ms Bhutto into a situation where she is going to need some kind of newfangled political-proof garment.

Advised, apparently, by her Zionist friend, Peter Galbraith, Benazir Bhutto, right, first dropped the pro-Arab lobbying firm appointed by the Zia government, in favour of Mark Siegel's pro-Israel firm. Siegel, a committed Zionist, quit the Carter White House in protest over the decision to sell US arms to Saudi Arabia



PAGE ONE

Pak signs Zionists to lobby Congress

By Mark Bruzonsky

WASHINGTON, Tues.

PAKISTAN Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has replaced a pro-Arab lobby firm with a long-time active Zionist supporter in a bid to influence the American Congress.

the pro-Arab Neill and Company, which had been hired by the previous Pakistan government, was dismissed soon after its contract was renewed, on the personal direction of Bhutto. Its job was given to the firm of Mark Siegel, who resigned from former president Jimmy Carter's administration in 1978 in protest over Carter's "anti-Israeli" policies.

Another important cause of Siegel's resignation was his opposition to the sale of advanced American fighter planes and other weapons to Saudi Arabia and Egypt. This, it was said, particularly troubled Siegel, who believed, and apparently still believes, that the US should provide major armaments only to Israel.

Meanwhile, Turkey has also hired former employees of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)—the primary group that lobbies for Israel and against the Arabs and paid one of its former executive directors, Morris Amitay, considerable consultancy fees.

Complete article — Page 8

Lobbying firm Clarification by Pakistan

By Saudi Gazette staff

JEDDAH, Tues.

ABDUL Hayee Qureshi, Press Counsellor, at the Embassy of Pakistan in Riyadh, said today that his government is in the process of selecting a lobbying firm to represent it in the US.

Qureshi, reacting to an article by well known columnist Mark A Bruzonaky published in the *Gazette* on May 3, said in a written statement that the article "is not based on facts."

Bruzonsky had said that Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has replaced a pro-Arab lobbying firm with that of a long time active Zionist supporter, Mark Siegel, to influence the American Congress.

Qureshi said, "pending the final selection, the work is being looked after by the International Public Strategies, a Washington-based firm headed by Paul Thatcher. The principal official of this firm dealing with international affairs is Grayson Fowler. The government deals with the firm as such and not with individual employees, of whom Mark Siegel is one."

Qureshi went on to add that, "it is totally incorrect that the Pakistan Embassy in Washington has ever given any signs of embarrassment at the situation. The Ambassador of Pakistan in Washington has never discussed the subject with the author of the article."

Round Two goes to Shamir (1)

05 / 26 19 : 45 SAUDI GAZETTE JEDDAH S.A. = 0000 = P04

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

OKAZ ORGANIZATION
FOR PRESS & PUBLICATION



مؤسسة عكاظ
صحافة والنشر

سعودی جازیت
Saudi Gazette

To : Mark A. Bruzonsky
Fax : (202) 362-6965, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

From : Iyad A. Madani
Fax : 6727621, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Date : May 25, 1989

Time : 19.00 hrs.

Length: Six pages (including this).

Thank you for your latest fax message.

I am sending you copies of your article "Round Two goes to Shamir published in April 19 Gazette, we well as letters to the editor following the publication of your article on Benazir Bhutto, their headlines being.

- Revolting conscience
- Stunning exposure
- Charge revived --- May 13
- National confusion -- May 14
- Fallen on deaf ears -- May 16

We do like the approach and expect to receive your next article on the issue. Your reply to the denial of the Pakistan embassy could be in the form of a letter to the editor, to be followed by an article giving new and/or further details.

We will fax you later on other matter.



could be the fallout of Mark Bruzonsky's article --?)

6. Siegel and his company are trying to get Peter Galbraith invited to the luncheon President Bush will host for Bhutto. In his present position Galbraith does not qualify for such invitation.
7. According to the latest Pakistani press reports and other sources, Siegel has been authorised to take important decisions about Bhutto US visit plans and itinirary:
 - who she should see
 - who she should not meet
 - for how long
 - what places to visit
 - what statements to give
 - to what newspapers/media organs -- etc.

