

The crisis in Iran spreads

And now reports underline the danger of global war

Soviet armed forces have consolidated positions along the Iranian border in anticipation of a possible intervention, should Zbigniew Brzezinski trigger a NATO coup d'etat or a chaotic collapse of the Bakhtiar government in Teheran, say well-informed sources in Washington.

The Soviet deployment — which may touch off a military response by the NATO command — signifies that the world has been brought to the very brink of war by an accumulation of regional instability from Lebanon to Pakistan.

Besides Iran, virtually every state in the area is threatened by destabilization orchestrated by British and Israeli intelligence and their American allies, especially the Aspen Institute and Brzezinski's National Security Council. In Lebanon, the Israelis have again sent troops against villages in south Lebanon, bombarded several ports with their navy, and assassinated a top PLO leader in Beirut, while Moshe Dayan has warned the Arabs to "remember what happened in 1948." Dayan also said that Israel would intervene in Lebanon even if this endangered further peace talks with Cairo, and added, vis-à-vis Egyptian President Sadat, "After the Iran crisis, Israel should not trust 'one-man regimes.'" Both Turkey and Pakistan are being pushed toward internal crisis, the latter especially if the Army junta led by General Zia goes through with plans to execute former Premier Z. Ali Bhutto. And there are reports from many U.S. and Arab sources that Saudi Arabia is being targeted for "the Iran treatment."

According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, some followers of fanatic Ayatollah Khomeini have set up "revolutionary centers" in mosques in Iraq, Kuwait, and other Persian Gulf states, preparing to launch a war against progress in those states, like the movement that toppled the Shah of Iran.

But the focus of the regional crisis re-

mains Iran itself. Late last week, as we went to press, the regime of Prime Minister Bakhtiar, the Iranian military leadership, and many of Iran's top clergy were seeking some way to prevent the return of Khomeini to Iran. Should Khomeini not return, observers say, then Bakhtiar and his allies will probably pull together a workable coalition to cool down Iran and get the economy geared up again.

But Khomeini — despite enormous pressure — insisted on returning, scheduled, at latest information, for Sunday. The army, which is vehemently opposed to Khomeini's prehistoric "Islamic republic," is reported to be near to carrying out a coup d'etat to stop him.

From all sides, it appears that support for Khomeini is fast declining. Bakhtiar, firmly resisting Khomeini's blackmail, observed that Khomeini might try to come back "on his flying carpet." The Army, not so subtly, had shut down all of Iran's five airports.

In fact, the warmest support that Khomeini has gotten recently was from Ramsey Clark, reportedly acting as an unofficial Brzezinski envoy, who met Khomeini in Paris to pledge his devotion to the mad mullah. The French press, which has begun an anti-Khomeini campaign, reported unanimously Jan. 24 that Washington has struck a deal to back Khomeini's Islamic republic.

But European sources indicate that France, West Germany, and the USSR have reached a consensus that the Bakhtiar government must be supported by whatever means necessary. The first step in that consolidation might be the decision, announced Jan. 24, that the National Iranian Oil Company was ousting the British-run OSCO consortium from control over Iran's oil output — with rumors that the French are prepared to back National Iranian in the takeover!

—Robert Dreyfuss

The Pope and Europe's development diplomacy

That Pope John Paul II's visit to Latin America is far more than a Church affair becomes apparent when the Pope's itinerary is viewed against the backdrop of current diplomatic activity by other European leaders. The strategy behind the new European Monetary System of a development-based "Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals" is being aggressively extended to the Third World by France, West Germany, and the Soviet Union. The outlines of the Papal tour make clear the Vatican's intimate involvement in this Pan-European drive.

France is currently the best example of this "Pan-European" cooperation and diplomacy designed to bring the Third World into new European Economic System.

French President Giscard d'Estaing announced Jan. 23 that before the end of the month he will personally brief the Finance Ministers of the African countries in the franc zone "on the inner workings and advantages of the EMS and European Currency Unit." Giscard also announced that he is organizing a European-African summit for May, involving

African countries outside of the franc zone as well.

The Pan-European aspect of Giscard's diplomacy is confirmed by a report from the Parisian weekly *VDS* that during Giscard's state visit to the Soviet Union this spring, the Soviets will accredit a French diplomat to the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the Comecon, giving the French tremendous trade advantages with the East bloc. The CMEA is the economic coordinating agency for the Soviet sector.

