

# Race hate engulfs Australia

## More Power To Police. Attacks in Perth, Adelaide, Sydney

**Sydney:** Police in Sydney will be given tough new powers to crack down on rioters who have rampaged through the city's southern beachside suburbs for two nights, New South Wales state leader Morris Iemma announced on Tuesday.

"New South Wales parliament will be recalled for a special emergency sitting on Thursday morning to provide police with extra powers to deal with criminals and thugs who are causing disturbances across our city," Iemma said. He was talking after a second night of race riots left seven people injured and 11 in police custody as youths in a convoy of cars rampaged through streets smashing store windows and attacking parked cars.

The men involved appeared to be of Middle Eastern origin, indicating that they were taking revenge for a riot Sunday during which a mob of 5,000 white men, many drunk and wrapped in Australian flags, attacked several people of Middle Eastern appearance near Cronulla beach. Sunday's fighting came in retaliation for the beating a week earlier of two volunteer life guards by men described as being of Lebanese descent.

New South Wales police minister said rival groups should end violence. "They feel slighted and insulted and believe they're entitled to respond to the provocation of those drunken yobbos on Sunday," Scully told Australian Broadcasting Corp radio. "(But) they're not entitled to respond in a violent, criminal manner which is what they're doing and the police will continue to round them up while they do so."

Iemma said he would urge lawmakers to pass legislation increasing prison sentences for riot offenses from five to 15 years and double the penalty



**A STREET CALLED HATE:** A group of white youth beat a man of Middle Eastern origin on a street in Sydney during the second day of racial violence in the city

for affray to 10 years. Meanwhile, attacks on a Middle Eastern family in the Western Australian state capital Perth and a Lebanese Australian taxi driver in Adelaide in South Australia state have been linked to Sydney's race violence.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio reported on Tuesday that a family of Middle Eastern origin was attacked in Perth by a group of 11 white men, who threw eggs, shouted

abuse and kicked the door. In Adelaide, a taxi driver of Lebanese origin, Hossein Kazemi, was injured when punched by a passenger during an incident on Tuesday.

"There was some sort of discrepancy and argument over the fare," a South Australian Police spokesman said. "Apparently during the assault, the victim, because he was of Lebanese origin, was taunted about the stuff in Sydney." AP

# 16 held for racist attacks in Sydney

HD-19  
12/12



**ON THE RAMPAGE:** Youths attack a man of West Asian descent on a train at Cronulla station in Sydney on Monday. - PHOTO: AFP

Racism

P. S. Suryanarayana

**SINGAPORE:** Commenting on the week-end violence in Sydney, seen in some quarters as "racial unrest," Australian Prime Minister John Howard said: "I do not accept that there is underlying racism in this country." He told reporters on Monday that Australia "has been able to absorb millions of people from different parts of the world over a period of now some 40 years." Thirty-one persons were injured in Sunday's violence, and 16 were arrested following attacks on people of suspected Arab de-

scent in Sydney. The violence followed reports that "Lebanese youth" had assaulted two life-savers at the beach.

AP reports:

Violence on the streets of Sydney spilled into a second night on Monday as scores of youths drove through beachside suburbs smashing windows of stores, homes and apartments, police said.

Any hopes that the Sunday riot would be an isolated incident were shattered after dark when car loads of youths rampaged through southeastern Sydney chased by hundreds of police vehicles and a helicopter.

13 DEC 2005

13 DEC 2005

# EU racism monitor reports 'mixed messages'

*Racism  
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Brussels (Belgium): EU governments' record of fighting racism and xenophobia in 2004 was mixed, at best, and they must do more to end discrimination in employment, housing, education and other sectors, the EU's racism monitoring agency said on Wednesday.

"The report clearly shows much work is still ahead of us," said Anastasia Crickley, head of the European Monitoring Center on Racism and Xenophobia. Its 2004 annual report speaks of 'mixed messages'.

Some countries do well in countering discrimination, it says, while others are either slow to enact anti-racism laws, lack data to measure how their policies affect ethnic minorities or pass measures that actually restrict minorities' rights.

The Vienna-based agency's report concludes that the 25-nation EU "must prioritise the fight against racism and xenophobia" to generate a stronger basis for a "positive" public debate on diversity and equality issues. The report covers 2004 — a year that saw a terrorist attack on commuter



In its annual report for 2004, the agency has called for the 25-nation EU to 'prioritise the fight against racism and xenophobia'

trains in Madrid that killed some 200 people and the slaying of Islam-critical Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh on an Amsterdam street. Both events triggered "incidents of racist violence... including in countries outside Spain and The Netherlands," the report says. Also, 2004 was the year the EU absorbed Malta, Cyprus and eight eastern European nations — amplifying the unevenness of data-keeping across a bloc that is home to almost half a billion people. The huge difference in recorded racist incidents "tells us as much about the inadequacy and

inconsistency of data collection as it does about the actual extent of racist violence and crimes in the EU," the report says.

It says British police received almost 53,000 reports of racist incidents in 2004. Germany was second with 6,474 reports, and in "France, which has a large ethnic minority population recorded, only 1,565 racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic threats and acts" were recorded during the year, the report says. In the eastern nations of the EU, recorded incidents ran from 25 in Hungary to 209 in the Czech Republic.

It also found, among other things, that:

- A significant degree of discrimination exists in hiring practices in France, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden and Britain
- Segregation in the housing sector is "prevalent" throughout the EU
- The European Commission sued Germany, Luxembourg, Austria and Finland for failing to enact EU anti-discrimination laws at home
- Many governments pass anti-discrimination legislation but also measures that restrict marriage, labour and other rights of ethnic minorities exist

The report says it is difficult to accurately monitor racism because of inconsistencies in data-keeping across the EU. Minorities face discrimination in many different forms, from poor housing for migrants and minorities to segregation of certain groups in 'special education' schools to job agencies that cold-shoulder immigrant applicants, it says. The report found that Europe's eight million Gypsies or Roma were the most vulnerable, followed by Muslim groups and migrant workers from Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. AP

# NO-GO AREA-II

## France Must Think Of New Ways To Deal With Racism

By ISHAN JOSHI

Even those who concede that advising France to jettison its integrationist model could amount to advocating an illiberal communitarianism i.e. multiculturalism in the name of attempting to quell the rage of immigrant communities, seem to have been led into believing that intentionality is all. Our impulse is honourable and never mind the mess left behind, is it? Even if that mess comprises the remains of an integrationist model that has so admirably refused to compromise with core liberal values whilst accepting and, it can be argued, even welcoming the empirical reality of France as a multicultural society?