There is no independent confirmation of the report that Bhutto's November election strategy was planned by a Zionist firm, whether Siegel was involved, was it his firm or some other firm. This info was given private by Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, the main rival of Bhutto. Professionally this statement cannot be taken at its face value for the simple reason that Sharif is a political opponent and he may say anything against his rival. You may try to find the truth. In the meantime, if we receive any confirmation, we will immediately pass it on to Mark.

Regards.

Iyad A.Madani

KAZ

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سعودي جازيت
Saudi Gazette

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Fax : (202) 362-6965, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

From : Iyad A. Madani
Fax : 6727621, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Date : May 17, 1989
Time : 20.00 hrs.
Length : Total Four Pages, including this.

The Pakistan embassy here has denied your report on Benazir Bhutto government's hiring of a Zionist lobby firm, though the denial confirms that Mark Siegel is employed by that firm. This denial appeared in today's Saudi Gazette, page one, a clipping of which is here for you.

Tomorrow's Gazette will carry a letter to the editor by the Pakistani Counsellor (Press) which also has a reference to your article. A copy of the original letter is also being sent to you.

Your article has created tremendous interest, particularly in the Pakistani community here as well as in Pakistan. "Nawa-i-Waqt" Urdu daily has reproduced it in full last Friday, and photocopies were distributed here.

According to our info, Benazir Bhutto hired another (or the same?) Zionist firm during Oct/Nov. to plan her party's election strategy. So far no concrete info, but we are trying to get details. You can check at your end, using your own sources if the info is correct.

The Gazette proposes that you write another piece on this issue, primarily as a rejoinder to the embassy denial, and if possible, with info on election strategy-maker. This article can be carried this Wednesday, May 24, provided the article is received by Monday, May 22, together with "Massacre at Nahalin". If you need more time, the proposed story can go on May 31. Confirm your plans.

Your article on Arafat-Shamir Second Round was published on April 19, with the cartoon you proposed.

Eid Holidays are just over. I'll be getting in touch with you soon on the Cairo trip.

Regards.

Iyad A. Madani

Lobbying firm Clarification by Pakistan

By Saudi Gazette staff

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Qureshi, reacting to an article by well known columnist Mark A Bruzonsky published in the *Gazette* on May 3, said in a written statement that the article "is not based on facts."

Bruzonsky had said that Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has replaced a pro-Arab lobbying firm with that of a long time active Zionist supporter, Mark Siegel, to influence the American Congress.

Qureshi said, "pending the final selection, the work is being looked after by the International Public Strategies, a Washington-based firm headed by Paul Thatcher. The principal official of this firm dealing with international affairs is Grayson Fowler. The government deals with the firm as such and not with individual employees, of whom Mark Siegel is one."

Qureshi went on to add that, "it is totally incorrect that the Pakistan Embassy in Washington has ever given any signs of embarrassment at the situation. The Ambassador of Pakistan in Washington has never discussed the subject with the author of the article."



COUNSELLOR (PRESS)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

سفارة باكستان - الرياض
EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN
P. O. BOX 6891
RIYADH 11452

May 15, 1989

My dear Editor-in-Chief,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

The article by Mr. Mark A. Bruzonsky published in your esteemed newspaper on 3 May, 1989, is not based on facts. The correct position is that the Government of Pakistan is in the process of selecting a lobbying firm to represent it in the United States. Pending the final selection, the work is being looked after by the International Public Strategies, a Washington based firm headed by Mr. Paul Thatcher. The principal official of this firm dealing with international affairs is Mr. Grayson Fowler. The Government deals with the firm as such and not with individual employees, of whom Mr. Mark Siegel is one.

2. It is also totally incorrect that the Pakistan Embassy in Washington has ever given any signs of embarrassment at the situation. The Ambassador of Pakistan in Washington has never discussed the subject with the author of the article.

