

The crisis in Iran spreads

And now reports underline the danger of global war

Soviet armed forces have consolidated positions along the Iranian border in anticipation of a possible intervention, should Zbigniew Brzezinski trigger a NATO coup d'état or a chaotic collapse of the Bakhtiar government in Teheran, say well-informed sources in Washington.

The Soviet deployment — which may touch off a military response by the NATO command — signifies that the world has been brought to the very brink of war by an accumulation of regional instability from Lebanon to Pakistan.

Besides Iran, virtually every state in the area is threatened by destabilization orchestrated by British and Israeli intelligence and their American allies, especially the Aspen Institute and Brzezinski's National Security Council. In Lebanon, the Israelis have again sent troops against villages in south Lebanon, bombarded several ports with their navy, and assassinated a top PLO leader in Beirut, while Moshe Dayan has warned the Arabs to "remember what happened in 1948." Dayan also said that Israel would intervene in Lebanon even if this endangered further peace talks with Cairo, and added, vis-à-vis Egyptian President Sadat, "After the Iran crisis, Israel should not trust 'one-man regimes.'" Both Turkey and Pakistan are being pushed toward internal crisis, the latter especially if the Army junta led by General Zia goes through with plans to execute former Premier Z. Ali Bhutto. And there are reports from many U.S. and Arab sources that Saudi Arabia is being targeted for "the Iran treatment."

According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, some followers of fanatic Ayatollah Khomeini have set up "revolutionary centers" in mosques in Iraq, Kuwait, and other Persian Gulf states, preparing to launch a war against progress in those states, like the movement that toppled the Shah of Iran.

But the focus of the regional crisis re-

mains Iran itself. Late last week, as we went to press, the regime of Prime Minister Bakhtiar, the Iranian military leadership, and many of Iran's top clergy were seeking some way to prevent the return of Khomeini to Iran. Should Khomeini not return, observers say, then Bakhtiar and his allies will probably pull together a workable coalition to cool down Iran and get the economy geared up again.

But Khomeini — despite enormous pressure — insisted on returning, scheduled, at latest information, for Sunday. The army, which is vehemently opposed to Khomeini's prehistoric "Islamic republic," is reported to be near to carrying out a coup d'état to stop him.

From all sides, it appears that support for Khomeini is fast declining. Bakhtiar, firmly resisting Khomeini's blackmail, observed that Khomeini might try to come back "on his flying carpet." The Army, not so subtly, had shut down all of Iran's five airports.

In fact, the warmest support that Khomeini has gotten recently was from Ramsey Clark, reportedly acting as an unofficial Brzezinski envoy, who met Khomeini in Paris to pledge his devotion to the mad mullah. The French press, which has begun an anti-Khomeini campaign, reported unanimously Jan. 24 that Washington has struck a deal to back Khomeini's Islamic republic.

But European sources indicate that France, West Germany, and the USSR have reached a consensus that the Bakhtiar government must be supported by whatever means necessary. The first step in that consolidation might be the decision, announced Jan. 24, that the National Iranian Oil Company was ousting the British-run OSCO consortium from control over Iran's oil output — with rumors that the French are prepared to back National Iranian in the takeover!

—Robert Dreyfuss

The Pope and Europe's development diplomacy

That Pope John Paul II's visit to Latin America is far more than a Church affair becomes apparent when the Pope's itinerary is viewed against the backdrop of current diplomatic activity by other European leaders. The strategy behind the new European Monetary System of a development-based "Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals" is being aggressively extended to the Third World by France, West Germany, and the Soviet Union. The outlines of the Papal tour make clear the Vatican's intimate involvement in this Pan-European drive.

France is currently the best example of this "Pan-European" cooperation and diplomacy designed to bring the Third World into new European Economic System.

French President Giscard d'Estaing announced Jan. 23 that before the end of the month he will personally brief the Finance Ministers of the African countries in the franc zone "on the inner workings and advantages of the EMS and European Currency Unit." Giscard also announced that he is organizing a European-African summit for May, involving