

Arafat: Khomeini is our leader

The following is an extract of a speech delivered on Dec. 7, 1979, in Beirut, Lebanon, by Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat. The speech is evidence of the extent to which the Khomeini psychosis has infected the PLO. It is known that Arafat himself was formerly a member of the Muslim Brotherhood in the 1950s.

We and the Iranian revolution are not just in one trench. No. We are one revolution led by one man—Imam Khomeini.

Therefore, tell Imam Khomeini that these Lebanese-Palestinian forces await his military order. He

can move them as he desires. If he wants to move them from this area in southern Lebanon in defense of Arabism in Lebanon in order to fight there alongside these Iranian revolutionaries who are coming tomorrow, we welcome that. If he wants to move them to any place in the world, we are ready....

Tell our imam, the leader of the march, that the soldiers—we are all soldiers—are ready to receive the order and to move, sacrifice, and die. We welcome martyrdom....

Tell Imam Khomeini to give the order, and we will obey and move to strike U.S. imperialism and U.S. imperialist interests at any time and in any place and I mean any place.

The day will come when we will say: Join the *jihad* for Palestine! ... Join the *jihad* to liberate Jerusalem; join the *jihad* to liberate Jerusalem; join the *jihad* to liberate Jerusalem, and make it a revolution until victory!

coordination with the local communist movement, often with the sanction—and even support of certain countries of the Warsaw Pact.

It would be a mistake, however, to consider the Muslim Brotherhood a Soviet “puppet.” The Ikhwan maintains contact with a particular faction of the communist movement: that associated with the British triple agent and now KGB General, Kim Philby. That faction, strongest in Rumania and Yugoslavia as well as within the Communist Party apparatus of Western Europe, is also powerful within the Arab communist movement.

In Iran Khomeini is supported by the Tudeh (Communist) party there; the Iraqi Communist Party is also pro-Khomeini.

In Sudan, which once had a strong communist movement, the Muslim Brotherhood is now a dominant force. According to Israeli scholars, at one time the Central Committee of the Sudan Communist Party was composed primarily of mullahs, or priests, associated with the Muslim Brotherhood! Now, the government of Sudan is itself the Muslim Brotherhood, since the appointment to the cabinet of Sheikh Turabi, the chief of the Ikhwan in the Sudan. Under Turabi's influence, Sudan has backed away from the relationship it had been developing with neighboring Ethiopia, instead renewing its assistance to the Eritrean Liberation Front, a manipulated guerrilla movement seeking independence for the Ethiopian province of Eritrea.

In addition, in Sudan there has been recently a rapid growth of cultlike movements of dervishes and fanatical preachers in the country's more backward areas. Many

of these cults worship goddesses whose origin goes back to pre-Islamic times to Isis and Osiris.

It is in Egypt, the original home of the Ikhwan, that we find the strongest and best organized Muslim Brotherhood outside of Iran and Pakistan.

The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood is the center of a network that stretches across the entire Arab world. The presence of the Ikhwan in Egypt during the period until the mid-1950s, when it was suppressed by Gamal Abdel Nasser, has provided it with a strong base in the country's major institutions, despite years of repression. With the coming to power of Anwar Sadat—formerly a member of the Muslim Brotherhood—the position of the Ikhwan was reinforced in the country, and gradually Sadat allowed it to surface publicly and to engage in political activities. Thus, recently, the head of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Sheikh Elmessari of *Al-Dawa* magazine, met President Sadat at a public banquet, where Sadat declared that he has nothing against the Ikhwan and that it should be considered a loyal, nationalistic force.

As during the period of the 1930s and 1940s, when the Muslim Brotherhood collaborated closely with the Egyptian royal palace and its secret police as well as with the British Embassy in Cairo, today Egypt's Ikhwan acts as a de facto arm of the secret police. It is generally believed that control of the Muslim Brotherhood falls under the authority of Hassan al-Tuhami, the president's special adviser, who maintains close contacts with Israeli, British, and American intelligence. Tuhami, for instance, declared last year that Egypt might act to “mobilize 1