

# Who is Abolhassan Bani-Sadr?

***“Teheran is a monstrous, parasitical city, which absorbs by itself half the national consumption, and poses an abusive burden on the state budget. We will depopulate it by creating in the provinces industrial and agricultural production units.”***

***—Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, Nov. 10 to Le Monde***

With these words, Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, the new foreign minister and strongman in Iran, made clear what the goals of the Khomeini regime are: the imposition of genocide, mass starvation, and fanatical religious martyrdom. In September, Bani-Sadr, then merely the assistant economic minister, had declared that his model for Iran was the Pol Pot regime of Kampuchea, which depopulated the city of Phnom Penh, murdering almost half of its inhabitants. Now that policy is being carried out in Iran.

The accession of Bani-Sadr to the foreign ministry is a dangerous sign that a “cold coup” has taken place in Iran, even since last week. The more realistic figures in the Khomeini entourage who favored a more restrained approach to the reorganization of Iranian society have now been swept aside.

The Ayatollah Khomeini has now become the Jim Jones cult leader of a nation of 35 million people. In a speech delivered Nov. 11, the Ayatollah called upon the Iranian population to starve to death rather than accede to American demands that 60 American hostages in the U.S. embassy be released. “We know how to fast,” the Ayatollah raved. “We will eat the wheat and barley we grow in our country. We eat meat once a week. Eating meat is not such a good thing anyway. We are a nation of 35 million and many of these people are looking forward to martyrdom. We will move with the 35 million. After they have all been martyred, then they can do what they want with Iran.”

Rumors that the United States is considering halting all wheat and other grains to Iran will contribute to the suicide of the Iranian people, who already face food shortages brought on by the collapse of the economy since February.

As with the suicide cultist Jim Jones, as with the

butchers Pol Pot and Ieng Sary in Kampuchea, Bani-Sadr, the man who has come forward to lead Iran in a jihad (holy war) against civilization is no mere madman. He has been trained for over a period of a decade for exactly the role he is carrying out now. *Executive Intelligence Review* presents here an exclusive dossier on the man who is now holding the world hostage.

The report in the Nov. 12 *New York Times* that Abolhassan Bani-Sadr wrote his doctoral dissertation at the Sorbonne University in Paris on the subject of “agrarian reform,” and parallel reports in the Nov. 10-11 French press about his student emigré period in Paris, are key clues in piecing together an authoritative account of, first, who Iran’s new foreign minister is, and, second, the significance of his recent appointment.

If these clues are put into the context of Bani-Sadr’s Nov. 10 statements to *Le Monde* (“Teheran is a monstrous, parasitical town. ... We will depopulate it by creating in the provinces industrial and agricultural units”) and his earlier statement to *Le Nouvel Observateur* that Iran would undergo “Cambodian-ization by persuasion not force,” then it becomes clear that Iran’s new foreign minister is an instrument of the same “radical” environmentalist-terrorist circles in France who were behind the devastation of Kampuchea.

These circles, who will be identified in detail below, are the products of the anthropology, sociology, and agronomy departments of the Sorbonne, the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (EPHE), and the Centre Nationale des Recherches Scientifiques (CNRS). The individuals involved work closely with the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation and the Tavistock Institute in Great Britain and are connected to leading anthro-

pology and linguistics departments in universities around the world. As a group, they share a commitment to the depopulation and deindustrialization of the globe, to a "zero-growth" world returned to feudalism; often, but not always, they employ "socialistic" rhetoric, modeled on China's Maoist formulations, to achieve their ends.

Abolhassan Bani-Sadr is their chosen instrument to carry out the deindustrialization of Iran. Earlier, the French-centered environmentalist ideologues created the leadership that brought genocide to Kampuchea. Kampuchea's recently deposed president, Khieu Samphan, graduated from the Sorbonne in the late 1950s after completing his dissertation in "agrarian reform." Pol Pot and Ieng Sary, prime minister and foreign minister respectively in the regime that carried out the systematic murder of three million Cambodians, were both trained in Paris, primarily at the Sorbonne. Both reportedly were schooled in the same "radical sociology" and "radical agronomy" that Abolhassan Bani-Sadr learned while in Paris.

