

Yemen's accusations that the murder was an act of "imperialist sabotage" and "a plot aimed at undermining relations between the two Yemens."

The timing of the assassination underlies the motives behind it. Over the past four months, Hamdi has been working with prodevelopment French forces to pacify the heated Red Sea area and the war-torn Horn of Africa, and had just returned from a visit to France after meeting with French President Giscard on economic and technical cooperation for peace.

While his death did prevent his scheduled visit to South Yemen last week, it did not prevent the meeting between South Yemen's ruler, Salem Robaya Ali, and acting president al-Ghashmi. Salem Robaya Ali instead traveled to North Yemen.

Marked for Assassination

In efforts to counter a British destabilization of the Red Sea countries, Hamdi before his death was organizing a Red Sea security pact that would include Ethiopia, and would pre-empt any attempt to block the Red Sea and therefore an attempted oil embargo. At home, Hamdi's

decidedly backward and tribal country — a feature encouraged by the Saudis — was being reorganized along progressive political programs, geared to strengthening the central state power and building up the economy to be independent from both the U.S. and the Saudis.

Just prior to the assassination, the coalition of all the country's parties, the National Democratic Front of North Yemen, published such a program, and Abu Raed, a member of the Front's Secretariat, told the Paris newspaper *Le Monde* that just such a program was needed to "safeguard the sovereignty and independence of the nation, threatened by Saudi reaction supported by imperialism, especially American." He demanded that the country end its economic dependence with a "modern productive national economy founded on the principles of scientific planning." He called for an end to "feudal relations" and to the "flagrant intervention by Saudi Arabia in the internal affairs of the country." Accusing the Saudis of encouraging tribal opposition to the government, he said, "The result of this policy can be catastrophic for the country. Yémen has become a volcano that could explode at any time."

Why MI-6 And Its Saudi Friends Are Out To Get The Shah

Ultraconservative elements in the Saudi Royal family that have strong alliances with British Intelligence, MI-6, are becoming increasingly disturbed by their neighbor, the Shah of Iran, and his bold development perspective. According to a well-informed Texas source, the Saudis see Iran as an obstacle to their scheme of transforming the Arab world and the subcontinent into a hotbed of rightwing Sunni Islamic reaction.

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The Saudi-British intelligence operation has already yielded a military coup in Pakistan and seriously meddled in the internal affairs of Bangladesh and India. The Saudis are known to be closely working with Pakistani opposition leader Agha Khan to achieve their destabilization of the subcontinent. The entire Arab world, too, has felt the resurgence of Sunni Islam, a mystical belief structure conducive to zero-growth economic policies, which numerous banking institutions centered in the City of London and Wall Street are promoting.

The Shah knows that he is the target for possible assassination. This week his twin sister, the powerful Princess Ashraf, released a statement that any attempts to dissuade the Shah from his pro-growth orientation, of which nuclear energy is the major component, would fail. Princess Ashraf, herself having narrowly escaped assassination a month ago in France, affirmed "the Shah has a mission to accomplish and we all stand behind

him." The same week the Iranian Foreign Minister Khalatbari brought to the United Nations General Assembly a proposal worked out in cooperation with West Germany to form an international body to fight terrorism.

A Prodevelopment Example

For both the subcontinent and the Middle East Iran's fight to appropriate the most advanced technology in its efforts to develop its economy has become a forceful example. Most noteworthy in this effort has been Iran's vanguard role internationally in promoting nuclear energy. Last week Iran and France signed a far reaching deal for two reactors with four more now being negotiated. Iran's domestic and foreign policy has become increasingly harmonious with both France and the Soviet Union whose outlook is markedly at variance with that of Great Britain.

To support the growth of Iran's population of 37 million, the Shah has engaged in an ambitious policy of expanding the state-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) to sell its oil directly to consumers, circumventing the multinationals traditionally handling Iranian crude oil. Such a policy yields more revenues for Iran and gives the Shah the freedom to engage in broad barter agreements which often supply Iran with badly needed commodities and knowhow.

The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have benefited the most from such oil barter deals, which in turn has produced a sizeable upturn in Comecon-Iranian trade. Most recently an East German delegation in Tehran at the end of last month, agreed to extend Iran credits for the purchase of East German machinery. The East

German Minister of Raw Material Supplies will meet the head of NIOC where no doubt further increases in Iranian crude imports will be discussed.

Moreover, the Iranian government has broken through years of sabotage, and last month signed a large barter deal with two U.S. firms. Since the 1960s the Shah has made attempts at such an agreement with various U.S. concerns including Ashland Oil Company, only to face repeated interference from then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Significantly, the just signed deal was arranged by John Connally, a leading Republican known for, among other things, his active role in Middle East economic development. Iran, according to the terms of the agreement, will supply the U.S. independent oil company New England Petroleum Corporation with 100,000

barrels a day of crude in return for the services of the Texas firm Brown and Root which is constructing the Char Bahar naval base in the Gulf of Oman.

According to West German press sources, Iran's oil-producing Gulf neighbor Kuwait, last week announced the purchase of a nuclear reactor for experimental purposes and for desalination. Kuwait, one of the Arab world's most progressive countries, has made it clear that Sunni politics are totally unacceptable to a developing Third World country in the 20th Century. By no surprise, Kuwait, and its neighbor the United Arab Emirates, have made unprecedented efforts to normalize ties with their erstwhile regional adversary, Iran, in recent months.

— *Judy Wyer*