

These forces are fighting and encouraging others to fight not to accelerate the democratization of the country but to stop it. It takes a few years to economically develop a country but a generation to change the mentality of certain people. Nothing will be able to prevent the process of liberalization from being pursued and carried to its end. These same forces leading the unrest are accompanied and encouraged by certain foreign elements which are politically hostile to the development of Iran.

Likewise London and Brzezinski's plot is precisely what is motivating the Aug. 28 arrival in Tehran of Chinese Premier Hua kuo-Feng. Hua's journey to Iran, the first ever by a leader of the People's Republic of China, has been preceded by a consistent Chinese diplomatic effort to warm relations with Tehran, a pattern of making inroads which began to materialize at about the same time that serious civil unrest began to sweep Iran in the early summer.

#### *Where the Shah Stands*

There is virtually no chance that the staunchly pro-U.S. Shah would ever sacrifice his allegiance to the U.S. — let alone his growing economic relations with the Comecon countries — for an alliance with China. Only through strong coercion — for which the civil strife in Iran is the major component — could such a suicidal pact be realized.

According to State Department and Iranian sources, disturbances are expected to intensify over the coming months as the elections near. There are widespread predictions of new violence during the Aug. 24-26 Shi'ite Islamic holidays. Already Shi'ite religious leaders, known as Ayatollahs and Mullahs, have stirred riots in a dozen Iranian cities this month.

The August 20 fire at a theatre in Abadan, killing hundreds, was the culmination of the work of such religious fanatics and their extremist allies.

The Aug. 22 *Financial Times* editorially took the opportunity to put the squeeze on the Shah:

A senior adviser to the Shah asked last week whether there was a risk that the outbursts could lead to an abandonment of the elections and possibly even the liberalization programme, made the point that "we have so far only used the velvet glove. The steel fist remains." But this could very well be just the tactics on which the opposition is banking — goad the Government into actions that suggest that it was never sincere in the first place about making Iran more democratic. In reaction to the Abadan fire there were two clear cut choices: one was to crack down heavily and thereby lend weight to the opinions of the opposition, the other was to act with restraint, as the Government in fact has done by instituting a commission of enquiry. But this could also be taken by the Shah's opponents as a sign of weakness.

#### *Who's Pulling The Strings*

According to the London *Telegraph*, Aug. 21, there is strong evidence that international terrorist leader Abu Nidal, a Palestinian, had a hand in the Abadan incident. The *Telegraph* reports that

## Chinese-Inspired Coup Attempt Aborted in Afghanistan

*The Cuban news agency Prensa Latina reported on Aug. 23 from New Delhi, India:*

The government of Afghanistan has in its possession definitive evidence demonstrating the participation of foreign nations in the preparations for an aborted coup d'etat in Afghanistan, according to diplomatic sources in New Delhi. Afghan diplomats in this capital refused to reveal which nations were involved in this conspiracy against their government, but reliable sources indicate that the U.S., Pakistan, and China were involved.

The announcement of the discovery of a coup attempt was made by Radio Kabul on Aug. 17 though the report did not say when the plot was aborted. It is however believed that it was aborted before the address made by President (and Prime Minister) Nur Mohammad Tarakki to a group of air force officials. The President urged air force officers to be ready to turn back any attempt and indicated that the armed forces would be utilized only in the interest of the Afghan people.

*In the same presentation, Prensa Latina reported that Tarakki described the victorious coup carried out by his party as the final blow to the British-backed Afghan royal family. On April 29, Tarakki, aided by military and air force officers, overthrew the royal government of President Daud.*

(Abadan) is only four miles from the Iraq border. Security forces were last night investigating a report that terrorists have been assisted by the Palestinian guerrillas of Abu Nidal, the renegade Palestine Liberation Organization man now based in Baghdad.

Four days ago, Mr. Darius Houmayoun, Persian Information Minister, said that there was firm evidence that "Palestinian extremists" were supplying large sums of money to "Leftist extremists" and "Communists," said to be behind the riots in Persia.

As a result the Iranians have begun to seal their border with Iraq, where Abu Nidal operates. Abu Nidal, who has been repeatedly condemned by the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), has been privately characterized as an agent of Israeli intelligence by U.S. Defense Department sources. Iranian Information Minister Houmayoun's statement last week in fact made a sharp distinction between such extremist Palestinian elements and the PLO as well as the government of Iraq. Nonetheless, numerous press sources, including the *London Telegraph* and the *Washington Post* have been fueling the