## Professor Balandier

In his Nov. 10 *Le Monde* interview, Bani-Sadr reveals that he prepared his doctoral thesis "under the direction of Professor Balandier." This revelation is very significant.

According to "Who's Who..." biographical accounts, **Georges Balandier** did his college-level studies at the Ecole Pratique, and at the Paris-based Ethnology Institute. From 1951 to 1954 he worked in sociological studies at the Centre Nationale. In 1954, he became Director of Studies at the EPHE. By 1962, he had become a Professor of Sociology at the Sorbonne, the institution where he trained Bani-Sadr. His specialties are "the sociology of Africa" and "political anthropology."

This could be the model biography of the type of individual who favors a new feudal world order. It is in the interface between the sociology, anthropology, and linguistics departments of the institutions, with which Balandier has been associated, that one would find the "brain-trust" for international environmentalism, terrorism, and cult-creation whose activities are increasingly apparent in Iran.

Take as one example the Centre Nationale.

Officially, the Centre is a state-run and state-funded institution for training experts in the sciences and liberal arts for the general benefit of the French nation. And, in fact, the products of the CNRS are, for the most part, loyally and honestly committed to the progress of France. But, because of certain elaborate funding procedures for the Centre, a few departments have evolved into subversive training centers, aimed against France and other nations. This characterization is emphatically true of the Centre's Department of Sociology and of

offshoot-tentacles involving individuals working in agronomy and various scientific studies.

Exemplary of the Centre's problems are its ties to Khomeini's circle of advisers during the last five years. During this period Abolhassan Bani-Sadr developed semi-formal ties to the institution.

In 1978, the Centre dispatched a special team of "soft" (that is, antinuclear) energy experts to Iran to study the country's energy program. As expected, the team sharply criticized the use of nuclear energy in Iran and recommended instead that the Iranians use "wind" as the most viable energy source for the country!

Among the participants in this expedition was Centre member **Michel Foucault**; in 1978-79 Foucault was a pro-Khomeini columnist for several French and Italian journals. Foucault is France's most famous "existential psychologist," with close ties to the London Tavistock Institute and to Jean-Paul Sartre. He is best known for his theory that "there is no such thing as madness," since "it is societies, not individuals, who are mad." This theory has been used as the initiating rationale for the creation and programming of many drug-and-terrorism groups in Europe, the United States and in the Third World.

In January 1979, several officials of the Centre were named as official advisers to Ayatollah Khomeini and his circle at his exile base outside Paris. The two most important of these advisers were **Jean Pierre Vigier** and **Rene Dumont**.

Vigier, a physicist involved in various pseudo-scientific projects, was instrumental in the May 1968 destabilizations against President Charles de Gaulle. According to a knowledgeable French journalist, Vigier was a coordinator of a secretive "Command Center of the Revolution" in 1968 to bring down de Gaulle through left "Jacobin" mob upsurges similar to the actions in Iran which overthrew the Shah and which are now becoming a fact of everyday life in Khomeini's Iran.

Vigier was also a 1960s secretary to the Bertrand Russell Tribunal, a British intelligence hoax whose purpose was to channel the growing sentiment against the Vietnam war into an anarchistic environmentalist direction.

Even more interesting is the case of Dumont. His case is much more directly relevant to the story of Abolhassan Bani-Sadr.

In early 1979, while an instructor at the Centre, Dumont was named by Khomeini to serve as his adviser on "agricultural affairs." Earlier, in 1976, while teaching both at the Centre and at the National Agronomy Research Center of France, Dumont had traveled to Iran to profile the state of agriculture there; on the basis of a written report detailing his 1976 study, Dumont was selected for his 1979 adviser-to-Khomeini role.

In selecting Dumont, the Ayatollah could not have

## Bani-Sadr: 'we will depopulate Teheran'

We present here excerpts of an interview with Iranian Foreign Minister Abolhassan Bani-Sadr printed Nov. 10 in the French daily *Le Monde*.

France does not seem to have understood that we are seeking to free ourselves from the tutelage of the United States, and in a general way from the tutelage of the hegemonic view of the superpowers. ...

