

## PERSIAN GULF MILITARIZED IN NEW CIA ATTACKS ON IRAQ

NEW YORK, Oct. 24 (IPS)--The United States and its NATO allies have undertaken a vast program to militarize the Arabian Gulf states and Iran in preparation for a final CIA-directed attack on Iraq.

In addition to the overt military build-up in the states surrounding Iraq, attempts are being made to bring unbearable diplomatic pressure on the Iraqis and their Palestinian allies, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). The Western press has been filled with anti-Iraq psychological warfare and outright lies.

### Militarization of the Gulf

In preparation for the strategic U.S.-Soviet confrontation in the Persian Gulf, CIA Director William Colby left Washington for a "secret tour of Europe and the Middle East, including stops at CIA stations around the Persian Gulf," according to unconfirmed press reports. Calls by IPS to CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, elicited only the official reply that top spook Colby was "not in Washington." Said the CIA official, "You know, rumors are plentiful in the Persian Gulf area."

Simultaneously, a rash of military deals and rumors of deals poured forth from the various CIA-controlled countries of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the emirates. The following reports were confirmed:

\*The tiny island emirate of Bahrain signed an accord allowing the United States Navy to retain its facilities on the island.

\*The U.S. was reported to be considering a "secret plan for a vast increase in arms sales to Saudi Arabia" as part of a "multi-billion dollar program." A spokesman for the U.S. State Department told IPS that the United States was merely "surveying" Saudi arms needs.

\*Kuwait announced its intention to purchase dozens of Mirage jets from France as part of a \$1 billion arms expansion program. One hundred Kuwaiti pilots will visit the U.S. for training. The warplanes will be "dispersed" throughout the Arab Gulf states of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, and Qatar.

According to the Washington Post, "Western countries are said to be encouraging the dispersion as part of an effort to build a regional military bloc of pro-Western Arab states in the Persian Gulf." By arming the Gulf sheikhs to the teeth, the CIA is beefing up an Arab alliance as a complement to powerful Iran, aiming the whole cabal at isolated, pro-Soviet Iraq.

## The Iranian Threat

Rockefeller's leading capability against Iraq is the well-oiled army of the Shah of Iran, directed by the Shah's controller, U.S. Ambassador Richard Helms, formerly Director of the CIA.

A Middle East military expert for a Washington-based think-tank confirmed the Labor Committee analysis that Iran was trying to provoke Iraq into counterattacking, thereby providing Iran with an excuse to launch a full military attack. When pressed, this strategist agreed that it was the U.S. who was behind the military and propaganda campaign against Iraq, and added: "I don't suspect that the whole thing will blow open until the spring; the Arab-Israeli situation will probably break sooner--at the end of this year or the beginning of the next." The source also described the close cooperation between Israel and Iran.

Should major fighting actually occur, all military analysts agree that Iran's forces are far superior to Iraq's. Without full Soviet commitment to defend Iraq--including the threat of the USSR's nuclear arsenal--the lone Middle East holdout against U.S. control will be eliminated. And despite Soviet hopes that illusory "detente" will save Iraq, a spokesman for the State Department in Washington told IPS: "You have to consider the importance of detente in a local conflict. Detente is a broad spectrum and does not ensure the absence of conflicts. It must be applied unevenly."

In a similar vein, a source at CIA headquarters became defensive when questioned about possible CIA involvement in the attack on Iraq and blurted: "As you know, the CIA does have and maintain its covert actions--that's that! Any further I can't speculate on the situation."

### IRAQ MOVES AGAINST ROCKY'S ARAB STOOGES

Oct. 23 (IPS)--Despite a steady stream of CIA press "leaks" intended to help set up Soviet-allied Iraq for annihilation, the Baathist government of Iraq has established itself as an active center of resistance to Rockefeller's Mideast strategy. As usual, the lying press reports have been spearheaded by the London Financial Times' reporter Gwynne Roberts. Yesterday Roberts outdid her past efforts with an article entitled "Iraq Moving Away from Moscow." Citing shreds of non-evidence, her article aims at fomenting a split between Iraq and the USSR and weakening the Iraqi battle to eradicate the CIA-backed rebellion of Kurdish nationalists in northern Iraq.

In reality the Baathists, in alliance with the Iraqi Communist Party, have undertaken an offensive against Rockefeller's Arab stooges.

Following the visit of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) leader George Habash to Iraq from October 6-10,