

DR ABDUL QADEER KHAN: HOW I LEARNED TO LOVE THE BOMB

Sitting before the television cameras, wearing a cashmere jacket of the finest quality, as well as a very grave expression, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan said:

'My brothers and sisters, I ask for your forgiveness. It was I who taught the Muslim terrorists, on September 11, 2001, to fly those 4, American commercial aeroplanes, which killed more than 5,000 innocent people in New York and Washington, D.C. ...'.

If the above public confession from this national hero of Pakistan, the scientist who gave the atom bomb to this Muslim nation, had been delivered, which it had not, would the Government of the United States (US) have taken no action?

There is no evidence to suggest that Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan had anything, at all, to do with the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington D.C., but there is conclusive evidence that he perpetrated acts which, potentially, had even more, far-reaching effects, not just for the US, but for every country of the world.

Because, by his own admission, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan sold nuclear secrets to Iraq, Iran, North Korea and Libya – and, he earned millions of US dollars by so doing.

And, thus far, the world stands by and says little.

And Pakistan's President, General Pervez Musharraf, has pardoned the father of Pakistan's nuclear capabilities.

Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, who is 67 years old, has, for the past 3 decades, been earning a salary, as the country's leading nuclear scientist, of about \$HK14,820 per month.

Through clever money management, no doubt, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan has been able to amass at least the following assets, according to usually reliable sources:

1. Four houses in Islamabad;
2. One lakeside retreat in Bani Gala, just outside Islamabad, which has been described as being palatial; and,
3. Shares in 2 restaurants and a hotel in Tibuktu

When his 2 daughters got married, last year, it was reported that Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan spent upwards of \$US1 million on wedding gifts.

This scientist is not a crook, but he is an opportunist of the best kind.

And, clearly, he has a great love of money.

His former position, as one of the most-trusted servants of the Government of Pakistan, gave him access to nuclear secrets, some of which he, subsequently, sold to the highest bidders.

Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan was dismissed from his position as Science Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, last Saturday week, a decision that was taken at a meeting of the National Command Authority, a meeting, chaired by President Pervez Musharraf, himself.

Following that determination, President Pervez Musharraf granted a full pardon to Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan.

One might well ponder as to the reason that such a pardon was granted, within days of Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan's dismissal as Science Adviser to the Prime Minister.

When Washington was asked to comment on the matter of the unconscionable acts of this scientist, State Department spokesman, Mr Richard Boucher, said that it was an '*internal Pakistani matter*'.

US President George W. Bush has said little about this matter, thus far.

That Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan had worked with others in selling Pakistani nuclear secrets to North Korea and to the other 3 Muslim countries is not even questioned.

Investigations are continuing, today, in order to ascertain whom else was involved in the profiteering by the sales of Pakistan's nuclear secrets to some of the worst dictators the world has ever known.

It would seem logical to assume that certain, high-ranking members of the Pakistani military, including, perhaps, General Pervez Musharraf, himself, had full knowledge of some, or all, of the sales of the country's nuclear secrets.

The only logical reason for the sales was greed.

Investigations by various countries' secret service organisations have traced the Pakistani sales via the black market of the Persian Gulf, with the emirate of Dubai, high on the list of countries, which assisted in the sales to Iran and Libya.

Pakistan is supposed to be a staunch ally of the US in the war against terror, with President Pervez Musharraf, having stated, on numerous occasions, that the country would do all that it could to assist in ridding the world of the al Qaeda terror network, headed by Osama bin Laden, as well as any other Muslim terrorist who threatens the peace and tranquility of the world.

The President of Pakistan has, also, vowed to demonstrate his country's determination to stop the spread of nuclear technology.

Yet, animadversion, clearly, should be heaped upon this General of the Pakistan Army, who achieved his present position in a military coup d'état back in October 1999 when he deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and declared himself, unilaterally, the Chief Executive of the country.

On June 20, 2001, General Pervez Musharraf donned the mantle of the President of Pakistan.

He, then, held the dual posts of President/Chief Executive and Head of the Army of Pakistan.

