

The Destabilization of Iran

'Right' and 'left' networks versus the Shah's development plans

A joint operation conducted by the Zionist Lobby, elements within Israeli intelligence, and long-established British colonial intelligence networks is being waged to overthrow the Shah of Iran. Short of a successful coup against the Iranian monarch, the current antigovernment unrest is designed to deter the Shah from his efforts to industrialize his oil-producing nation in a context of regional peace.

According to sources close to the Carter Administration, the operation is unfolding on two interconnected levels. On the one hand, "left" and "right" antigovernment groupings have come together to spur the most serious round of riots in Iran since 1963. A key figure in directing the turmoil is the Islamic Shi'ite leader Ayatullah Khomeini, who was exiled to Iraq following his efforts to overthrow the Shah in 1963. On the other side, pro-Israel exponents both in Congress and in the Carter Administration are pressuring the White House to adopt a Mideast policy based on the Kissinger-architected Iran-Israel military axis, at the expense of the strategic Saudi-U.S. relationship. The domestic pressure on the Shah is to ensure his compliance.

Senator Jacob Javits is known to be supporting the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Iran, which has direct ties to dissidents both in and out of Iran.

The calculation by the Zionist Lobby, Israeli intelligence, and certain British-based merchant banks with links to British intelligence is that if sufficient pressure can be brought to bear on the Shah, his firm alliance with the Saudis in keeping down the price of oil and maintaining the dollar as the pricing mechanism for oil produced by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) may be weakened. Under such circumstances, the Saudis' moderate influence in OPEC would be undermined, in favor of a likely break with the dollar in favor of a basket of currencies—a plan first proposed to the cartel by City of London advisors in 1971.

Moreover, a break in Riyadh-Teheran relations could be a first step in undermining the unity of OPEC, a goal which the Zionist Lobby and its allied Congressmen such as Frank Church and Javits have publicly endorsed.

The destabilization against the Shah's government has another important purpose: to halt the Shah's bold development plans, in particular his commitment to nuclear energy. The backward Iranian peasantry has been thrown against the Shah's plans, as intense rioting afflicted 34 Iranian cities, including the capital, Teheran. The Shah was forced to call out the well-armed Iranian military, and deploy tanks and antiriot squads to certain sections of Teheran.

The Shah told the British daily *London Observer* April 17 that he was aware that the Iranian orthodox Shi'ite

clergy, the Ulema, was determined to prevent "the progress of the country," which they claim is undermining pure Islamic law, the Sharia. He noted that the Iranian cabinet is "feverishly establishing vocational schools, to train the labor necessary for administrative, industrial and agricultural tasks." Such an educational drive is designed to undercut the population's vulnerability to the fanaticism of the ultra-right Shi'ite Ulema.

Unlike many of the Shah's petroleum-producing Arab neighbors, Iran has no more than 30 years of oil reserves left. At that point its large and growing population will be forced to depend on newly created industries.

As a result, the Shah has in recent years begun to take a much more aggressive stand in promoting international policies towards peace and development through detente and a just, comprehensive peace in the Mideast. This policy stance has increasingly distanced Teheran from Jerusalem.

The turn was dramatically signaled in 1975 when Iran and its erstwhile regional adversary Iraq signed a border agreement resolving the crisis provoked by Kurdish insurgents operating against Iraq out of Iran. Well-placed sources have noted that there was heavy Israeli intelligence participation in that anti-Iraqi operation, and have also stressed that the Kurdish revolts were the outcome of the Iranian-Israeli anti-Arab alliance.

Since the 1975 agreement there has been a steady diplomatic effort on the part of Iran to warm relations with the Saudis and the other Arab nations bordering the Gulf.

The "Right" and "Left" Networks

The Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Iran, newly formed this year with Senator Javits's support, is a crucial behind-the-scenes player in triggering the rioting which reached its peak earlier this month. The organization, according to informed sources, has ties not only to Ayatullah Khomeini, but also other religious fanatics such as Ayatullah Madari and Ayatullah Najari. A secondary role in waging domestic unrest is played by yet another Islamic cultist known as Golpayegani, who acts as a mediator between Khomeini in Iraq and the Shi'ite Islamic sects based in the cities of Qum, Tabriz, and Teheran.

