

## Middle East Report by Robert Dreyfuss

### Iran treatment for Saudi Arabia?

*Partisans of Arab industrialization have launched a counterattack. But the danger of insurgency in Saudi Arabia persists.*

A Saudi Arabian leftist group calling itself the "Voice of the Vanguard" is reputed to be aggressively organizing among the 13,000 Saudi students in the United States to build a movement to challenge the Saudi royal family. The group claims to be international, with links to "dissidents" in Saudi Arabia.

It was the *Washington Post* which this week broke the story on the seven-year-old Voice of the Vanguard. The *Post* has been a major conduit of anti-Saudi propaganda since the occupation of the Grand Mosque of Mecca by Moslem radicals last December.

The publisher of the *Post*, Katharine Graham, represents international financial interests which are intent on destabilizing the Saudi royal family. Among those interests is the Brandt Commission, of which Graham is a member. On behalf of the World Bank, the commission is bidding for Saudi Arabia's petrodollars to back up a proposed world resource development fund—a plan the Saudis have snubbed. These same Anglo-American financial interests are intent upon derailing the Saudi industrialization perspective, the most aggressive in the underdeveloped sector.

The radical Voice of the Vanguard is reported to be centered on campuses in the areas of Denver and San Francisco. A recent *EIR* investigation into the assassination

of Saudi King Faisal uncovered the fact that Faisal's assassin, a young Saudi prince studying in the U.S., was indoctrinated in radical leftist politics at the University of Colorado and at the University of California at Berkeley.

The assassin of King Faisal as well as other members of his immediate family had been an ardent opponent of the rapid modernization plans being implemented by Faisal. He was also found to move in the same political circles as the extremist Iranian Student Association and the Muslim Student Association, both of which interface the Muslim Brotherhood and played a central role in overthrowing the Shah of Iran.

There are indeed "dissident" elements in Saudi Arabia linked with the Voice of the Vanguard, according to well-placed sources. They include non-royal-family technocrats who favor reducing Saudi Arabian oil production and halting Saudi Arabia's development plan. A Washington source this week commented that the royal family is not pulling back on its development perspective but expects to accelerate it. The source noted that Saudi Second Crown Prince Abdullah remains an opponent of this policy. Abdullah is the most prominent Saudi member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Saudi Arabia this week initiated its first public opposition to the

clandestine Muslim Brotherhood networks which have backed the regime of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini. The Muslim World League, based in Mecca, has denounced the Khomeini regime on theological grounds.

Simultaneously, the Islamic Council of Europe, which is run by another leading member of the Brotherhood, Salah Azzam, was disbanded this week following a meeting of Arab ambassadors in London. The ambassadors whose countries were major funders of the ICE protested to the Saudi Foreign Minister about its activities.

The Saudis are at the same time engaging in a diplomatic offensive to pull the Arab world together around a unified economic development perspective, an offensive bound up with the effort to organize a Pan-Arab front to shift the Mideast negotiation process into an overall framework and away from the hated Camp David agreements. Prince Fahd is expected to begin mediation between the governments of Syria and Iraq, whose animosities represent one of the greatest obstacles to Arab unity. Fahd declared this week that "Camp David has failed." In the same statement he declared that if Israel's Begin government is replaced by an Israeli Labor Party government, "it will be even worse than the present [one]." Earlier this year Prince Fahd publicly castigated Katharine Graham for having printed an interview in the *Post* insinuating that the Saudis might be amenable to joining the Camp David talks. Graham and her circle are now seeking a Peres government in Israel as more "saleable" to the Arabs as a negotiating partner in extended Camp David talks.