The enterprises that were going to provide us with nuclear power plants—for which, by the way, we had no need—are half American in their financing. The project for a Teheran subway was luxurious, too costly and ambitious. We are seeking a simple, practical, and cheap means of transportation for a city that will shrink. Teheran is a monstrous, para-

sitical city, which absorbs by itself half the national consumption and poses an abusive burden on the state budget. We will depopulate it by creating in the provinces industrial and agricultural production units.

We expect to disengage ourselves from the superpowers at the same time. If Europe and Japan were to follow our example, to liberate themselves from the U.S.-dominated multinationals, to turn resolutely toward the Third World, they would become the privileged partners of Iran even faster. ...

The monetary system and the foreign trade which “enslave” Iran to the international capitalist market will be fundamentally rearranged. A currency independent from the dollar, the diversification of exchanges oriented not toward consumption but on development, in particular of small production units in the countryside rather than in the towns, will be among the first objectives of the new republic. ...

a better exemplar of an advocate of global deindustrialization and neofeudalism. Dumont is honorary president of the Friends of the Earth cult and, in 1974, ran as an “ecology” candidate in the French presidential elections. So ultra-Maoist are his ideas that he has, during the course of his career, been ejected from both Cuba and Algeria on suspicion of being a provocateur agent of the CIA.

Dumont's Maoist policies are of the most direct relevance to Bani-Sadr's own thinking. According to high-level French sources, Bani-Sadr bases his own ideas on those of Dumont. This is evident from the content of Bani-Sadr's ideas.

At the time of Dumont's selection as a Khomeini adviser, Bani-Sadr gave an interview to the French radical publication *Liberation*, in which he called for an “Islamic economic system.” As described by the future foreign minister, it would center on the creation of Maoist-style factory and village councils, import cut-backs, limitation on oil production, and “self-reliance.” “Self-reliance” is the code expression for Maoist “Cambodia” projects.

More recently, Bani-Sadr told France's *Le Matin* daily Nov. 10-11 that he is going to attempt to carry out a policy of “Koranic anarchism.” This is meant to be de-urbanization and deindustrialization, but with invented verbal formulas to match Khomeini's fundamentalist Islamic homilies and injunctions.

### The EPHE-6/ethnology complex

If we look carefully at Bani-Sadr's repeated efforts to combine pseudo-Islamic cultism and “radical” economic doctrine into some kind of coherent “doctrine for the

masses,” we can easily discover another, and perhaps more important, level in the chain of command that controls him. As we investigate the matter further, we discover that Abolhassan Bani-Sadr's mentors are the same individuals who have developed the pseudo-science of “linguistics” and the fraudulent school of “cultural relativism” in anthropology. These belief structures have been found repeatedly to be the devices for creating brainwashing cults, such as the Jim Jones People's Temple cult in Guyana and the Khomeini fundamentalist cult in Iran.

Let us review at this point the biography of Balandier, the thesis-adviser to Bani-Sadr. Aside from his involvement in the Centre, we find Balandier linked to the EPHR institution and to the Ethnology Institute of Paris. Both institutes share an overlapping personnel which reads as a Who's Who of the mentors of deindustrialization and social brainwashing.

The EPHE is notorious in this respect, especially its “Division Six,” or EPHE-6, which houses, among others, the Ecole's divisions of anthropology, rural studies, sociology, and “social movements and ideologies.” It is EPHE-6 with which Balandier is associated.

Among the ideological gurus of EPHE-6 are:

—**Charles Bettelheim**, the Division's director and a strong supporter of Maoist ruralist economic policies;

—**Michel Foucault**, the same individual mentioned above in connection with the pro-Khomeini circles in Paris;

—**Michel Crozier**, a leading associate of the Tavistock Institute of London in France, whose profiling studies on the French bureaucratic structure have been used to find the weak “stress-points” for irrationalist rebellions by French anarchist groups;

—**Claude Levi-Strauss**, perhaps the most prominent anthropologist of this century, who has used the notions of “cultural relativism” and “structuralism” to popularize the importance of black magic and of a “return to nature.”

Of all the EPHE-6 elite, the most important for current analytic purposes is **Jacques Soustelle**, the nominal French right-winger who helped lead the early-1960s OAS organization in attempted coups and assassinations against Charles de Gaulle. For any competent understanding of the current strategic trends in the Middle East and Europe, an overview of Soustelle's activities is essential.