Although Khomeini's insurgent activities have been curbed since the 1975 Iran-Iraq agreement, the recent weeks demonstrate that nothing less than a full crackdown against him and his religious collaborators will free Iran from the threat of further destabilizations.

Working with the rightist Shi'ite leaders are the left-wing Islamic students associated with the Iranian

Students Organization, formed in 1954 in London. It now has close ties to Amnesty International, an organization closely linked with the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies terrorist control center and its European adjunct, the Amsterdam-headquartered Transnational Institute. In this connection recently the Soviet daily *Izvestia* identified the Institute for Policy Studies as having been involved in terrorist activities against the government of Italy.

Over the last 10 years the Iranian Students Organization has increasingly adopted a Maoist anti-industry, zero-growth political profile, and has been responsible for serious damage not only to a number of Iranian university campuses but also industrial sites.

Over the last 12-month period, a number of editorial statements in the Iranian state-owned daily *Kayhan* have directly condemned the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) for broadcasting reports which were designed to incite the population against the government. Most noteworthy, at the end of 1977, a *Kayhan* editorial named British Foreign Secretary David Owen as instrumental in promoting domestic problems in Iran, and at the same time condemned Amnesty International.

The British press today continues to produce exaggerated crisis-mongering reports about the domestic situation in Iran, going so far as to predict a military confrontation between the Iranian military and the rioters, during the upcoming anniversary of the bloody antigovernment riots in Teheran of 1963. The fanatical Khumayni, in an interview with the French daily *Le Monde* of May 10 (see below) predicted that Iran would soon experience a "gigantic explosion," a line

similar to that carried by the London *Financial Times*. In an interview with the French daily *Le Matin* Khumayni's counterpart Madari declared that if the Iranian government does not cease its "drift" toward Westernization and modernization and accept the Islamic "way of wisdom," "the religious movement will take new forms of violence."

Moreover, these Shi'ite fanatics have according to the London Telegraph blackmailed the merchants of Teheran, Qum, and Tabriz into launching a general strike. The Shi'ites have put the merchants and shopkeepers on notice that if they don't obey their stores will be set on fire. As a result, these cities have felt the impact of food shortages and a short-term increase of prices by as much as 20 percent.

During the second week in May the unrest became so intense that the Shah was forced to postpone a trip to Hungary and Bulgaria, in order to take personal command of the military. Under the Shah's personal control, SAVAK, the Iranian secret police broke into the residence of a leading Islamic leader in Qum, the first time ever that Iranian authorities invaded the private dwellings of the Ulema. Shortly thereafter, calm returned to Teheran and the Shah rescheduled his trip to the East bloc for May 16.

The Shah has announced during his visit to Hungary last week that he will make a visit to Romania and East Germany in future months, thus rounding out visits by the Iranian monarch to all the East bloc countries with the exception of the USSR over the last 15 months.

How Iran Will Industrialize

With a view toward future needs, Iran is trying to build an industrial base as an alternative to its present oil-oriented economy. More oil will be used for petrochemical production instead of being exported. Significantly, the program the Iranian government has outlined plans for supplying energy through a program of nuclear power development and use of Iran's natural gas deposits.

At present the Iranian nuclear development policy is considered one of the biggest ventures ever undertaken by an underdeveloped country. Iran has signed a \$4 billion deal with France for the construction of three nuclear power stations. Payments will be made by bartering Iranian oil valued at \$1 billion while the rest will be raised through Eurodollar loans. Iran has turned to West Germany and is negotiating for the purchase of five nuclear stations.

While other countries are enhancing their economic interests in Iran, the U.S.'s own vital concerns there are adversely affected by the Carter Administration's nonproliferation policy. Although the Shah has recently raised the number of nuclear reactors planned for Iran from 22 to 26, the Carter Administration's nonproliferation stance has undercut the U.S. nuclear industry's competitive position.

