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## The Muslim Brotherhood

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# Subversives and Khomeinians convene at Houston's Rothko Chapel meeting

by Nancy Coker

The international leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood—the secret society that put Ayatollah Khomeini in power in Iran and is responsible for the Oct. 6 murder of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat—met Oct. 21-25 in Houston, Texas, despite a nationwide campaign to prevent the conference from taking place on American soil. As expected, the conference was dedicated to formulating strategy for fomenting the “Islamic Revolution” in the Middle East, with three countries immediately targeted: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the Sudan.

The conference was largely attended by Muslim Brotherhood leaders from the Middle East itself, with one of the most notable participants being the Mahdi of Sudan, the fundamentalist chief of western Sudan tribes who is allied with Libya's Muammar Qaddafi in the projected overthrow of Sudan's President Numeiry.

Yet, despite the open threat to U.S. allies in the Middle East, the conference was permitted to take place through the last-minute intercession of the U.S. State Department of Alexander Haig.

The Brotherhood meeting was sponsored by Houston's Rothko Chapel and its founder Countess Dominique Schlumberger de Menil, a French aristocrat living in Texas since 1945. Since its establishment 10 years ago, the Rothko Chapel has sponsored and funded cult organizations, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, on both the extreme right and the extreme left of the political spectrum, in the name of “religious ecumenicism.”

Rothko conference organizers have privately admitted that the Muslim Brotherhood meeting, which had been billed as an academic colloquium on Islam, was severely set back by the nationwide effort to shut down the conference. The effort was organized by the National Democratic Policy Committee and publicized by *EIR*. Only 120 out of an expected 400 or more showed up at the Rothko meeting. “The publicity by the *EIR* and its people scared the audience away,” complained Madame de Menil, whose late husband John (originally Jean), a co-founder of the Rothko Chapel, was implicated in the assassination of President Kennedy.

The principal speakers at the Rothko conference were not deterred by the lack of an audience from

making their calls for revolution in the Muslim world.

The most outspoken of the Brotherhood extremists was Hamid Algar, a professor of Islamic and Iranian studies at the University of California at Berkeley and a leader of the violent, pro-Khomeini Persian Speaking Group of the Muslim Students Association, the U.S. branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. Algar is a British subject, who embraced militant Islam 20 years ago, and found it convenient for his purposes to adopt a Muslim name. A Sufi mystic, Algar has attracted around him a cult following of young, pro-Khomeini extremists who revere him as their guru.

In his Rothko Chapel presentation, which was attended by his MSA supporters from around the country, Algar hailed the Islamic revolution in Iran as a “holy crusade” and praised the Ayatollah Khomeini as one who “deserves the blessings of God.” Sadat, he said, was “a disgrace” and “was assassinated because his policies were contradictory to Islamic thought. Sadat believed Khomeini would crumble, but in the end it was Sadat who was swept away.”

Algar proclaimed that Islamic fundamentalism would overtake the “heathen Saudi Arabia and the Egypt of Camp David.” Egypt's economic troubles will be the likely trigger for “a revolution on the model of Iran,” he said.

Algar's ravings were met with frenzied chants of “Kho-mei-ni! Kho-mei-ni!” from the audience.

Although some of the more mild-mannered academics present at the conference politely took issue with Algar's open advocacy of violence, the overwhelming sentiment was in favor of his extremism. Hisham Djait, a Muslim Brotherhood leader from Tunisia, defended Algar with the declaration that “violence is inherent in revolution.”

“I'm quite happy as a Muslim to be regarded as a violent person, as an extremist,” Algar stated in his own defense. He accused those who believe that social change can be achieved without violence of engaging in “doubletalk.”

Algar also defended Khomeini's policy of mass murder in Iran, now being carried out as “political

executions," including the executions of nine-year-old children. "Under conditions of stress all kinds of things may happen," said Algar. "Revolution in Iran is the practice of the spirit of Islam. It is a return to the spiritual, intellectual, cultural, political, and economic hegemony of the Muslim people."

