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*Part II: Rastegar Interview*

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## Outlooks for the future of Iran

*The following is Part II of EIR's interview with Hossein Rastegar of the Iran Liberation Army. The interview was conducted on April 28 by Thierry LeMarc and Mary Brannan. Part I appeared in the June 9 EIR.*

**EIR:** One thing that seems very important and which does not seem to exist so far is an economic program for the future of Iran.

**Rastegar:** You are right. We have worked out such a program. Although the primary aim of our organization is the destruction of the present regime in Iran, we have set up various committees dealing with economics, industry, culture, politics, education, cooperation with other countries, and so on. The committees have been working for about a year, drawing up plans and programs for the new Iran. We have an economic program, a political program, an educational program, and all the programs necessary for a free country. I believe that other opposition groups are also working on such plans:

We have never overlooked this problem. From the very first moment we thought, when we have overthrown the government, then what? Immediately after the restoration of order, industry must start functioning, agroindustries must start working, universities and schools must be opened as quickly as possible, trade with foreign countries, especially with the West, should be started. The country should start living and working again.

**EIR:** What do you think about the war with Iraq?

**Rastegar:** I would like to stress both as an Iranian and as a leader of the ILA, that we will never give up one centimeter of our land to another country. We condemn the war between Iran and Iraq; however, this war is not between the Iranian nation and the Iraqi people. It was also a pre-planned affair, by the same forces who put Khomeini into power. The war has totally destroyed Iran's oil industry and economy, likewise in Iraq. Those forces who destroyed Iran's economy by putting Khomeini into power tried to eliminate what might have remained through this blow. What we worked for years to build up has been destroyed. From an economic point of view and from a national point of view, we as ILA supporters condemn this war.

**EIR:** Do you think that the war might have been deliberately aimed at destroying industry in Iraq? It is remark-

able that Iraq's nuclear research center was particularly targeted for attack.

**Rastegar:** That is right. Iran was previously a kind of dumping ground for Western products. Through effort and hard work Iran brought itself out of this situation. It was quite self-sufficient. The same was happening with Iraq. In a couple of years it could happen in other countries. If Khomeini had not been put into power, many Middle Eastern countries would have built themselves up so they would not have to depend on the West. The war was planned, first to make the Iranian people totally preoccupied with the war, and second to destroy the entire economy in Iran and Iraq.

**EIR:** What do you think about the cooperation between Khomeini and the Israeli regime of Menachem Begin?

**Rastegar:** The fact is that Khomeini was put in power by the West, and Israel's government totally depends on the West and does what the West suggests. Of course, the present Iranian government gets support from Israel. At the beginning of the war with Iraq, Israel secretly delivered weapons to Iran, all unofficially, of course. We have discovered that food supplies are flown by El Al to Paris, and then from Paris to Teheran by Iranian planes.

**EIR:** What do you think of Reagan? Do you think that there is a possibility that he could eventually support a movement against Khomeini?

**Rastegar:** Reagan personally is a humane person, and he is interested in having a stable and calm situation in the Middle East, especially in Iran. He is concerned with having a stable, nationalist, and pro-Western government in Iran, but he is rather alone in this. He should study the matter more, and find better advisers, some who care about the existence of the American nation, the existence of Western nations, and the existence of the Iranian nation. Reagan has taken positions, but he has not done anything active. We expect something more from Reagan as the leader of a major Western nation.

**EIR:** Would you like to say something to our American readers in particular?

**Rastegar:** The only thing I would like to say, especially to the American government, is that we think that the whole of humanity should work for better cooperation in the future. The present American government should at least try to repair what the previous government did to our nation. Hitler wanted to destroy humanity, murdered millions of Jews, and so on. At the end of the war, the primary task of the German government was to show that not all Germans were fascists and criminals. We hope and demand that the American government proves that Americans are not the kind of nation that destroys other nations for their own benefit. That is our only wish to the American government especially to Reagan.