

That week Yazdi also addressed a closed meeting of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, and he had private meetings with the inner circle of the CFR.

While such facts should shock Americans, who generally do not think that their government would involve itself with such fanatics as Yazdi and Chamran, the above information should convince most people of the "secret" behind the Ayatollah Khomeini. In the following, we have assembled more detailed and systematic evidence, and we present some of the latest news about the collapse of Iran and the strategic stakes presently in the Persian Gulf.

How Khomeini destroyed the government

The Iranians who made the revolution against the absolute rule of the Pahlavi monarchy earlier this year have found themselves under the Muslim Brotherhood forces standing behind a leader the world considers a madman, who is enforcing repressive measures as bad or worse than the Pahlavi dynasty.

Since Khomeini established his provisional government in February, a slow motion coup has unfolded in which the secular republican forces associated with the National Front that opportunistically backed Khomeini, have been eliminated by the secretive Revolutionary Council of fundamentalist Islamic mullahs.

The council is comprised of the corps of advisers that surrounded Khomeini during his exile in France, all of whom are members of the Muslim Brotherhood. As this publication has documented, the inner elite within the Council, notably, Ibrahim Yazdi, Said Ghotbzadeh, Abolhassan Banisadr, and Mustaffa Chamran are all associates of the Brotherhood.

NATO involvement

A prime target of Khomeini's purge of all secular forces has been the military apparatus built up by the Shah. The aim of the Revolutionary Council has been to destroy the top ranking officers which would be in any way sympathetic to the republican opposition to Khomeini's regime.

However, recently revealed information indicates that a clique of generals in the Shah's military was complicit in the conspiracy to install Khomeini and is

still operating to back him. The *Financial Times* reports that the Shah's chief of staff General Gharabaghi, along with the deputy director of the Iranian Secret Police, SAVAK, were on the inside of the Khomeini takeover, and to this day remain close advisers to the Ayatollah.

Exiled Iranian military figures confirm that NATO had a direct hand in ensuring the Khomeini takeover. These sources state that the special military emissary General Robert Huyser, NATO's deputy commander, was sent to Iran by the Carter administration to guarantee that Iran's military did not block the revolution. To this end Huyser worked closely with General Gharabaghi.

According to a prominent Washington-based journalist, Huyser duped many Iranian generals into backing Khomeini, notably the commander of the Iranian Air Force, General Rabii. Many of these generals were then later double-crossed, when the marauding gangs of the Islamic Guard rounded up civilian and military officials from the Pahlavi regime and executed them by firing squad.

According to a former Iranian diplomat, over 130 generals have been executed, over 200 retired and 100 exiled, leaving no command structure for the Iranian army.

Gharabaghi and Huyser also worked to block an alliance in early February between former premier Shahpour Bakhtiar and Khomeini's newly named provisional prime minister Bazargan. General Gharabaghi, who sat in on the series of negotiations between Bakhtiar and Bazargan—upon realizing that an agreement could be reached between the two National Front leaders—set into motion with General Rabii an insurrection at the Qasr-e Firuzeh Air Force base south of Teheran which triggered mass violence in Teheran, and the ousting of Bakhtiar.

As the pro-Khomeini armed youth began to take over the capital city, Gharabaghi in close consultation with Huyser, ordered the Iranian army back to the barracks—and the Khomeini takeover was complete. Iranian sources report that the moment the army's neutrality was announced by Gharabaghi, Huyser quietly left Iran for NATO headquarters in Brussels.

According to *Le Figaro*, March 5, Ibrahim Yazdi and the head of the Islamic Guard, Laghouti, began to integrate the Guard into a new intelligence and secret police agency, utilizing intact departments of the Shah's SAVAK apparatus. Yazdi himself occupied the SAVAK headquarters in Teheran along with Laghouti.

Throughout the last nine months, there have been numerous purges within the Khomeini-appointed command of the army and the air force, each time the purge has resulted from a fight on the part of nationalist military leaders to rebuild the powerful military along secular lines.

