

investigation by Scotland
force CIB3. A prominent member of CIB3 at the
time was Det Supt Moore. Whether a former

of any connection to the case
one has yet been held responsible.

MILKING THE SYSTEM

WHAT are the facts about Labour peer Lord Ahmed and Nestlé, the multinational milk company? He is not impressed by criticism of the company that comes, he says, "mainly from white people".

That is emphatically not the view of Syed Aamar Raza, who is not white and is a former employee of Nestlé in Pakistan. Raza's evidence is set out in *Milking Profits*, a report published by the Network, a Pakistani organisation affiliated to the Cambridge-based campaign group, Baby Milk Action. Raza alleges that Nestlé repeatedly broke the World Health Organisation code by actively promoting bottle feeding as an alternative to breast milk, despite the fact that in countries like Pakistan water supplies are often polluted and can cause life-threatening diarrhoea.

Raza accuses the company of linking employees' bonuses to sales of infant formula, giving gifts to doctors and making direct contact with mothers at baby shows, all of which are banned by the code. Raza first experienced serious doubts when a doctor on his circuit who failed to save a baby dying from diarrhoea told him that the child had died as "the result of marketing by people like you". He resigned and issued a legal notice calling on Nestlé to stop breaking the code.

After Raza issued the notice, he claims, his group manager threatened to have him killed and his family kidnapped unless he stopped his action. After helping to compile *Milking Profits*, Raza came to Europe to promote the report. On 28 February 2000 he and representatives of Baby Milk Action met Lord Ahmed at the House of Lords where the peer appeared to support their campaign, and on 29 February Raza gave a presentation to a public meeting arranged by Labour MP Neil Gerrard.

Two days earlier shots had been fired at Raza's home in Sialkot, Pakistan; but when Baby Milk Action asked Nestlé to condemn the attack, the company issued a statement claiming it had never happened. Raza has been in hiding ever since and



Lord Ahmed: the milk man cometh

has not seen his wife or two young children for more than two years.

By the end of 2000 Lord Ahmed was clearly siding with Nestlé. He offered to put the company's case at a European parliament hearing in November 2000 and wrote to MEPs in the multinational's defence. In a letter to Lord Ahmed in January 2001, Mr Raza expressed his disappointment that Lord Ahmed had failed to contact either him or Baby Milk Action before visiting Nestlé's operations in Pakistan.

Nestlé responded to Raza's allegations by commissioning an external report. The report found that in general Nestlé adhered to the spirit of the WHO code. Nestlé rejoiced, but somehow forgot to mention the report's proviso: "This study does not represent an attempt to investigate any of the allegations made, either by the Network or by Mr Raza. Whilst we were aware of, and took into account the allegations that have been made, we have neither tried to prove or to refute them."

Nestlé has accused Raza of trying to blackmail the company in return for dropping his allegations, and in an interview on the BBC Asian Network last month Lord Ahmed said that he has had access to a tape backing up the allegation. Despite repeated requests, Nestlé has refused to release the tape. Lord Ahmed meanwhile says he may join Nestlé as an adviser on international affairs.

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