

# Strange diplomacy in Iran

*Henry Kissinger is dealing with the Ayatollah Beheshti on behalf of the U.S. government, Robert Dreyfuss reports.*

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who has spent the two years since the Iranian revolution denouncing Ayatollah Khomeini and presenting himself as the number-one defender of the Shah's *ancien régime*, held a series of secret meetings during the week of Nov. 12 in Paris with representatives of Ayatollah Beheshti, leader of the fundamentalist clergy in Iran.

According to Iranian sources in the French capital, Kissinger also met with members of the Iranian Fedayeen-e Islam, the branch of the secret society called the Muslim Brotherhood that controls Khomeini, Prime Minister Mohammed Ali Rajai, and many others.

Top-level intelligence sources in Reagan's inner circle of advisers confirmed Kissinger's unreported talks with the Iranian mullahs, but stressed that the Kissinger initiative was totally unauthorized by the President-elect. "If you know any way of controlling that man," said one Reagan insider, "please let me know."

## **Kissinger's objectives**

In meeting with the Muslim Brotherhood representatives in Paris, Kissinger has two basic objectives.

Within Iran, Kissinger is said to believe that American interests can only be secured by creating a working alliance between elements of the armed forces and the Muslim Brotherhood clergy. To this end, Dr. Kissinger intends to continue the policy of the just defeated Carter administration in search of an agreement to rush arms and political support to Khomeini and his clique in exchange for the release of the 52 U.S. hostages.

More broadly, by cultivating relations with the Iranian ayatollahs, Kissinger is attempting to position himself for a power play in the Reagan camp.

As the *Executive Intelligence Review* has shown in repeated articles since 1978, Khomeini and the Muslim Brotherhood are creations of the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) and the Anglo-Jesuit faction of the European aristocracy. Politically, it is this faction which controls the terrorist band holding the U.S. hostages,

and it is this faction which intends to use the hostages as a bargaining chip to gain influence in the Reagan administration.

Using his connections to the City of London and to the British SIS, Kissinger is seeking to establish himself as "the man to deal with" for securing the release of the hostages. Now, Kissinger reasons, if Reagan wants to get the hostages out of Iran, he will have to deal with Kissinger, by giving him and his allies significant influence over the incoming U.S. administration.

On the other hand, if Reagan refuses to employ Kissinger in a substantial role in the administration, then Kissinger and the British SIS can threaten to unleash a major new Iran crisis, possibly by encouraging "spy trials" of the U.S. hostages, right after the Jan. 20 inauguration of Reagan.

In addition, by supporting a deal with Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, Kissinger is well aware that he is helping to foster a climate of permanent instability in the Persian Gulf. Should Khomeini and Co. be reinforced against the current assault by Iraq, it is possible that the Muslim Brotherhood regime in Teheran might survive in "lame-duck" fashion for up to six months, thus posing a threat to Western oil supplies and the stability of Saudi Arabia.

But Kissinger, operating in close coordination with the British government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, is seeking to prevent the consolidation of the developing ties between continental Western Europe, in particular France and West Germany, with Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and the other Arab oil-producing states.

## **Tracks of a conspiracy**

The facts that have emerged so far in the case of the Kissinger-Khomeini connection confirm to a high degree *EIR's* exclusive analysis that the British and the Carter administration collaborated to put Ayatollah Khomeini in power. Since 1978, the *EIR* has consistently reported on the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood

secret society and its Iranian branch, the Fedayeen-e Islam. It is the Fedayeen, headed by the brutal Ayatollah Khalkhali, which is the supranational entity which controls Khomeini and the entire leadership of the ruling Islamic Republican Party.

A leading Italian daily, *Corriere della Sera*, reported on Nov. 12, in a dispatch from Teheran, that British secret services have recently conducted mediation efforts between the Fedayeen-e Islam and the Reagan camp. The newspaper also reported that the Fedayeen has been closely linked for almost 40 years to the British Secret Intelligence Service.

