

As emphasized in recent issues of IPS, the Shah's bastion is by no means secure. There is growing internal restlessness as Middle East development projects stall. And the firmed-up Soviet alliance with Iraq has helped intensify international working-class perception of the Shah as a brutal fascist tyrant. By saving Sadat, the Shah is really protecting his own hide.

### Arms Deals, Fighting Escalates

While the Shah met with Sadat, his armies significantly increased the level of fighting against the pro-Iraq rebel forces in the medieval kingdom of Oman. A communique from the Popular Liberation Front of Oman reported that 10,000 Iranian troops have launched a "wide-scale offensive," a "brutal operation of vengeance that surpassed all previous operations in ferocity."

The Shah's prestige as an anti-Soviet policeman is intimately tied up with this savage war, itself largely a combat training operation for the Iranian army. To underscore this morale-boosting effort, Nelson Rockefeller and Defense madman James Schlesinger personally entertained the Sultan of Oman at a Jan. 10 Washington dinner.

To underscore the CIA's Middle East NATO/CENTO consolidation, the United States completed earlier this week a \$750 million arms deal for "several squadrons" of F-5E warplanes with the violently anti-communist King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. London's Daily Express reported Jan. 8 that Cairo and London are soon to announce a huge arms deal involving offensive weapons and assistance for Egypt to substitute for the Soviet refusal to arm the Egyptians. The deal will be financed by Faisal. In addition, the Swedish firm Saab-Scania, manufacturers of the Viggen supersonic fighter plane, were forced to deny reports circulated in a Middle East monthly magazine that a major deal had been arranged with the Saudis.

### FASCIST STEP-UP IN MEXICO: ECHEVERRIA TRIES TO CLEAR HIMSELF

NEW YORK, N.Y., Jan. 11 (IPS)--In an escalation of right-wing terror, gangs of fascist thugs, commonly known as "porras," assaulted and robbed students and leftists this week at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and a nearby high school. An environment of terror is beginning to be created at the UNAM which has already driven most of the organized left into temporary hiding--with the exception of the Latin American Labor Committees. The Labor Committees are organizing to expose the Mexican President Luis Echeverria, who effectively controls the porras.

In mid-December, a leftist university professor was shot by unidentified "porristas," for no apparent reason. Two days ago a

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gang of 12 such armed thugs held up and robbed a bus within the UNAM campus. Since then there have been at least two assaults by porras at the "Vocacional 5" high school--while police who were present simply looked the other way. Furthermore, rumors are flying around the university that it was the gangs who opened fire on a group of assembled leftists three days ago.

Earlier in the week, Latin American Labor Committee members learned of Echeverria's real intentions in activating the porras --from a leader of one such porra. After informing us that beginning in January 1975 a counterinsurgency campaign directed by the government would be intensified, the porrista said that the goal of this escalation would be "to create the chaos...that the government needs."

The reign of terror is being built up further directly by the military, which has planned an all-out offensive against the drug traffic--much of which the military itself runs. In Guadalajara, the second largest city in the country, the army rounded up 100 people Dec. 30 and charged them with "vagrancy." The reason given for this unprovoked roundup was that it was a measure "to protect tourists."

And the Left?

Aside from the International Caucus of Labor Committees' international campaign to expose Echeverria's police state, there has been virtually no organized response from the Mexican left. The Communist Party (PCM), in particular, has by and large backed off from exposing the real authors of this increasing Chileanization of Mexico: fascist Echeverria and the CIA-directed military/police apparatus that he is currently administering. The highest point of the PCM's polemic came in an uncharacteristically strong speech given by PCM Central Committee member Gerardo Unzueta at the funeral of assassinated Communist Party member Hilario Moreno. He correctly called the situation in Mexico a "provocation," and stated that "political liberty [and] the future of the Mexican people and of democracy in Mexico [depend on] our ability to stop the provocation."

Echeverria's Cover

In the wake of the assassination of Moreno and the orchestrated upturn in porra activity, Echeverria has attempted to maintain his "democratic face" by trying to blame the Moreno murder on his political opponents and scapegoat lower police officials. The Mexican Attorney General, Echeverria man Pedro Ojeda Paullada, announced today that Echeverria has ordered an "intensive investigation" of the Moreno case. This investigation could readily be used to watergate Echeverria's opponents--as he did with his June 10, 1971 massacre of students by similar military-trained porras.

All of this is occurring during the extremely heated political maneuvering around the issue of the presidential succession. While

one magazine, Sucesos, has run four consecutive issues calling for the changing of the Mexican Constitution to allow for Echeverria's reelection, a number of polls on the potential candidates have been taken--for the first time in recent political history--in order to heighten the political tension.

The "democratic" speculation and squabbling around the nomination can go only so far. It is the Mexican military-police machine, in the final analysis, which is the linchpin of the CIA's control of Mexico. It is they who will play the deciding role in the appointment of the next Rockefeller puppet for Mexico.

#### GREEK NATO REGIME ATTEMPTS 'ALIGNMENT' WITH EAST BLOC

NEW YORK, N.Y., Jan. 11 (IPS)--Post-junta Greece, the CIA's prime example of Rockefeller's fascism with a democratic face, is polishing up its tarnished image as an "independent" regime in preparation for playing a part in the Rockefeller assault on Eastern Europe. Setting the stage for this Cold War offensive, the international CIA press has given wide publicity to the Greek regime's foreign policy of "minimal alignment with the West," which according to the French daily Le Monde "assures greater collaboration with the Balkan and Arab countries."

Along with praise for Konstantin Karamanlis for his phony break with NATO after the Cyprus crisis of last summer, the press is also exalting the new "democratic freedoms" graciously bestowed by Athens onto the Greek working class, politically brainwashed after seven tortuous years under the junta. Both the so-called liberalization and the left turn are a sham, however, designed to facilitate the CIA's use of Greece as a vehicle for subverting Eastern Europe, thus forcing Soviet acceptance of the new NATO order in the Mediterranean.

#### Phony Soviet Ally on Cyprus

Using the NATO-rigged "Cyprus crisis" as a lever, the Karamanlis government has made a series of overtures to the Balkan and European Soviet bloc countries. In a meeting with the Greek Foreign Minister, Yugoslav President Tito extended his personal invitation to Karamanlis. In addition, the Turkish occupation of Cyprus has provided the setting for Karamanlis to appear as the spokesman for "self-determination" on the island--a policy which just happens to coincide with official Soviet policy in the eastern Mediterranean.

To this effect rumors were circulated in the Greek and Cypriot press that Archbishop Makarios, the former Cypriot President, was planning to go to the Soviet Union to receive support and backing for the common policies established between himself and the Greek Premier.