

the remaining military brass inside of Iran and would certainly be unable to rally the support of the fragmented and inactive 200,000 remaining troops of the imperial army.

Shortly after Bakhtiar's July 31 Paris press conference, two separate incidents took place in Iran indicating the anti-Khomeini sentiment within military circles. First, there was a revolt of army troops at an installation south of Teheran against the policies of the Ayatollah Khomeini and his executions of hundreds of military figures. Second, following a revolutionary committee execution of two military officers in Tabriz in the northern province of Azerbaijan, military figures called for a tribunal hearing against the head of Khomeini's revolutionary committee, promptly driving him out of the area. At the same time the military in Tabriz announced that their brothers in Kurdistan would not intervene to halt the revolt in Kurdistan.

According to one Iranian source:

"The military will not move on Khomeini's orders. Even when the Shah was in power they did not want to tangle with the Kurds, who are mountain fighters and armed to the teeth. Pilots flying bombing missions into Kurdistan are not dropping bombs on their assigned cities but on barren fields. Khomeini will never marshal mass forces into Kurdistan."

Iranian sources say that Khomeini's sudden proclamation that he is now fully in charge of Iran's armed forces is most likely to only further alienate his Islamic regime from the military. The *New York Times* reported Aug. 22 that the military is unhappy with Khomeini's provocations in Kurdistan and is reluctant to get involved. Most of the fighting in the region has been between Khomeini's revolutionary guard and Kurdish rebels.

Red carpet for showdown

Iran's chaos will quickly escalate into civil war unless the fragmented opposition in Iran can quickly come together and make a strong public showing against Khomeini. In particular this means that the second- and third-level Ayatollahs in the country must overcome considerable ideological differences and unite publicly around this task. Ayatollah Shariatmadari, an arch-conservative, is known to be supporting Bakhtiar, and has the strong backing of the Azerbaijanis as well as sections of Teheran and the Khorastan province. Ayatollah Taleghani, less powerful than Shariatmadari, is much more left leaning with strong support among the National Democratic Front, the Mujahedeen, and the Fedayeen, as well as the Iranian workers—notably in the oil-producing region.

The greatest problem facing the opposition is a

Soviet press issues first attack on Khomeini

Following the forceful closing of the Iranian Communist Party (Tudeh) offices and newspaper last week, the Soviet Party newspaper Pravda opened up its first strong attacks on the Khomeini regime. Pravda of Aug. 22 attacked the newspaper of Khomeini's Islamic Republican Party for inciting a Muslim insurrection against Moscow's ally, Afghanistani president Taraki.

In the same issue, Pravda writer M. Sidorov wrote that "The Iranian press is also full of other lies concerning the nationalities policy of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union within the U.S.S.R. itself." This Pravda attack addresses the open effort Khomeini is presently running throughout the Mideast region using various Muslim tribal groupings against both pro-Soviet governments such as Iraq and Syria, and the Soviet Union itself through various ethnic minorities living on the 1,500-mile border Iran shares with the U.S.S.R.

serious vacuum of leadership. While Bakhtiar rallies considerable support, he is out of the country. Moreover, recently his reputation has been marred by reports of contact between Bakhtiar and the Pahlavi dynasty, particularly, the Shah's notorious and corrupt sister, Princess Ashraf, who moved to Paris shortly after Bakhtiar began his public bid for power in Iran. Informed sources indicate that Ashraf and the Shah's family have been "hanging on to Bakhtiar" hoping to use him to reinstall the monarchy through the Crown Prince.

Inside Iran, Matin-Daftari is the most well-respected opposition leader but he has now been forced underground by Khomeini's thugs. He is rumored to have fled Iran and to be in Rome.

If the opposition is not able to rapidly overcome internal differences and make a unified showing against Khomeini, civil war is unanimously predicted by both Iranian and American Iran watchers. Such a development is precisely what the geopoliticians in the U.S. National Security Council who brought Khomeini to Iran, the City of London, and Israeli intelligence are counting on.

In this situation, numerous British agents of influence maintain ongoing contact with the Shah, who still possesses hopes of restoring his Pahlavi dynasty to Iran.

—Judith Wyer