Nevertheless, Iran continues to offer to purchase up to six reactors from the U.S. pending a change in its

nonproliferation policies. To date, Teheran has purchased over half its quota of reactors from France and West Germany.

Another important element of growth in the Iranian economy is the country's natural gas trade with the Soviet Union. In 1975, Iran, West Germany, and the Soviet Union signed a landmark multibillion dollar deal for large-scale trade of Iranian natural gas to the USSR, where in turn Soviet gas would be piped into Austria, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, and France.

Just last month Soviet trade official S.A. Skachov was in Teheran to finalize an agreement to construct the second section of pipeline to transport the gas which will come on line in 1981. Significantly, Soviet Premier Andrei Kosygin called the agreement the "deal of the century."

Moreover, it is known that the just-concluded summit between Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Bonn took up the question of joint development of the Less Developed Countries (LDCs) and that Iran was directly involved. Just prior to Brezhnev's arrival in Bonn, Edward Gierek, Czechoslovakian Communist Party chief, led an industrial delegation to West Germany to discuss joint LDC investment, naming Iran as a primary target.

The British Scenario

Another strategic aspect to the current destabilization of Iran is part of scenarios being spun out of the Royal Institute for International Affairs to transform the "northern tier" nations of CENTO, Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran as well as the subcontinent into an anti-Soviet constellation of forces. The scenario was outlined in the May 8 issue of London's weekly *Economist*, which predicted all kinds of tribal and religious wars on the borders of Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan as a result of the pro-Soviet coup in Afghanistan three weeks ago. According to a U.S. State Department insider, the Afghanistan coup is being drastically overplayed in the press to make credible a "Soviet threat" to the region. Nonetheless, the *Economist* predicts that "Islamic communalism" will spread to Lebanon and through to Far Eastern countries such as the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia, all of which have large Muslim populations. This is London's tactical counter to the moves for Asian economic development with the critical input of the Soviet Union and Iran in the context of global detente. From the Lebanese side, the *Economist* plays up the strong Shi'ite presence which is known to have close ties with the Israelis and the ultra-rightist extremists around Camille Chamoun to throw the Palestinians out of Lebanon.

The Lebanese Speaker of the Parliament, Kamal Assad, who is a collaborator of Israeli intelligence, widely known for his anti-Palestinian policies, is a close confidant of the Shah. According to State Department sources, Assad is urging the Shah to finance an anti-Palestinian Shi'ite movement in Lebanon in collaboration with the Israelis and Chamoun. At the same time Chamoun, a strong advocate of the 1955 Baghdad Pact, formed by the British as a military alliance against the USSR, is sending messages to the Shah that the only secure solution against the so-called Islami Marxists is the reestablishment of the old Israeli-Iranian axis.

The fact that Khomeini is a vocal advocate of Palestinian rights has acted to sway the Shah toward such a short-term alliance, although to date it has not been convincing enough to force a solid Iranian-Israeli-Chamoun alliance.

Khomeini and the Kennedy Connection

Khomeini took the spotlight in 1963 leading a vocal insurgent campaign to block the Shah's economic reforms through the White Revolution. Since his exile to Iraq following an unsuccessful coup attempt, Khomeini has made headlines through continued terrorist activities. During 1970, he was responsible for planting

explosive devices in several buildings during a meeting of 30 U.S. corporations in Teheran for an industrial conference.

Following the 1975 Iran-Iraq border agreement Khomeini shifted his alliances towards the government of Syrian president Hafez Assad, playing on the long-standing ideological differences between Iraq and Syria. The Iraqi government has had its hands tied with respect to clamping down on Khomeini, due to his influence with the Iraqi peasantry. The Iraqi government is aware that Khomeini's presence within their borders threatens a new round of disagreements with Iran. One Iranian source recently noted that this could take the form of a new upsurge of Kurdish rebellions, which could easily again involve the Israelis.

