

Worldwide terror and assassinations: how Moscow's 'Islamintern' uses Iran

by Allen Douglas

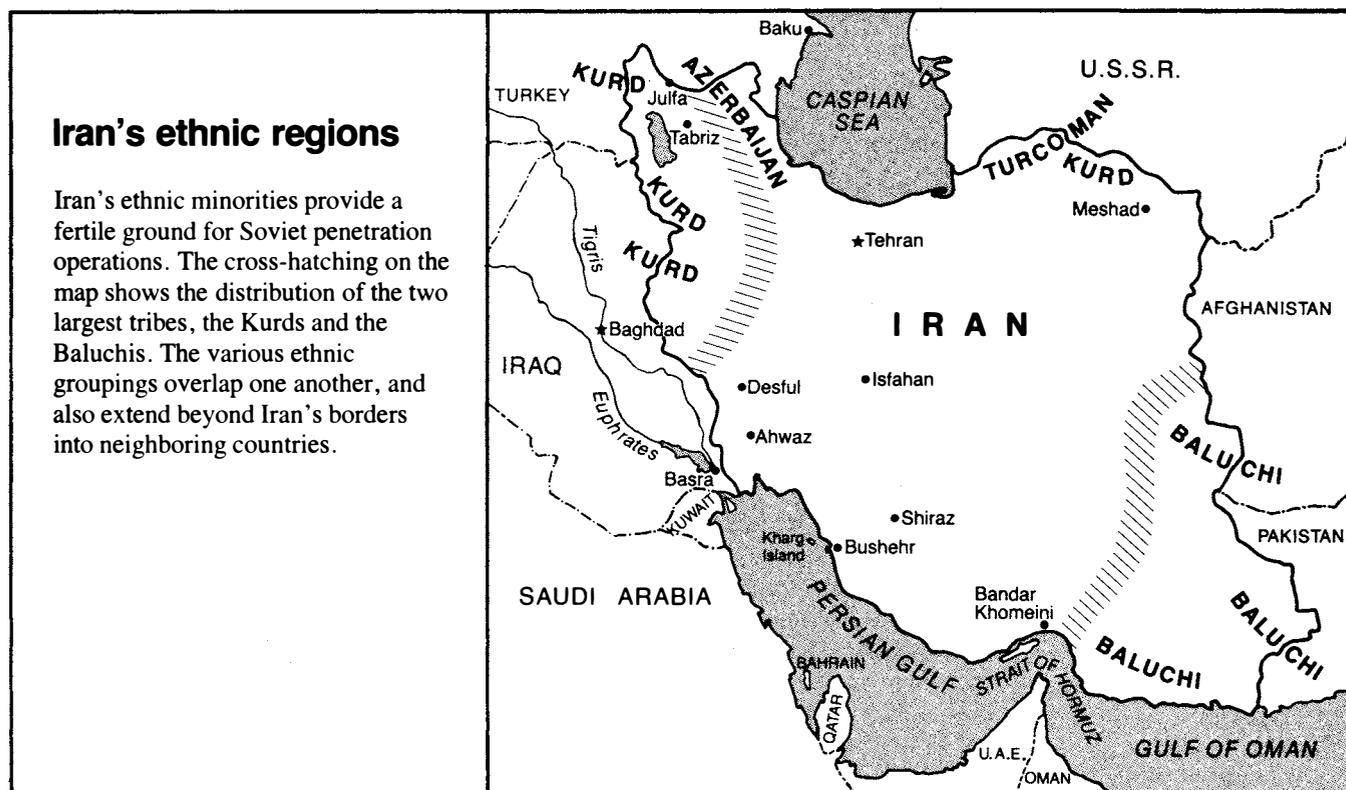
On August 20, 1983, in Teheran, a new institution was formalized for the "export of the Iranian Revolution." Named the **Assembly of United Islamic Movements (AUIM)** and nominally under the control of a handful of Khomeini's closest associates, this new terrorist international was quietly guided through its founding by the Soviet KGB and military intelligence, the GRU. With Soviet brains behind its radical "Islamic" ideology, the new organization was dubbed "the Islamintern" by Western intelligence sources.

The Islamintern is a principal arm of the Soviet drive to oust the United States from the Middle East, and especially from the Persian Gulf. At the same time it provides an assassination capability against key elements of the command structure of the Western alliance in Europe and the United

States, particularly those individuals opposed to Henry Kissinger's "decoupling" of the United States from Europe. The most recent victim of these assassination squads was U.S. anti-terror official and chief of the U.S. Sinai forces, Leamon Hunt.

