

Is Moscow really “baffled” by Iran?

by Judith Wyer

In mid-May Yevgenii Primakov, the director of the Soviet Institute for Orientology, and a coterie of Soviet officials visited the United States to quietly arrange the terms of superpower crisis management of the Persian Gulf crisis. During talks on Capitol Hill and at Harvard University's newly founded Crisis Management Group, Primakov confessed he is “baffled by Islamic fundamentalism.”

Only the naive and ill-informed, or witting collaborators of the Soviets, would have been taken in by Primakov who, in fact, is one of the leading experts on Islamic fundamentalism within the Soviet leadership.

Primakov's outrageous lying serves to cover up the fact that the Kremlin is using the likes of Khomeini as a tool to destroy U.S. influence throughout the Muslim world. Leading Soviet ideologues like Primakov and his superior, Muslim-born Politburo member Gaidar Ali Reza Aliyev, are reportedly concocting an Islamic-Marxist belief structure to ensure long-term Soviet domination of its southern borders once the U.S.A. has been ousted.

Primakov has not withheld public shows of pride for his study of Islamic ideology. Exactly one year ago he penned an article in the Soviet journal *Asia and Africa Today* boasting of the extensive research into Islam his Institute of Orientology was conducting, going back to one of the fathers of Islamic fundamentalism, the 12th-century thinker al Ghazali. The Institute of Orientology itself is one of the elite institutions which survived the Russian Revolution, and, eyewitnesses say, possesses one of the most comprehensive libraries on the subject of Islam along with batteries of multilingual experts on the subject. Aliyev is an accomplished scholar in the subject of Islamic and Near East Culture, having done his doctoral studies at Moscow University in Persian Literature and Language. He, along with Primakov, works with a clique in the International Department of the Communist Party including Mideast hand Karen Brutents, who jointly determine Soviet long-term policy toward the Arab and more broadly Muslim world.

Soviets wheel and deal with Khomeini

EIR was the first to expose the way the Islamic card was appropriated by the Kremlin last year, including their penetration of the Khomeini regime. There has been increased quiet wheeling and dealing between the neighboring states since Soviet-agent and Khomeini confidant Ayatollah Koinia

ran the capture of U.S. hostages in 1979. Less than two weeks after Primakov's visit here, a high-level Iranian Foreign Ministry envoy, Muhammed Sadr, was summoned to Moscow reportedly to discuss Iran's war with Iraq.

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The stage was reportedly set for the visit by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akhbar Velayati during his stay in Bulgaria on May 28 and the concomitant visit to Moscow by Rifaat al Assad, the Second Vice President of Syria, a close ally of both Iran and the U.S.S.R.

Both the Khomeini regime and the U.S.S.R. have been guarded about their secret relationship, because it would discredit Moscow's pretense of maintaining its atheistic Communist profile and Khomeini's loud opposition to the “godless” U.S.S.R. Among other things, the Velayati trip to Sofia is said to have arranged for new Soviet arms supplies. According to European sources, Bulgaria has extended its notorious arms export capability to Iran to the hilt, shipping arms by truck across Turkish territory.

Like Libya, Iran has increased oil exports to Soviet satellite states as barter for arms and other goods. During Velayati's visit to Sofia, the Czechoslovakian minister of Fuels and Energy met Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Mousavi and finalized a new Iranian oil sales pact. Like Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia is known as an arms conduit for Soviet-made arms to the developing sector. Syria, which just finalized an oil supply agreement with Iran, also serves as a conduit.

Reminiscent of Khomeini's support for the Soviet downing of the Korean airliner last year, Iran continues to show it favors the U.S.S.R. over the United States. On May 29, Iran joined the boycott of the Olympics “because of the aggressive nature of the United States.” Moreover, Iran seems to be forgetting its longstanding opposition to the Soviet invasion of its brother Muslim country and neighbor—Afghanistan. The *Arabia and the Islamic World Review* in April reports that Iran is decreasing its supply of arms to the Afghan Muslim rebels fighting there. Iran made this change of policy long before the Soviets made their bloody mid-May air-and-ground blitz against the rebels in Afghanistan's Panjshir Valley. The same publication reported that the U.S.S.R. has threatened to destabilize Iran's Baluchistan and Kurdistan if the Khomeini regime did not halt its backing for the rebels.

Pakistan's Zia ul-Haq is also thought to have come under Soviet pressure to halt his regime's support for the Afghan rebels as well. This may have something to do with a joint Pakistan and Iranian government campaign to clamp down on the rampant smuggling of illegal drugs, a currency for arms sales to the Afghan guerrillas.

Iran reaps one unstated benefit from the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan—thousands of Afghan refugees who are deployed to fight Iraq. Over the past six months the Khomeini regime has begun mandatory conscription of the Afghans to the genocidal human waves used against Iraq. Should they refuse, they face deportation back to Afghanistan and the wrath of the Soviet occupiers.