3. Your esteemed daily has also published letters in the editor's column on May 13 and 14, playing on the mischievous and malicious fabrications contained in the said article. These letters are reflective of a deliberate effort to drag Pakistan's domestic policies abroad and are a part of the disinformation campaign let loose by defeated elements who want to take their losing battle on a foreign soil. You would appreciate that vilification campaign is being systematically launched by them against a democratically elected government in Pakistan.

4. It is hoped that a newspaper from a very brotherly country would look into these nefarious designs of defeated elements

contd.....2/

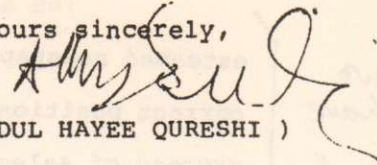
* First two paras have appeared as news (denial) May 17.

* Rest of the letter appears as letter to the editor on May 18.

↓
in order to avoid distorted portrayal of a friendly and
democratically elected government in Pakistan.

With respectful regards,

Yours sincerely,



(ABDUL HAYEE QURESHI)

Mr. Ridah M. Larry,
Editor-in-Chief,
Saudi Gazette,
P.O. Box No.5576,
JEDDAH - 21432.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

16/5/89

point charge sheet

—Once a genuine supporter of Cory Cojuangco Aquino, now, after closely watching more than three years of her turn in Malacanang I came to grips with reality:

First, there is no change for the better in the life of the Filipinos except for the few bloodsuckers in her domain.

Second, the economic conditions have even aggravated as a result of the failed policies of the Cory regime and partly due to the continuation of the same bankrupt and corrupt practices and laws of the traitor Marcos.

Third, as the saying goes, only the rich get richer and the poor poorer, where the growth in the GNP is only the growth in the "Gross National Pockets" of the bureaucrats, the landlords, the foreign multinationals, big businessmen and the military.

Fourth, instead of lessening the debt burden of the country we see a rise in our loans with no end to our mendicancy and over-reliance on these atrocious foreign aid packages.

Fifth, foreign domination represented by American monopolists over the economy has gone unchecked and capital flight remains a big obstacle towards our development, industrialisation and economic self-sufficiency.

Sixth, taxes have greatly increased and overburdening the people whereas work and income opportunities have diminished.

Seventh, that prices of basic commodities have instead shot up beyond the people's affordability whereas wages have remained stagnant and cheap.

Eighth, government services, social welfare and security have also dropped dead rather than invigorated, the consequence of which perpetrates the illiteracy and miseducation of the youth, the hunger and malnourishment in the rural and urban poor areas, the poverty and disease

prevalent throughout the land.

Ninth, instead of curbing rampant crimes, we are almost daily stark witnesses to the random participation in these social curse by the same people in the government particularly the military, and the police.

Tenth we no longer feel safe these days to travel, not even to stay home on account of the threats and dangers posed on our daily lives in the Philippines.

Eleventh, human rights abuses have grown worse and has been surpassed Marcos' records in terms of victims of the daily massacres, torture, salvagings and other fascist methods employed by the regime against the Filipinos who dare voice their just demands against an unjust system.

Twelve, grave injustices are still being committed against the people in general when no person in authority, especially among the military, is brought to answer for their crimes, indeed a common knowledge.

Thirteen, freedom these days have no real meaning save the freedom of the rulers to oppress and exploit the ruled, a Marcos legacy.

Fourteen, unfair and unjust laws are still enacted to deny the workers their rights, and the farmers their land and worse of all, many of the notorious Marcos decrees have not been dissolved leading us to think that Cory and Marcos—or perhaps for a better comparison, Imelda—are unequivocally the same, skin and bones.

Fifteen, the insurgency is on the rise and I fear that the escalation of this fratricidal war is going to bring more death and misery to the country because this stupid and insensitive government of Aquino is making more rebels than supporters of the people on account of the points made above.

