

PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQ PREPARES WAY FOR IRANIAN-CIA ATTACK

Oct. 22 (IPS)--As Iraq moves internally, with Soviet military support, to crush the CIA-backed rebellion of Kurdish tribesmen in the north and to organize a regional opposition to Rockefeller's Middle East puppet governments, the Rockefeller forces are gearing up for a major assault against the Iraqis via the CIA-directed army of the Shah of Iran. A major press campaign against Iraq and its Soviet allies already has laid the basis for an Iranian invasion of Iraq, on CIA orders, to eliminate the last remaining Soviet outpost in the Middle East. This essentially would complete an airtight encirclement of the USSR's southern flank.

In a full-page spread in last Sunday's Washington Post, Middle East correspondent of the Manchester Guardian David Hirst depicts the "authoritarian" Baathist government of Iraq as conducting a bloodthirsty war against the "poor, outnumbered Kurds." "Wave after suicidal wave of Iraqi assaults...each more desperate than the last," Hirst writes, "are being launched by the Iraqi forces in Kurdistan. Hirst claims that the Iraqi soldiers are "being forced to fight at the point of a bayonet." "There is widespread talk of mutiny," he states. Hirst called the Iraqi political system "totalitarian, the sternest that the violent country has ever known."

In comments published by the Post but deleted by his own paper, Hirst goes on to bring up the bogeyman of a possible Soviet-Iraqi axis: "On the face of it, Iran would seem to have little to fear. It is the much stronger of the two. But what it really fears is Iraq plus the Soviet Union."

Strategic Soviet Ally

A move by Rockefeller into Iraq represents nothing less than an open attack on a strategic Soviet ally. As such it demands a total Soviet military commitment in Iraq's defense--including the threat of full and massive retaliation in nuclear weapons should the U.S. decide to intervene directly. Driven mad by Iraq's dissenting position, Rockefeller will instruct his computer-efficient robots at State and Defense Departments and the CIA to prepare and carry out the elimination of Iraq, unless he is deterred by the Soviets' nuclear arsenal.

In that light, the death in the Hilton Hotel in Rabat, Morocco Oct. 20 of Iraqi Foreign Minister Shazel Taka, a pro-Soviet Union Baathist, must be seen as deeply suspicious. Taka was reported to have died from a heart attack--at the age of 45--by the Moroccan wire service Maghreb Agence Presse. Taka was in Rabat to participate in a meeting of Arab foreign ministers which is to draw up the agenda for the Arab summit scheduled for Oct. 26. It is important to note in this regard that the summit will be concerned largely with the problems of oil, and that the Baath government recently has gone on record stating that last year's oil hoax was neither in the interests of populations in the advanced world nor those of the Arab and Third World nations.

10/23/74

IPS 21