

## A de Gaulle for Iran?

The government of France, according to informed Iranian sources, has made a strategic decision to overturn the feudalist regime of the Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran, and install in its place a republican government led by Prime Minister Shahpour tiar. This is the significance of the well-publicized press conference held by Bakhtiar in Paris July 31, where the exiled leader emerged from six months' hiding to denounce the dictatorship of the mullahs as leading to economic catastrophe.

Comparing himself to the late Charles de Gaulle, Bakhtiar declared that Iran is under the influence of a foreign ideology which he would eradicate in the short-term future—having organized a resistance movement like de Gaulle's Free French. The success of the French-backed Bakhtiar initiative could have very far-reaching consequences in stemming the international drive for a return to a low-technology, genocidal Dark Age that is being led by the British oligarchy.

Like the survivors of Pol Pot's hideous Maoist experiment in Kampuchea, and like the triumphant revolutionaries in Nicaragua, the 35 million Iranians could thus be salvaged for a human future. Given the enormous strategic importance of Iran, a "Gaullist" success there could deal the oligarchists a mortal blow.

The French decision to support Bakhtiar reflects a more comprehensive commitment by President Giscard d'Estaing to challenge U.S. Middle East policy—including throwing full support to the Arab opposition to the Camp David pact. Under the headline, "President Giscard's Arab Plan," the French daily *Le Matin* reported Aug. 1 that France is now taking Western

leadership in relations with the Arab world. Author Henri Lauret, who confirmed his information with Arab diplomats, French government officials, and industrialists, reports that France is leading the European Community into a virtual alliance with Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, and perhaps Kuwait.

The basis of the policy is massive exports of nuclear plant and equipment to create a Euro-Arab zone of economic and energy prosperity and military security. Lauret concludes by "wondering" why Europe doesn't bill these exports in ECUs, the gold-backed unit of account of the European Monetary System.

France's diplomatic offensive coincides with the purge of British intelligence-linked agents under Iraq's new President Saddam Hussein that has included in its sweep Communist Party members, Khomeini-linked Shi'ite Muslims, Kurdish rebels, and a leading British businessman. The purge is expected to consolidate Iraq's alliance with Syria and Saudi Arabia and strengthen the Paris-

Baghdad ties. Moreover, according to highly placed Arab diplomatic officials, it will not have deleterious effects on relations with the Soviet Union, which is expected to support Hussein's crackdown.

It has also been learned that a purge is imminently expected in Syria of similar elements, opposed to the projected Syria-Iraq union. The axe will fall, sources report, on President Assad's brother Rifaat Assad and Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Mohammed Haider—both among the most corrupt of Syria's officials.

Our information from Paris is that Bakhtiar's press conference evoked an "electric" excitement in the Iranian exile community throughout Western Europe and in the U.S.A. De Gaulle, whose Free French were driven out of the Middle East by a treacherous "ally" Winston Churchill during the Second World War, would be pleased at this turning the tables on the British Empire.

—Nora Hamerman

### **The Week in Brief**

**Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is running an operation to "domesticate" the Palestine Liberation Organization, using the Socialist International as his tool, the official Soviet daily Izvestia charged July 9. Kissinger who recently returned from the Middle East, will be traveling there again in the near future.**

The Izvestia article is the first public signal from the USSR that it is aware of the Anglo-American plan

to split the PLO and bring a Palestine faction into the Camp David agreement to extend NATO hegemony throughout the Mideast. The "domestication of the Palestinians" was undoubtedly sounded out during the recent talks between West German Social Democrat Willy Brandt, Austrian chancellor Bruno Kreisky, and PLO chief Yasser Arafat. The U.S. is trying to "erode" the PLO by provoking divisions in it, Izvestia point-

ed out, and the European Social Democracy, "whether it wishes to or not, is more and more playing into U.S. hands."

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**Paul Volcker, the new chairman of the Federal Reserve System, is walking into office in time for one of the biggest scandals to hit the staid institution.** Information obtained by the U.S. Labor Party indicates that the Fed has become involved in running an "offshore laundering" operation for international drug networks.

