

Iran Asserts New Independence On Energy Policy And East Bloc Relations

IRAN

The Shah of Iran has embarked upon a new course in energy policy and foreign affairs which is at variance with that of the Rockefeller family, traditionally his strongest ally.

Iran is presently suffering from the worst energy crisis in its recent history. Faced with a severe shortage of electrical power generating capacity, Iran's Energy Ministry has instituted a rationing of electricity, reducing many factories' power utilization by 40 percent as well as enforcing regular blackouts in Teheran and other cities.

The energy crisis in Iran is nothing new. The country has been stricken by repeated blackouts in the last few years as a result of the overloading of present generating capacity. The current situation is in fact the direct

outcome of rapid economic growth in Iran for which basic infrastructure was not provided.

Lack of water for Iran's network of dams is another cause of the current power shortage. In the 1960s the Shah engaged David Lilienthal, a close factional ally of the Rockefeller family and the architect of the Tennessee Valley Authority, to build a number of dams in Iran as power and irrigation sources. Iran, however, does not have the water to reliably generate power for its growing economy. Faced with this inevitable energy crunch, the Shah is trying to fill the gap, by moving as rapidly as possible into nuclear energy while employing new short term gas-fed generating capacity. The high cost of such infrastructural development has prompted the Shah to expand oil sales even at the cost of his relations with the multinational oil companies.

This is the situation which has pushed the Shah away from friendship with the Rockefellers, who are in no way unaware of his policy shift.

It was in fact Lilienthal who last year testified before

Shah Says 'Colonialism' Behind Attacks On His Energy Policy

In an interview with French radio correspondent Edouard Salier, the Shah of Iran discusses the international attacks on Iran and the country's plans for future areas of development and investment.

Q. What do you think is behind the attacks regularly made against your country?

A. First of all, this began with oil; there is no doubt. When we began to shake things up, let us say, 50-50 percent, with Mattei (Enrico Mattei, the Oil Maverick who headed up the Italian oil complex ENI, and worked with the Soviets to undercut Rockefeller's hold on the European market in the early 60s — Ed.) at that point attacks against my country began. Mattei was killed but the attacks went on.

Before all this there had never been any Iranian students making a noise abroad. Iran had never been called into question by the mass media, American or European, but it began then.

We continued our policy even more strongly until we took complete control of our hydrocarbon resources about 5 years ago, then it became almost a mad hatred.

How could an Asian country dare? Well, we go

forward with events: It is they who are behind events.

Finally, a few months ago, even the highest leaders of the West admitted that our energy policy was a good one — a true one — and they proposed exactly the same thing we had proposed 4 years ago. The difference is, how can a small country dare to propose things that would not please certain interests which are very entrenched? The biggest cartels — I call them the entrenched interests, but it is purely and simply colonialism.

Q. Could you sum up the interests you have developed? (referring to further steps towards national development — Ed.)

A. Yes, the first step that we took, and which was already connected with this, was with nuclear energy, with the French and the Germans then with the Americans. We even talk with the British, the Swedes and with everyone. That is something which is known. One talks about fusion, about plasma, hydrogen, separation of hydrogen from water and all that. A little is already known about solar energy. Well, I can say officially that we are ready even to invest, if need be, in these centers of international research, to assure our future.