

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Interviewee: **Anwar Haider, Home Secretary of Sindh**
Date: October 20, 2003
Location: Home Office Headquarters, Karachi
Participants: Haider, his deputy (Tariq), Karachi Chief of Police Asad, and his deputy American
Participants: Zelikow, Hurley, Scheid, Dan Rohm (CG Karachi), and Brooke Darby (Emb Islamabad)
Drafted by: Zelikow

Haider has overall responsibility for internal security in the province of Sindh. This includes Karachi, the largest city in Pakistan and the commercial heart of the country. He said the situation in his province was common knowledge. The position of Pakistan was a matter for policymakers in Islamabad. But to us, we in Sindh are a moderate society. They have never had problems like this. In the Afghan war these seeds were sown. Everyone knows how things worked.

Karachi has proved its willingness to fight the terrorists. Karachi has given the largest number of arrests in Pakistan. But the seeds had been sown in such a large quantity that the job was very hard. Their infrastructure was not up to it. Yet with very limited support they had done more than many others could have done with much greater resources. More than 500 terrorists had been arrested with our help. The war continues. We are determined - the police, the Rangers, and the Frontier Constabulary.

Chief of Police Asad said the major incidents in Karachi had been the Pearl kidnap/killing, the Sheraton bombing (French killed), and the bombing of the US Consulate. All these cases had been solved and the people directly involved had been arrested.

But now much of the police force had been pulled off general crime in order to protect foreigners all over Karachi. Four to five thousand officers had been redeployed for this protective duty. Substantial arrests showed some plans had been thwarted. 9/11 Classified Information

[REDACTED] They need resources. They are trying a proactive approach to get the terrorists first and are putting up surveillance cameras at a hundred points around Karachi. A tenth of these have been installed.

Asad feels the terrorist network in Karachi has been broken. The organizations were splintered. But the authorities need more capabilities.

Early in 2003 an American mission came to Karachi to assess their needs for assistance. But Karachi has received nothing so far, not one dollar. [REDACTED]

Asked about a turning point in their fight against the terrorists, they did not cite our 9/11. Instead they cited the ISI-led raid on 11 Sept 2002 that netted Ramzi Binalshibh and others in Karachi.

9/11 Classified Information

Nevertheless Home Secretary Haider considered the impact of 9/11 to be vital. Almost all the people were against terrorism and were generally on the side of the authorities. Karachi was a heterogeneous city where people of different backgrounds usually try to live and work together.

Sindh was not an extremist province [redacted] The impact of terrorism was much greater in that province to the north. Fifty people had recently been killed in sectarian violence in Quetta.

If we wanted to learn more about Al Qa'ida in Pakistan, the Commission needed to talk to the ISI. They are handling the interrogations of such people.

Haider then commented that a lesson learned so far was: Don't sacrifice principles for politics.

Asked about the influence of Saudi money, Haider and Asad thought the Saudis did not encourage extremism. [redacted] Iran was not a problem.

The scale of the terror threat was going down, but both sides were adapting. The political commitment in Sindh is strong.

Asked about whether scarce resources were overwhelmingly devoted to protecting people, on the defensive, both Haider and Asad agreed that this was a good point. For the long-term their capabilities are not strong enough. In Karachi there are 21,000 police for all purposes. A third of the force, about 7,000, only worked on protecting people or countering terrorism. This was unsustainable.

CG Rohm commented on his great satisfaction with the quality of the cooperation he had received from Haider and Asad.