

State Department welcomes Iranian butcher Ibrahim Yazdi into U.S.A.

by Scott Thompson

The U.S. State Department, supported by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), has welcomed former Iranian Foreign Minister Ibrahim Yazdi on a 30-day trip to the United States. Though billed by a State Department spokesman as "a credible Iranian opposition leader," Ibrahim Yazdi is an Iranian butcher.

While Yazdi was Iranian foreign minister, U.S. embassy personnel were taken hostage in Teheran, a sweeping purge was begun among pro-Western military leaders to pave the way for Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's dictatorship, and the Iranian intelligence service Savama that Yazdi had helped to found, went on an assassination spree against forces loyal to the Shah.

Despite this record of acts verging upon a declaration of war against the United States and its allies, spokesmen for Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East Richard Murphy have welcomed Ibrahim Yazdi to the United States as a "moderate" alternative to Ayatollah Khomeini. Support for this scheme to ease Ibrahim Yazdi back into power, together with former Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, has been given by Bahman Maalizadeh, who is an assistant on Iranian affairs to Sen. Jesse Helms's legislative assistant, Jim Lucier. Also promoting this scheme is the Israeli Mossad faction identified with Helms's new ally, Gen. Ariel Sharon.

Congress tilts toward terrorists

The first phase of a coordinated operation that involves a tilt toward such "moderate" Iranian terrorists was exposed by columnist Jack Anderson in November-December 1985. According to Anderson, the U.S. Congress had voted \$500,000 in aid to the Mujaheddin through the National Endowment for Democracy, the funding conduit for Project Democracy. It had been the Jacobinite Mujaheddin mobs led by former Attorney-General Ramsey Clark that forced the Shah to flee Iran. Later, the Mujaheddin were involved in terrorist attacks that killed U.S. Air Force officers.

Senator Jesse Helms publicly raised the roof, but in private, instead of going after the terrorists, well-informed sources report that his staff made a secret deal with the Mujaheddin terrorists. Jim Lucier of Helms's staff started to cultivate these terrorists through his aide, Bahman Maalizadeh. This first phase of the operation was assisted by Lucier's

close friend, Jon Speller, a member of a private intelligence network based in New York, whose father, Robert Speller, admits to being in contact with Soviet Secretary-General Mikhail Gorbachov. Speller had earlier introduced Lucier to London-based Sikh separatist leader Jagjit Singh Chauhan, who was a party to the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

The second phase of the tilt policy involved the State Department cultivating Ibrahim Yazdi, who is a member of the Central Committee of Bazargan's Iranian Freedom Movement.

Who is Ibrahim Yazdi?

When Mehdi Bazargan became Iranian prime minister, after the toppling of Shahpour Bakhtiar, over 500 pro-Western military and other leaders were executed in the beginning of the bloody Iranian purges. Bazargan compared his government to a "knife without a blade," adding that "ideologically the country belongs to Khomeini."

It was under Bazargan that the fundamentalist clerics got their first foothold in government on the way to consolidating power. The current Iranian President Sayed Ali Khamenei was made undersecretary of defense. The current Iranian Speaker of the Parliament Hashemi Rafsanjani was made undersecretary of the interior. Interior was Mohammed Reza Mahdvi-kani, who had been head of the Teheran Central Revolutionary Committee. During the brief period that Bazargan was in power before a full-blown Khomeini dictatorship, this troika initiated the purges of pro-Western leaders.

Bazargan's foreign minister, Ibrahim Yazdi, was born in Iran, but took up U.S. citizenship in the 1950s, joining the faculty of Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, where he was implicated in rape charges and other sex crimes. He next took up a teaching post at Rice University in Houston, Texas, where his son, Khalil Yazdi, currently resides. In 1963, Yazdi worked to found the Muslim Brotherhood's U.S. branch, the "Muslim Student Association," which has been involved in mass demonstrations and proto-terrorist actions in the United States on behalf of Ayatollah Khomeini since the Iranian revolution.

Yazdi left the United States to join the Ayatollah Khomeini

eni, then in exile outside Paris, where Yazdi joined the inner-circle of Khomeini's "Paris advisers." After the February 1979 coup, Yazdi was named "Deputy Prime Minister for Revolutionary Affairs," helping to set up Khomeini's intelligence service, the Savama, which worked closely with the Israeli Mossad. He resigned from the post of foreign minister in November 1979, only to return to Khomeini's inner clique of advisers.