The Islamintern terrorist offensive is openly proclaimed from the highest levels of the Teheran government. Prime Minister **Mir Hussein Musavi** announced a "kamikaze" terrorist offensive in March 1983, one month before the bombing of the American embassy in Beirut.

The AUIM's first spectacular act of terror was the Oct. 23, 1983, bombing of the U.S. Marine compound and French military headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon. European security agencies (the Club of Berne) held an emergency meeting in



November to prepare for an expected wave of car and truck bombings in Europe. In Washington, the White House and other U.S. government offices were sandbagged and barricaded against terrorist attack. On Dec. 12, the U.S. embassy in Kuwait, the French embassy, a branch of the Kuwaiti Electric Power company, an affiliate of the Raytheon Corporation, and the U.S. embassy residential compound were hit by a series of terrorist bombs that went off nearly simultaneously. In early January 1984, there were reports in Western Europe of the existence of a 19-person AUIM assassination target list of the AUIM, on which U.S. President Ronald Reagan and French President François Mitterrand figured prominently.

Peel away the "Imam" Khomeini's pious slogan of "Neither East nor West," and the Islamintern is exposed as a *Nazi-Soviet* entity. The close associates of Ayatollah Khomeini who are involved in the Islamintern were trained in East Germany or at Moscow's Patrice Lumumba University. Their terror methods are modeled on those of the Nazi RSHA Amt-VI (foreign intelligence service) and trained by North Korean specialists in Persepolis, Iran. Logistical and financial support for the Islamintern comes from Soviet clients Syria and Libya and from old Nazis who travel between the Middle East and Switzerland.

Preliminary meetings for setting up the Islamintern, attended by Iranian Foreign Minister **Ali Akhbar Velyati**, were held in the London offices of the **Muslim Research**

Institute of Khalim Siddiqi.

The Muslim Research Institute was created as a research center for Iran's intelligence service, the Savama, and maintains correspondents throughout Europe. Its official associate in West Germany, according to Siddiqi, is **Olga Wolff a.k.a. Fatima Hereen Sarka** (reportedly the daughter of SS Gen. Karl Wolff), at the **Islamic Center** of Munich. Siddiqi also maintains intimate relations with the communist parties of the Soviet Union and Britain.

Before the formal founding of the Islamintern, Iranian terrorists had operational capabilities in the United States, Western Europe and the Middle East itself. Other capabilities are now being developed rapidly in Africa and Asia, through an upgrading of the Iranian diplomatic corps. This expansion under diplomatic cover is largely modeled on the Soviet diplomatic corps, which serves as cover for espionage and other activity well outside the bounds of protocol. Within the larger pool of Soviet agents in a given country, there is an inner core with assassination, or "wetwork," capability. But whereas the Soviets generally carry out assassinations in the West only in certain restricted areas (such as the elimination of defectors, and even then, agents of an allied state are usually used as intermediaries), the Iranians are not hampered by any such diplomatic niceties. When the Islamintern was established the Iranian foreign ministry arranged a purge of personnel deemed too diplomatic for the coming assignments.



Iranian mullahs and soldiers hail the Islamic Revolution from the top of an armored personnel carrier. The "Islamintern" which maintains Khomeini in power is a Nazi-Communist entity, and many of Khomeini's close associates were trained in the U.S.S.R.

The European command center for the Islamintern is based in the Iranian embassy to the Vatican, on a huge estate on the Via Nomentana in Rome, under command of **Ayatollah Khosrow-Shahi**. With very little diplomatic activity per se to be conducted from this embassy, it is used as the coordination, training, and redeployment center for hit squads. Every week 20 to 30 *Pasdaran* (Revolutionary Guard) terrorists arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Airport on a direct flight from Teheran, accompanied by a religious figure who goes back the next day. After receiving training and instructions, they are funneled into centers across Europe until deployed in terrorist operations. The Iranian embassy is directly adjacent to the Libyan embassy to the Italian state, facilitating Libyan-Iranian terror coordination.