Which, to **TARGET's** thinking, is not very far removed from being a dictator of a Muslim country with nuclear capabilities, equal to those of the People's Republic of China (PRC), at least.

Last week, President Pervez Musharraf told the US Government that, unlike the situation that existed, prior to the US Army, attacking Iraq in March of 2003, the US Government may not enter his country in order to take a peak at its nuclear installations, but he would talk to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr Mohammad El Baradei, if such an audience were to be requested.

Mr Mohammad El Baradei has gone on record as stating that he believes that Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan had worked with '*others*' in profiting from the sales of Pakistan's nuclear secrets.

Last November, Mr Mohammad El Baradei stated that there was conclusive evidence, linking Pakistan to the design of centrifuges, used to make enriched uranium, a key ingredient in the production of nuclear weapons.

These centrifuges were said to be operational in both Iran and Libya.

Officials of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) have stated that they have circumstantial evidence, suggesting, strongly, that Pakistan traded with North Korea, bartering ballistic missiles for nuclear technology.

Of course, as history has proved of late, the CIA have been found to have been wrong before, most notably in respect of the alleged weapons of mass destruction, which were to have been under the control of the former President of Iraq, Mr Saddam Hussein.

No weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq.

The Director of the CIA, Mr George Tenet, recently described the acts of Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan as being nuclear profiteering on 4 Continents.

North Korea is considered to be a pariah by the Western World, with its dictator, Kim Jong Il, known to be verging on lunacy.

By putting nuclear weapons into his hands, it is akin to handing a machine gun to an intoxicated, 10-year-old child.

Kim Jong Il has stated, publicly, that if the US continues to build up Japan's and South Korea's defences to a point that it is perceived by him to be a threat to North Korea, he would order a pre-emptive nuclear strike on both countries.

He is sufficiently mad to order such a strike, according to Western intelligence sources.

Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan: The Hero

The Pakistani people continue to maintain that Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan is a hero of the country.

On national television, 2 weeks ago, he said, inter alia:

'There was never ever any kind of authorisation for these activities (the selling of Pakistani nuclear secrets) by the Government. I take full responsibility for my actions ... they will never take place in the future.

'The President (General Pervez Musharraf) was extremely kind and understanding. We discussed this ongoing affair ... I explained to him all the things. I gave him the background, what was happening, what had happened. He appreciated the frankness with which I gave him the details. ... he will take a decision how to proceed about it.'

Prior to that meeting, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan had signed a 12-page confession, admitted his part in supplying North Korea, Libya and Iran with nuclear secrets.

Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan's statements of a fortnight ago appear to contrast, markedly, with earlier statements, attributed to him.

For instance, when first confronted with the accusations that he was instrumental in selling nuclear secrets to at least 4 countries, he denied the allegations, and, then, he back-tracked, claiming that he had helped North Korea design and equip facilities, enabling that Communistic Regime to produce weapons-grade uranium – with the express permission of senior Pakistani military commanders, including President Pervez Musharraf.

Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan has alleged that General Mirza Aslam Beg, Pakistan's Chief of Staff for the Army from 1988 until 1991, was well aware of his actions in providing assistance to the Iranian Government in its quest to become a nuclear power.

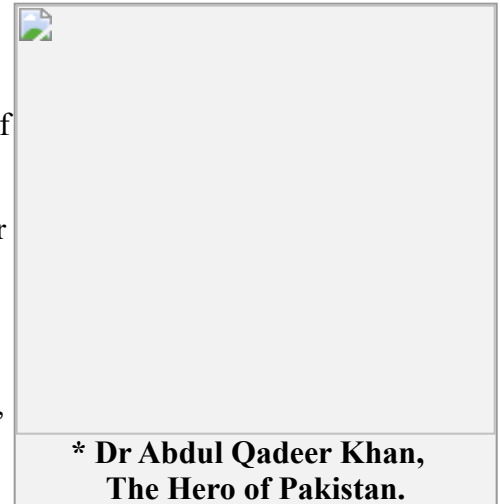
Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan is, without question, a multi-millionaire in any currency one may select as a wealth 'barometer'.

