

Baghdad discussed support for the Shah. Iraq and other Arab states agreed to take behind-the-scenes action to ensure the Shah's survival. In particular, the Arabs are fearful that a full-scale Shi'ite Muslim "holy war" in Iran would spill over into the vital oil-producing region of the Persian Gulf. Iraq has a large Shi'ite population which would easily be affected, and a growing population of Muslims resides on the Soviet southern border.

The Arab oil-producing states have, moreover, acted forcefully to quell all fears of an international oil crisis as a result of widespread labor strikes, which had closed down Iran's oil fields up until Nov. 8. Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Zaki Yamani, in a statement that went almost entirely unreported in the Western press, vowed this week to increase Saudi production to offset Iran's diminished output. The Saudi move was meant to throw cold water on oil-crisis-mongering both from Britain's Foreign Secretary David Owen and his cothinkers, U.S. Energy Department head James Schlesinger and Henry Kissinger.

According to French radio in a Nov. 7 broadcast, a close confidant of the Shah announced that it was neither the Soviet Union nor the U.S. which was destabilizing Iran, but a "third force." This is as close as the Shah has come to openly naming Zionist and British intelligence for their crimes against Iran. The quick expulsion of BP and Royal Dutch Shell would assuredly get the message across.

— Judith Wyer

## Who's protecting Khomeini in France?

French diplomatic sources say that there is an intense fight on between "various intelligence services in France" over the continued presence of Ayatollah Khomeini there.

A clue to who's sponsoring the anti-Shah religious leader is the solid support which France's daily *Le Monde* has given him since early this year, while also consistently publishing propaganda against the Shah. *Le Monde* is closely associated with powerful French Zionists, in particular the Rothschild family. And significantly, the director of the N.M. Rothschild Bank, John Loudon, was until last year the head of Royal Dutch Shell. Another link in the chain is the fact that it was Morocco's King Hassan who personally arranged for Khomeini to seek exile in France; Hassan is known for his longstanding ties to the same French Zionist networks.

Zionist support for Khomeini may at first seem paradoxical, given Iran's close ties to Israel. But these Zionist circles, and their friends in the City of London, have been publicly demanding the establishment of an anti-Soviet military pact dominating the Mideast, conforming to Henry Kissinger's scheme for an Israeli-Iran military axis. Khomeini is providing one way to either force the Shah into line or replace him with someone more amenable to the Kissinger gameplan.

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## French, Soviets warn Khomeini

*In his "Letter from Baghdad," Philippe de Bausset, Le Figaro's Mideast correspondent, warns Khomeini that his provocative organizing, which the French government is closely monitoring, may result in his expulsion from France:*

The Baghdad government is astonished by the fact that the French government has granted asylum to Ayatollah Khomeini. Iraq had taken care of him by expelling him, "manumilitari." Whatever the cost, the Baghdad government wants to preserve its relations with Iran for economic as well as political reasons.

Baghdad especially wants the Shah to remain in power, consi-

dering on the one hand, that if the army were to replace him (the lesser of two evils), it would lead in the short term to a resurgence in tension between Teheran and Baghdad, probably through some Kurdish uprising. And, on the other hand, a fanatical religious Shi'ite revolution — a holy war — would engender indescribable economic chaos in Iran, which would fatally devolve into political warfare....

In such a situation, there are question marks concerning the French attitude. Even though he was put under close surveillance at his residence, Ayatollah Khomeini succeeded, from the holy city of Nadjai (Iraq), where he was living for 15 years, in publishing incendiary messages, which passed through a very organized network of Mullahs....

Teheran had asked, after the events of August, that the Ayatollah be more closely surveilled, which

was done, but without success. It was then decided in Iraq to expel him, but allow him the choice of his exile. Kuwait was asked but refused. Turkey delayed its answer. Algeria and Libya offered, on the contrary, to grant him asylum, and the Ayatollah refused.

It was finally through the mediation of Morocco and a special envoy of King Hassan, a man who is interested in playing a role in the present evolution of this region of the world, that Ayatollah Khomeini landed in France, with, it appears, only a three-month, but renewable, visa.

