

# The Muslim Brotherhood and METO

## *Secret organization key to expansion of Camp David pact*

A scenario is shaping up for the Middle East among Anglo-American policymaking layers that, in the opinion of many observers, leads directly toward a head-on U.S.-Soviet showdown. That scenario runs approximately as follows: What is necessary in the immediate future is the expansion of the Camp David pact to include at least some other Arab circles. Mentioned most often in this context by spokesmen for the Council on Foreign Relations, the State Department, and increasingly even some leading Zionists, is some combination of West Bank and Gaza strip Palestinians and the Kingdom of Jordan. Such a development, it is thought, could lead to the establishment of a pro-NATO bloc of Arab countries allied with Israel: the Middle East Treaty Organization. METO's mission would be to freeze out Soviet interests and influence in the entire Middle East—girding the U.S.S.R.'s Central Asian underbelly with a belt of hostile states.

Already Oman, Sudan, Morocco, and Iran are leading candidates for joining METO. Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, along with Libya and Algeria, are immediately threatened with military action and Muslim Brotherhood-led fundamentalist revolt.

But to accomplish that goal, it appears as if the Israeli government of Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who opposes any form of rapprochement with the Palestinians, must be reorganized—without Begin—into a coalition bloc led by Ezer Weizman, Moshe Dayan, and Shimon Peres.

In the past few weeks, the situation in Iran has taken a dramatic turn for the worse. The inner core of the secret Muslim Brotherhood machine in Iran has seized power directly, and the entire Iranian governmental apparatus is now in the hands of British intelligence. Khomeini's Iran is being steered in the direction of leading an anti-communist revolt throughout the Middle East. Beginning with Khomeini for the first time; by the same token, some Western circles are arguing that it is the interest of the West to support the fundamentalist opposition to the Soviet influence in the area!

Together with the crisis in Afghanistan, the Iranian situation is being used as a rallying point for the mobilization of the Arab and other Muslim networks

of the Brotherhood. Eventually, it is this alliance that, Zbigniew Brzezinski hopes, will form the basis of the METO bloc.

Now, London and the Carter administration believe that it may be necessary to oust the discredited Menachem Begin and shift gears on Israeli policy, replacing Begin with a more "moderate" coalition that can strike a deal with elements of the Palestinian movement and the allies of Khomeini in the Arab world. This, they hope, can be erected on the cornerstone of the Egyptian-Israeli pact.

## Iran: a coup in the Islamic Council

In recent weeks a cold coup has transpired within the secretive Islamic Revolutionary Council, the most powerful body in Iran's Islamic Republic. While Ayatollah Khomeini is still the number one figure within the Council and Iran's virtual dictator, a faction of political extremists, and allied religious clergy within the council, have become hegemonic and are currently determining policy in Iran. As a result, Iran is presently being governed by a junta every bit as brutal as that of Cambodia's Pol Pot or Chile's Pinochet.

Among the key figures in this political grouping are Ayatollah Khalkhali, known throughout Iran as the "blood judge," Ayatollah Montazeri, Interior Minister Mustaffa Shamran, Khomeini's economic advisor Abolhassan Banisadr, Said Ghotbzadeh, and Foreign Minister Ibrahim Yazdi. All of these individuals share common links to the British-organized fundamentalist movement, the Muslim Brotherhood, and also the common policy of subjecting Iran to a totalitarian Maoist-style form of government which they aim to spread through bloody insurrections to Iran's neighboring Arab oil producing regions.

### Taleghani murdered?

A turning point in the recent developments in Iran was the sudden and mysterious death of the influential Ayatollah Taleghani Sept. 9. Just a week following his reported "heart attack," his son, a prominent leftist in Teheran, told the press that his father had been poisoned, an explanation for Taleghani's untimely death which the Kuwaiti daily *Al Qabas* also printed last week.