As a 100 percent Cory dihard before, foolishly adoring a

media creation, now I am a 200 percent Cory opponent. The facts speak for themselves.

Lakay Ninoy
Taif

Fallen on deaf ears

Sir—Mr Munawar Chandio's advise to Sindhis to defeat the conspiracies of Sindhi nationalist G.M. Syed and his followers, and promote the message of Muslim brotherhood (*Saudi Gazette*, May 14) 'might have fallen on deaf ears.

The most beleaguered and violent province in Pakistan today is Sind which has become a centre of all ethnic conflicts. During the last two and half years more than 900 people have been killed. The violence is largely attributed to Sind's two main militant ethnic parties, the Jiye Sind and the MQM, and to a lesser extent unruly Pashtuns.

Jiye Sind is waging a ruthless war for a separate nation "Sindh Desh" for native Sindhis. It was a creation of Sindhi stalwart G.M. Syed in 1967 and is one of the most barbarous political parties of Pakistan. Ms Benazir Bhutto's ruling PPP had a coalition with Jiye Sind and swept November polls in Sind, unparalleled in the history of Pakistan, on the Jiye Sind note of Sindhi nationalism.

The Left-leaning MQM was formed by Altaf Hussain in 1978 with the blessing of his one-time ideological guru G.M. Syed for "championing" the cause of the Mohajirs with catchy slogans such as "Rights or Death" and "Mohajir Power—Superpower". Syed blessed the MQM only to isolate the Mohajirs from other ethnic minorities and throw them into bloody rivalries and crush them. It was a successful strategy. Since then the Mohajirs have been fighting with everyone while courting Sindhis and chanting for "Sindhi-Mohajir brotherhood" instead of "Muslim brotherhood."

As the Mohajirs weakened

with the continued fighting with other minorities, they have become easy prey for the Jiye Sind nationalists in the recent times, resulting in mass killing and exodus of Mohajirs from the interior Sind. The MQM shares power with the PPP in the centre.

In response to above two parties, so far splintered groups of Punjabis, Pushtuns and Baluchis united under the PPI in 1987 and stood up against them. Political analysts say the ruling PPP is using it as a pressure device to control the babyish MQM.

Here are their views on Mr Chandio's advise.

Sind Liberation Army's declaration states as follows "...I do not believe in the ideology of Muslim unity or Pakistani nationality... Pakistan was created for the betterment of the Punjabis and Mohajirs, which is detrimental for the progress and prosperity of Sind...therefore I vow to sacrifice my life and wealth for the total liberation of Sind from Pakistan."

Jiye Sind founder G.M. Syed says "they talk about Islam, whereas we have rescinded Islam long back." His passport illustrates "Tassawuf" his religion.

MQM leader Altaf Hussain declares "...if anyone wants to implement Islam, start it from Punjab...no one can fool Mohajirs in the name of Islam."

MQM chairman Azem Tariq explains, the MQM ideology while praising Stalin's theory of nationalism and justifying their chorus with Sindhi nationalists "Islam was used to unite the people of Pakistan, but it is a weak basis... It is a modern era, only common economic interests can be the foundation of a nation."

Perhaps supporters of the Jiye Sind and the MQM have better reasons than Mr Chandio!

Muhammad Abdul Razzak
Al-Khobar

Washington, seeking a urged that it might be relieved Reagan last year. — Rtr. genc. — Reuter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 13/5/89

Revolting conscience

Sir — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her Pakistan People's Party had not been elected to turn Pakistan into a pro-Zionist country. However, Mark Bruzonsky's special investigative report (*Saudi Gazette*, May 3) suggests that she has done it.

I protest against making Pakistan a Zionist country. In the November 1988 elections, I had voted for the People's Party. Today I "withdraw" my vote, although effectively it means nothing to Mrs Bhutto. But this is to calm down my revolting conscience because I don't want to be a party to a policy of stabbing Arab brothers in the back.