In late February, a military adviser to Khomeini,

The world has been apprised

Since the publication in May 1979 of the *Executive Intelligence Review's* "Muslim Brotherhood: London's Shock Troops for the New Dark Ages," the exposé of the Muslim Brotherhood cult and of Ibrahim Yazdi, Iran's foreign minister, has circulated at least several times around the world.

In Iran itself, the article was translated into Persian and circulated, in both languages, in thousands of photocopies across the country, where, Iranian sources report, it was a prized possession. Finally, the independent newspaper *Ayendegan* published on its front page excerpts of the exposé; within two days *Ayendegan* was closed down by the Ayatollah Khomeini and its assets seized. The next day, 100,000 people came out in support of *Ayendegan* in the only real mass demonstration against the Khomeini regime since it took power.

The article has since been translated into many languages and published around the world. In India, the *New Wave* newspaper published it in full. Several

Pakistani newspapers printed some major excerpts of the article. Thousands of reprints found their way into the Arab world, and a West German radio station broadcast an Arabic translation of the piece into the Middle East. In several Third World countries, the Soviet embassy has quietly distributed reprints of the article. More than anything else, the piece branded Yazdi as a foreign agent and for months forced him to adopt a low profile. It is now the standard understanding among Iranians that Yazdi is an Anglo-U.S. agent.

In France, several newspapers—including the *Minute* and *Le Figaro* magazine—printed excerpts of the Muslim Brotherhood exposé, charging, stupidly, that *EIR* is a front for "the CIA!" In the United States, virtually every Iranian of prominence has his own copy of the article, and according to very reliable sources even the Shah and Princess Ashraf, his sister, had read the piece.

Reprints of the entire article, together with other *EIR* material on Iran published during 1979, are available from *EIR* Middle East Desk, 304 West 58 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 for \$50.00.

Colonel Tavokoli, was forced from his post for attempting to rebuild the military under his command, a move Khomeini perceived as a threat to his regime.

Ralph Schoenman, an Anglo-American intelligence agent, was sent to Iran at that time to ensure Tavokoli's ouster. Schoenman, a former personal secretary to Bertrand Russell, an associate of the Transnational Institute which aided in installing Khomeini, gave a press conference where he claimed that Tavokoli was preparing a military coup. Tavokoli was then ousted from Khomeini's inner circle. Deputy Prime Minister Abbas Amir Entezam responded by throwing Schoenman out of the country and calling him a CIA agent.

The murder of former chief of staff General Qurani in April followed Qurani's March resignation and his efforts, through secret messages to Khomeini, to convince the Ayatollah that both Yazdi and Ghotbzadeh were agents of Washington. The process of purges, executions, and political intimidation has left both the defense ministry and the chief of staff position today in the hands of Muslim Brotherhood insiders from Khomeini's Revolutionary Council.

Cleaning out the Front

In mid-August Khomeini issued a decree calling for the complete purge of all of Iran's universities, the closing of all press, the purge of all government ministries, and the closing of all offices of any political groups that

had voiced opposition to the Islamic regime.

This action came about as a result of street demonstrations led by a coalition of opposition groups to Khomeini, in which the powerful Ayatollah Taleghani, and the National Democratic Front leader Hedayatollah Matin-Daftari were the leaders. The demonstration was to protest the closing of the widely read *Ayandegan* daily which had that month printed exposés of Yazdi and Ghotbzadeh as foreign agents.

During August and September, a major shift occurred within the Revolutionary Council in which Defense Minister Chamran, economist Banisadr, and the radical Ayatollah Khalkhali succeeded in convincing Khomeini to proceed with an offensive against the restive Kurdish minority. (Trained at the Sorbonne in Paris, Banisadr has stated that his model for Iran is Pol Pot's Kampuchea.)

Khomeini was principally aiming to annihilate the Kurdish Democratic Party which had formed an alliance with opposition forces in Teheran. The assault on the Kurds was matched by an equally violent attack on the anti-Khomeini demonstrators. As a result, the leadership of the National Front went into exile in the northern part of Iran; the two guerrilla groups that backed the opposition to Khomeini, the Fedayeen and the Mujahedine, went underground and joined Kurdish mountain fighters in a guerrilla war against the Islamic Guard.