Furthermore, many observers fear that Khomeini may strengthen his connection through the influential Bakhtiari family. The leader of the clan, Timur Bakhtiari, is known to have attempted many assassination attempts on the Shah's life in cooperation with French right-wing terrorist groups such as the OAS (the Secret Army Organization) to stir up military discontent against the Shah. Observers, moreover note that the same Timur Bakhtiari, a former general and chief of the Iranian Secret Police, SAVAK, in 1956, had been chosen as the Shah's replacement by the Kennedy Administration, and was in the process of training Khomeini's followers into a paramilitary army, by shipping arms to Iran from South Lebanon, before his assassination in Iraq by SAVAK in 1972.

Sources close to the U.S. intelligence community and to the Iranian government have revealed that the same Bakhtiari clan is responsible for the newly formed group called "From Jail to Exile," consisting of former Iranian army officers, which has surfaced in London. The group's spokesman, former Lt. Mehrdad Pazkaz, told a May 18 press conference in London that junior-ranking officers and soldiers will "turn their guns against the Iranian regime." Such threats have never before been uttered by an Iranian military officer.

According to U.S. sources, "only the Bakhtiaris have a capability of pulling off such an operation," since "the army was carefully put together by the Shah with U.S. help."

One hundred years ago, these feudal mercenaries of the Bakhtiari were used to safeguard British oil routes in the Gulf. In the past ten years they have been involved — with Kennedy family aid since 1961 — in paramilitary shocktroop, and gun-running operations extending from Lebanon through Iraq, and have been key in British Secret Service fomenting of destabilizations by Islamic mystic cults throughout the Middle East.

Terrorist Leader Predicts Iran Explosion

Long-time terrorist Ayatolla Kumayni, the Shi'ite leader, gave an interview which was printed May 6 in the French daily Le Monde. Here are excerpts.

Q: What do you think of the Islamic-Marxist label which the regime always uses to denounce the rebels? Do you have close ties with the extreme left?

A: It was the Shah who used this expression, and his lackeys followed suit. It is a false and contradictory concept invented to discredit and eliminate our Moslem people's struggle against the regime. The Islamic idea, based on the oneness of God, is the opposite of materialism. The term "Islamic-Marxist" is ironic...

There has never been an alliance between the Moslem population fighting the Shah and communist elements, extremist or otherwise. In my proclamations I have always emphasized that the Moslem people must remain homogeneous in their struggle and forbid themselves any systematic collaboration with communist elements.

Q: In the absence of a systematic relationship, would you envisage a tactical alliance with the Marxists in order to overthrow the Shah?

A: No, we will not collaborate with the Marxists, not even to overthrow the Shah. I have ordered my flock not to do so. We are opposed to their ideas; we know they want to stab us in the back; and if they achieved power they would establish a dictatorial regime contrary to the spirit of Islam.

Q: In your view, what has caused the chain of riots in Iran? What is happening now?

A: ... The deterioration in economic, social and cultural conditions and the scope of the repression have reached intolerable levels. The latest riots herald the start of a giant explosion which will have incalculable effects.

British Promote Religious Chaos In Iran

The following excerpts from the London Times show how the British are trying to promote religious chaos in Iran. The article appeared on May 21.

The Shah of Iran, facing a growing challenge from opposition groups, has been threatened with a "holy war" by the country's religious leaders, according to informed sources.

A telegram sent to the Shah after a new round of clashes between demonstrators and government forces in the religious centre of Qum demands that he should stop using violence to quell protests, and end his "pressure" on the people.

Otherwise, says the cable, the religious leaders will have to make a "final decision." That, the sources indicate, is a veiled threat to launch a holy war.

The telegram was sent by Anatollah Abolghassen Khoyi, a leading Iranian religious figure who heads an Islamic university at Najaf in neighbouring Iraq. It indicates that the leaders of Iran's Shi'ite Muslims, who have provided a rallying point for a wide variety of disaffected Iranians, have drastically hardened their stand.

Previously they kept to a campaign about human rights and law and order. But in a cassette recording going the rounds, a mullah preaching to thousands of worshippers in Teheran bazza's Friday Mosque declares that the fight is on for an "Islamic" government.