It seems difficult to believe that he could have reached that position of wealth by being frugal on a monthly salary of \$HK14,820.

Investigations, following the statements of Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, where he named certain accomplices, have resulted in denials by both General Mirza Aslam Beg and General Jehangir Karamat, Pakistan's Army Chief of Staff from 1996 to 1998.

The majority of the population of Pakistan maintains that Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan has committed no crime in any country and, therefore, President Pervez Musharraf should show leniency to the man, who was responsible for the creation of Pakistan's first nuclear weaponry.

As for the amassing of a veritable fortune from the sales of nuclear secrets, it is considered by many Pakistanis that he is entitled to his wealth, considering what he has done for his country, and considering that he had kept India at bay, thanks to putting the country on the nuclear 'map'.



Mum's The Word

When President George W. Bush took on President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, in a head-to-head, stand-up fight, that Muslim country was more blunder and bluster than anything else.

Iraq was known, prior to the US invasion (euphemistically termed, 'liberation') of that country in March 2003, as being easy meat for the country with the strongest military might that the world has ever witnessed.

Within 21 days of the 'go button', being pushed by President George W. Bush, Iraq was in the hands of US and British military forces, the armies of Iraq, having been crushed, and with President Saddam Hussein, hiding in his hole, just outside his hometown of Sikrit.

Pakistan is a very different kettle of fish, however.

President Pervez Musharraf is a man with a successful military background; he is known to be proactive in his military determinations.

He does not shoot from the hip, but takes careful aim at his enemies before squeezing the trigger.

And Pakistan is confirmed to have nuclear capabilities and the means for delivery of such weapons of mass destruction.

The ignominious and unconscionable acts of Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan are, quite likely, to go unpunished, to any great degree, and, if it is discovered, conclusively, that President Pervez Musharraf knew, and endorsed, overtly or constructively, the acts of Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, it is unlikely, also, that the US Government will take any definitive action against either/or these 2 gentlemen or, for that matter, the country of Pakistan.

Politics makes strange bed-fellows, in the words of Charles Dudley Warner (1829–1900).

The US Government cannot antagonise Pakistan to the point whereby military threats are exchanged, back and forth, as was the case in Iraq, prior to the US invasion of that country in 2003, because, if Pakistan should turn its

back on President George W. Bush, the US might find itself, having to consider, fighting too many enemies on too many fronts, all at the same time.

So, mum's the word.

Further, Pakistan's human population is about 135 million people, spread over an area of about 307,374 square miles: It would be a hard nut to crack for any invasion force.

It would appear, likely, that Pakistan's Government will give an undertaking to the US that, henceforth, it will not trade its nuclear secrets for cash.

However, one promises much in order to give as little as possible.

One of the biggest differences between North Korea and Pakistan is that North Korea is for sale, whereas, Pakistan is not for sale.

North Korea's Paramount Leader, Kim Jong Il, (he has no official title, at this time), enjoys pomp and ceremony; he is in love with his goose-stepping, military '*machine*'; he has mental orgasms on viewing his sleek, inter-continental, ballistic missiles; and, he is enthralled in the knowledge that he has, successfully, blackmailed the mighty US Government, using his trump card: His nuclear programme.

And North Korea's nuclear programme, especially, the centrifuges, used to produce enriched uranium, is à la carte Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, plus ...?

Pakistan had, as at December 31, 1996, a military Establishment of about 600,000 men at arms, with General Pervez Musharraf as its Chief of the Army, and with its, then, Head of Government, being General Pervez Musharraf's arch enemy, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Since the military coup d'état of October 1999, led by General Pervez Musharraf, it is quite likely that the Army of Pakistan has exploded into more than one million fighting men, most of whom, no doubt, are equipped with some of the most modern weaponry of the 21st Century – including inter-continental ballistic missiles, with a capability of launching a nuclear war at the touch of a button.

The American CIA must be well aware of the delicate situation, in which the President of the US finds himself in respect of Pakistan and Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan/President Pervez Musharraf, and it must be a bit of a conundrum as to what to do about this situation.

So, mum's the word for the time being, it seems.

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