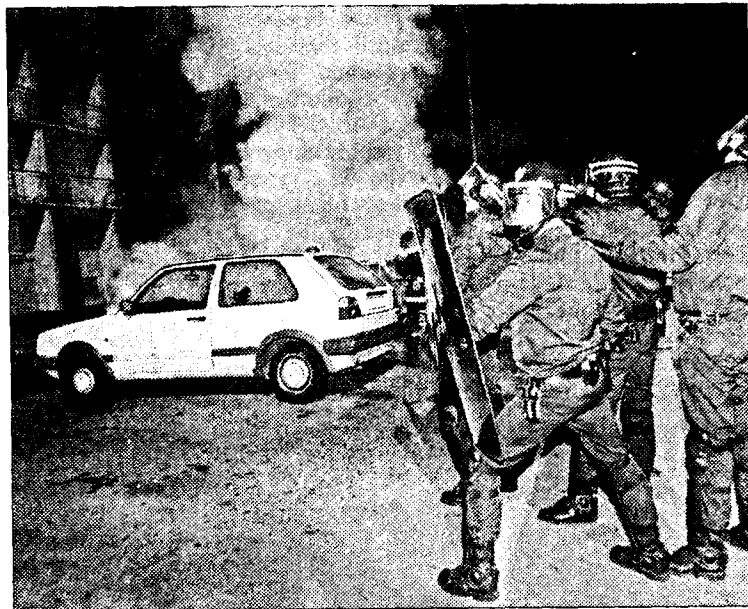
### Cultural baggage

And how, as a critic of multiculturalism asks in a different context, can you provide refugees with the epistemological comforts of home in a land of refuge? It may well be intuitively desirable to want these comforts to be made available but that's impossible to achieve in the real world of modern nation states each carrying millennia of accumulated cultural baggage — and liberal-secular values are now part of this baggage, as their opponents have been so assiduous in asserting. It bears thinking about that immigrants, too, can be characterised as refugees, albeit those who have come to France looking for economic refuge in terms of a better life for themselves and their children, or political refuge in terms of simply being able to live without the threat of violence against their person(s) or property. (Of course, given France's colonial past, there is a case to be made out that some measure of immigration was 'forced' as well but that doesn't concern us here.)

The point has been made that the rioters burning cars in French public squares are second or third generation migrants who have been born and brought up in this integrationist system. And that's used by its opponents to argue that the model has failed. But the same fact can be used to argue entirely the opposite — that it's not less but more of the same that's required.

For the edification of all those who may have got carried away by the rhetorical flourish and

political bombast of the illiberal alliance taking shape in contemporary Europe, the French riots — while certainly a fresh attack on the integrationist system that so many have worked so long to undermine — are still some way off being the first fundamental challenge to the Fifth Republic since the student-radical revolt of the 1960s as the multicult-



turalist-mullah-left triad's self-fulfilling prophecy would have it. It's troubling, certainly, that a section of youngish people feel frustrated enough to give vent to their ire by torching fellow citizens' cars, but when compared to what's happening in allegedly Cool Britannia, France can count its blessings and thank its integrationist model.

### Opening the floodgates

Across the *nullah*, multiculturalism has meant that a section of immigrants are, to put it mildly, ambivalent towards the *lingua franca* of their land, riots in cities with a high immigrant population have been a regular feature of the past decade, forced marriages are not a thing of the distant past, schools are run by clergies and funded by the state, gender apartheid is given official sanction in these times of terror in the name of involving "community leaders" from amongst minorities who hold the most despicable of segregationist views, and the sensitivity shown to cul-

tural difference, a laudable common feature among most Western European countries and one that adds vigour and vibrancy to any civilised country and enhances social cohesion, shows signs of having been successfully hijacked by a variety of interlocutors for their own ends. Given the vibrant proselytising impulse of one of the world's

great religions, Islam, the logical culmination of such a multiculturalist course can only be handing power to the Muslim clergy — and religious leaders regardless of denomination are predominantly conservative and nearly always male — to run sub-states in Western democracies to "provide for a cultural context of choice". This would also open the floodgates for similar demands from the Hindu, Jewish, you-name-it clergy, not to mention a 21st century resurgence of, say, a Bible meets F-16 crusade led by the neo-conservatives of tomorrow. It all sounds very Huntingtongesque, doesn't it? Well, you know whom to blame.

### Self-flagellation

Such, however, is the current mood of self-flagellation in France, that neither the practical lessons from the low-key Dutch rollback of over-the-top multiculturalism over the past few years nor the problems — theoretical and in terms of

applicability — with Will Kymlicka's and Bhiku Parekh's philosophical insights into the nature of multiculturalism and its applicability as state policy for the liberal West, are acknowledged. These, and other such issues, have been banished to the no-go areas of the mind.

Rather than thinking about dismantling the secular-liberal state and its integrationist model, what France needs to do is breathe new life into its structures to deal with the racism against, and the sense of exclusion among, its second and third generation immigrant citizens. Especially, and without being reductionist or economic, as its integrationist model can only work for all when the question in the public discourse becomes: what is the government of the day doing to reduce unemployment, without the suffix 'among immigrants'. Equally, the latter could help themselves and the country that they call home by signing up to that robustly secular societal model that has done so much to protect individual freedoms, including those of the female members of those very immigrant communities who have been rioting in the streets as a cultural collective.

For, even its worst critics will concede, it's not the French state that is discriminating against immigrants — in fact, in its very conception and functioning, it's geared to ensuring there is no discrimination — but a section of the French people. And that sort of discrimination, as better minds than this writer's figured out long ago, cannot be eradicated by legislation — if that were possible, India would be a model state! It has to be worked out of the system. The argument being made here is merely that the nature of the French state best equipped to ensure this flushing out of discrimination comes to pass (as it were) is a liberal, democratic and secular one. And one that insists that the best way of protecting minority rights is to re-emphasise the core liberal value that group rights — even if they be of immigrants — can never trump individual rights in a secular democratic republic.

(Concluded)

# Indian students attacked by UK racists

**London:** A group of students from India and Pakistan studying in Plymouth was set upon by a gang of white youths in the latest incident of racist attacks in Britain. Nearly 500 students from the Indian subcontinent had come together to jointly celebrate Diwali and Eid in Plymouth over the last weekend, but were subjected to racist abuse and glass bottles were hurled at them by a group of white youths as they left the venue.

The local police in areas where such incidents have occurred have taken prompt action. In Plymouth, the South Asian Society, organisers of the event, promised to continue holding such events next year. Plymouth's top policeman, chief superintendent Morris Watts, was at the event alongside the MP of Plymouth Sutton, Linda Gilroy, and other dignitaries.

Gilroy said after the disturbances: "It's the equivalent of us being attacked outside our Christmas party.

