form a part of one great family of mountain chains. A glance at the physical map of Baluchistan shows that the Sulaiman range forms an important line of hills running north and south. At its southward end, the range takes a western bend forming the Bugti hills, and then it soon turns northwest giving rise to the Marri hills, extending along the Bolan pass to as far as Quetta. At this point there is a sharp hairpin bend in the alignment of the hill ranges and we have, to the south of Quetta, the Brahui and the Kirthar mountains running due north and south. In a region of compression like the area covered by this plexus of hill ranges showing abrupt flexures and lying under severe strain, any increased stress must naturally result in a severe convulsion of the earth's surface. To the east of the present scene is the great Kachhi plain where an earthquake of great magnitude took place in 1909. The belt of the greatest havoc in the case of the recent earthquake runs roughly north and south extending over an area of about 70 miles long and 16 miles broad, including important and populous towns such as Quetta and Mastung. This will give us an idea of the epicentral area, where rocks of varying degrees of hardness and of different ages are known to occur, constituting the Baluchistan Mountain System. It is well known that "faulting" in rocks is the commonest type of movement which gives rise to earthquakes, and the probability is that it is a dislocation of this type that has been responsible for the Quetta Earthquake.

A more definite diagnosis of the cause of this earthquake must await a thorough and detailed geological investigation which has already been initiated by the Geological Survey of India.

Within recent times earthquakes have become an epidemic, and places like Quetta, one of the foremost R.A.F. base headquarters of the Western Command, where there must necessarily be large ammunition depots, need special protection.

NEWS

HOW REVOLUTIONARY *IS* THE COMPUTER?

. . . "It is probable that the new revolution in computers is proceeding rather more quickly than did the old one in electricity. About 25 years passed between Volta's pioneering work on the electric battery and the first great chemical discoveries of public impact. The development of a sizable computer industry from the first transistor took less than half that time, perhaps 15 years at most. Seventy-five years after Volta, the world was entering quite a new age, with the magic touch of Thomas Alva Edison and his invention factory. If we assume that we have a similar sort of high-tech revolution moving at something like twice the speed of the first one, we are now in a period corresponding roughly to the time of Edison. The analogues of the beginning of electronics are not due in the computer revolution until about the year 2000. History does not in any sense repeat itself; all we are doing is supposing on reasonable evidence that we have the same sort of phenomenon in process once again. But I feel we ought to draw a lesson from the way in which each development of the first high-tech revolution in electricity was leading to worlds unimagined when they were already beginning to happen. Many people make the mistake of thinking that the computer is just some single invention that is progressing bit by bit. We are not, however, dealing with a single, improving invention, like the sewing machine. We are in the midst of a general revolution. We cannot expect the computers of 2000 to be an extensional of those of today, no more so than a television set is a glorified Morse code telegraph."

[(Derek J. de Solla Price in *OMNI* 7(5):8, Feb 85 (See also: E. Garfield. A tribute to Derek John de Solla Price: a bold, iconoclastic historian of science. *Current Contents* (28): 3-7, 9 Jul 84.)) Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 13, April 1, 1985, p. 16, (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]