Were it to be suggested that the right-wing Soustelle is one of the critical factors in explaining Bani-Sadr, the average empiricist would react with derision. But with an operative like Soustelle, who coordinates strategy with the highest levels of Jesuit, Hapsburg, and British Tory policy-making circles, the man-in-the street notions of “right” and “left” simply do not apply. What is primary from a methodological standpoint is the commitment of Soustelle and associates to the creation of fundamentalist cults that can, in combination, usher the world into a “new dark age.”

The resolution of this “left-right” contradiction is evident in Soustelle's participation in one of the most important conferences this year pertaining to the Middle East, a conference held in Jerusalem in July to discuss “international terrorism.”

At the conference, attended by leading members of the Jesuit Georgetown University in Washington, Israeli and British intelligence establishments, the entire current Iran crisis was predicted in detail. Participants outlined a scenario in which an “Iran-PLO axis” would precipitate a disastrous destabilization that would lead to a strategic disaster for the United States. As a consequence of this disaster, both the United States and its ally Israel would undergo a decisive shift to the right and toward strategic confrontation with the Soviet Union.

Operationally, this prediction became reality in the ensuing weeks: Soustelle's “anthropology” networks were deployed on the “left” side to precipitate a new ratchet of kookery in Iran, while Soustelle's Zionist-fundamentalist friends in Israel made their move in that country.

It is hardly accidental that the past weeks have seen the emergence in Israel of the fundamentalist “Renaissance Party,” led by the architect of Israel's nuclear-bomb capability, Yuval Neeman. Neeman's friendship with Soustelle dates back to the late-1950s period when Israel procured atomic bomb-related material from France and when Soustelle was the French government's Ministerial Delegate for Atomic Affairs.

Investigations of Soustelle's role in the events of 1979 are being pursued by an *EIR* research team; at

this point we can only assert with confidence that the results will reveal new and important details, not only about Mr. Bani-Sadr, but about the whole way in which leading European Jesuit and Hapsburg officials control the entire Muslim Brotherhood apparatus. For the present we conclude with the relevant biographical details about M. Soustelle, the colleague of M. Balandier at the EPHE-6 and the Paris Institute of Ethnology, to show the nature of the anthropology-sociology-linguistics network from which Abolhassan Bani-Sadr was spawned.

Soustelle's most important training period was with the so-called Americanist Society in the 1930s and 1940s. This Society was so named because it profiled the languages and customs of the original tribes of the Americas. The Society's fixation on ancient languages and cultural relativist methodology made it the initiating institute worldwide for the practice of linguistics. Among its prize pupils, aside from Soustelle (who gained an expertise in ancient Aztec customs and rituals), has been Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor **Noam Chomsky**. An expert in computerized linguistic simulation of left-wing political ideologies, Chomsky figured prominently in the international pro-Khomeini support networks developed in the latter part of 1978.

The Americanist Society was the parent institute for the Institute of Ethnology, whose most famous members include Levi-Strauss, Balandier, and Soustelle. Soustelle has utilized the Institute's resources to further his work on Aztec rituals and to beef up his reputation as an expert on “backward” Third World countries. This reputation was given a further push when Soustelle joined the EPHE-6 after its formation in the immediate post-World War Two period.

As his reputation advanced, Soustelle infiltrated himself into French government posts, most importantly the post of administrator of colonial policy in Algeria in the mid-1950s. So brutal was Soustelle's policy at that juncture that the Algerian FLN movement was nearly forced into existence as a counterforce to his intimidation.

Presaging Soustelle's role around the Jerusalem terrorism conference event, his tactics in the mid-1950s forced into being in Algeria a bitterly “anti-Western” movement that would rally around the Maoist cries of “self-reliance” and deurbanization.

This movement found its most vociferous spokesman in **Franz Fanon**, a character who brings the story full-circle. For it was Fanon, himself trained in the Parisian existentialist-anthropologist center, who made a disciple out of Iran's Ali Shariati, a man whose writings on the “evil of the machine” and on the necessities of “Islamic purity” played the key formative role in the thinking of Abolhassan Bani-Sadr.

—*Mark Burdman*