### **Saudi Arabia: prime target**

According to Arab intelligence sources, the purpose of the Rothko Chapel conference was threefold: (1) to tighten the international coordination of the Muslim Brotherhood and its attendant organizations on both sides of the Atlantic, in preparation for an intense campaign in the Middle East; (2) to plan for MSA-sponsored violent activity in the United States, beginning in the spring of 1982; and (3) to plan the next phase of the destabilization of Saudi Arabia, one of America's closest allies in the Middle East. If the Muslim Brotherhood is successful in bringing the Khomeini dark ages to Saudi Arabia, it will have destroyed one of the few remaining moderate Arab nations and will have handed the "oil weapon" to Islamic fanatics.

"The Saudi way of life violates Islam," intoned Rothko speaker Mohammad Naguib al-Attas, a Malaysian Sufi mystic based out of Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Saudi Arabia, he asserted, is based on "corrupt values and corrupt principles," in a reference to the Saudi commitment to industrialization.

Another speaker was Salem Azzam, the Secretary-General of the London-based Islamic Council of Europe, the clearing house for Brotherhood subversion throughout the world. Islam, said Azzam, "obligates Muslims to rebel against rulers who violate human rights" and to "remove those rulers."

Privately, Azzam bitterly attacked Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia and his recently floated eight-point peace plan that recognizes the right of all states to live at peace in the region. Azzam predicted that his Islamic Council of Europe, the umbrella organization of hundreds of Islamic centers across Western Europe, would "split" because some of its members support the Fahd plan. "This cannot be tolerated," raved Azzam to a friend.

Azzam and others at the conference lavished considerable attention upon Prince Mohammad al-Faisal of Saudi Arabia. Mohammad, who is best known for his kooky strategy to float icebergs from Antarctica to Saudi Arabia for drinking water, is a fervent supporter of Khomeini's perverted brand of Islam. In his speech, Mohammad said that he was working for the unity of the "one Islamic nation," in which there is no room for individual nation-states. Mohammad also came to the defense of Khomeini, stating that "Islam has no fundamentalists, only fundamental principles as laid out in the Koran."



*Harley Schlanger addressing Houston's City Council.*

Mohammad's defense of Khomeini is not surprising. He is known to oppose Prince Fahd's pro-American and pro-development policy. As Chairman of the Islamic Investment Fund in Saudi Arabia, Mohammad sits at the head of a Libyan-Kuwaiti banking nexus that funnels millions into the Brotherhood. While in the United States for the Rothko conference, Mohammad met privately with U.S. businessmen in Houston, Chicago, and Philadelphia.

Prince Mohammad is also working closely with Ahmed Ben Bella, Algeria's first President, who was deposed and jailed because of his Islamic extremism. Released last year, Ben Bella surfaced at the Rothko conference spouting Islamic revolutionary rhetoric and denouncing "secular nationalism." According to intelligence insiders, Ben Bella has been designated by the British to operate as a bridge between Khomeini and the Saudis, with Prince Mohammad serving as his Saudi point man. It will be remembered that it was Algeria that served as go-between in securing the release of the U.S. hostages.

According to Dominique de Menil, Ben Bella and Prince Mohammad have been working together since 1978 to help Khomeini.

### **No to science**

The core of the Muslim Brotherhood ideology is its hatred of science and technological progress. At the Rothko conference, Abdus Salam, a member of the Club of Rome (which favors global depopulation) and father of the "Islamic" nuclear bomb, discussed "the meaning of Islamic science," lying that historically Islam has held low esteem for science. "Even with the achievements of ibn Sina, Omar Khayyam, and ibn Rusd," the physics Nobel Prize winner asserted, "the Koran does not make a priority of science. Islam is

superior to science.”

Another Muslim Brotherhood cultist working with UNESCO seconded Abdus Salam that the “spirit” is primary and that in Islam “tools and technology” are not necessary. Salam hailed the year 1180 as the turning point in the history in Islamic civilization when science ceased to be important.

