

MIDEAST

Arab Gulf States Move To Break Rockefeller's Hold Over The Shah of Iran

Nov. 26 (NSIPS) — The Arab states of the Persian Gulf are rapidly maneuvering to establish the gulf as a sea of peace and neutrality through the establishment of a Persian Gulf Security pact. The Arab states, under the leadership of Saudi Arabia and actively supported in this effort by the Europeans, principally Great Britain and the Soviet Union, are aiming to break all military dependency on the United States. The most important aspect of successfully defusing the oil rich gulf militarily is the containment of the despotic drive by the Shah of Iran to impose Iranian military domination over the Persian Gulf and simultaneous tighten up the CENTO alliance with Turkey and Pakistan. The Shah is acting openly on behalf of Rockefeller allied financial and pro-war circles, the same circles advising Jimmy Carter. The Arabs growing perception of the Carter threat has accelerated their efforts to extricate the gulf from longstanding Rockefeller domination.

The successful formalization of the long sought Persian Gulf Security Pact is a vital precondition to enable the Arab oil producing nations to engage in negotiations to establish a new international monetary system and accompanying oil for technology arrangements with the advanced sector — primarily Europe. Integral to such a new international economic system is the full nationalization of Arab oil producing capacity.

In recent months, a coordinated and intense diplomatic offensive on the part of Iran's Arab neighbors has been designed to organize the Shah's political and military base which has been at variance with the Shah on the question of a neutralized Gulf perspective. The Saudis have had numerous high level secret meetings with Iranian government officials. At the same time, at the behest of Iran, a Kuwaiti military delegation this month engaged in lengthy talks with the Iranian general staff. According to a West German Foreign Ministry official, the Soviets have been working through Iraq which has been collaborating with the Saudis in order to pry Iran away from military control by the Rockefeller-allied armaments firms which run Iran's enormous military complex.

Shah Playing With Fire

In a recent interview with the New York-based *Mid East Reports*, the Shah raved about what he perceives to be a threat emerging from stepped up Soviet-Iraqi military cooperation, most forcefully demonstrated this week when Soviet naval vessels sailed through the Gulf to the Iraqi port of Um Qasm. The Shah's programmed anti-Sovietism has been deliberately fueled by such Rockefeller allies as Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn), who just led an eleven-man delegation to Tehran. Ribicoff threw a giant sop to the Shah's imperial aspirations to dominate the gulf by approving of unlimited future sales of arms to the Shah's already cumbersome arsenal, valued at \$10 billion. He further stated that Iran was the "only nation" militarily ready to protect the oil lifeline through the Gulf. It was Ribicoff who was implicated along with Sen. Jacob Javits (R-NY) in calling for the legitimization of Israel's nuclear weaponry internationally, while at the same time, Israel warhawk Defense Minister Shimon Peres has openly invited Iran to join in a military alliance against the Soviet Union to also include the massive Turkish army.

Just following the Ribicoff visit to Iran, the *Washington Post*

yesterday reported a newly signed agreement between Iran and the U.S. whereby the U.S. would send 450 more military advisors to Iran through the Lockheed corporation. The announcement follows a series of strongly worded warnings from the Soviet Union regarding the deep involvement of U.S. military activity in Iran. According to the *Financial Times*, Nov. 23, the Soviet Union has heightened concern over the tightening up of Iran-US military relations with the turning point being the release three months ago of a provocative report on the scope of U.S. military operations in Iran, released through Senator Hubert Humphrey.

The Soviets have additional strong leverage over the Shah based on a dramatic upsurge in Iran-Soviet trade. Iran has been forced into this by unmanageable and inflationary trade relations with the U.S., which have in the last year driven the Iranian economy into near bankruptcy. Since January 1976 Iran has borrowed well over \$2.5 billion on the Euro-market, a significant portion of which has gone to funding food imports as a result of a collapse in Iran's agricultural self-sufficiency program. Despite the economic crisis, the megalomaniac Shah stubbornly adheres to a multi-billion dollar defense budget and his dream of recreating the Persian empire.

Iran has been actively involved in sabotaging the Nov. 26 meeting of the gulf states to set up a formal Gulf Security Pact. The day before the conference began an Iranian fighter violated territory of the Soviet-allied People's Republic of South Yemen. Both the Soviets and the Saudis have been active in securing guarantees from Yemen that its backing of the dhofar rebellion in neighboring Oman would cease, a key element in unity of the region. Both Iranian and Jordanian troops have had troops stationed in Oman as a result of the on again off again rebellion. At the same time, the *London Times* reports that at the last minute Iraq announced that it would boycott the meeting because of a clash with Iran over its agenda. Iran condemned the admission of Soviet ships into the Gulf, accusing Iraq of collaboration with the Soviets to "stangle the Persian Gulf."

The noises coming out of Iran, while extremely provocative, represent a last gasp by the Rockefeller wing of the international bourgeoisie as an increasingly coordinated Arab-European-Soviet cooperation bloc emerges. The West German Foreign Ministry this week minimized efforts on the part of the Shah to get the CENTO scheme, masterminded by Henry Kissinger, off the ground. Similarly, Saudi Arabia, in a surprise move, this week extended a \$1 billion grant to Pakistan as a means of undercutting Pakistani military cooperation with Iran. Involved in the transaction is a commitment on the part of the Saudis to establish an independent arms factory in Pakistan to encourage military independence while the Arab states are negotiating a similar independent Arab arms industry with joint British and French technical assistance. A well placed Gulf watcher told NSIPS last week that the Saudis are well aware of plans on the part of the Carter administration to force Europe into a pro-war alliance against the Soviet Union and are thus using the threat of a large oil price rise to swing Europe away from the U.S. In a recent interview, Saudi King Khalid personally condemned the Shah's CENTO drive, which would effectively extend NATO domination over the Middle East.