

Middle East Report by Robert Dreyfuss

Carter's deal with the Brotherhood

The President might have secured the hostages' release long ago by certain warnings to the Muslim Brotherhood. But again, Carter is treating these outlaws as an ally.

Totally unknown to the American public, the U.S. State Department this month initiated the first official contacts with the Muslim Brotherhood secret society. According to reports from Europe and Iran, this action is a prelude to a major relaunching of Zbigniew Brzezinski's "Islamic card" in the context of a confrontation with the Soviet Union over Iran and the Persian Gulf.

Teheran Radio reported an official communique of "the Muslim Brotherhood international organization" issued April 20 in Cairo, Egypt, which began: "In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The U.S. State Department has asked the political attache in the U.S. embassy in Cairo to contact the Muslim Brotherhood organization in Egypt so that it will exert efforts to secure the release of the hostages in the U.S. embassy in Teheran."

The meeting, it said, was arranged through the good offices of Egyptian President Sadat. "The Egyptian presidential office seconded the request through the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. Accordingly, U.S. Attache Lorenz visited Mr. Umar Talmasani, with the Egyptian authorities' approval, and informed him of the U.S. State Department's request." Following the meeting, Talmasani—who is the *rais* of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and publishes *Al-Dawa* weekly—met with the com-

mand of the Muslim Brotherhood to discuss the U.S. request and issued a statement expressing full readiness to serve as interlocutor between Washington and Teheran. Talmasani also endorsed the actions of the student terrorists holding the U.S. embassy and declared, "The Islamic Revolution in Iran is the revolution of all Islamic movements in the world, irrespective of their political and religious denominations and organizations."

For many years, as *EIR* has documented, the U.S. and British intelligence services have maintained close and even controlling relations with the constituent parts of the Islamic underground, especially the branches of the Muslim Brotherhood. Now that formerly covert relationship is surfacing publicly, U.S. officials have indicated that Brzezinski intends to use Muslim fundamentalism as the political skeleton to build a grandiose military alliance stretching from North Africa and Turkey into the Indian subcontinent. It is to this end that the Carter administration, with President Sadat's eager assistance, is now opening official links with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Sadat, beginning in the late 1930's, was a leading member of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and served as its liaison between the Palace and the armed forces during World War II and afterwards.

Several meetings held in Eu-

rope, one openly and at least one covertly, indicate the international scope of the renewed activation of the "Islamic card."

According to Arab sources, earlier this month the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood in eight Arab countries gathered together in an unnamed European capital. Present were members from Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia. The subject of the meeting was coordination of strategy toward Syria, where the terrorist attacks of the Muslim Brotherhood, backed by logistical support from Egypt, Israel, and the Lebanese Falangists, has the regime of Syrian President Assad in a virtual state of siege.

More openly, from April 12-15 in London the entire world leadership of the Muslim fundamentalists met under the umbrella of the Islamic Council of Europe, led by Salam Azzam, an Egyptian ex-official of the Brotherhood.

The implications of this activation for Iran may be seen in the near civil war conditions there. Suddenly dropping its neutralist pose, the Islamic Revolutionary Council declared war on moderates and leftists, and many were killed and thousands injured in assaults by Muslim Brotherhood gangs against opposition forces. President Bani-Sadr triumphantly described it as a "cultural revolution" and endorsed the Council's call for a purge of the universities.

From early reports, it looks like an Iranian version of the "night of the long knives."

With the entry of Sadat and the Egyptian brotherhood on the scene, the question is: Is Brzezinski really trying to bring Iran into Camp David?