To the uninitiated, Salam’s Nobel Prize credentials may obfuscate his identity. Salam operates as director of the International Center of Applied Physics in Trieste, Italy, which has served as a training and recruitment ground for scientists involved in smuggling nuclear secrets to radical Arab governments—the Islamic bomb project. The Center is funded by the same Italian aristocratic families who sponsor the genocidal Club of Rome and is closely linked to the Islamic Council of Europe and the Islamic Institute of Defense Technology. The latter includes Egyptian renegade Gen. Saad el Shazli, who is implicated in the Sadat assassination.

### **EIR alert**

A national alert was placed on the Rothko Chapel conference by the National Democratic Policy Committee and *EIR*, which worked together in Houston, Washington, D.C., and other cities to expose the details of the subversive conference for weeks prior to its occurrence. Harley Schlanger of the NDPC’s Houston chapter, appeared repeatedly on television and in the press there, and testified on Oct. 14 before the Houston City Council in an appeal to prohibit the Rothko Chapel meeting. “The Rothko Chapel, inviting the Muslim Brotherhood to Houston, is sponsoring the very same organization responsible for the murder of Anwar Sadat,” Schlanger stated in his testimony. “Houston officials must do whatever is necessary to prevent the entrance of these people into the United States.”

“I have no doubt that what he told us is correct,” Republican Councilwoman Christin Hartung, who invited Schlanger to testify, told the *Houston Post* following Schlanger’s statement. She submitted two proposals recommended by the NDPC representative: that the Council request denial of visas, and, should the State Department refuse, that the Council unilaterally move to shut down the meeting.

Although both resolutions were seconded, passage was blocked by liberal Councilwoman Eleanor Tinsley. Despite the stalemate, Houston Mayor Jim McConn authorized the Houston Police Department to investigate the situation.

From around the country pressure to stop the meeting mounted. Following the NDPC’s distribution of thousands of leaflets, local officials of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars requested their national headquarters to respond to the controver-

sy. Numerous telegrams from around the nation were sent to Mayor McConn urging him to shut down the Rothko meeting. From Boston, City Councilman Albert O’Neil sent a telegram to McConn urging the Houston Mayor to take “all legal measures necessary to stop the upcoming meeting of the Muslim Brotherhood in your city. Supporters of terrorism should not be given a public forum.”

In response to this campaign, Rothko Chapel officials reversed their earlier denials that the Muslim Brotherhood was going to be involved in the meeting. “Three or four of the people coming to the conference are members of the Brotherhood,” Rothko spokeswoman Ann Mead admitted lamely. Conference coordinator Nabila Drooby added, “We know that these people—some of them—have been involved at some time in the Muslim Brotherhood.”

Prompted by the NDPC’s and *EIR*’s exposés, some White House officials and law enforcement agencies, including the CIA, began an investigation of the Rothko meeting. According to intelligence sources, the State Department was considering revoking the visas of the Brotherhood members slated to attend the conference—until Alexander Haig intervened.

Madame de Menil, operating through Brotherhood apologist William Crawford, a former U.S. ambassador to the Middle East who now heads the Washington-based Islam Centennial Fourteen, arranged to send Rothko Chapel Board Chairman Thompson Shannon to Washington for a meeting at the State Department. With Crawford’s help, Shannon reportedly met with Willard Depree of the Office of the Inspector-General of the State Department to ensure that Washington would allow the conference to take place. Following these talks, the State Department okayed the Muslim Brotherhood meeting.

In the two weeks before the Rothko event, exposés in *EIR* circulated throughout the United States to press, congressmen, law enforcement and security officials, and political and trade union leaders.

Madame de Menil bitterly complained that her conference had been spoiled as a result of the “bad publicity.” Commenting on the almost total lack of attendance by Houston’s business community, she said, “You know how stupid American businessmen are. They read the *EIR* and they believe it.”

Madame de Menil was reported to be particularly upset over *EIR*’s report that her family was linked to the Kennedy murder in 1963. Despite her hurt feelings, the facts on that score are clear. In 1963, John de Menil was a board member of Permindex, a Montreal-based intelligence company exposed in New Orleans District Attorney Garrison’s of the Kennedy assassination. De Menil was also present at a spring 1963 secret meeting in Montego Bay, Jamaica, to plot the Kennedy murder.