The death of Taleghani represents a profound lesson to the more moderate elements within the opposition that overthrew the Shah of Iran and backed Khomeini. Taleghani and prominent members of the National Front accepted Khomeini as a legitimate opposition figure thinking that they could make a deal with Khomeini. Khomeini's political track record since his collaboration with Ayatollah Kashani and the Muslim Brotherhood in the early 1950s which led to the overthrow of the republican revolutionary Premier Mohammed Mossadegh has shown that he has functioned only as a tool of Anglo-American neocolonial policy for the Mideast—a fact Taleghani and the Front could not deny. Moreover, Taleghani and his more moderate allies themselves have flirted with the Anglo-American-Zionist establishment which controls Khomeini.

Taleghani was considered by sources with inside information on the politics of the Islamic regime to be the only viable challenger to Khomeini's authority within Iran, and yet he was known to have backed away from a showdown with Khomeini. The respected French journalist Paul Marie de la Gorce wrote in *Le Figaro* Sept. 10 that following Taleghani's death the last vestiges of secular, prodemocratic opposition to Khomeini have disappeared. Taleghani was known to be working with the National Front and the National Democratic Front in building a coalition against the Khomeini program for theocratic dictatorship. Only following his death was it revealed that he was the head of the Revolutionary Council and had exercised a moderating influence over the body by keeping its members from criticizing the nominal secular government in Iran headed by Premier Mehdi Bazargan.

Taleghani's death is the culmination of a brutal crackdown on all forces opposing Khomeini which has been engineered by Ayatollah Khalkhali and his allies who have consistently played on the octogenarian Khomeini's paranoia and psychological weaknesses in order to enforce their tyrannical policies. Iranian sources confirm that as early as May of this year this extremist clique began to gain psychological control over Khomeini, a fact which was to a great extent responsible for the bloody public political executions of which Khalkhali personally took charge. Similarly, it was Khalkhali and Interior Minister Shamran who took full responsibility for the genocidal assault on Iran's Kurdish minorities, a policy which Taleghani was known to have opposed, rather seeking some kind of accommo-

### Kuwaiti press accuses Iran of fronting for Camp David

In a groundbreaking commentary Sept. 17, Kuwait's *Ar-Ra'y al-'Amm* newspaper accused Iranian Ayatollah Mohammed Montazeri, an advocate of "exporting" Iran's revolution abroad, of "serving the Camp David plot by dragging the Middle East into the abyss of communal division, thereby enabling Cairo to play the rule of policeman in the region," according to an account covered by the KUNA Kuwaiti news agency.

The newspaper further said: "These threats not only serve the Camp David aims, but will also plunge the Arab area in bloodshed and communal strife, particularly the Gulf area where external forces would exploit the explosive situation and troubles to carry out their repeatedly declared goal of military occupation. . . . Montazeri's threats have a communal character, which implies the exploration of massacres and the pitting of the sons of one religion against each other."

dation with the restless minorities in Iran to avoid the very real threat of a partition of the country.

### Next target: Bazargan

Within days following Taleghani's death, members of the Revolutionary Council launched their first public attacks on the cabinet of Premier Bazargan. Both Ayatollah Montazeri and Banisadr called upon the population of Iran to "uproot the Bazargan government." Bazargan, a long-time close political ally of Taleghani, has repeatedly attempted to resign because the Revolutionary Council's pervasive control in Iran, through the militant local Islamic Committees known as "Khomitehs," has made it impossible for his government to rule. As a result the Bazargan government has slowly been falling apart. Only last week the Education Minister resigned, and this week the Defense Minister General Riahi finally stepped down after numerous threats that he would do so.

This slow dismemberment of the Bazargan government at the hands of Khomeini and his extremist clique of advisors marks the end of any pretense of democracy by Khomeini's Islamic Republic. Following the Education Minister's resignation, the Council announced the nationalization of all private schools and universities within Iran and launched an unprecedented purge of Teheran University, the center of pro-Taleghani sentiment and one of the last holdouts of various leftist groupings which have been working with the National Front against the Islamic Regime.

In a parallel move, the last vestiges of freedom of the press within Iran were sacrificed this week with the Council's decision to confiscate the offices of the two largest dailies in Iran, *Kayhan*, which was until recently reportedly pro-Khomeini, and *Ettalaat*.

