
Khomeini's Iran: drugs, corruption, a 'bust OPEC' policy

With Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his entourage of corrupt mullahs at the helm, Iran has rapidly become the command center for the London- and Muslim Brotherhood-backed strategy for busting OPEC and undermining the entire Muslim world.

Not only has Iran been leapfrogging in a rush to jack up oil prices, making its prices the highest in the Persian Gulf. Iran has also decided to cut back in its production of oil, a move that will only feed the current "oil shortage" swindle being run by London and U.S. Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger, and lead to another round of price hikes that could knock the underpinnings out from the U.S. and other economies.

This was foreshadowed when Schlesinger intoned that Iran is a "potential point of destabilization in the world oil market" in Washington, June 6.

Last week, the chairman of the National Iranian Oil Co. (NIOC), Hassan Nazih, announced that the NIOC's budget has been slashed by more than half. In addition to a drop in output, the budget cut will mean that future programs for new oil and gas exploration, drilling, and secondary recovery are canceled. Already, Nazih revealed, Iran is turning away prospective oil buyers to keep oil exports at about 3.2 million barrels per day, 65 percent of the pre-Khomeini level. "Our contracts are such that we can raise the price at any time," Nazih stated.

Nazih also announced that it is "90 percent certain" that the new Soviet-Iran gas pipeline will be canceled as well. Already, work on the Iranian end of the pipeline has been halted on the grounds that "the export of gas is not beneficial to Iran" because it is "uneconomical." Another gas pipeline to the Soviet Union, currently in operation, is expected to be taken over by the Khomeini government and used solely for domestic purposes.

The decision to cancel the pipeline projects is a blow at triangular trade and oil-for-technology deals among Iran, the Soviet Union, and such European countries as West Germany, Austria, Italy, and Czechoslovakia.

Khomeini targets Iraq

The leading edge of Iran's "Bust OPEC" strategy is Khomeini's operation against Iraq. In an effort to

create a crisis among the Arab oil-producing countries, Khomeini and crew are pushing to provoke a war with the Iraqis and to topple the Baghdad regime. In a June 6 editorial in Khomeini's party paper *The Islamic Republic*, Khomeini challenged Iraq:

... The Takritis (Iraq's ruling family) and company seem to think they can thus prevent their suppressed peoples from encountering Iran's Islamic ideology and open a path for their [Soviet] masters to warm water ports in the Persian Gulf. Iraqi leaders have not yet learned the lesson from our revolution. They cannot understand that a nation which toppled the greatest arsenal in the region with its bare hands can also tear to pieces the ivory tower in which the Iraqi government exists. Such provocations and conspiracies will cause a deep distress among our Moslem brothers over the border which, in turn, will lead to the overthrow of the regime.

Last week in Teheran, 4,000 Khomeini supporters demonstrated in front of the Iraqi embassy, calling for an Islamic uprising in Iraq and chanting, "Down with [Iraqi President] al-Bakr; Khomeini is the chief of the Iraqi people."

Khomeini is actively stirring up Iraq's Shiite population to revolt against Baghdad. Last month, Iran named Seyed Mahmoud Doai, a Shiah mullah, as ambassador to Iran. The strongly anticlerical Baath Party of Iraq deeply resented the appointment.

Khomeini's provocations may very well lead to war with Iraq. The catalyst for confrontation would be the growing crises in Khuzestan and Kurdistan, where Arab and Kurdish separatists, spurred by the reactionary mullahs, are agitating for autonomy. In the case of oil-rich Khuzestan, located in eastern Iran bordering Iraq and populated largely by Arabic-speaking Iranians, Khomeini has been blaming the insurrection there on the Iraqis. Admiral Ahmad Madani, the governor of Khuzestan, charged Iraq with "flooding Iran with weapons" and attacked Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein for "receiving money from the ex-Shah's agents and running arms into Iran." The on-the-scenes ringleader of the Khuzestan insurrection, which threatens to further disrupt Iran's oil output, is one Ayatollah Khaqani.