Spanish-Soviet discussions about Third World development are just as intense as the French-Soviet ones, with special importance for both Latin America and Africa. The Jan. 24 issue of the Parisian daily *Le Figaro* commented on Spanish Foreign Minister Oreja's visit to Moscow that "Spain's vast Hispanic project, its ambition to build a community of Iberian nations, fits into the framework of this European policy ... Latin America is Spain's dowry to Europe." The daily added that Moscow "heartily encourages Spain's Maghreb policy," a reference to Spain's decision to turn its former colony of Spanish Morocco over to Morocco and Mauritania in the northwestern or Maghreb section of Africa.

Hence the significance of the Pope's Latin American tour. Immediately before he set off for his Jan. 25-30 trip, the last official visitor to the Vatican was Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. And just before his visit to the Vatican, the Soviet official had met with Italian government leaders and issued a call for "relaunching detente" in a "Pan-European context," specifically the upcoming meeting of signatories of the Helsinki accords in Madrid. Gromyko also signed three collaboration agreements with the Italians, and emphasized the two countries' mutual responsibility to cool down world trouble spots.

In Mexico, observers expect that the Pope will be guided by the Third World development goals of the *Populorum Progressio* encyclical of his predecessor Pope Paul VI, ideals fully coherent with the perspective of developing sector integration into the European Monetary System.

The West German contribution

West Germany, the European country that provides a good share of European development funds for the Third World, is

presently reorganizing its entire Ministry for Economic Cooperation, the development ministry, so that it can better participate in the planned expansion of development activities.

Minister for Economic Cooperation Rainer Offergeld announced Jan. 19 that Manfred Boell, head of the Ministry's department on regional development projects and coordination, and Rainer Opplet, another department head, were both dismissed, in addition to many other secondary Ministry officials. Sources inside the Ministry said that the two officials were fired because "We don't need any more 'creative' chaos, just hard efficient work, and the people who dismissed were plain creative chaos. ... Our perspectives are all there. Now comes the implementation."

The only two higher-level Ministry officials who were not sacked were State Secretary Brueck, who accompanied West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt on his trip to Nigeria and Zambia late last year, and Norbert Burger, an expert on coordination among the various West German development institutes. Klaus Dieter Leister, formerly in charge of Schmidt's

Chancery office, will take Wilfried Boell's position.

The EMS's opponents have their own plans, however.

A phony Franco-West German alliance on Africa was the highlight of the Jan. 23 Paris conference of the Bavarian-based Hans Seidel Foundation. There Bavarian Minister Strauss outlined a strategy for Africa based on the apparently sound proposal that "both France and Germany should develop their strategy for Africa, a strategy formulated in Paris and worked out with Bonn." But a call to the Foundation's headquarters in Munich revealed that Strauss was not calling for aid to Africa, but for European support for Great Britain's contrary policy of "less is more" development for the Third World.

"This African strategy is by no means directed against Britain," a Foundation staff member said. "Not only are Strauss' contacts with Healey and Thatcher good, but this meeting was worked out with them. The idea is to produce much more intense cooperation between Britain and Europe, and that can't happen if France and Germany 'misunderstand' each other."

Panel to set a competent U.S. health policy

Everyone knows the United States is in urgent need of a sound national medical policy, but there's no doubt that neither of the two bills now before the 96th Congress — the Kennedy health insurance bill and HEW Secretary Califano's "hospital cost containment" alternative — can provide Americans with even adequate health care.

A more positive prospect was raised last week by Debra Hanania-Freeman, Congresswoman-elect for Maryland's 7th district seat. She reports that at her request Dr. Ernest Schapiro, a medical doctor distinguished as a leader in the movement against marijuana decriminalization in upstate New York and around the U.S., is forming a "Blue Ribbon Commission" to immediately formulate a competent national health policy for the U.S.

"Dr. Schapiro has already begun con-

tacting interested individuals," said Dr. Freeman, "and he will be issuing a series of interim reports on health care questions, as steps on the road to the Commission's formation of a comprehensive policy."

If the Kennedy bill becomes law, said the Congresswoman-elect, "HEW officials are already mooting the possibility. . . of forcing those seeking government health insurance to sign a so-called 'living will' giving hospital administrators the right to 'pull the plug' or restrict treatment to pain-killing drugs if it is deemed no longer expedient to keep the critically-ill patient alive."

"Dr. Schapiro and I are in fundamental agreement on the basic principles that will guide the Blue Ribbon Commission in its efforts to develop a real American health care alternative to this nightmare."