19/11 15  
The Devon and Cornwall police, under Morris Watts' leadership, takes these incidents very seriously and I am sure will tackle it in a robust manner." Jon McKenzie, trustee of the South Asian Society, said: "Why should a small racist group prevent people from different cultures coming together for a festival which is in effect their Christmas? It raises questions about safety and risk manage-

## DIASPORA NEWS

ment, but last year the event went ahead without incident," he said.

He said: "All of those who attended, which included civic dignitaries, police officers, people from the voluntary and statutory sectors and families, said it was one of the best events they had ever been to in Plymouth because of its difference. It was a real extravaganza.

"The overwhelming majority of

people in Plymouth are tolerant. Different races and religions co-exist in a positive, peaceful and respectful way. The thugs are a small minority whose actions insult the hundreds of Plymouthians who attended the event." Some of the victims of the attack had only been in the city for a couple of months and most were university students from India and Pakistan. Pamela Kaur, one of the organisers, said: "It's not a nice feeling. You don't feel secure. We don't disturb anybody, we are very happy with each other. We should not be made targets." A rise in racist incidents after July has been reported also in Cardiff, Wales. Figures show a 60% jump in such incidents in August and September. However, the local police believe the figures did not mean that racial tensions were growing.

Police superintendent Josh Jones promised to provide a "robust and uncompromising response." IANS

# Curfew on, but France burns

## EU pledges \$58m in relief

AGENCE France-Presse  
Paris, November 14

VIOLENCE CONTINUED to smoulder in France's poor suburbs despite curfews in some 30 localities, and authorities in the southeastern city of Lyon banned public gatherings in order to head off a repeat of clashes in the historic centre.

But nationwide police officials said the number of attacks was falling and expressed hope of a gradual return to normality.

The European Union, meanwhile, pledged to release \$58 million for urban programmes to improve conditions in France's riot-hit areas, EU executive president Jose Manuel Barroso said before a meeting set with French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin late on Sunday.

On Sunday, authorities in Lyon — France's third largest city — issued an order banning public meetings "likely to provoke or incite disorder on the streets or in public places." The order applied to the city centre and lasted through the afternoon.

But, after dark car-burnings resumed, with police reporting 15 cars set alight by 10.30 pm on Sunday. Overnight a total of 374 cars were burned across the country, a fall of 128 on the night before and well below the high-point last Sunday when some 1,300 vehicles were destroyed.

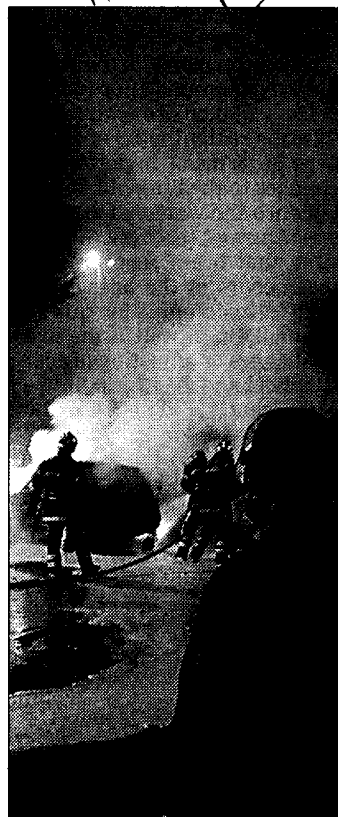
Police said 212 people were arrested, bringing the total of those detained since the start of the troubles to more than 2,650.

National police chief Michel Gaudin said that in the vast majority of places where violence broke out overnight, the damage caused was only one or two cars burned.

### Rightist blames immigration

French far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen has blamed the rioting that has spread across the country on massive immigration into France, and criticised the government response as insufficient.

The riots "result from mas-



AP  
French firefighters douse the flames of a car near Lyon on Sunday.

sive, uncontrolled immigration from the Third World," he said on the private radio station, RTL1. "We knew it was a global time bomb."

France has been rocked by two weeks of car-burnings, arson attacks and rioting carried out mostly by young Arab and black residents of poor suburban high-rise estates, who complain of economic misery and racial discrimination.

Le Pen, 77, criticised government efforts to address such concerns as "not corresponding to the real problem."

However the leader of France's National Front party said he supported the introduction of emergency measures, which allow municipalities hit by violence to impose curfews.

Last week Le Pen called the rioting the "warning signs of civil war".

# Rioting engulfs more towns

## Tenth Night Of Unrest Leaves Trail Of Burnt Cars

By Rashmee Roshan Lall/TNN

**London / Paris:** Racial unrest spread to the gilded heart of the French capital on Sunday as the 10th night of rioting continued to leave a charred trail of burnt cars and smoky ruins in Paris and provincial towns.

The continuing rioting saw violence erupt around one of the grandest symbolic, touristy images of France in central Paris, the Arc de Triomphe, and to yet another region, Normandy. It is thought to have significantly moved up a gear because it came just hours after religious and community leaders conducted a peace march through some of the capital's worst-hit suburbs.

The French authorities said on Sunday that the rioting, inexorably spreading across the country, seemed increasingly well-organised and appeared to be coordinated on the internet by bands of disaffected technophile youths looking to have a "punch up" with police.

On Sunday, with the riot damage rising to its highest levels in 10 nights, police said 1,295 vehicles had been torched and 312 ar-

rests made over the weekend.

On Saturday night, anxious residents of the French capital reported that several of the fires consuming central Paris, particularly around its key international train station, the Gare du Nord, began with the lobbing of a Molotov cocktail.

In the first disturbing assertion that a European country and its capital can be brought to a halt by the massed forces of Islamist militants both within and outside its borders, French police warned there was evidence they had played a role in inciting vandals, albeit "not on the front lines." With the tough-talking interior minister Nicolas Sarkozy warning of stiff jail sentences for the rioters, there were signs the French capital was a city under siege.

With night buses in and to some of the more remote suburbs cancelled to prevent rioters using them as soft targets, police helicopters patrolled the skies



over the capital.

Sikh community leaders, who make up a small but newly-vocal and highly-visible religious minority in France, told TOI they had so far stayed away from the ongoing troubles. But they admitted the authorities' red alert on potentially troublesome immigrant

youths might bring the focus closer to South Asian communities as well.

Meanwhile, Yves Bot, Paris chief prosecutor said the hit-and-run arson attacks were an insidious "form of action that is organised. It responds to a strategy. It's done by mobile units of masked youths or older guys who arrive on scooters, throw a burning bottle at a vehicle and leave."

He said it was "irrefutable" that these "are organized gangs because it's done in a way that gives every sign of coordination. In fact, one can read blogs on certain websites inciting other cities to join the movement of the Parisian region."

