

ensure his hegemony in the coming depression, any Soviet-Egyptian influence in Yemen and other Gulf areas had to be extirpated.

Consequently, the decision was made to prepare to unleash Israel against Nasser. As American arms poured into Israel, the U.S. in 1965 stopped the shipment of wheat to Egypt — shipments that had comprised of half of all Egyptian bread consumption!

Not accidentally, in January 1965, Fatah carried out its first attack on Israel, the beginning of an escalating series of terrorist raids and Israeli retaliation, culminating in the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war. This atmosphere of terror and counter-terror provided by Arafat's Fatah created the conditions for Rockefeller to attack Egypt.

#### **Nasser Attacks Then Supports Arafat**

With the beginning of Saudi-funded attacks on Israel in 1965, Nasser realized that it would not be long before fullscale war erupted with Israel, should the provocation continue. Thus, in 1965, Egyptian secret police kept watch on Palestinians with connections to Arafat; and the Cairo press geared up a campaign to discredit him. One Cairo daily called the Fatah leader "an agent of Zionism and imperialism sent to stir up trouble to give Israel an excuse to attack the Arab states." Gradually, however, Nasser was maneuvered under various nationalist pressures into supporting Fatah by 1967.

After the June war, Arafat ordered Fatah to begin terror operations inside Israeli-occupied land. At this time, Arafat was virtually unknown among Palestinians: but the Israelis publicized him widely. In fact, Arafat became the international symbol of terrorism at the insistence of the **New York Times** and the press services. In December 1968, his unshaven face was splashed across the cover of **Time** magazine.

Despite virtually airtight border security and despite the hundreds of terrorists killed or captured by Israeli forces, Arafat became known for his "miraculous" ability to slip in and out of occupied territories unharmed and unnoticed. Only the gullible would imagine that Arafat's comings and goings were without the complicity of Israeli Intelligence.

#### **Fatah And The PLO**

The Palestine Liberation Organization was founded in 1964 by Faisal and Nasser. Perhaps recalling Mao's dictum about guerillas being fish who thrive in the sea of the people, Nasser openly referred to the PLO as a "sponge to soak up Palestinians." From all over the Arab world, former Palestinian landowners, merchants, and the Moslem religious elite flocked into the PLO, which was headed by Ahmed Shuquairy, a long-time Palestinian hustler and former Saudi Arabian ambassador to the U.N. Despite the demagogic ravings of Shuquairy, the PLO remained a moribund collection of Palestinian moderates until after the June 1967 war.

With the crushing defeat of the Arab armies in the war, Nasser looked to Arafat and Fatah as a means of regaining lost prestige. Membership in Fatah and other guerilla organizations zoomed; but with consistent Saudi backing, Arafat's Fatah remained by far the largest. With a huge expense account picked up by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, in February 1969, Rockefeller operative Arafat was named chairman of the PLO.

Since then Fatah has played the role of policeman

(and often executioner) within the Palestinian movement. Arafat's band of well-armed thugs has been ruthless in suppressing the development of an international perspective by any of the commando groups, aided of course, by Rockefeller's oil sheikhs. For instance, after the 1970-1971 massacre of the left in Jordan, during which Nayif Hawatmeh's Popular Democratic Front was decimated (and domesticated), Saudi Arabia organized a conference at Jeddah and presented a plan whereby leftist Palestinian organizations would be barred from returning to Jordan. Said Abu Hisham, Fatah Saudi representative: "The Saudi regime was so concerned about the Palestinian revolution that it refused to cooperate with any Palestinian organization other than Fatah so as to preserve the unity of that revolution."

Since 1970, Fatah has dominated the student movement, especially at the CIA's American University in Beirut, where Fatah runs the Student Council. Virtually anything that occurs on the American University is with permission of Fatah, which polices both the left and the non-CIA Lebanese right. This latter function was illustrated when Fatah goons eliminated the fascist Lebanese League, and then proceeded to attack the left, as happened during a 1971-1972 strike at American University.

## **V The Defense of Iraq**

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On the eve of the scheduled Sept. 12 meeting of OPEC, which will certainly ratify the Rockefeller decision to initiate drastic cutbacks of crude oil supplies, the CIA has escalated its terrifying psychological warfare campaign against the independent nationalist government of Iraq. In all of OPEC, Iraq occupies a unique position: the Baath party government in Baghdad, despite a host of shortcomings and internal weaknesses, is essentially beyond the control of the vast Rockefeller-dominated Standard Oil/Shell petroleum cartel. All of the other OPEC member states, from "reactionary" Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to "progressive" Iran and Venezuela, are ruled by employees of the Rockefeller cartel.

