

U.S. and Israel run weapons to mullahs

by Robert Dreyfuss

The same Iranian dictatorship that held Americans hostage for over a year is now being kept in power by a steady flow of American arms, while the U.S. Pentagon looks the other way.

According to reports from former Iranian military officers and experts in the United States and Europe, the U.S. and NATO weaponry is being channeled into Iran through transshipment points in Israel, Brazil, and certain Persian Gulf sheikhdoms.

The DOD winks

The U.S. does not maintain diplomatic relations with Iran, and the Pentagon refuses to comment, but high-level sources report that Washington is well aware of the arms flow. "There is someone in the Pentagon who watches this very carefully, and who turns a blind eye to the arms supply," said a former U.S. National Security Council aide.

"If you ask the Department of Defense," said an Iranian officer opposed to Khomeini's dictatorship, "they'll tell you privately that they don't want to know."

Since the Iran-Iraq war began in September 1980, Iran has managed to keep its air force and part of its armored divisions functioning, which would be an impossible task without the supply of U.S. spare parts. According to Arab sources, even American tanks and heavy weapons are being supplied to the mullah regime.

Israeli Foreign Ministry official David Kimche has also admitted that his country is aiding the Iranian war effort, but Israel does not produce enough arms to maintain the high Iranian military.

In the United States, the military procurement effort for Iran is being led by Commander Firuz Davari, according to informed sources. Davari, who previously served as Iran's military purchasing agent in London for two years and maintained links to the black market arms traffickers in London and Switzerland, has been in Washington since last summer.

Davari is reportedly in league with banker Cyrus Hashemi, an Iranian Khomeini loyalist. According to military sources, Davari and Hashemi are purchasing American weapons and sending them into Iran through

European-based shipping companies.

During 1980, it was reported that Hashemi was a secret intermediary for relations between Khomeini and the Carter administration, and that Hashemi had conduited Iranian funds to pro-Khomeini terrorist groups in the United States. Hashemi filed a multi-million dollar libel suit against this journal and other press outlets, denying the widely-publicized charges. Meanwhile, evidence of Hashemi's unsavory dealings has multiplied.

Questioned about Hashemi in late February, a former Carter aide admitted knowing him, and added that information about the shadowy banker was "highly classified." He confirmed that Hashemi is an experienced gun-runner.

Because of the sensitive nature of U.S. and NATO arming of Iran, the supplies are often diverted through two or three other nations before they reach Teheran.

"Much of the arms traffic to Iran passes through Brazil," said one source. "U.S. and NATO stockpiles are shipped there, and then re-exported." From there, much of the supplies pass through such small Gulf emirates as Bahrain and Dubai, under the watchful eye of the British secret service.

Underwriting the arms traffic to Iran are several large American banks, who routinely write letters of credit for the "Brazil" arms, and Libyan banker and terrorist financier Abdullah Saudi of the Arab Banking Corporation.

American officials who question the propriety of arming the insane Khomeini regime are simply told that, should the clergy-dominated regime collapse, then Iran's Tudeh Communist Party would take over. Israel has justified its supply to Iran on the grounds that it weakens the Arabs, especially Iraq.

Such reasoning is designed to lull the naïve into complicity. By arming Iran, the British intelligence circles and their friends in Washington and Tel Aviv are trying to prop up the mullahs' Malthusian dictatorship, in order to spread the Khomeini cancer throughout the rest of the Islamic world. The Iranian communists, who had no base in the country before the mullahs seized power, are gaining strength only now.



Evidence of fraud in a lawsuit against Hashemi.