From intelligence sources in Washington, *EIR* has learned that along with Kissinger a number of other individuals have recently been involved in this effort, although, the source stressed, they did not have the approval of Ronald Reagan himself. The persons involved include a pro-Kissinger group drawn from Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), including Michael Ledeen, David Abshire, William Hyland, and others. In addition, Ledeen and former *Newsweek* chief Arnaud de Borchgrave are reported to have traveled abroad to make contacts with Khomeini's representatives.

From information pieced together from Iranian exile sources and intelligence analysts, it appears that the pattern of cooperation between the Khomeini people and circles nominally in Reagan's camp began approximately six to eight weeks ago, at the height of President Carter's efforts to secure an arms-for-hostages deal with Teheran.

Carter's failure to secure that deal, which a number of observers believe cost him the Nov. 4 election, apparently resulted from an intervention in Teheran by pro-Reagan British intelligence circles and the Kissinger faction. "Remember the walkout of a certain hardline faction of the Iranian clergy?" said one source. "That was no accident. It was orchestrated with the Fedayeen-e Islam by the Reagan people." The walkout postponed the Iranian *majlis's* (parliament) acceptance of the Carter offer until it was too late to affect the outcome of the election.

### **Negotiating with terrorists**

With the defeat of Jimmy Carter in the election, it was generally considered that President Reagan's administration would have an opportunity to reverse Carter's policy of repeatedly caving in to Iranian blackmail demands. Western European leaders and the Iranian exiles opposed to Khomeini still have high hopes that the Reagan administration will support a policy aimed at ridding Iran of Khomeini and stamping out the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood.

But, it is now recognized that this cannot be accomplished without blocking the influence of Henry Kissin-

ger on Reagan foreign policy.

During the electoral campaign, Kissinger repeatedly denounced Carter for his public cooperation with Khomeini, and warned that the U.S. should not "humiliate itself" by negotiating with terrorists like the Khomeini regime. In addition, Kissinger criticized Carter for refusing to support the fallen Shah of Iran and, many times, posed as the friend and confidante of the late shah.

And, of course, it was Kissinger and David Rockefeller who pressured the State Department to admit the ill shah for medical treatment in New York—despite evidence that the shah could have received equal treatment in Mexico, where he was staying in exile. It was the U.S. decision to admit the shah which served as the pretext for the takeover of the U.S. embassy last November.

But now Kissinger has shifted his position. In an interview in Paris, the former secretary of state hinted that the U.S. ought to consider meeting the Iranian demands for the release of the 52 Americans. "There are some formulations in Iran's four terms for releasing the hostages that I could live with," said Kissinger.

According to associates, Kissinger is reported to believe that by cracking down on the Iranian left and the radical parties such as the Mujaheddin and the communists, the clergy in Iran can impose what one source called "an Argentine solution," in other words, a brutally repressive, right-wing dictatorship. The arrest—and then release—of former Iranian Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, who is generally associated with the Iranian radicals, is thought to be the start of that process.

The clergyman in charge of this operation is Ayatollah Beheshti, the former SAVAK secret police agent who is reputed to be a leader of the British freemasonic rite in Iran. Undoubtedly the most shrewd of Iran's politicians, Beheshti has built up a powerful machine in the Islamic Republican Party. Reportedly, he intends to make use of the street-fighters of the Fedayeen-e Islam and the so-called Party of God (*hizbollahi*) to crush militarily the remaining opposition among the left and the anti-Khomeini secular forces.

"Beheshti's model is the junta of Pakistan's General Zia," said an informed source.

But to get there, Iran's Muslim Brotherhood is going to require arms—and an end to the war with Iraq. To that end, Kissinger believes that he can secure an agreement with the Soviet Union, whereby the United States will quietly seize full control of Iran again, in exchange for a strengthening of Soviet influence in Iraq. Perhaps the first step in that direction will be attempts to coordinate U.S. and Soviet pressure on Iraq to end its fighting in Iran and accept a ceasefire on something very close to Iranian terms.