

Middle East Report by Judith Wyer

The assassination threat to Mubarak

Egypt's President is not blind to the Iran-style insurrectionary plans of the Muslim Brotherhood and BBC.

The Anglo-American press marked the first year of the regime of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak with a wave of crisis-mongering propaganda which is creating the climate in which the Egyptian leader could be assassinated.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the Public Broadcasting Service, its U.S. sister, spearheaded the transatlantic press campaign with simultaneous showings of a program on Egypt after the Oct. 6, 1981 slaying of Anwar Sadat. The program portrayed Mubarak as weak, unable to solve Egypt's economic ills, and threatened by the same Muslim Brotherhood that murdered his predecessor.

The BBC, an arm of British intelligence, was repeatedly named by the Shah of Iran as provoking dissent against his regime through its pro-Khomeini Persian-language broadcasts during Iran's so-called Islamic revolution.

The Mubarak regime has become a target of the same Anglo-American axis which overthrew the Shah and is pushing for the extension of NATO into the Mideast as the first phase of the recolonization of the developing sector (see article page 44). Egypt, with its large standing army, is viewed in Washington and London as a crucial NATO surrogate.

Mubarak's decision that Egyptian forces would not participate in the third annual Bright Star RDF exercises in October, however, is the strongest of a number of signals he has sent to Washington that he intends to return

Egypt to the Non-aligned movement and resume the fight for a New World Economic Order as the only means available to him of rescuing Egypt from its economic perils. (One secret proviso of the Kissinger-crafted Camp David accords, which Egypt signed with Israel, is that Egypt act as a regional military gendarme—while its economy is transformed into a Hong Kong through the "Open Door" policy Kissinger and David Rockefeller sold to Sadat.

By affirming his commitment to return to the ranks of the Non-aligned Movement of developing states, Mubarak is indicating his unwillingness to continue on the disastrous policy course set by Sadat. After Sadat signed the Camp David agreement, Egypt was ostracized by the Non-aligned Movement.

According to the Indian *Patriot* of Sept. 1, Mubarak has privately assured the developing sector that Egypt will not become a military puppet of either superpower. In late August Mubarak deployed his closest political advisor, Osama al-Baz, to Mexico, a move thought to be part of Egypt's efforts to resume a leadership role within the developing world's fight for more equitable and productive North-South relations.

Egyptian diplomatic sources in Europe confirm that Egypt is carefully watching the ongoing life or death fight of Ibero-America against the International Monetary Fund over the issue of debt repayment. According to these sources, Mubarak and his circle want

to return to the nationalist model established by Gamal Abdul Nasser. Nasser, along with India's Nehru, was one of the post-World War II leaders who attempted to undo the ravages which resulted from British colonialism.

For this reason the same strategist that plotted Khomeini's Islamic revolution to eliminate Iran's industrial-development policy are working on the blueprints of an Egyptian destabilization.

A University of Chicago Mideast buff who worked with the Carter administration in backing Khomeini is now profiling the Egyptian military, looking for Mubarak's likely replacement following a military coup. He and numerous other scenarists in the United States "predict" that a bloody Muslim Brotherhood uprising, triggered by Egypt's economic bind, will "give the Egyptian army the opportunity to move" against Mubarak. One source volunteered that "certain factions of the army want popular discontent now in order to make their own show of force, not against the Islamic fundamentalists but against Mubarak."

The opposition to Mubarak is reported to be forming a Commission on Economic Abuse, which these sources say could be the vehicle for a Brotherhood uprising. Corruption charges are "exactly what the Brotherhood needs" to bring the masses into the streets.

On Oct. 8 the *Washington Post* revived a scandal of an illegal military payoff involving members of Mubarak's inner circle which sources say is rocking Cairo. A Cairo magazine, *Iktasadi*, issued an article in October attacking American researchers in Egypt for "penetrating" Egypt in order to plot a destabilization—a clear sign that Mubarak knows what he is up against.