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## IRAN

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# Western powers leave Teheran up for grabs

by Thierry LeMarc

It has been blacked out by the international media, but the Iranian Revolution has now entered into a new phase. The power is up for grabs in Iran and whoever emerges the strongest from the expected clashes, will have it—even if it means only a tiny portion of the national territory of the country. This was announced a few weeks ago when, after the deaths of two of their militants, the Mujaheddin-e-Khalq were able to pull 100,000 to 200,000 demonstrators onto the streets of Teheran to protest against the policies of Ayatollah Beheshti's Islamic Republican Party "and its goons, the *hizbollahi*." Since then, the protests have spread, especially in the provinces. Based on the successes of the Mujaheddin in seizing the Caspian sea town of Larijan for a full day as a symbolic gesture, the Mujaheddin are reported to have developed nearly full control of that sensitive region, only miles away from the Soviet border.

While the Mujaheddin appear to be the driving force behind such outbursts of revolt, most demonstrators have nothing to do with the Mujaheddin, but rather are chafing against the policies of the mullahs, the no-war, no-peace standstill with Iraq, and the disastrous economic situation which has raised unemployment to the 6 to 7 million range. The collapse of Iran's infrastructure recently stood out when a flood in the Khuzestan province killed dozens—though there is suspicion that it was deliberately brought on as a "natural" weapon against the Iraqi army stationed in the region. The central government doesn't exist anymore, and nothing has been heard from either President Bani-Sadr or Prime Minister Rajai. Only the still-existing shadowy figure of the Ayatollah Khomeini seems to be able to prevent a total breakup of the country into full-fledged civil war.

### Western policy vacuum

Out of this process of decay, Iran can only fall deeper into the dark age that seized the country two years ago. The responsibility lies directly on the shoulders of the Western governments, especially France, West Germany, and the United States. According to well-informed observers, Washington simply doesn't have any policy option at all toward Iran. Networks are active, documents are written, but the fierce opposition

of outlook on this question between the White House and the Haig State Department has prevented the Reagan administration from even thinking of acting in the present situation. For different reasons, France and West Germany have adopted a wait-and-see attitude, decisively favoring no one faction at all. As in the old days, Britain and the Soviet Union have been left with a free hand to decide the future of Iran.

And in contrast to the American nonposition, Britain has already developed various policy options around the emerging strength of the Mujaheddin. The confrontations are to be used to pull a coup of some sort, putting the country under the leadership of a "liberal" military dictatorship manned by long-standing British assets. This would be a triumvirate of leading Iranian exiles, including former Prime Minister Ali Amini, former Gen. Feredoun Djam, and Admiral Madani. Their policy perspectives have been outlined in a series of letters addressed by Madani to Khomeini, where the admiral presented himself as the only potential leader able to rule the country. His latest proposal includes the suggestion that an "Iranian Islamic National Popular Republic" be established, smacking of Libyan ideology.

Madani, Amini, and Djam are viewed with hostility by many anti-Khomeini Iranians because of their apparent readiness to compromise with Khomeini's fascist "Islamic Republic." Madani, for instance, long served under Khomeini as governor of Khuzestan and minister of defense. Now, this trio is lending support to the Mujaheddin "Islamic Marxists."

Outside of the regular contacts, as between the anglophile Djam and British intelligence, the key agency which mediates such "deals" is the Socialist International. Intelligence sources have singled out Gerhard Ritzel, formerly the personal secretary of Socialist International Chairman Willy Brandt and West German ambassador to Teheran until earlier this year, and who took part in Carter's hostage deal. Ritzel was apparently the one who mediated Madani's escape from Iran to Germany, where he is presently based.

The "Islamic Marxist" Mujaheddin has also been developing contacts with the Socialist International and its left-wing apparatus over the recent period. The group's leader is presently touring Europe and visibly consolidating contacts first developed by Mujaheddin "observers" at Socialist meetings. And a meeting with Madani also seems to be on his agenda.

According to another of the triumvirate, Amini, the Mujaheddin's struggle will have no other purpose than to allow his own "National Reconciliation" group to seize power. The program may go so far as to include political personalities such as Bani-Sadr and Bazargan, and some notable ayatollahs, Shareatmadari or Qomi—an Islamic "liberal" government, minus the archreactionary mullahs, plus the military.