The choice of Italy reflects the political protection of Iranian terror by the outlawed Propaganda-Two (P-2) freemasonic lodge infiltrated heavily into the Italian secret services and political life. Indicative of this is the presence of 18 (!) SISMI (Italian secret service) men at the Italian embassy in Teheran as well as the push by the Italian ambassador to Teheran, Giuseppe Balducci, for closer "cultural understanding" between the two countries. To achieve this he has been in close contact with the Iranian Minister for Islamic Orientation, the brother of the speaker of the Parliament and Islamintern supporter **Hashemi-Rafsanjani**.

The P-2 networks are the front-men for the old Roman nobility and its historical links to Islam represented by families such as the Pallavicini, Massimo, Alliata di Montreale, and Savoy (the former ruling house of Italy). In the political arena, the oligarchy's flunkies such as Giulio Andreotti, the foreign minister who played an important role in pushing for the collapse of a U.S. presence in Lebanon, and who is a personal friend of both Syria's Hafez Assad and Libya's Muammar Qaddafi, provide protection through organizations such as the **Italo-Arab Friendship Society**. It was these circles which facilitated Billy Carter's infamous "Libya connection," through which the Carter brothers reportedly raked off a cool \$25 million in return for Libyan political muscle in the United States. The Carter administration, it must also be remembered, protected the assassin of exiled Khomeini opponent **Ali Tabatabai**, but allowed Iranian arms smugglers under Savama official **Captain Setoudeh** to operate right out of the U.S. Office of Naval Affairs in Washington.

In surveying the map of Islamintern personnel, the Soviet strings are omnipresent, beginning with the sheer number of Iranian mullahs who were educated either at **Patrice Lumumba University** in Moscow (a center for Third World students and a main KGB recruiting ground), **Leipzig University** in the East German city where many old Nazis are grouped, or—in the greatest numbers—in Tashkent. The number of Iranian mullahs, of the total mullah population of 200,000, to have been trained in Tashkent, at the religious schools of the **Spiritual Administration of Muslims** of Central Asia and Kazakhstan or at facilities controlled by the

Orientalology Institute, is in the thousands; the high estimate, from a source in Western Europe, is 12,000. If even one-tenth that many is the true figure, this denotes an enormous Soviet capability, the more so since the mullahs trained abroad are the more cosmopolitan ones, who become active in Iranian domestic politics at the national level and in foreign policy.

Many members of the Imami faction or **Followers of the Imam's Line** were trained in Eastern Europe and have long histories of association with the Soviet Union and East Germany. Among them is the activist **Ayatollah Muhammed Musavi-Khoiniha**, known internationally for leading the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Teheran in 1979.

The Imami faction is the leftist wing of the ruling **Islamic Republican Party (IRP)** of Iran. The Imamis espouse a socialist economic program for Iran and ideologically reflect an outlook similar to Islamo-Marxism. The other dominant faction of the IRP is the **Hojitia** faction of ultra-conservative mullahs, centered around the Imam Reza shrine in Meshad, Khorason province in northeastern Iran. Since 1981, the Soviet Union has repeatedly denounced the Hojitia faction as supporting the Afghan rebels against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

But it is not merely training of Iranians by Soviet agencies which reflects the major Soviet influence in Iran but also the direct presence of 14,000 East bloc personnel in all aspects of industrial, political, and intelligence work. This figure includes, according to the Italian defense journal *Interarma News*, 3,000 Soviet officials, 30 of which virtually run Iranian intelligence, the Savama, on a daily basis.

In the logistical and financial support for the Islamintern, there is a rough division of labor among Soviet allies and clients, including Bulgaria, North Korea, Syria, and Libya. The North Koreans train suicide squads at a center, obscenely dubbed a "university," in Persepolis in northern Iran. Their first tests were gruesomely efficient; they placed condemned criminals in trucks and cars loaded with explosives and sent them at full speed into walls. The effectiveness of the blasts and the behavior of the drivers were videotaped for review and refinement. The psychological training program uses sensory deprivation, drugs, and brainwashing on the "glories of martyrdom" theme that is central to Khomeini's Sufi brand of Shi'ism.

The explosives for truck bombings come from Bulgaria, often as a conduit from the U.S.S.R., in the case of the plastic explosive hexogen, which is much more powerful than TNT and was used in the bombing of the U.S. Marine compound. Syria provides on-the-scene logistical support for the extensive Islamintern activities in Lebanon, with "revolutionary guards" conduited overland from Iran through eastern Turkey down into Syria for Soviet-sponsored training in both Syria and in camps in Lebanon such as Chtoura, where some of the last-minute indoctrination before recent suicide runs took place.