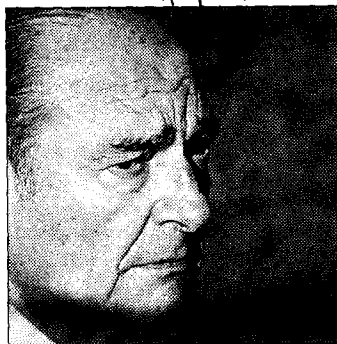
# Paris burns for seventh day

AGENCE France-Presse  
Paris, November 3

FRENCH AUTHORITIES found themselves powerless to stop a wave of violence in impoverished suburbs around Paris which has raged for a week, spreading to more and more neighbourhoods.

Police wielding shields and teargas grenades overnight battled stone- and bottle-throwing youths in at least nine towns to the north, east and west of the French capital. In one suburb, La Courneuve, two shots were fired at officers but did not cause injury, police said. In another, Aulnay-sous-Bois, a police station was briefly taken over and ransacked by youths while a gymnasium and a Renault garage were set ablaze and a shopping centre vandalised.

All of the areas are high-immigrant zones. At least 40 vehicles, including two buses, were torched, and two primary schools were damaged, accord-



Jacques Chirac  
*Testing times*

ing to police, who made more than a dozen arrests.

A French television crew were forced by hooded youths to abandon their car, which was then set ablaze by a 40-strong mob.

It was the seventh straight night of riots. As with the previous violence, calm returned before dawn, leaving a mess of burnt-out cars and smashed windows. The violence was sparked a week ago by the accidental

electrocution of two teenagers who had hid in an electrical substation to escape a police identity check in the suburb at the epicentre of the troubles, Clichy-sous-Bois.

Since then, rioters have defied tough police tactics implemented by Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy, who vowed earlier this month to wage a "war without mercy" on the "rabble" who inhabit the downtrodden suburbs.

President Jacques Chirac on Wednesday appealed for calm, warning that "an escalation of disrespectful behaviour would lead to a dangerous situation."

Some 1,000 officers were deployed in the Seine-Saint-Denis region, but youths said they planned to keep up their defiance. "We have found our thrills: playing with riot police in the evening," said one 22-year-old who declined to give his name.

"As long as the police come and provoke us, we'll bring out the Molotov cocktails, stones, petanque balls, planks," he said.



# Britain's new racial divide W

The Birmingham riots will remain a matter of shame for the Asian and African communities.

Hasan Suroor

**B**ACK IN the 1950s and the 1960s, Asian and African immigrants joined hands to fight white racism, which they regarded as their common enemy. Fifty years later, their descendants, born and brought up in Britain, are fighting each other while the threat from their common "enemy" remains very real.

As Birmingham struggles to come to terms with the racial clashes between Asian and Afro-Caribbean youths at the weekend following an unsubstantiated allegation of rape of a teenaged Jamaican girl, there is concern that non-white immigrants are becoming victims of their own brand of racism.

What happened in Birmingham's Lozells Road area — a mixed but predominantly Pakistani/Bangladeshi enclave — was a classic race riot except that the perpetrators as well as its victims were non-whites. Indeed, it was hard to say who was the victim as rival Asian and African groups systematically targeted each other with the fury of sworn enemies.

The two sides traded accusations that they normally used to hurl at white racist groups in the era of Asian-African solidarity. While Africans — the second largest immigrant group in the area — complained of Asian "racism," Asians (read Pakistanis and Bangladeshis) alleged that the former were trying to "destabilise" their businesses because they were jealous of "our success."

It was ironical to hear that the same people who had been victims of "Paki-bashing" were now allegedly using similar tactics to "harass" African youths. "They don't give them enough respect. They don't employ black people in their shops, and it is about the way ... they look at them," Maxie Hayles, chairman of the Birmingham Racial Attacks Monitoring Group, told a newspaper.

One African youth said that they were called "names" and had been "pushed around for too long." Asians retorted that the riots were "engineered" on the back of an "invented story of a rape" to "smash and grab our businesses." "This riot is about them getting hold of what we sell in our shops," one Pakistani sari shop-owner was reported as saying.

## Planned attacks?

The rapidity with which the violence spread after a supposedly "sudden brawl" outside an Asian take-away on Saturday evening suggests a degree of planning. Within minutes, hundreds of youths, armed with baseball bats, sticks and iron bars, went on the rampage setting fire to vehicles, smashing shop windows, attacking properties and ... One African youth was killed



**VIOLENT FALLING-OUT:** Two burnt out cars in a Birmingham street after riots erupted on Saturday. — PHOTO: AP

## OUT OF LONDON

identity was not disclosed was shot dead on Sunday.

Tension over the rape allegation had been simmering for sometime. The claim was broadcast on a local African station with calls for a "boycott" of Asian businesses. There was angry chatter on an African website, which reportedly posted a message alleging that an "Asian shop owner and 18 other Asian men have raped a 14yr old black girl at the back of their ... shop because they thought she was trying to steal a wig."

Significantly, violence erupted even as community leaders and the police were holding a meeting to defuse the tension. So, was the so-called "sudden brawl" designed to pre-empt an agreement at the meeting?

A senior officer of West Midlands Police said: "It now becomes clear some people did

not intend that to happen. People started the day with the intent to actually create mayhem."

Intriguingly, the alleged rape victim remains untraced despite repeated appeals by the police and both communities that she must come forward so that investigations can begin.

The police officer said he had not received a "shred of evidence" to substantiate the allegation and that unless the victim herself came forward it would not be possible to charge anyone.

Nobody seems to know who she is, and even those in the forefront of the campaign to get her justice admit that they have no first-hand knowledge of the incident. But they insist that since so many people are talking about it, it must have happened.

"Ninety nine and three-quarter per cent of the Afro-Caribbean community believe it (the rape) took place and that is why the passions are running so high. We believe the

person involved has been traumatised and we are told it is not the first time that it has happened," said Mr. Hayles.

There is speculation that the girl is scared to come forward because of her uncertain immigration status, but authorities have assured that any immigration issue would not be held against her.

The Asian shop-owner, accused of the alleged rape, has reportedly said that he is being "framed" and is prepared to face any investigation.

He told a local newspaper that he was a victim of rival cosmetic companies who resented the fact that he sold African beauty products.

Whatever the truth and no matter how many socio-economic factors — poverty, deprivation, crime, unemployment — are cited to explain the Asian-African racial divide, the Birmingham riots would remain inexcusable and a matter of shame for both communities.

# Suspected for race, divided by creed

## Muslims getting preferential treatment: Hindus

HT Correspondent & Agencies  
London, September 13

THE UK has profiled its terror suspects racially; now, a racial divide has surfaced among Asians — one of the communities singled out by the authorities.

