

To communicate that anti-intellectual, mystic concept in the modern context, the British virtually created overnight a phony Sufi intellect named Idris Shah. Descended from certain Sufi circles of the 19th century, Idris Shah's father worked quite closely with London and authored a book, *Controlling the Mind of Asia*.

In simplest terms, Idris Shah, who is often cited as the world's foremost expert on Sufism, is a fraud and an absurd joke. Among his "scholarly" books we find, first, *Oriental Magic*, a serious study of witchcraft and occult by a believer; and *The Book of the Book*, a 263-page volume which is entirely blank! (The London Sunday Telegraph, in its review, called the *Book* "an extraordinary psychological test"!)

Let us glance at the list of those who attended a recent "Symposium in Honor of Idris Shah," the

funniest fraud since the Piltdown Man. In the list we find:

—Sir John B. Glubb Pasha

—Sir Edwin Chapman Andrew, Knight of St. John, KCMG, OBE, KCSG; St. John's College, Oxford; British Ambassador to Sudan, Lebanon; Council of the Anglo-Arab Association

—Rev. Sidney Spencer, author *Sufi Attitude*; Professor of Comparative Religion, Oxford; Unitarian Church; specialist in mysticism

—Makram Ebeid, an Egyptian Copt; author of *Influence of Sufism on World Civilization*; Victoria College; friend of Anwar Sadat and so forth. These are the perpetrators of the fraud of Idris Shah, Sufi. And this is how cults are made.

Iranian strongman Yazdi: a British creation

The *Executive Intelligence Review* has compiled an extensive dossier proving that Iranian strongman Ibrahim Yazdi is the creation and tool of a string of Anglo-American intelligence agents operating out of the University of Pittsburgh, Georgetown, Princeton, Oxford, and Cambridge.

EXCLUSIVE TO EIR

Published here in full for the first time, the dossier traces the career of the man who is Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's personal controller and the moving force behind the continuing wave of terror and bloodletting in Iran. Yazdi is also responsible for the drastic "anti-Western" reduction in Iranian oil production.

Behind Yazdi's cultivated image of pious sincerity lies the international network of the Muslim Brotherhood. Ibrahim Yazdi is not a sociological phenomenon that resulted from the "too-rapid modernization" of Iran, as the press portrays him, but an individual deliberately selected, groomed, and deployed for his current role. By focusing on Yazdi, the *Executive Intelligence Review*, in the urgent interest of informing promodernizing political forces especially in the Middle East, intends to expose him not only as an individual but as a *type* and to explicate the *method* used by British intelligence and its collaborators to carry out its "Dark Ages" designs.

What is Ibrahim Yazdi?

During the 1950s, while still in Iran, Yazdi, who was active in the Freedom Front resistance movement around nationalist leader Mossadegh, was extensively

profiled by his future controller, Richard Cottam. Cottam was an American Foreign Service officer sent to Iran with instructions to make contacts with the Shah's opposition. Cottam also targeted and groomed another member of the resistance, Said Ghotbzadeh. Like Yazdi, Ghotbzadeh was to emerge as a key international coordinator of Ayatollah Khomeini's takeover of Iran. Ghotbzadeh is currently the director of the National Iranian Radio and Television under Khomeini.

For the next 20 years, Cottam maintained close ties with Yazdi and Ghotbzadeh, frequently meeting with them for strategy in the United States, Europe, and Iran. In 1970, Cottam visited Iran. "Ghotbzadeh set up a lot of contacts for me while I was there," Cottam recently reminisced. "But he did a sloppy job. I almost blew some covers." The latest meeting with Yazdi and Ghotbzadeh took place late last winter when Cottam traveled to Khomeini's headquarters in France.

Cottam's involvement in the Iran operation is demonstrated graphically by his collaboration with an ultraleftist terrorist by the name of Derakshesh with known ties to Britain, who, in the early 1960s, took over the Iranian National Teachers Association. In 1963, he deliberately led the National Teachers Association into a set-up strike situation that resulted in a bloody confrontation with the army, triggering a wave of clashes throughout the country. In April 1977, Derakshesh traveled to France and then the United States to coordinate the Khomeini operation, meeting with both Ghotbzadeh and Yazdi. He also met with Cottam.