### Gaullist: Expel Iranian provocateur

Gaullist RPR Party Deputy and member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Commission, Didier Julia has asked the French government to throw Ayatollah Khomeini out of the country.

# Britain yells 'oil crisis,' Saudis show it's not so

*Following the outbreak of civil strife in Iran, and an unprecedented strike by Iranian oil workers, the same British intelligence networks that fomented the crisis in the first place rushed to the presses with fabricated stories of an imminent 1973-style oil shortage and warnings of "Russian takeover" of the Gulf oil fields, beginning with an invasion by a mythical Farsi-speaking army division.*

*Leading the hue and cry was the British press, with features by columnist Robert Moss falsely implicating the Soviets and their allies in the current crisis. No less than three front-page lead articles of the Nov. 6 Daily Telegraph loudly warned of "Russians massing on the Iranian-Soviet border" and the "growing threat to British supplies of oil." Significantly, British Petroleum and British-Dutch-controlled Royal Dutch Shell are at the center of the efforts to pull off another oil embargo. Here are portions of these articles, beginning with John Bulloch's "Threat to Britain's Supplies of Oil":*

Leading international oil companies have begun cutting back on deliveries as a result of the growing Persian crisis.

British Petroleum and Shell, with some smaller companies, have already declared *force majeure*, a

legal requirement to prevent them being sued for not fulfilling contracts when they decide to reduce supplies.

Both British Petroleum and Shell emphasized adequate supplies were available at the moment and that it would take some time for lack of exports from Persia to be noticed.

A BP official estimated it would be a month before any effect was felt. Oil to supply that month's requirements was already in the ships, he said.

But both companies have already begun cutting back supplies to Western Europe, America, and Japan. And this has raised the possibility that the international "sharing agreement" might soon come into force.

*Aside from fabricating an oil-shortage scare, the Telegraph moved ahead to gain mileage toward wrecking U.S.-USSR relations in "Premier Quits in Persia: Martial Law is Extended: Russians Mass on Border" by Kenneth Clarke:*

... Tension in the capital was heightened by reports of massive Russian troop movements on the Persian border to the northeast in the area of the Atrak river. There is acute Western concern about Moscow's

According to the daily *Le Figaro* Nov. 8, Julia has asked the French Foreign Minister "to take measures to quickly put an end to the activities of Ayatollah Khomeini in France. Mr. Julia underlines the absolutely abnormal character of the declarations, calls to revolution and to disorders and holy war in Iran, put forth by a foreigner residing in France," and "questions whether such activities pursued amidst silence — and thus one may think, with the connivance of certain French authorities — are not likely to undermine France's interests and even to jeopardize the French principle of nonintervention into the internal affairs of another state."

## Soviets score Britain and the Mullahs

*Pravda of Nov. 3 and 4 expressed Soviet condemnation of the reactionary Islamic Shi'ite Mullahs*

*which have provoked rebellion in Iran over the recent months. Pravda has consistently juxtaposed moderate opposition figures of the National Front — who have formed a loose alliance with the Mullahs — with the religious establishment. The Soviet daily's coverage reflects Soviet interest in seeing the Shah form a coalition government with moderate opposition leaders, a move which would decisively isolate Khomeini and company.*

*A commentary by Pravda Teheran correspondent A. Fillipov, published Nov. 3, attacks the Islamic religious leaders known as Mullahs:*

It has been almost a year now since Iran began to shake from internal unrest. The beginning of the massive mobilization took place in January of this year during the events in the city of Qom, a big religious center, where at that time the

prices of many commodities such as water and rents were increased. Incited by the preachings of the Mullahs, tens of thousands of people went out into the streets of the city. The demonstration, moreover, coincided with the 16th anniversary of the voting of the law for agricultural reform, which essentially hurt the interests of the priesthood. The clergy tried to use the discontent of the masses caused by economic conditions and other factors for its own goals, to protect its own interests.

*Pravda Nov. 4 also writes:*

England and other imperialist countries looted Iran for a long time. Now the international oil consortium is continuing to do this by paying a price for the oil which is under the world price. Therefore, the country is in a recession, and is forced to import basic food from abroad.