

Pakistan's shadowy ISI spy service

Pakistan's directorate for Inter-Services Intelligence – which is accused by Washington of collaborating with the Taliban – is the nation's most feared agency, with powers including wiretapping and arbitrary detention

■ Indo-Pakistan war:

ISI founded to co-ordinate intelligence functions of army, air force and navy during Kashmir conflict

1948

■ Soviet invasion of Afghanistan:

ISI gains importance and power when it works with America's CIA to provide weapons, money intelligence and training to an estimated 83,000 **mujahideen** guerrillas battling Soviet forces

1979-89

■ Mehran Bank scandal:

ISI ensures election defeat of **Benazir Bhutto's** Pakistan People's Party by bankrolling campaigns of her opponents

1990

1996

■ Support of Taliban:

After fall of communist regime in Afghanistan, ISI backs emerging **Taliban** in civil war which results in ousting of government of President **Burhanuddin Rabbani** (left)



2006

■ London bombings:

Leaked British Ministry of Defence think-tank paper links ISI to London bombs in 2005 that killed 52 people

■ India attacks:

India's spy agency – Research and Analysis Wing – links ISI to

2008

terrorist attacks by **Lashkar-e-Taiba** in Mumbai that kill nearly two hundred people. RAW also claims ISI is behind suicide attack on Indian embassy in Kabul



2011

■ April: Admiral **Mike Mullen** – top U.S. military officer – accuses ISI of having links with Taliban and Pakistan-based insurgent **Haqqani Network**