

# Carter's secret deal with Ayatollah Khomeini

by Robert Dreyfuss

President Jimmy Carter has reportedly reached a secret deal with Ayatollah Khomeini to release the American hostages held in Teheran on the eve of the Aug. 11 Democratic Party National Convention. According to U.S. intelligence sources and high-level diplomatic informants, the White House is negotiating the deal with the Muslim Brotherhood mullahs that run Iran in order to boost Carter's bid for renomination.

In exchange, Carter and Zbigniew Brzezinski have agreed that the Carter administration will look the other way as Khomeini dispatches teams of the Savama, the Iranian secret police, to the United States to physically eliminate opponents of the Khomeini regime.

The July 22 assassination of Ali Akbar Tabatabai, the head of the anti-Khomeini Iran Freedom Foundation, in Washington, D.C., was the probable first fruit of the Carter-Khomeini deal. Now, the Carter administration and Benjamin Civiletti's Justice Department are using their muscle to protect Tabatabai's killers.

According to police sources, Iranians, and U.S. intelligence sources, the leader of the gang that assassinated Tabatabai is Bahram Nahidian, an Iranian rug merchant who is the Washington, D.C. representative of Savama. Although overwhelming evidence points to Nahidian as responsible for training, paying, and ordering the men who killed Tabatabai, and although Nahidian has welcomed the murder of Tabatabai as "bringing me much closer to my goal," he has not been arrested or even picked up for questioning by the agencies investigating the murder.

Local police, who have been watching Nahidian for months, report that they are prepared to arrest Nahidian, but Civiletti and the Justice Department are preventing them from carrying out the arrest. According to NBC-TV news, the DOJ has specifically ordered the police to leave Nahidian alone!

Part of the reason, according to diplomatic sources at the United Nations involved in the Iran negotiations, is that Bahram Nahidian is playing an important role in the exchanges between Carter and Khomeini.

On Wednesday, July 23, the day after the Tabatabai murder, top Carter administration officials met in Civiletti's office with representatives of the CIA and the National Security Council to discuss involving the CIA in the Tabatabai case. The decision was taken to clamp down hard on the case and place it under "national security wraps" to prevent law enforcement agencies from pursuing their own independent investigations. As in Watergate, the Carter administration is now trying to invoke national security in order to cover its own illicit political wheeling and dealing.

## Tabatabai's assassins

On the basis of information provided to all appropriate U.S. law enforcement agencies and the FBI beginning in 1979, the murder of Tabatabai could have been prevented. The existence of a collection of information dossiers on Nahidian and his organization of hired killers, including one relating to Nahidian's role as an agent of the Muslim Brotherhood and Khomeini's secret police, was known to the offices of Benjamin Civiletti as of at least nine months ago.

Both Nahidian and the man who pulled the trigger in the assassination, David Belfield, a.k.a. Daoud Salahuddin, were named early this year by *EIR*.

The facts concerning the case of the Tabatabai assassination show that the murder was "planned and political," as the Washington Star called it July 23. Despite absurd State Department assertions that they "do not know the motive of the assassination," there is no doubt among informed observers that the act was ordered by the Iranian regime and carried out by Savama.

General Hossein Fardoust, the former Savak deputy under the Shah who now controls Savama, was reportedly on a secret visit to the United States this week, during which he could have coordinated the decision-making with the Savama personnel here. Several weeks ago, just before the attempted assassination of exiled Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar in Paris, Fardoust

was reportedly seen in the southern French city of Nice.

The man charged with the murder of Tabatabai is David Belfield, an American Black Muslim extremist who, for many months, was the protégé of Bahram Nahidian. Belfield was recruited to the Nahidian circle by the liberal distribution of money and favors. His last known place of residence before the assassination was the "Islamic House" run by Nahidian in Washington. In the past year, Belfield has served as a security guard at the Iranian embassy; he is also a personal bodyguard for Nahidian.

Belfield is also reportedly a member of the secret Islamic Guerrilla Army (IGA), a terrorist organization sponsored by the Nahidian machine. The IGA recruits naive or desperate American blacks, often out of prison, and indoctrinates them to do anything for "the Islamic cause."

Nahidian, among his other activities, teaches Islamic courses at a local prison in Washington, an arrangement which was set up by the Muslim Student Association (MSA) and the Department of Justice.

It was the IGA that led the seizure of the Statue of Liberty several months ago, and an IGA member named Marshall Fields was arrested after he crashed his car through the gates of the White House.

According to police sources, Belfield is now hiding in the Iranian Interests Section office of the Algerian embassy. Police are not allowed to enter the building, as it is technically foreign territory outside U.S. jurisdiction.

The White House's hands-off policy toward Tabatabai's murderers and the revelations of the Carter administration's connections to the Muslim Brotherhood in Libya through Billy Carter can both be traced back to the strategic doctrine that has guided the Carter administration since it came into office in 1977.

Under the direction of Zbigniew Brzezinski, the Carter regime established a formal alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood secret society, a paramilitary organization of fanatics with branches in Iran and nearly every other Muslim country, often with sympathizers at the highest levels of government. After Camp David in 1978, the U.S., Egyptian, and Israeli secret services entered into a secret accord to forge a working alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Immediately afterward, under the direction of NSC special agent George Ball, the Carter administration supported and encouraged the Islamic revolution that toppled the Shah. Brzezinski had visions of a broad Muslim "upsurge" that would eventually extend into the Soviet Union itself, which has a large Muslim population.

*EIR* had documented the scope of the secret coordination between elements of U.S. military intelligence and the Khomeini regime. Further documentation is presented below.

# What the public has heard so far

by Kathy Burdman

The U.S. Senate, led by Democratic Majority Leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia and Republican Minority Leader Howard Baker of Tennessee, formed a Special Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Judiciary Committee for the "Billygate" scandal July 25. Baker said the committee "is modeled on the Watergate Committee." Special Subcommittee Chairman Birch Bayh, a Democrat up for re-election in Indiana has said that he has called President Carter, his wife Rosalynn, National Security Director Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti to testify personally, because in each case, he wants to "look the guy in the eye," while they testify. Conservative Republican Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, Special Subcommittee co-chairman who is committed to pushing the investigation "all the way," also demanded that President Carter appear.

President Carter has already been caught telling something short of the truth. The White House press office last week released a formal statement claiming he had never had the information leaked on his brother's business dealings with Libya by the Justice Department, which was investigating Billy. But Attorney General Civiletti held a press conference July 25 to say that he'd had a "fairly casual exchange" with the President as early as June 17, in which he informed Jimmy that if Billy would only register as a Libyan agent, he "would not be prosecutable."

The reaction in Washington and the nation has been outrage. Republican Senate leader Baker went so far July 29 as to accuse the President of "plea bargaining in the Oval Office," making a deal with Justice for his brother.

"The sense of the Senate is that this man just cannot be the nominee," said a high Democratic Party leader July 29. "The Senate Judiciary Committee will have to go all the way with this thing" or pay the consequences itself, he stated.

The big question as we go to press is whether the Senate Special Committee will call Jimmy Carter and his family and cabinet in to testify before the Democratic National Convention gets underway August 11 in New York.

The entire question of the administration's foreign policy, which could lead to a full discussion of Jimmy