

Hearings on Religious Freedom in India and Pakistan: Panel 3 Introduction

September 18, 2000

Chairman Elliot Abrams

U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

CHAIRMAN ABRAMS: We will recommence the hearing with our third panel on United States policy toward India and Pakistan, and I will just briefly introduce those who will be speaking.

Marshall Bouton is executive vice-president of the Asia Society. He was previously director of policy analysis for the Near East, Africa and South Asia in the International Security Affairs sector of the U.S. Defense Department; once served as a special assistant to Ambassador Robert Kohne [ph], the U.S. ambassador in India, and has resided in India for a total of eight years on four separate occasions.

He co-chairs the U.S.-India Roundtable of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Asia Society with former ambassador Frank Wisener.

Sumit Ganguly is professor of Asian Studies in the Center for Asian Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and has done academic work and research on the sources of conflict between India and Pakistan; the contemporary insurgency in Kashmir; confidence-building measures in South Asia; the Sino-Indian border dispute. He is a member of the editorial board of Asian Survey and a contributing editor of Asian Affairs and has written a number of books on these subjects, including *The Hope and the Reality: U.S.-Indian Relations from Roosevelt to Reagan*.

Tamara Sonn is professor in the Department of Religion at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. She's William R. Kenyon Professor of Humanities and Religion and president of the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies.

She's also a member of the editorial board of the Oxford Dictionary of Islam and the academic advisory board of the Center for

Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University and a member of the board of directors of the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy. She, as well, has written a number of books about these questions, including *Islam and the Question of Minorities and the State* and *Islam: The Challenge of Political Legitimacy in the Muslim World*.

Ambassador Robert Oakley is now a fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies at National Defense University. He retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in 1991 after 34 years, in which he was connected very often with this area of the world, including serving in the seventies as senior director for Middle East and South Asia at the National Security Council. In the 1980s, he served as U.S. ambassador to Pakistan. He is the recipient of the U.S. State Department's Meritorious Honor Award, four Presidential Meritorious Service Awards, the State Department's Distinguished Honor Award and the Defense Department's Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

We have a one time problem this afternoon, which is that Mr. Bouton has to leave us at 2:30, just when the questioning is going to get going. So what I would like to do is to ask you to give us your statement within the 10-minute limit that we will impose on everyone for the oral statements, and then, we will do a Q and A with you if that's all right, so that we'll make sure to catch you before you have to leave.

Please.