Derakshesh reportedly asked Cottam to intercede on his behalf in Washington for support from the Carter Administration, encouraged by Carter's stand

on human rights. Cottam went to Washington and discussed supporting the Khomeini crew with the National Security Council. According to one account, Cottam returned "discouraged" from Washington and told Derakshesh and company to "go it alone." Derakshesh promptly did just that. Immediately a letter signed by 40 individuals appeared in the press protesting the Shah's censorship, followed by another letter one month later. The ball had started rolling.

Khomeini's mindset

Yazdi's wife has described Cottam as "a very close friend of my husband, the one person who knows more about him than even I do."

Currently a professor at the University of Pittsburgh, Cottam has become one of the most vociferous U.S. supporters of the Khomeini regime, hailing Khomeini as "the most important Islamic existentialist in three centuries." Cottam denounces "the racist attitudes of those people and groups who charge that under Khomeini Iran is returning to the Dark Ages." Defending the tyranny of the Khomeini regime, Cottam insists: "You have to understand Khomeini's mindset."

In 1959, Yazdi came to the United States, received a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and joined the faculty of Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey in the early 1960s. A few years later, Ghotbzadeh arrived in the United States, enrolled in Georgetown University, and later flunked out. Admits Cottam: "Ghotbzadeh was crazy. In fact, he still is." Ghotbzadeh left the United States, but traveled frequently from his new base of operations in France to the United States, often entering the country illegally without a visa and meeting with Yazdi and Cottam. "The State Department turned a blind eye to Ghotbzadeh's illegal entries," said Cottam recently. "They knew he was coming in and we were meeting, but they just let it happen. Later on, they began issuing him visas, so there was nothing illegal about it."

Both Yazdi and Ghotbzadeh were active in building up the Muslim Brotherhood in the United States, recruiting Muslim students and professionals into various Brotherhood front groups that they established. In 1963, Yazdi helped set up the Muslim Students Association, which, over the past 16 years, has extended the tentacles of the Muslim Brotherhood throughout the United States and Canada. In addition to the MSA, Yazdi set up the Iranian Students Association. He later split away from the ISA, establishing the Young Muslims Organization as a "religious" alternative to the more secular and increasingly leftist ISA. Operating from Paris, Ghotbzadeh set up an operation parallel to the YMO.

On the road

In 1964, Yazdi traveled to Europe, spending the next three years in France, west Germany, and at the

American University in Beirut, long a bastion of Anglo-American intelligence operations in the Middle East. Upon his arrival in Paris in 1964, Yazdi went to visit Ali Shariati, the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation-linked fanatic Iranian ideologue, whose notions of "Islamic socialism" were to form the synthetic theoretical foundations of the Khomeini movement. Shariati and Yazdi discussed returning together to Iran to extend their networks into Iran itself. It was decided, however, that Shariati would go first, to be followed by Yazdi. Shariati was captured and arrested on the border, and instructed Yazdi, waiting in Paris, not to follow him.

During his stays in Paris over the next three years, Yazdi coordinated his activities with Ghotbzadeh and the network of French Anglophiles, existentialists, environmentalists, and anthropologists now lined up behind the Khomeini movement.

Returning to the United States in 1967, Yazdi moved to Houston, Texas, taking up a research and teaching post at Baylor Medical College. "I doubt he did much teaching," stated Georgetown University professor Thomas Ricks, the national coordinator of the pro-Khomeini U.S. Peoples Committee on Iran and a key Yazdi controller. "Every six weeks or so he was always coming to Washington, meeting with all kinds of people, building up his Young Muslims Organization against the Iranian Students Association, and so forth. He was always very discreet, very careful, about his meetings.

"I was a bit dissatisfied with Yazdi," Ricks admitted. "He was too vague and too general for me, and a little bit difficult to get along with."

With the Khomeini takeover in Iran, Yazdi assumed the post of Minister of Revolutionary Affairs. Late last month, Yazdi became foreign minister and took over the security apparatus. Yazdi's 4,000-strong komiteh militiamen, responsible for the continuing bloodbath in Iran, were integrated into the national police force, institutionalizing lawlessness and assassination throughout the country.

In Washington, Yazdi's son-in-law, Shariah Rouhani, a former regional representative for the Muslim Brotherhood-controlled Muslim Students Association, became the official U.S. spokesman for Yazdi and the Khomeini "revolutionary government." According to his associates, Rouhani, who for the last 10 years has been working closely with Yazdi, is spending much of his time browbeating Iranians living in the U.S. into dropping their opposition to Khomeini's fascist rule and endorsing the "new Iran."