It was bad enough that the British police's anti-terrorist personnel was singling out people of Asian and African origin for their stop-and-search operation. What's worse, say the United Kingdom's Hindus, is that the authorities, while interacting with various communities to give them a sense of security, are accepting oral evidence from only the Muslim community.

Hindu organisations have expressed outrage at the decision, taken by the home affairs select committee. They point out more Hindus and Sikhs were victims of hate crimes than Muslims during the backlash since the London bombings. "We are completely outraged that the committee does not have time to take oral evidence from the Hindu community as part of their investigations, even though we are more vulnerable to hate crime than the Muslim community," said Ramesh Kallidai, secretary-general of the Hindu Forum of Britain.

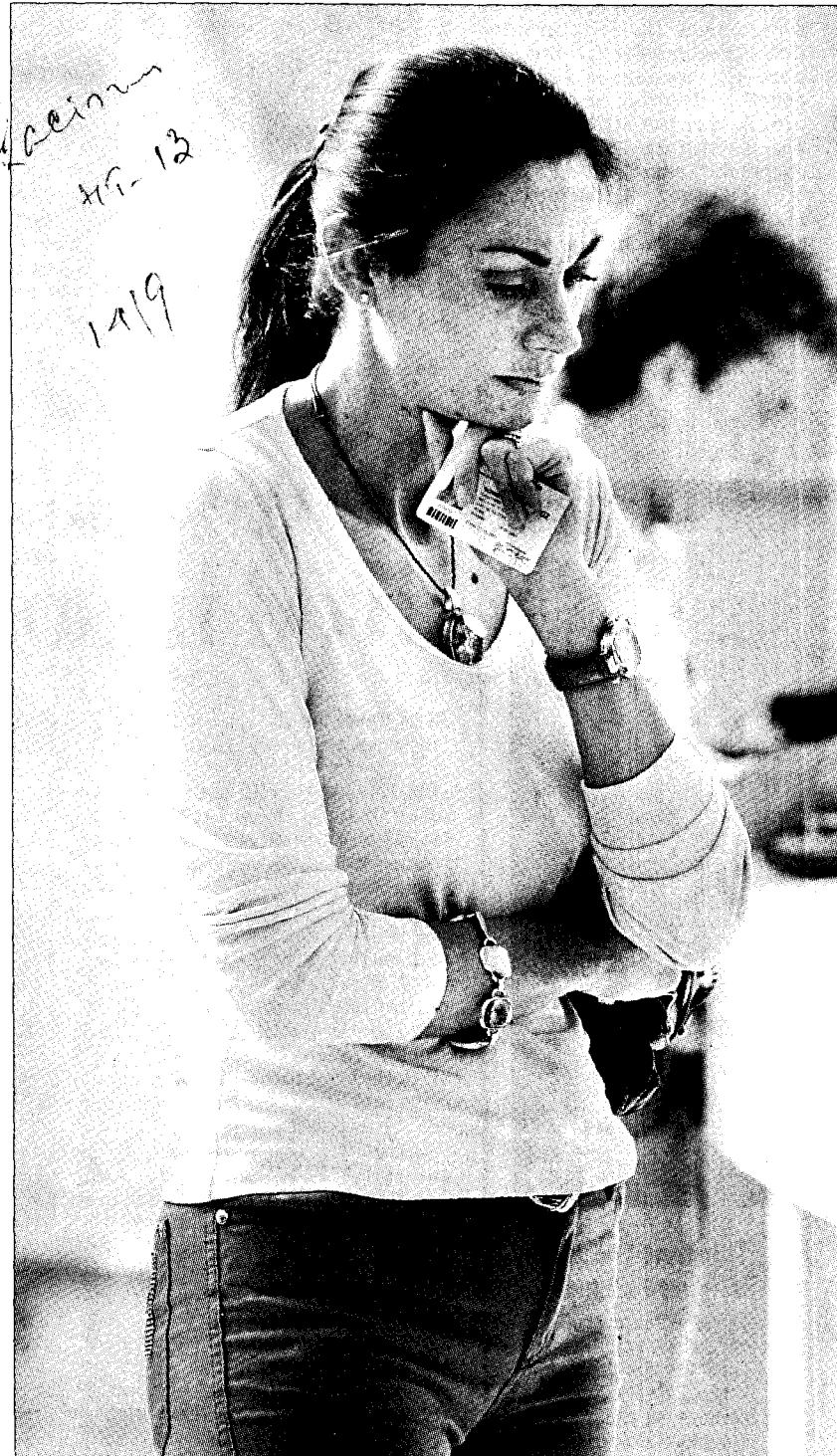
The forum expressed deep concerns at the authorities' "lack of engagement" with Hindus. In recent times, home office ministers had been touring the country to meet Muslim leaders and understand their concerns. The office has also announced the formation of working groups composed almost entirely of Muslim members to tackle extremism.

"The structured approach to the efforts in engaging with the Muslim community is very commendable. However, it is in stark contrast to the manner by which the Hindu community has been treated," Kallidai said.

The authorities are already under fire for treating Asians as suspects. Campaigners have demanded an investigation by the Commission for Racial Equality into orders to the British Transport Police that identified terrorist suspects as those of "Asian, West Indian and east African origin". Officers patrolling the Tube and train networks have been told not to "use stereotypical images of terrorists when deciding whether or not to use their powers of stop and search". But, it said, "It should be noted, however, that recent suspects have included individuals of Asian, West Indian and east African origin, some of whom have British nationality."

Liberty, a human rights lobby group, has consulted lawyers to see if the order breached race relations laws. Its head Shami Chakrabarti said the order was so controversial that she had arranged a meeting with Ian Johnston, the transport police chief constable.

"I am sure the Commission for Racial Equality would be keen to scrutinise this operational order. You can't say 'Don't use stereotypes' and then say 'Just watch out for this lot'," said Simon Woolley of Operation Black Vote.



Hamdi Issac's Italian lawyer Antonietta Sonnessa at a Rome court on Tuesday. Issac, also known as Osman Hussein, is one of the suspected bombers in the July 21 botched attack in London and the highest appellate court in Italy has given the go-ahead to his extradition to Britain.

## Indian-origin Briton jailed for 47 years

VIJAY Dutt & Agencies  
London, September 13

AN AMERICAN court has sentenced an Indian-born British businessman to 47 years in jail for supporting terrorist activities against the United States. Hemant Lakhani, 70, had been arrested in 2003 for trying to smuggle a shoulder-fired missile into the US.

He was convicted for carrying out "horrendous" crimes besides brokering an arms deal for an undercover FBI agent.

His arrest over two years ago had shocked the Indian community here, as Lakhani and his wife were associated with various charitable causes.

But, he was found guilty in April of attempting to support terrorism after a complex FBI sting that involved intelligence spanning three continents, including Russia.

