

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.