Control of the CIA-created puppet regimes within OPEC, combined with absolute domination of the worldwide network of oil shipping, refining and distribution, has provided the prime leverage for the Rockefeller family's fanatical bid to institute a centralized world fascist economic order. The moves by OPEC to slash production of oil and boost prices represent the actual implementation of Zero Growth economics by the Rockefeller cabal. While the production cuts, intersecting with the world economic collapse and mass layoffs, provide the excuse for wholesale rationalization of "useless" productive capacity, the higher prices of oil will provide the necessary funding to finance slave labor "energy redevelopment" projects in coal gasification and offshore oil.

The gaping hole that Iraq represents in the Rockefellers' world oil strategy has led the Rockefeller-CIA forces to unleash a merciless campaign of military, economic, and political warfare aimed at forcing the immediate neutralization and eventual capitulation of the independent Iraqis to the

Standard Oil/Shell cabal. Under present conditions it is absolutely certain that the Iraqi government cannot endure.

The purpose of this article is to outline a strategy for the defense of Iraq, based on the critical necessity of forging an international United Front. The obvious and immediate motivation for such a proposal is the potential but **as yet unrealized** ability of Iraq, as a member of OPEC, to undertake a devastating propaganda campaign exposing the Rockefeller oil hoax and the Zero Growth policies it represents. By linking this anti-Rockefeller campaign with the workers' and farmers' movement in America and Europe — led by the Labor committees and the mass-based Communist and Socialist parties of Western Europe — the Iraqis could deal a crushing blow to the Rockefeller fascist offensive.

Before presenting the details of such a strategy, we must distinguish between the apparent problem faced by Iraq as presented in the Rockefeller-controlled press, and the actual nature of the very real difficulties that confront Iraq, Middle East revolutionaries, and, by extension, the world's working class.

### **Hostile Neighbors**

An initial glance at the current position of beleaguered Iraq would seem to indicate that the situation is hopeless.

Iraq is entirely surrounded by hostile neighbors who are under varying degrees of CIA control or influence. To the east lies Iran, the CIA's Middle East powerhouse, whose huge army and vast military arsenal are periodically brandished menacingly by the Shah who is quite explicit about his intention to purge the oil-rich Arabian (Persian) Gulf of "communist" influence. Six thousand U.S. military "advisors" including three top generals are present in Iran, all directly responsible to U.S. Ambassador Richard Helms, ex-Director of the CIA.

To the north of Iraq lies NATO-controlled Turkey, whose recent war games on Cyprus and new-found Islamic identity have laid the basis for interjecting the 750,000-man Turkish NATO army into the unstable Middle East. Turkey and Iran are linked in the U.S.-British-backed political-military CENTO pact.

To Iraq's south lies Saudi Arabia, a vast desert kingdom which has served as Rockefeller's base of Middle East operations ever since the first Standard Oil expeditionary force landed on its shores in 1933. Over three thousand U.S. military personnel help King Faisal rule Saudi Arabia, which is currently buying billions of dollars worth of American weapons.

Finally, on Iraq's western border, the right-wing Syrian dictatorship — though nominally considered as Iraq's Arab revolutionary "brother" nation — has recently abandoned all pretensions to independence and joined Egyptian Pharaoh Anwar el-Sadat's unholy alliance with Rockefeller whiz kid Henry Kissinger. The June signing of the Israeli disengagement agreement by Syria resoundingly slammed the door on any Iraqi illusions about the possibility of finding allies within the now CIA-controlled Arab East.

Thus completely surrounded and psychologically isolated, the Iraqis have faced since last March a grinding war of attrition with guerrilla rebels from the agent-ridden Kurdish tribes led by feudal leader Mulla Mustafa Barzani. The Kurdish revolt, armed and financed by the Shah of Iran and the CIA, has greatly weakened Iraq's military capabilities to resist periodic border clashes with the Shah's CIA army that

now threatens to involve Iraq in a major showdown with Iran's muscle. In addition, the Western press has used the Kurdish war to mobilize "international opinion" against Iraq for its supposed "brutal" treatment of the Kurdish minority. The Shah — who had described the Iraqi government as a "group of crazy, bloodthirsty savages" — stands ready on CIA orders to send his blitzkrieg rumbling into Baghdad. The Rockefeller mouthpiece **Wall Street Journal** gloated after noting that Iran has purchased \$4 billion in arms from the U.S. in the past 12 months: "All military analysts rate the Shah's forces as vastly superior" to Iraq's.