He had been arrested in August 2003 at a hotel near Newark Liberty International Airport where he met a government informant posing as a representative of a Somali-based militant group.

Judge Katherine Hayden told New Jersey District Court in Newark: "There is overwhelming evidence that Mr Lakhani was prepared to sell missiles to terrorists to shoot down aircraft which could have killed hundreds of human beings," she said. "He illustrated a single-minded greed and determination to profit from the arms trade."

The sentence virtually guarantees that ailing Lakhani will spend the rest of his life in prison.

Lakhani broke down as he addressed the court, pleading for leniency. "You have no idea what this has done to me," he said. "My health is no good, I can hardly walk. I do not want

### LONG STINT BEHIND BARS

to die here in this country.

"Me, my wife and my son are a small unit and I wish to get home as soon as possible. Everybody wants to die in his own motherland. I am completely exhausted."

A jury unanimously convicted him of five charges including two counts of money laundering and importing merchandise into the US by means of false statements.

The prosecution hailed the conviction as a victory in the war on terror.

Lakhani's wife, Kusum, also addressed the court, tearfully insisting that her family had no links with terrorist groups. "We are normal people, we have a good life in London, we live normally and are god-fearing", she said. "I and my son are ashamed of this outcome but please consider our name and our family".

The prosecution said that while accepting these factors it could not be ignored that Lakhani had committed horrendous crimes that could have had dire consequences for hundreds of innocent people.

Assistant US Attorney Stuart Rabner said Lakhani wasn't thinking of his family when he was caught on tape discussing terrorist activities against the US.

Lakhani's lawyer had argued that the US government had wrongfully entrapped his client, who had no criminal record and no previous history of arms trafficking. It is indeed surprising that Lakhani, according to the US government a hard-headed arms trafficker, got taken in so easily by the FBI agent who was instrumental in his arrest.

# Attacks against Muslims on the rise in Britain

4/8  
Rahim  
4-3  
Press Trust of India

LONDON, Aug. 3. — Attacks on Muslims motivated by religious hatred, have increased by almost 600 per cent since the two waves of bombings in London last month, police said. Even as the government assured that counter-terrorism measures were not targeted against members of any particular community.

There were 269 "religious hate" crimes, compared with 40, in the same period last year, new figures released by London's Metropolitan Police, showed.

"There is no doubt that incidents impacting on the Muslim community have increased," said assistant commissioner, Mr Tarique Ghaffur, of London's

Metropolitan Police. Though the majority of incidents were minor assaults or low-level abuse, they had a great "emotional impact" on communities, Mr Ghaffur said. "It can lead to these communities completely retreating when we want their engagement and support," he added.

The crimes include criminal damage to property including mosques, physical and verbal attacks.

Even as the figures painted a dismal picture, Home office minister Ms Hazel Blears asserted that Muslims in Britain will not suffer discrimination at the hands of the police. "Counter-terrorism powers are targeting terrorists," said Ms Blears yesterday.

## Extradition may take time

ROME, Aug. 3. — Anti-terrorist squad detectives were last night questioning a man arrested at a flat linked to London tube bombing suspect Hussain Osman as fresh complications arose in the process to extradite him to Britain from Italy. In Italy, although magistrates in Rome strongly denied they were trying to hinder Britain's extradition of Osman, whose real name is said to be Hamdi Issac.

Osman was arrested last Friday in Rome after Scotland Yard, French and Italian police tracked his mobile telephone calls across Europe. He is suspected of the Warren Street bombing. The Ansa news agency reported yesterday.

— The Independent

THE INDEPENDENT

# UK racial-profile warning to police

**London, Aug. 2:** Police should not use racial profiling in their operations to prevent a repeat of this month's terror attacks in London, Hazel Blears, the home office minister, said today.

Blears said that police use of stop-and-search powers should be based on intelligence, not simply on the targeting of particular racial groups. She was speaking after Ian Johnston, chief constable of the British Transport Police, suggested that his officers would be concentrating on particular racial groups, and would not "waste time searching old white ladies".

Blears today visited Oldham and Rochdale in the first of a series of meetings with Muslim community leaders to discuss government initiatives to combat radicalism and promote integration.

She gave warning that the fight against terrorism de-

pend heavily on the willingness of minority communities to co-operate with the police.

Asked if she accepted the use of racial profiling by police, she told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "I have never, ever endorsed that. I don't think you should be ruling out anybody in terms of how you exercise stop-and-search powers.

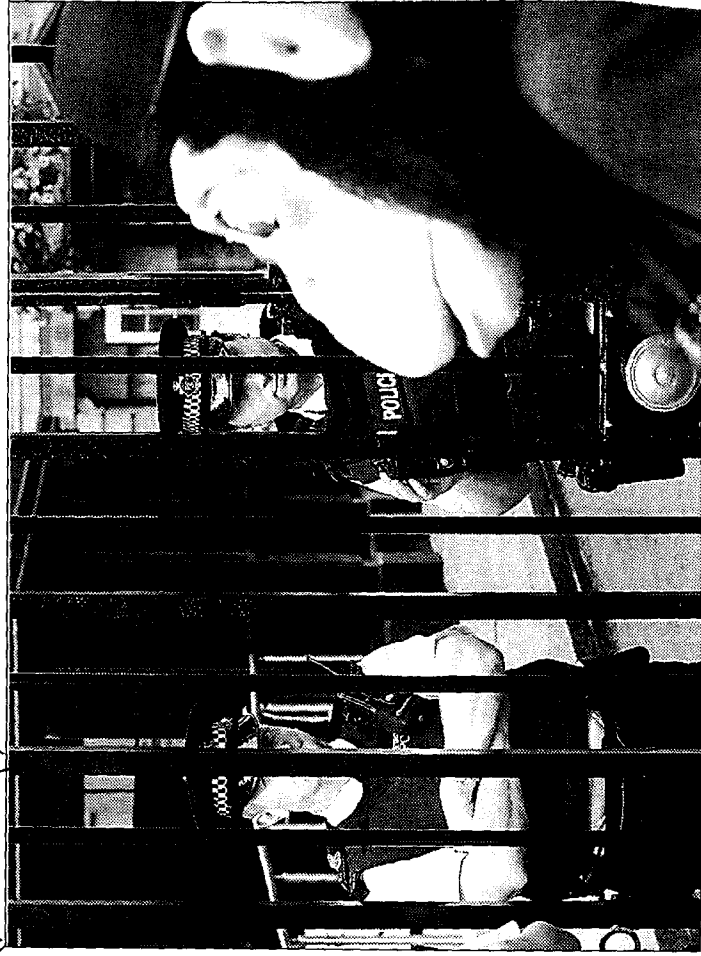
"You can equally have white people who could be the subject of intelligence you have got, so I don't accept it is right simply to target groups. I have said time and time again to police in the guidance I have issued that you exercise this power on the basis of the intelligence available to you and you explain that to communities.