Bazargan, according to European press sources, has been unable to halt an ongoing purge of various of his ministries, a process which began in July when a "deal" was worked out between Khomeini's Council and the Prime Minister to merge the two bodies.

The Council of Experts, a body almost totally composed of pro-Khomeini Shiite Islamic clergy which was fraudulently elected two months ago to revise Iran's constitution, is making drastic changes in the document, erasing totally the power of secular government in Iran. European press sources report that the Council of Experts has elevated the power and authority of Iran's leading Ayatollah (grand priest) to a position superceding that of the newly created position of president.

It is no coincidence that Khomeini's band of mullahs and extremist ideologues released to the public their rewrite of Iran's constitution following the death of Taleghani and following the successful repression of Khomeini's opponents. Both Taleghani and the National Front were emphatically opposed to a pure theocratic system and supported establishing a republic along the lines of that fought for by the Iranian revolutionary leaders of the early 1950s Muhammed Mossadegh.

### **Phase two of Iran's revolution**

Since Khomeini's takeover of Iran in February, U.S. based sources with an inside track to the National Security Council have predicted that Khomeini's stay in power would be blunted by a military coup, probably run by a "little-known pro-Islamic officer of Iran's now splintered military." The National Security Council, despite public statements to the contrary, in fact played a critical role in clandestinely backing the Khomeini takeover of Iran working closely through U.S. citizen Ibrahim Yazdi to achieve this goal.

Khomeini's regime is however, only a stepping stone to the creation of an even more repressive Islamic military government for Iran modeled on Pakistan's Zia regime which both London and Washington view will be the eastern counterpart of the western Egyptian-Israeli military axis that is to form the backbone of the long sought after Anglo-American dream of a NATO-linked Middle East Treaty Organization.

Khomeini and company have served their Anglo-American controllers in successfully cleaning out their opposition, which represented a balanced outlook toward both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. as represented by Taleghani and the Front. Just prior to his death, Ayatollah Taleghani met with the Soviet Ambassador Vinogradov, and told the press that the Soviet Union had no role in provoking internal unrest in Iran, referring to the Kurdish unrest against Khomeini. Taleghani's

statements directly contradicted those of the anti-Soviet Khomeini and coincided with a strong anti-Soviet speech delivered by Foreign Minister Yazdi at the Havana Nonaligned Summit.

Earlier this month, Sayed Marei, a close confidant of Egyptian president Sadat predicted a general's coup in Iran, and in the same statement warned of the spread of Islamic fundamentalism to Syria and Iraq.

Ironically, Khomeini and his allies may soon find themselves in the same condition as Taleghani, the victims of their Anglo-American string-pullers in the wake of a London and Israeli backed military coup.

—Judith Wyer

## **The network of the Muslim Brotherhood**

The takeover of Iran by the inner circles of the Muslim Brotherhood apparatus has given new momentum to the implementation of the so-called "Bernard Lewis plan," named after the Oxford University orientalist who, working in collaboration with British and Israeli intelligence, developed the Anglo-American program for balkanizing the Middle East along tribal, ethnic, and religious lines. From North Africa through Syria, Iraq, and the Arabian peninsula, the secret Muslim Brotherhood apparatus has been reactivated, as the following survey shows.

Although to the casual observer the pattern might not seem obvious, what is in fact happening is that the Muslim Brotherhood network is emerging as the skeleton of the proposed, NATO-linked Middle East Treaty Organization (METO), and at the same time, the governments which have so far resisted the METO concept—such as Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and so forth—have been targeted for destabilization by "Muslim fundamentalist" movements.

### **1. The Persian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula**

The most immediate threat to the stability in the Middle East arising out of the Khomeini regime comes from the substantial Shiite Muslim communities in Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the Persian Gulf states. Ayatollah Montazeri, the newly appointed head of the Islamic Revolutionary Council in Iran, last week openly threatened all neighboring Muslim countries to "learn a lesson from the fate of the Shah." At the same time, Foreign Minister Ibrahim Yazdi, one of the leading