Now nominally part of the "opposition," this so-called moderate group has been used as emissaries to the United States. Apart from Yazdi, two other members of the Central Committee of Bazargan's Alliance for the Defense of the Freedom and Sovereignty of Iran have had contacts with the United States through "cut-outs" starting two years ago. They are Ali Akbar Moimfr, the former Iranian oil minister, who operates through M. R. Moimfr, the Fairfax, Virginia-based physician for the Iranian Interest Section in Washington, and Rezasadr, a confidant of Mehdi Bazargan.

In February 1986, the second phase of the operation to achieve a "tilt" toward these so-called "moderates" who brought Khomeini to power was started by the State Department. Well-informed intelligence sources report that a message was sent through West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to make contact with Ibrahim Yazdi. The lure to win approval of the Iranian regime was reported to be U.S. shipments of arms to Iran through Israel and West Germany.

'A humanitarian gesture'

On April 14, the Iranian news agency IRNA signaled that Ibrahim Yazdi would travel to the United States on an "official" visit. This signal brought to the surface a growing debate over the "tilt" toward Iran, which the State Department thought it could foist off on President Ronald Reagan's administration in the absence of a clear White House policy. The State Department's "Iran lobby," supported by such allies of Islamic fundamentalism in the Eastern Establishment as former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Ramsey Clark, recommended bringing in Sen. Helms to swing conservative support behind the policy.

Shortly after the IRNA signal piece, U.S. intelligence circles opposed to this embrace of known Iranian terrorists in "moderate" garb, leaked material to columnists Jack Anderson and Evans and Novak. Some of this material, including a lengthy report on Iranian terrorist networks centered in West Germany that had been leaked to Evans and Novak, was information obtained by *Executive Intelligence Review* that had been rewritten as classified reports.

Two weeks after the IRNA signal piece on April 28, Anderson wrote a piece titled, "U.S. Quietly Rebuilds Links to Iran," which read:

"Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, not Libya's Muammar Qaddafi, directs the world's most deadly terrorist network. Yet incredibly, the Reagan administration has be-

gun a hush-hush, barely perceptible tilt toward Iran. . . . Washington has been quietly conciliatory in the behind-the-scenes negotiations with Iran over the American hostages held by pro-Iranian terrorists. This dramatic, subterranean shift in policy toward Iran goes beyond the fate of the hostages into the realm of geopolitics."

The State Department ushered Ibrahim Yazdi into the United States for meetings with such figures as Ramsey Clark in New York. He next traveled to Washington, D.C., where well-informed sources report he had high-level meetings at the State Department to discuss the possibility of renewing U.S. arms shipments to Iran. Yazdi also visited the farm of Washington, D.C.-based Savama agent Bahram Nahidian, a lifelong friend of Yazdi's, whose bodyguard (David Belfield, recruited from prison) assassinated Iranian Freedom Foundation leader Ali Akbar Tabatabai at his suburban Washington home.

Spokesmen for Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy vociferously deny meetings with Yazdi, claiming that they let this Iranian butcher and accessory to terrorist assassinations into the nation's capital, as a "humanitarian gesture," so that he could visit his family! Senator Helms's legislative assistant, Jim Lucier, also denies reports from well-informed sources that he met with Yazdi, although Lucier's aide, Bahman Maalizadeh, admits contacting Yazdi by phone at Yazdi's son's home in Houston.

Maalizadeh's scheme is to create a new Iranian government with Bazargan and Yazdi at the helm. Another member of this government whom Maalizadeh recommends the United States should cultivate is Sadeq Tabatabai, who had been arrested in West Germany with 1.2 kilos of opium from the Golden Crescent. Tabatabai had been identified by high-level security intelligence sources, both in the United States and West Germany, as funneling drug-money to those Iranian-linked terrorists in the Bekaa Valley who assisted in the 1983 suicide-bombings of the U.S. embassy and Marine compound in Beirut.

Maalizadeh claims that Tabatabai was "framed" by the pro-Soviet Tudeh Party, thereby making common cause with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who let this top figure in the Iranian drug-terror machine escape.

Maalizadeh has lied that once a "first phase" is complete that brings this gang of "moderates" back in power—bypassing exiled former Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar—a "second phase" propaganda campaign could be launched to bring back young Reza Shah Pahlavi. Apart from Jim Lucier on Helms's staff, those duped by Maalizadeh include the brother of Ali Akbar Tabatabai, who currently heads the Iranian Freedom Foundation, sources report.

As the Iran-Iraq war of attrition drags on and the Iranian economy continues its collapse, there is a growing republican opposition in Iran. But it is not to be found among the terrorist jackals like Ibrahim Yazdi, who dedicated their lives to bringing Ayatollah Khomeini to power.