"That is the way you get their trust and confidence."

Blears added: "Just picking people up on the basis that they are Muslim is never going to get the results that we want. This has to be part of a package of powers. It is not to be used in a discriminatory fashion. "Tackling terrorism is absolutely dependent on the confidence of these communities to feel that they can come forward, give information and be part of the fight against this threat."

Blears said that she hoped to talk and listen to members of Oldham's Muslim population to find out what more the government could do on issues like police support for ethnic minorities, training for imams and giving women a bigger voice in their communities. She said she hoped the meetings would help encourage Muslims to get involved in community organisations.

THE TIMES, LONDON



A protester dressed as a monkey walks past police officers guarding 10, Downing Street. (AFP)

## Bus fire sparks panic

**London, Aug. 2 (AFP):** Frightened passengers on a London bus leapt from the upper deck window today when a small fire on board triggered panic amid fears of another terror attack, witnesses said.

Police briefly sealed off part of the city centre after smoke was seen billowing from the double-decker bus, but lifted the alert after nothing alarming was found, a spokesman said.

The incident, the exact cause of which was not immediately clear, reflected jittery nerves of residents in the British capital since the July 7 bombings which left 56 dead.

The July 7 death toll included 13 killed on a bus ripped apart by the blast. Police have warned that the threat of further attacks remains "very real".

# Indian call centre staff quit over racial abuse

VIJAY Dutt  
London, May 29

rain HTS  
3/5

FACED BY abusive callers from Britain and the US, call centre staff in India are quitting their jobs in increasing numbers, unable to bear the stress. This was reported by *The Observer*, whose correspondent quoted a survey to say that workers faced a spectrum of rudeness — from sexual harassment to fury at unsolicited sales calls to open racism.

Shyamanuja Das, the editor of *Global Outsourcing* magazine, which conducted the study said, "The anger in the West over job losses and fear about offshoring has made this a growing problem". The news may be music to the ears of a few anti-outsourcing Union bosses in London but firms, which have outsourced to India are in no mood to transfer the services back to Britain.

Most, like HSBC, Norwich Union or GE Capital Bank, have developed a competitive edge in the global markets because of the huge savings in costs after they outsourced to India. They are least likely to reverse the financial gains they are accruing from outsourcing, in an era of cutthroat competition. An official of a bank, which outsources jobs to India, told HT that the abusive behaviour of British callers was indeed a matter of worry but "that does not mean that we would revert back here". He added, "What we have to do is to improve our training and help the Indian operators to

## Distress call

- Racial, sexual abuse by US, UK customers driving Indian call centre workers to quit
- 25 per cent of call centre workers questioned in a survey said client vitriol was major cause of stress
- Indian BPO firms already face 60 to 70 per cent attrition rate, and racial abuse is only aggravating the problem
- Companies are hiring counsellors, psychiatrists to help employees cope
- There are 3.5 lakh call centre workers in India



cope with the bad behaviour." The official admitted that racist abuses were "not acceptable". Some firms have advised the Indians staff to assume names like Smith or Mary, but the accent is often a dead giveaway.

The report quoted Pooja Chopra from Delhi who spent two years fielding calls for BT Cellnet and AOL, "People would say 'You're a Paki, I don't want to talk to you, pass me on to someone who can speak my language'."

"Some people call up with deliberately difficult questions. Most just say things like, 'You are from India. You don't know anything. I don't want to

speaking to you'."

And adding fuel to the fire, some websites in the US have reportedly posted lists of Hindi swear words which people may use for abusing call centre workers. These websites also list telephone numbers of companies who outsource jobs to India.

The stress caused by abusive callers, is said, to be responsible for an annual attrition rate of 60 to 70 percent among the 350,000 odd workers in Indian call centres. An expert on race relations told *HT* that the only way to stop abuses was to record the callers' words and start proceedings against them.

30 MAY 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Asian leaves England after 14 years of racism

**London:** An Asian man has sold his business in Lancashire and moved out of the area claiming to have endured over 4,000 recorded incidents of racial attacks in the last 14 years.

Mal Hussain and his wife Linda Livingstone bought the Ryelands Mini Market in 1991, and within days they were subjected to racist attacks.

Over the years, Hussain has recorded more than 4,000 separate incidents, including a firebomb and being shot at with live bullets on two occasions.

One night, a petrol-soaked mattress blocked the shop door. His shop was wrapped in razor wire and barricaded with grills and steel shutters.

He announced his intention to quit the mini market in August last year, but it has taken this long to reach a settlement.

During the 1990s, Craig Wareing, a notorious local racist, was jailed for terrorising Hussain and was later banned from entering Lancaster for life.

## HATE ATTACK

"It has been 14 years of hell for both Linda and I. I have always stated that I would not be driven away from my successful business, built through sheer determination and despite all the attempts by racists to undermine it and force us to leave Ryelands," Hussain said. "I feel betrayed and failed by the institutions who are supposed to protect those who suffer at the hands of racists," he said.

"I relentlessly campaigned against the attacks I have experienced because racists cannot be allowed to get away with their acts of violence and harassment.

"This is a sad day for us, because we feel we have been pushed into a corner and options removed from us."

Lee Jasper, secretary of the National Assembly Against Racism, said, "In the last year, Mal has been looking for ways of leaving Ryelands, having come to the end of his tether with the constant nature of harassment he has been experiencing.

"However, despite reaching a settlement, Mal has had to sell the mini market at a cut-down price.

"This case represents one of the most serious and sustained acts of racist violence in recent history." PT

# Health care racism kills US blacks

Reuters

Washington, March 10

**MORE THAN** 80,000 black Americans die every year because of continuing disparities in health care, former US surgeon general, Dr David Satcher, said on Wednesday.

Although the government, public and insurance companies know blacks get the indifferent shoulder in health care, little has been done to improve the situation, Satcher and other health experts said.

Satcher examined US mortality rates for blacks and whites between 1960 and 2000 and found that 40.5 per cent more blacks died each year than would have been expected if they were

white. That adds up to 83,570 deaths a year, he reported in a special issue of the journal Health Affairs.

Many studies have looked at the gap between blacks and whites in health care, and find a variety of factors contribute to the problem, including economic status, education, prejudice and access to doctors and clinics. Many US blacks also say they mistrust doctors and hospitals.

In 2002, the Institute of Medicine, an independent group, reported that members of racial and ethnic minorities are given lower quality health care than whites even when they make as much money and carry the same insurance.