On the recommendation of both the head of the Cleveland Fed and the head of National City Bank of Cleveland, the Cleveland Fed, then the Chicago Fed, began using two airlines controlled by drug kingpins Max Fisher and Max Jacobs, Mid Western Airlines and Air Transit Services, as exclusive carriers of the Fed's shipments of uncollected checks. This uncollected money, totaling an average \$14 billion daily, directly affects key money market interest rates such as the interbank overnight market called federal funds.

Apparently using illegal "insider" information obtained from the two airlines, National City Bank of Cleveland has become one of the nation's most profitable banks largely on the strength of its "arbitrage" operations: the realization of profits by trading on minute interest rate differentials in different types of money market instruments.

Moreover, sources indicate, the check-clearing routes are also used for the shipment of drugs smuggled in by the Jacobs-Fisher "Dope, Inc." networks.

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**The Senate Energy Committee cut President Jimmy Carter's budget request for the development of synthetic fuels by 86 percent at its Aug. 1 session.** Carter had requested an appropriation of \$22 billion for the 1980 budget; the committee asked for only \$3 billion.

Committee members freely ad-

mitted that in so doing, they were throwing \$3 billion down a rathole with no expected return in increased energy production. "The committee has no way of knowing what is going to come out," said Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) "We're moving without really knowing what we're doing," added Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio). Sen. Wendell Ford (D-Ky.) pointed out that Carter's synthetic fuels plan was premised on funding by the proposed "windfall profits tax" on oil, now stalled in the Senate Finance Committee headed by Russell Long (D-La.). "You know and I know what's coming out—nothing," Ford commented. Energy Committee chairman Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) is known to prefer "free enterprise" federal guarantees to the oil companies of a high price for synthetic fuels as a more likely mechanism to get the "experimental program," last tried in Hitler's Germany, underway.

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**U.S. environmental "activists" have announced formation of a new political party, to be known as the "Citizens Party," to field a 1980 presidential candidate.** Its program, according to the party's own Aug. 1 press release, includes a total halt in nuclear power development, a "strong push" for energy conservation, support for solar and wind power, and "citizen control" of the American economy.

Among the "just plain folks" who are founding members of the party are David Hunter, executive director of the Stern Fund, Archibald Gillies, former director of the John Hay Whitney Foundation, Harriet Barlow, director of the Institute for Local Self Reliance, Adam Hochschild, publisher of the counterculture "Mother Jones" magazine, and zero-growth zealot Barry Commoner. Qualified intelligence experts note that it is standard practice, when a wave of terrorism is planned, to establish a "respectable" front group to give the appearance that terrorist kidnappings, bombings, and murders carried out on behalf of intelligence agency objectives

have "mass support" and are a "sociological phenomenon." These sources anticipate a wave of "green terror" intended to disrupt the 1980 presidential campaign, and create a climate favorable to Gen. Alexander Haig, the preferred strongman of the New York Council on Foreign Relations and the Royal Institute for International Affairs.

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**General Alexander Haig provided Americans with a vivid demonstration of his touted, "determination, decisiveness and sharp thinking" when he couldn't decide whether to testify for or against the SALT II treaty during Senate Armed Services Committee hearings July 26.**

The just retired supreme commander of NATO, who has spent the last six months unofficially campaigning for the White House, conceded under pointed questioning that he had "read the treaty with some haste" and wasn't familiar with its details.

Haig's admission came after his formal statement to the panel, a lurid combination of verbiage about the "Soviet menace," distortions of European leaders' views on SALT, vague suggestions that the treaty was "flawed," and a loud demand for more military spending.

Haig's testimony apparently did not impress committee chairman John Stennis (D-Miss.). After repeatedly attempting to pin down Haig on his precise objections to SALT, Stennis finally commented, "The Senators can't say maybe [to the treaty]. They've got to say yes or no."

Prior to his appearance Haig had sought to postpone his testimony until after his former boss Henry Kissinger had testified on the treaty. Kissinger's testimony, however, when delivered Aug. 1, turned out to be a loud plea for an increased U.S. military budget, coupled with a demand that the Carter administration and the Senate step up its anti-Soviet rhetoric and posturing—testimony not differing substantially from Haig's.