

groups on the overthrow of the mullahs.

Fearing that Reagan and the French government will impose a secular government in Iran, the Carter administration is scrambling to arrange a hostage release. The ruling Islamic Republican Party is frantically looking for a way to release the hostages so as to create the appearance of a revolutionary victory for Iran.

An insider with close ties to Iran, however, stated that "the IRP is riding a sinking ship; no matter what they do, they hurt themselves. . . . If they give up the hostages, there are many in Iran who will say they capitulated to the U.S., the 'Great Satan.' If they don't, they are blamed for the economic hardships caused by the isolation of Iran thanks to the hostages.

Carter also hopes that he can lock the incoming administration into a complex long-term set of legalistic negotiations over Iranian assets frozen in U.S. banks and the wealth of the late shah, and force Reagan to accept the mullahs as a legitimate government.

Numerous intelligence sources now concur that Carter, Vance, and Brzezinski, on behalf of their policy of promoting primitivism in the region, gave the green light for the taking of the hostages, whom the hated ayatollahs used to boost their factional strength in Iran.

But Carter's gamble will fail. Some of the mullahs are reported to already be preparing their exodus from Iran. Ayatollah Khalkhali, known as the "blood judge," has fled Iran, taking exile in France.

Reagan and hostages

The Iranian regime has not concealed its anxiety about the Reagan administration. Ahmed Azizi, the spokesman for Prime Minister Rajai, attacked Reagan last week for his statement that he would not give Carter a blank check on the hostage agreement. The same day, Berzhad Nabavi, the head of the Parliamentary Committee on the Hostage Affair, declared: "It is not clear how the negotiations will be conducted with the next government."

The pro-Khomeini *Christian Science Monitor*, which has been a conduit for the Carter administration, reported on Jan. 14 that Carter would like to see his chief negotiator on the hostages, Warren Christopher, stay on with special responsibilities for the talks under Reagan.

Christopher would find himself quite comfortable working under Reagan's appointee for Secretary of State, Alexander Haig. As *EIR* has documented, it was Haig who played a key role in installing Khomeini through the deployment of General Huyser to Iran from NATO headquarters in early 1978. Haig, like Zbigniew Brzezinski and Henry Kissinger, views Khomeini's Iran as an excuse for the cold-war military buildup in the Middle East that he will try to sell to Reagan.

Libya declares war on France

by Douglas DeGroot

Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi threatened on Jan. 11 to turn loose his infamous international terrorist networks against the French. This was Qaddafi's response to the recent French decision to put a stop to Qaddafi's dreams of spreading his Khomeini-like ideology all over Africa.

In a message delivered by Islamic fundamentalist demonstrators at the French embassy in Libya and broadcast on Libyan radio, Qaddafi, an avowed admirer of Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler, threatened "an African armed struggle with the goal of destroying French interests in the world if France persists in its interventions on the African continent." A communiqué distributed by the demonstrators stated that "All the French attempts to get involved in the internal affairs of the African continent will be pushed out with unbelievable violence."

Qaddafi's tantrum is a direct reaction to the decision taken by French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing to prevent Qaddafi's planned *Anschluss* of Africa.

The sudden reversal in French Africa policy came two days after Qaddafi announced on Jan. 6 the formal annexation of neighboring Chad by Libya. On Jan. 8, Giscard met with his top political and military advisers to organize a strong French intervention into Africa to forestall Qaddafi from carrying out his scheme throughout central and western Africa.

Although such meetings are usually kept secret, a public announcement was made afterward saying the meeting was held to study "means of increasing the security of those African states linked to France by defense agreements." On the same day French Foreign Minister Jean François-Poncet left on a trip to Africa. In the Ivory Coast, François-Poncet said, "The development and security of Africa are the two preoccupations of France" and pledged to help any country requesting aid to counter Qaddafi's destabilizations. François-Poncet also met with 25 French ambassadors to Africa to map out the French policy shift. A visit to Senegal by French Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Olivier Stirn, announced for later this month, is part of the French mobilization. The French have also begun bolstering their troop deployments in Africa.

The sudden French reversal contrasts sharply with France's previous passive reaction to the massive Libyan airlift of arms and troops into Chad which began in mid-October. The estimated 4,500 troops of Qaddafi's mercenary "Islamic Legion," plus Soviet-supplied Libyan tanks, artillery, and aircraft resulted in the Libyan takeover of civil war-wracked Chad on Dec. 15.