### **Economic Sabotage**

Added to this military pressure, the Iraqi economy is being sabotaged actively by the Rockefeller-CIA forces. In particular, the Iraqi oil industry, upon which the rest of the economy depends, has been unable to expand production due to the lack of greater pipeline capacity. The distant Iraqi oil fields at Kirkuk could vastly increase oil flows given a pipeline to connect them to the sea, yet Iraq has been unable to find anyone to supply the needed technology and capital imports!

In addition, the state of Iraqi agriculture has been made desperate by the greatly reduced flow of water through Iraq's lifeline — the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. A new World Bank-financed dam upstream on the Euphrates in Turkey has given NATO fingertip control over the vital flow of water to five million Iraqi peasants.

In this context it would seem that the Iraqi cause is lost. Hopelessly outgunned and under attack, and receiving only token support from the terrified Soviet bureaucracy, the Iraqis simply are incapable of defending their political existence — as long as they view their situation from the standpoint of defending the motherland's borders. Under this pressure, the initial resistance to Rockefeller shown by Iraq — the expropriation of Rocky's oil holdings in the Iraq Petroleum Company during last October's Mideast war and interventions into the fascist Washington Energy Coordination Group last February, with full-page ads in the Western press — has been blunted. Instead, the Iraqis recently have been making dangerous concessions to Arab "unity", hoping to keep the CIA monster at bay by feeding it pieces of the working class.

It should be immediately apparent that the real problem faced by Iraq is not how to put together an invincible fighting force that can squash the Kurdish revolt and repel any invading army. Such a task is obviously impossible. Iraq's strategy for defense must be based on the mobilization of outside forces on a world scale in support of Iraq — forces that would have sufficient muscle to deter any intemperate move by the CIA against Iraq.

Thus far the Iraqis' response to the CIA onslaught has remained basically impotent because the Iraqis view the problem according to the ground rules laid down by the CIA! The Iraqi position in the Middle East appears untenable precisely because the Iraqis conceive of their defense within a regional, Middle Eastern context. Viewed in this way, the CIA pressures easily force the essentially nationalist Baathists to accept the realpolitik, bargaining-chip notion of politics in their dealings with the Rockefellers — when Rocky has almost all the chips.

By sweeping away the CIA-imposed rules of Mideast conflict resolution — in essence the parallel of a rat

who is convinced by Skinnerian manipulation that he must plod through the maze in routine fashion even after the walls have been removed! — the Iraqis can free themselves to wage the necessary international struggle.

It is in this arena that the Labor Committees become an indispensable ally.

#### **The United Front Strategy**

The current organizing thrust by the European Labor Committees around increased trade into the Soviet bloc has as an essential feature the forging of a supranationalist, global worldview among fragmented national working classes and organizations. This conception is predicated upon the Marxian notion that the existence of every worker in the world depends intrinsically on the rising productivity of every other worker.

In order to convince Italian workers, for example, that they could survive the inevitable Rockefeller attack that would follow a debt moratorium to the Rockefeller empire, it is necessary to show both the necessity for and possibility of mobilizing international support for this potential revolutionary act by Italian workers.

Among many other sources of such support, Iraq and its vast oil production capacity would be absolutely essential to the success of the moratorium strategy. Thus we are provided with a concrete handle

for use in organizing European workers to see the necessity of defending Iraq from the CIA's attack, not on the basis of narrow self-interest but based on the theoretical and practical notion of international working class solidarity.

For their part, the Iraqis must start their counterattack against the CIA by making a counterproposal at the coming OPEC meeting. The inhuman Rockefeller strategy of ramming Zero Growth down the throats of the advanced sector and the Third World alike, using oil as the ramrod, must be exposed in the context of the growing world depression and Rockefeller's fascist plot. They must counterpose Rockefeller's program with the working class program for development and implementation of thermonuclear fusion power and immediate mechanization of agriculture and industrialization of the Third World.

The Iraqi leadership — as most Middle East revolutionaries — are now crippled by their adherence to the magical belief in the "masses." they lack is the courage to present to Iraqi workers the outlines of an international strategy for expanded socialist reproduction instead of slogans about Zionism and Arab reactionaries, what the "masses" want to hear. On this basis, Iraqi workers and peasants will understand the real connection that exists between their activity and that of for instance, Italian workers. The controlled environment in the Middle East will have been shattered permanently.