

to 1979 — in which the Shah provokes World War III by invading Saudi Arabia's oil fields.

In reality, Iran is the scene of a raging faction fight and there are increasing indications that the Shah is gradually beginning to buck the Carter Administration and may not be so willing to use the Iranian military to threaten Saudi security. The Shah sent an unusual letter Jan. 8 to then Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to say that his government had dismissed retired Army colonel Richard Hallock, who had been appointed in 1973 by Defense Secretary Schlesinger as a special "military advisor" to Iran. The Shah endorsed Hallock's

replacement, Eric von Marbod, who was appointed by Rumsfeld, and who is pushing for a reduction in the Iranian military budget to curtail Iran's posture as military policeman for the region.

Internal pressure on the Shah is also easing somewhat with the rise in Iran's oil production since late January.

Iran also has other options besides carrying out U.S. orders. The Soviet Union has assigned Vladimir Vinogradov, the chairman of the Geneva peace conference, as ambassador to Iran, and that assignment has coincided with a sizeable growth of economic and trade deals between Iran and Comecon.

Iraq, Kuwait Warn About Carter's "Thermonuclear War"

The following is a release of the Iraq News Agency, commenting on the incoming Carter Administration, excerpted from Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Washington, D.C.:

Baghdad, Jan. 22 (INA) — The Baghdad daily Al Iraq, commenting on the inauguration of the new American president Jimmy Carter, has said: "His will not be a new era, but an extension of the traditional U.S. policy whose broad lines are drawn up not by the ordinary American, but by the monopolist companies."

The daily editorial said today that despite the defeats that befell them, the forces of aggression were still capable of committing aggression and even dragging the world into a new thermonuclear war whenever they believed this was necessary for their interests.

The following is excerpted from the Kuwait daily As-Siyasah, from FBIS; dated 19 January 1977:

**"With Carter Inauguration Tomorrow
a New Explosive Stage Begins
in the Middle East"**

A new stage in Middle East history begins tomorrow, and a close examination of the conditions involved indicates that, contrary to expectations, it is going to be extremely tense.

Jimmy Carter, the new American president, will offi-

cially assume office tomorrow, placing the Middle East and the oil question on his list of priorities.

From the first days of Carter's takeover, there will be a persistent U.S. action on two fronts: The solution of the Middle East problem and the oil question.

The speculation that this year or the next will be a time of serious confrontation in the Middle East is based on reviewing the names and background of the new President's assistants for foreign policy, defense and energy. If there is a common characteristic among all these new officials, it is that they all believe that the United States must maintain absolute supremacy in defense, oil, and diplomacy. Consequently, the questions of the Middle East and oil will be the first tests of the new intensive U.S. policies.

Although implementation of the policy of maintaining U.S. domination in energy by breaking the 'inflexible power' that oil has enjoyed in the past ten years has already begun, the method chosen to solve the Palestinian problem will be extremely acute and violent. With the violent U.S. pressure that will be brought to bear on the area from abroad, it is quite likely that reactions with the same degree of violence will occur in the area. And because Brzezinski, Vance, and Schlesinger want to prove Washington's ability to achieve its ambitions of absolute world domination, the violence that begets violence will make the next two years the tensest time in Middle East history.