Khan Gulrez Khan
Jeddah

Stunning exposure

Sir — I was stunned to read that the government of Pakistan has "hired a Zionist political operator to represent Pakistan" in the United States (*Saudi Gazette*, May 3).

As a Pakistani, it never occurred even in my wildest thoughts that of all countries Pakistan would one day stoop so low as to forget its founding principle and its Islamic duty.

True that Turkey still maintains "low-key" diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity and when the Shah ruled it, Iran was the only other Muslim country having relations with Israel. For Turkey, it was in of the happenings of early this century, while Iran's Shah had other dreams. But one never thought that one

day Pakistan will also have contacts with Zionists for some paltry gains like an IMF loan or a little more American aid.

Your special investigative report was all the more shocking after Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto received Palestine President Yasser Arafat in Pakistan. The report indicates that when Arafat was being greeted in Pakistan, the People's Party government had already developed contacts with the enemies of Palestine.

One can understand the hate Mrs Benazir Bhutto has been rearing for the former president Zia-ul-Haq all along these years. Even if she had decided to act more courageously in personal matters like this, she had the right to alter any or all policies of Zia. But Pakistan's support for the Palestinian and Arab causes has been there even before that country came into existence. The pre-1947 All-India Muslim League of the Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had been the author of this pro-Arab and pro-Palestine policy. If Zia was pursuing this policy more vigorously than any other Pakistani leader, it is no excuse for the PPP government to alter it, and alter in favour of the Zionists.

The people of Pakistan gave Mrs Bhutto the mandate to govern the country and supervise the polices, but that mandate does not include a right to deviate from what is very dear to every Pakistani.

Pakistan is a leading Muslim country, one of the strongest and

most respected. If its present government does not make amends in the country's Arab policy, Pakistan will suffer irreparable damage to its position.

The country is being taken on to a wrong path and every Pakistani must see that no Pakistani leader is allowed to damage Pakistan's reputation among its Arab brethren.

Mujtaba Zuberi
Riyadh

Charge revived

Sir — When Jawaharlal Nehru was India's prime minister, he had convinced Egyptian leader Gamal Abdul Nasser that both Israel and Pakistan were created at almost the same time on the basis of what he called "one and same racist principle".

In those days, Pakistan's standing among the Arabs was never very high. However, the late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia was the first Arab leader to realise that it was merely a conspiracy to isolate Pakistan from the Arab World. Gradually Pakistan found the place in the hearts of the Arabs it deserved.

Now, it seems, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has revived the Nehru charge with just one stroke of pen by firing the pro-Arab lobbying firm in Washington and hiring a pro-Zionist firm, (*Saudi Gazette*, May 3).

I am sure the ultimate benefit of this decision will go only to Israel and India. Pakistan stands but to lose.

Sarfraz Baloch
Taif

Yen culture

Sir — Veteran Japanese leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Masayoshi Ito, is reluctant to accept the country's highest elected office, a position every faction leader of the LDP dreams of.

Party general secretary Shintaro Abe has already rejected a proposal made by Socialist Party leader, Takako Doi to allow the opposition parties to form a coalition. Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita may one day convince Ito to step into his soiled shoes. But all this would not clean the Japanese administration.

Political bribery is the name of the game in democratic system, though Japan may have excelled other. If the people still prefer this system it's because it gives them a sense of belonging to the country as well as to the government. In order to maintain that popular confidence, the best the LDP government could do was call a mid-term election to be supervised by a national coalition government of all parties represented in the Diet.

Takeshita did not go for that open-ended option because the people of Japan have failed to press for reform. That is a symptom of yen-dollar culture. An overflow of wealth may — sometime it may not — lead to a civilisation, but more often than not it corrupts. This is something to be studied by sociologists.

Zakir Ali
Jeddah

05 / 26 19 : 49 SAUDI GAZETTE JEDDAH S. A.