During this period, the French foreign ministry only issued a mildly-worded statement of concern in the week before the takeover of Chad's capital city, Ndjamena. The statement did not mention Libya by name.

However, the Libyan announcement of its annexation of Chad, came only a few hours after the news was leaked in France that the French government-controlled oil company Elf-Acquitaine, had just been granted five oil-exploration contracts in Libya. This was interpreted as a payoff for French passivity.

In fact, during the late-November Libyan buildup in Chad, Alban Chalandon, president of Elf, was in Libya finalizing the deals. But when the deals were leaked, Industry Minister André Giraud issued a communiqué saying: "The French government was not consulted on the opportunity of concluding an oil agreement between Elf and the Libyan government and thus has not given its approval." Industry Minister Giraud, an advocate of dirigist economic policy, has tangled with Chalandon before, including last July when Chalandon lost his position as president of the ELF holding company.

A change in Soviet policy away from supporting Qaddafi may have provided Giscard the opening to again push an activist Africa policy of Arab petrodollars and European technology—Giscard's triologue conception.

The Soviets, under the influence of the KGB "destabilization faction," had been backing Qaddafi's policy of destroying Africa, seeing this as a way of weakening the West. This same KGB faction has been blackmailing

Giscard, threatening to order the French Communist Party to back the Socialist Party presidential candidate, which would jeopardize Giscard's re-election.

François-Poncet's statement in the Ivory Coast, before going on the first official French visit to Angola Jan. 11, that France intends to develop economic relations with countries linked to Moscow lends further credence to the view that the launching of the French anti-Qaddafi campaign may coincide with the Brezhnev pro-"trialogue" faction's gaining the initiative over the KGB "destabilization group."

Qaddafi has made no secret of his intentions. He refers to Chad as part of Libya's "vital living space." He intends to use Chad as the springboard in sub-Saharan Africa to destabilize the rest of central and western Africa. In mid-October he called on the nomadic Tuaregs to revolt: "I declare the frontiers of Libya open to the sons of the Tuaregs in Mali and Niger. I call on them to revolt, raise their heads and take up arms." More than a half dozen African countries have already either broken relations with Libya or kicked out Libyan diplomats. Nigerian officials have charged Libya with involvement in late-December cult riots in Kano, Nigeria, which resulted in the deaths of thousands. As a result of the threat represented by Libya, Nigeria has substantially increased its defense budget.

François-Poncet has bluntly stated that France will not recognize the Libyan annexation since it was not approved by the population. In addition, members of the Organization of African Unity-appointed provisional government in Chad (which Qaddafi claims is allied with Libya) have now opposed the annexation. Chadian Vice-President Kamougue called the claim "an impossible marriage," and Education Minister Abba Siddick said Jan. 9 "that the grand majority of Chadian people will reject the satellization of their country by Libya and that Libyan troops will come up against a popular armed resistance. All the neighboring countries of Chad are now in danger of being destabilized. The most threatened in the short term, in my opinion, is Sudan." A French military delegation arrived in Sudan Jan. 11.

On Jan. 12 OAU chairman, Sierra Leone President Siaka Stevens, opened an emergency meeting of 12 African leaders to organize an emergency OAU summit to deal with the Libyan annexation of Chad, which Sudan President Numeiry had already offered to host. On Jan. 14 the Libyan representatives stalked out of the discussions, which indicates that they had not been successful in preventing the upcoming summit from undoing Libya's annexation of its neighbor.

Qaddafi on Adolf Hitler

In a radio broadcast from Tripoli, Libya on Jan. 9, Libyan strongman Muammar Qaddafi said, according to the Jan. 11-12 issue of *Le Monde*, that "those who, in studying history, have qualified Hitler as 'a crazy dictator who wanted to colonize the world' said this because Hitler was beaten. If he had won, Nazism would not have been considered as a bad thing.

"It is the allies who made a bad thing of Nazism and have presented it that way."

In the article titled "Nigeria: the plan for disintegration" in the Jan. 13 EIR, the party headed by Obafemi Awolowo was incorrectly identified as the Nigeria People's Party. It should have read Unity Party of Nigeria.