

Pakistan and that is committed to the overthrow of the Taraki regime in Afghanistan. Taraki has repeatedly identified the threat to his regime as coming from both the rightist Moslem Brotherhood and the "ultra-left." It is widely known in intelligence circles that both extremes of the Afghani political spectrum are under the complete control of British and-or Chinese intelligence.

It is evident in British and U.S. press coverage of the "radical Shiite threat" to established governments in the oil-rich Persian-Arabian Gulf area and to the Soviet Union itself how these extremists will be deployed in the future. The Feb. 15 New York Times ran a special feature profiling the potentialities of rebellion among the Muslims within Soviet borders. This is the updated version of a decades-old British Foreign Office strategy to use "Islamic counterinsurgency" as a means of carving up the Soviet republic.

The pulse-center for Persian Gulf unrest is post-Shah Iran. Throughout the week, since the Feb. 11 "surrender" of the armed forces to the Khomeini-

centered rebels, the country has been in extreme turmoil. No less than 25 armed guerrilla bands are roaming the country ignoring appeals by the newly appointed Bazargan government to turn in their arms. A Feb. 12 news article in France's *Le Figaro* described the situation as "worse than Beirut in 1975" during Lebanon's civil war.

The same *Figaro* piece strongly intimated that an army "conspiracy" had been responsible for the sudden "surrender" which turned upwards of 100,000 rifles over to a disorganized population. More exactly, the conspiracy centered in the Israeli-connected Air Force leadership, which, according to Feb. 13 New York Times accounts, defected to the revolution immediately after Air Force "rebels" under their control had drawn the armed forces into a losing and demoralizing combat on an air force base near Teheran.

The treason by the Air Force leadership, in particular Lt. Gen. Rabii, was designed to prevent a deal to stabilize Iran that was growing out of negotiations last week between former Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar

and Bazargan. With that deal demolished and Iran in chaos, the same Air Force circles can use Iran as a base to deploy "Shiite" terrorists against neighboring regimes, possibly disrupting the region's strategically crucial oil resources in the process.

A related goal of Rabii and his cohorts is to create the conditions for a bloody military coup. An unnamed "senior Iraqi official" cited in the Feb. 1 Arabic-language *Al-Mustaqbal* journal stressed that the situation in Iran "awaits the emergence of another General Zahedi" — a reference to the Iranian general who crushed the nationalist Mossadegh government of Iran in 1953 — "who can quickly settle the issue. This will only take place after the streets of Iran are flooded with blood and after the country has gone through the woes of a civil war."

This analysis is coherent with Soviet press accusations of Chinese and American joint planning for a military coup in Iran, coordinated out of the two countries' embassies in Teheran.

—Mark Burdman

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## Pakistani Supreme Court grants Bhutto 10-day stay

The Pakistani Supreme Court ordered an 11th hour stay on the execution of ousted Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on Feb. 14. As the case now stands, Bhutto's defense attorneys are permitted to use this ten-day period to prepare an argument requesting a judicial review, and the Supreme Court will consider whether to hear their argument on Feb. 24. The same court last week ruled by a 4-3 margin to uphold a legally flimsy lower court verdict to hang Bhutto for alleged conspiracy to murder a political opponent.

Observers now view the 10-day period as critical for the ruling military junta, which is already under considerable international pressure to

grant Bhutto clemency. However, it is considered very unlikely that the judiciary will overturn its own verdict.

Following the long-delayed verdict against Bhutto last week, and Bhutto's own absolute refusal to ask Chief Martial Law Administrator Gen. Ziaul Haq for clemency, both supporters and opponents of the still-popular leader expected his hanging this week. International messages urging Gen. Zia to spare Bhutto's life came from virtually every world leader: Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Pope John Paul II, French President Giscard d'Estaing, to name only a handful.

But to date, Gen. Zia, the only of-

ficial who can exercise executive clemency, has rejected the overwhelming opinion that Bhutto's hanging is unjust, and ignored growing indications that the death of the former chief of state would trigger the disintegration of Pakistan into civil strife.

### Former president speaks out

Late last week, the junta suffered an unexpected political setback inside Pakistan itself. Former President Fazal Elahi Chaudhury, the man who retired last September to permit Gen. Zia to become head of state, told the press in Islamabad that he had tried unsuccessfully to reach Gen. Zia to give him a statement on the dangers of executing Bhutto. Chaudhury reported that since he failed, he would release his statement to the media. In part it read: "With the situation in the neighboring countries being what it is, Pakistan is in danger of being engulfed in a very unhappy predicament. Any

# Italians want U.S. ambassador out

While Italian Prime Minister-designate Giulio Andreotti has still not presented a proposal for a new government, the Italian press has broken a scandal that may result in the recall of U.S. Ambassador to Rome, Richard Gardner.

The Rome daily *La Repubblica* on Feb. 13 published part of an alleged secret report to the U.S. State Department prepared by the U.S. Embassy in Rome, on the security, intelligence and antiterrorist operations apparatus in Italy. Singled out for special attention is Carabinieri General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, who, according to the report, has taken over the country's counterespionage apparatus with his antiterrorist activity. The general is presented in the embassy report as ambitious and not overly concerned with legality in his operations. He has also been the object of attacks by the Italian Socialist Party (PSI) because he is not accountable to any of the country's democratic institutions in

the exercise of his plenipotentiary powers.

*L'Unita*, the newspaper of the Italian Communist Party, responded to the report with a front-page story under the headline "This Country Is Not Latin America." *L'Unita* demanded an immediate reaction from the Italian government: "Imagine what would have happened if ... such a thing were discovered in Paris or Bonn. The least that would happen is that the Ambassador would be called before the President or Chancellor and told that he is *persona non grata*."

The ruling Christian Democratic Party responded today with a Feb. 14 article in their daily paper *Il Popolo*. The U.S. interference, says *Popolo*, "must be seen not only as an obscure operation to discredit the Italian Secret Services, but it must be seen in the context of an overall destabilization of the country."

The European Labor Party first called for Gardner's ouster from Italy

in January, 1978, when the ambassador was part of a successful destabilization of the government. Reliable sources report that high government circles are now considering acting on the ELP's demand; and the author of the document, Dominic Perrone, left Rome shortly before Andreotti officially requested his departure as *persona non grata*.

General Dalla Chiesa, who was appointed to head a special operations task force against terrorism following the Aldo Moro kidnapping last summer, has in the past month captured approximately 40 terrorists and terrorist supporters, including 27 attendees of a terrorist-support conference in Rome. His team has also discovered half a dozen Red Brigades or Prima Linea (Front Line) hideouts containing printing presses, arms, false identification and hit lists with dossiers of victims.

event with some political and emotional content can trigger off the process. The execution of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto can provide much more than a detonation. The subdued reaction can become vocal and ultimately turn militantly violent. The resultant chaos will certainly fulfill the wishes of national enemies." To Gen. Zia Chaudhury he stated directly: "A head of state who is the symbol of unity of the country must take note of it, and it is for him to reconcile both points of view to some extent by tempering justice with mercy, in the exercise of his constitutional prerogatives."

Informed sources suggest that Zia intentionally made himself unavailable to receive Chaudhury's statement because his mind is set on the hanging, and he is not willing to be swayed. One military source described his predicament to the *London Guardian*: "It is dangerous to hang Bhutto, it is more dangerous not to."

## *What Jack Anderson and Katharine Graham Wouldn't Print*



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