= 0000 = P08

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

14/5/89

National confusion

Sir—A section of Sindhis—the people of my province of Sind in Pakistan—heavily influenced by the Hindus, both local as well as infiltrators, now openly declare that they are the descendants of the Hindu Raja Dahir and that Muhammad Bin Qasim was an invader who robbed them of their culture.

For those who do not know, Dahir was a despotic ruler of Sind and his pirates would attack Arab-Muslim trading fleets in the Arabian Sea. Several Muslims, men and women, were taken hostage and thrown into jails by him. Then the Umayyad governor of Basra, Hajjaj Bin Yusuf sent a small army led by the youthful General Muhammad Bin Qasim in 711 CE. Bin Qasim freed the Sindhis from the despotic rule of Dahir and spread the message of Islam in Sind.

Now I wonder if Prime Minister Bhutto's decision to hire a Zionist lobby firm in Washington (*Saudi Gazette*, May 3) is indicative of the thinking that the Arabs were the "usurpers" and "invaders" and they cannot be the friends of Pakistan?

Not only Pakistan but Sind also cannot exist without identifying itself with Islam and without an express gratitude for the Arabs who saved them in this

world as well as in the Hereafter with the help of our religion of peace and humanity.

I would like to remind the Sindhis that Bangladesh has gained nothing by seceding from Pakistan. We must remember that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was as much responsible for the partition of Pakistan as Shaikh Mujeeb-ur-Rahman. Now the same foreign forces are working again to further divide and weaken Pakistan and remove a powerful country from between them. One part of the game is to mislead the Sindhis into believing that their "hero" was Raja Dahir; and Muhammad Bin Qasim, a Muslim and an Arab, was a "villain", an invader, a usurper, and a destroyer of the Sindhi culture which has, incidentally, flourished more vigorously in Pakistan than in India where the Sindhis, though Hindus, have lost their identity.

Another part of the scheme is to politically alienate the Sindhis, as well as Pakistanis from the Arab World. The outcome is anybody's guess. Those who do not want to guess can look at the political position of the East Bengalis today. What political and/or economic weight do they carry in the Muslim World is for anybody to see.

Here I would like the Pakistani Sindhis to recall what Amr

Bin Suhail had told the people of Makkah when some tribes of Arabia had revolted against Islam soon after the Prophet Muhammad had breathed his last in 632 CE.

This Amr was the same person who had represented the infidels of Makkah at the signing of the Hudaibiya Treaty with the Muslims. When he found that the revolt against religion was throwing the Makkans into a confusion about whether they should remain Muslims or turn back to the Jahiliyah, he gathered them in the Holy Haram and told them: "You were the last to accept Islam; now don't be the first to reject it after you've entered its folds."

There's a clear message for the Sindhi "nationalists" in this wise declaration of Amr Bin Suhail. The Sindhis are Muslims and in the pre-partition days their condition was worse than that of the Hindu untouchables. That led their wise and intelligent leadership to join the Pakistan Movement. Over the past four decades they have made tremendous progress in every sphere of life and as any civilised people they must now thank Allah and then Pakistan for all that they have achieved since 1947. They may still have some "grievances", but then there is always room for more progress.

However, ingratitude invites the wrath of fate.

The Sindhis must note that Bihar and Orissa states of India are two of the most neglected areas, yet no one has ever heard of any secessionist movement in those states. In the United States, southern states are poorer than New England or the northwest coast but they don't nurse their real or imaginary grievances. Then why should the Sindhis not opt to giving and receiving strength from a unified entity called Pakistan which they have won after making great sacrifices.

It is the Sindhis who have to defeat such conspiracies as to alienate and isolate them from the rest of the Muslim World, particularly the Arabs who are their neighbours separated only by the Arabian Sea. It is their responsibility and duty to say "no" to G.M. Syed—who is not worthy of his high line of descent from the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) for damaging the fortress called Islam—and Hamida Khuro and Rasool Bux Palajo; and seek an explanation from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for favouring the Zionists against the Arabs. If they do that whole Pakistan will be on their side.

Munawar Chandio
Abha