## BLACK REALITY

- Members of racial and ethnic minorities are administered lower-quality treatment
- Blacks are more likely to die of cancer and strokes compared with whites
- The number of black deaths is 83,750 every year, double that of white



In January, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reported that black people in the US are far more likely to die from strokes, diabetes and other diseases than whites.

Sociologist David Williams of the University of Michigan and colleagues reported in the same

issue of Health Affairs that blacks had 30 per cent higher death-rates from cancer and heart disease than whites did in 2000. In 1950, blacks and whites were equally likely to die from heart disease and blacks had lower death-rates from cancer.

But the opposite happened

with flu and pneumonia, the seventh-leading cause of death. "The virtual elimination of a racial disparity in death-rates from flu and pneumonia is a result of the ready availability of treatment," said Pamela Braboy Jackson of Indiana University, who worked with Williams. Senator Edward M. Kennedy called on the Congress and the Bush administration to act fast and improve health care for minorities.

"It boggles the mind that for a generation the United States, with all its wealth and leadership, has been the only industrialised country in the world that does not guarantee health care to all its citizens," Kennedy wrote.

## FREE IN PRIVATE

G. 18
Call
**A**nonymity can be strangely liberating. And what it liberates can be just as strangely double-edged. Call centres in India are becoming aware of an unexpected form of racism in British society. Call-centre workers in Pune trying to talk to British Telecom subscribers in Britain are having to face racist abuse on the phone when their respondents realize that they are talking to callers from India, or when they recognize Indian accents. There are some call-centre workers who have grown up in Britain without facing any explicit racism publicly, but have had to confront abuse from Britons talking from the privacy and anonymity of their homes. There seem to be, again, two Britains — a politically corrected, merrily multicultural and tolerant “public” civil society, and a more complicated, resentful and abusive “private” nation that expresses itself more freely and violently on issues like immigration and outsourcing.

The relationship between these private expressions of racism and modern forms of communication is profoundly ironic. First, it is globalization itself, and its various mobilities, which breed this racism, the blurring of the boundaries of nations, economies and work. Second, and more interestingly, the “freedom” afforded by telephones, and then the internet, paradoxically liberates the older, and darker, attitudes. A frightening range of fascists, neo-nazis, rabid nationalists, fundamentalists and terrorists have found freedom of expression and association through the internet. Modern civilization’s most violent discontents have found forms of utterance in these virtual and almost identity-less worlds brought into being by telephones and cyberspace. Freedom, in these spaces and networks, becomes a peculiarly ambivalent thing, almost limitless and ungovernable, frustrating most attempts at legislation or policing. This is, of course, easier with the internet than with telephony. Racist abusers who use the phone may be traced, while neo-nazi or paedophilic chatrooms and their inhabitants are both dangerously real and dangerously virtual. The “civilized” races today find, in some of the fruits of modern technology, a means of overcoming the progressive, and repressive, elements in their civilization itself when suddenly liberated from an individual identity, from a name and a face. It is only at such moments that the lost freedom of calling somebody a “job-stealing Paki” may be experienced in all its headily forbidden thrill.



# Europe may ban swastika

By Rashmee Z Ahmed/TNN

*Rashmee*  
*18/11*  
*GM*  
**London:** Europe may be forced into considering a continent-wide ban on the swastika, one of the oldest, most globally recognised, but also most reviled Sanskrit symbols in the West, in an anguished response to Prince Harry's choice of the Nazi uniform, swastika and SS badge at a fancy dress party.

On Sunday, German politicians mooted discussing a ban at the next meeting of justice ministers from the 25 European Union member states. But Indophiles said it

was a sad commentary on the swastika, which is translated from the Sanskrit to mean 'it is well', even though Hitler's hijacking made it a symbol of evil.

The swastika is already banned under the German law. Its link, since the 1930s, with Hitler and the Nazi party has turned it into an irresistibly rebellious, underground symbol for white Western suprema-

cists and separatist hate groups across Europe. But Harry's casual use of the symbol prompted senior German politicians to insist it was time all of Europe banned a display of the swastika and Nazi signs because all of Europe suffered from the crimes of the Nazis.



Wolfgang Bosback, vice president of the Christian Democratic group and Silvana Koch-Merin, vice president of the Liberal group in the European parliament, are quoted to say it would be "logical" for a new ban on the swastika. Michael Muller,

vice president of the parliament's Social Democratic group, went even further to say that Europe should consider a German-style anti-Nazi law. German anguish at the British prince's unthinking appropriation of symbols of their shame came amidst reports that Harry and his elder brother William were part of a "social scene that thinks racism and bigotry quite funny".

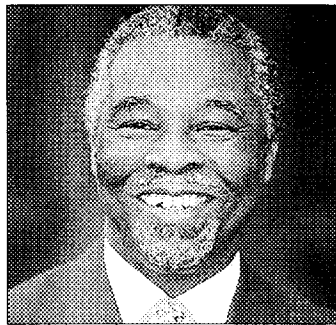
# Mbeki attacks 'racist' Churchill

Guardian News Service  
Johannesburg, January 5

SOUTH AFRICAN President Thabo Mbeki has made a withering attack on Winston Churchill and other historic British figures, calling them racists who ravaged Africa and blighted its post-colonial development.

Mbeki was addressing the Sudanese assembly, and he was criticised for not dealing with the government's human rights violations in Darfur. He said British imperialists in the 19th and 20th centuries had treated Africans as savages and left a "terrible legacy" of countries divided by race, colour, culture and religion.

He singled out Churchill as a progenitor of vicious prejudice who justified British atrocities by depicting the continent's inhabitants as inferior races who needed to be subdued, and pointed out that Kitchener and Wolseley had waged ruthless campaigns in Su-



**Thabo Mbeki**  
*On the offensive*

dan and South Africa.

"To some extent we can say that when these eminent representatives of British colonialism were not in Sudan, they were in South Africa, and vice versa, doing terrible things wherever they went, justifying what they did by defining the native peoples of Africa as savages that had to be civilised, even against their will."

The speech was made on New

Year's Day but the full text was made available in South Africa only this week.

As an exile in Britain in the 1960s Mbeki was educated at Sussex University and worked in the London office of the African National Congress.

Once considered an Anglophile, his admiration for South Africa's former colonial power seems to have been cooled by spats over the Iraq war and strife in Zimbabwe. As a young man Churchill served in Africa as an army officer, he was colonial secretary in 1921-22, and wrote articles and books about the continent.

Mbeki quoted a passage from *The River War*, Churchill's account of Kitchener's campaign in Sudan, which described shortcomings in "Mohammedanism" — Islam. It said: "Besides the fanatical frenzy, which is as dangerous in a man as hydrophobia in a dog, there is this fearful fatalistic apathy."