By the end of September, only one of the original National Front leaders remained an active member of the cabinet, Bazargan himself. Ayatollah Taleghani, considered by many to be the unifying force of the opposition movements, suddenly died, and many believed by poisoning.

Just prior to Bazargan's resignation, the National Iranian Oil Company, the last institution to escape the purges, was suddenly hit with purges.

The chairman of the company, Hassan Nazih, was suddenly requested to appear before an Islamic trial for embezzling funds from the oil company. Nazih, like Bazargan's first foreign minister Karim Sanjabi, had been an outspoken opponent of the Revolutionary Council. He and minister without portfolio Darius Farouhar were the last of the National Front leaders to be ousted by the Council.

Their departure followed by Bazargan's and the dissolution of the cabinet, signals the complete takeover by the extremists within the Council of all government bureaucracy. The question now is how long these fanatics can maintain control before even their base of power, the urban slum dwellers and the discontented peasants, begin to resist the economic collapse Khomeini's Islamic Republic has produced.

—Judith Weyer

Eyewitness report: 'Iran is living hell'

We present here excerpts taken from a series of interviews with Iranians who have recently returned to the United States from Iran. In each case the individuals interviewed agreed that conditions in Iran today are no better if not worse than under the regime of the Shah.

Q: *You were in Iran in August; at that time how were Iranians viewing the Khomeini government?*

A: I suppose you would have to ask yourself which Iranians. The people in my family are fairly well off; they own a factory. Like a lot of upper-middle-class and even upper-class Iranians, they supported Khomeini. There was such deep-seated hatred against the Shah. People were desperate for an alternative.

Now people like my family are disgusted. Nothing, not one thing has changed for the better. In fact last week, I talked to my family who told me that there are shortages of food turning up all over the country. The mullahs cannot run that country.

There were very high expectations on the part of all Iranians that things would get better with the Shah out. Now people are scared; they see Khomeini adopting the same tactics of repression that the Pahlavis used.

What worries me is that the middle-class Iranian businessmen, desperate for a return to normality, will accept any alternative if it is not Islamic. By that I am referring to the possibility of Admiral Madani taking over the country. He is very, very clever and calculating, but he would rule with an iron fist. I think it could be brutal.

Q: *What about the poorer classes in Iran—they are the real support for the mullahs—are they as disillusioned?*

A: That is a very different problem. You cannot imagine the control those mullahs have over the illiterate slumdwellers and peasants. They still support Khomeini. But unlike my family, they had nothing to lose. As long as they have their medicine man, their mullah, I think they will tolerate a lot.

When I was there I made a special trip to a terrible slum in north Teheran in the area not far from the estates where many wealthy Iranians live. I had not been back for eight years, but I remembered those slums. That's why I became a doctor. I was shocked when I returned. Nothing has changed. Khomeini has done nothing for those people. He has done nothing to resolve the crime and corruption that comes out of those slums. There are still the drugs—that is how they pay for their food, since they have no money. There is still the prostitution. I was enraged, and I asked myself what was this revolution for?

Q: *Did you talk with officers from the Iranian army while you were there?*

A: Oh sure, many of my relatives were officers. They will never obey Khomeini no matter who Khomeini appoints defense minister or chief of staff. They look at Chamran as a joke; he has no military experience.

The one thing all the remaining army officers know, and I heard this again and again, is that NATO had a hand in creating this mess. It had to have been General Huyser who aided Gharabaghi in restraining the Iranian military and allowing for the Khomeini takeover. At the time, some of the officers wanted to believe that Khomeini would give the National Front a chance. Now they see they were very stupid, and they are very bitter. They will never fight for the Islamic Republic.

Q: *If the military is out of the picture, what is the Islamic Guard and can they be trained to run the sophisticated equipment that the Iranian military operated?*

A: The Guard range in age from 15 to 25. Many of them are illiterate; they know how to operate a machine gun. They are not trained in anything beyond fighting in the streets. Khomeini pays these young guards very,