Meanwhile, in Kurdistan—an area that straddles Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey and that has long been Great Britain's favorite playground for instigating separatist rebellion against central authority—Iran is deliberately pushing for a confrontation with Iraq. Last week, four Iraqi jets reportedly crossed the Iranian border and bombed a Kurdish outpost in Iran. Although Iraq denied this incident and despite the fact that the Iranian air force admitted that it had "detected no border violation" by Iraq, the Iranian Interior

Ministry has strenuously protested the alleged action. The *Financial Times* reports that Kurdish warlord Jalal Talabani and elements of the old militias of Mustafa Barzani are involved in the Kurdish unrest and that they have jointly declared war on Iraq and Turkey.

Drugs, executions, corruption

Khomeini's ability to carry out his provocations against Iraq and OPEC, and against the Soviet Union, Turkey, and Afghanistan, is explained and augmented by the complete corruption that has overtaken Iran.

Under Khomeini, the fabric of Iranian society has unraveled. The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* reported June 11 that opium, hashish, and heroin are freely circulating in Iran's streets, especially in autonomy-seeking Kurdistan and Azerbaijan, Iran's two major opium-producing areas. With Khomeini's ban on liquor and his sanctioning of opium, consumption of both hard and soft drugs has skyrocketed. According to one drug trafficker interviewed, people dealing in drugs, unlike in the Shah's time, have no need to worry about arrest. The police do not exist, he gloated, and Khomeini's Revolutionary Guards, who are supposed to be dealing with the matter, are instead dealing in drugs themselves. "Most of the Revolutionary Guards are addicts," the source asserted. An estimated 5 percent of Iran's population is thought to be hooked on dope.

According to the June 7 *Financial Times*, Iran's opium traffic is run out of London's black market, together with Iran's gun smuggling operation.

Rampant drug addiction is not the only hallmark of Iran's "new society." Random executions continue to take place regularly, keeping the population in a continual state of terror and submission to Khomeini's regime. Iranians who reject his Islamic rule, Khomeini warns, will be "smashed by the same fist that destroyed the Shah." Praising "lower-class people, the women of Qom, of southern Teheran, of the poor quarters of the city," Khomeini attacked the middle class, the intelligentsia, lawyers, critics, and republican forces.

According to high-level Iranian sources, the mullahs are fueling the Khomeini mania. Each one is on top of his own fiefdom, pushing boondoggles and corruption. A number of mullahs are reportedly upset with Khomeini for monopolizing the graft and corruption.

On the economic level, chaos rules. "The Iranian economy is to be run at a much lower level than in the past," the *Financial Times* confirmed recently, asserting that the extremist anti-West economic policies of Revolutionary Council economic advisor Abdulhassan Banisadr are finally being implemented and that he has become the dominant force in Iran's economic program. Feeding the chaos was the recent announcement that Iran has decided to nationalize all banks, foreign and domestic, in Iran—a move aimed at jeopardizing international trade and commerce and at reinforcing the newly-created Islamic Bank, along whose lines the country's banking system is to be remodeled.

—Nancy Parsons

From an oil economy to a dope economy

Here are excerpts from an article appearing in the Swedish daily Svenska Dagbladet, May 29.

In the fertile areas of Iran, the peasants have already started to harvest the biggest harvest of opium poppies in a century....

In Iran, dealers can now sell opium and hashish openly in the street, and in central Teheran you see drug addicts everywhere in the streets.

The political and religious leaders in Iran are increasingly concerned with the situation. ... But it is probably too late. The harvest is ready and is already being taken in, and the peasants are counting on making big profits. Peasants throughout Iran took the

chance to plant the poppies when the security forces of the Shah collapsed.

In connection with the dissolution of the Shah's power during the Khomeini revolution, enormous amounts of weapons were being circulated. In the villages as well as in the cities, those who plant, sell, and use drugs have access to weapons.

They do not intend to stop their activities very soon. The producers and consumers of opium probably consider themselves better armed now than the police if an open fight about drugs were to break out.

Sayyed Nassrullah Zadehan, who heads Iran's biggest institution for the treatment of drug addicts, estimates that there are around 2 million drug addicts in Iran, or 5 percent of the population. Unemployment, lack of adequate pharmaceutical drugs, and the recent harsh ban on alcohol have driven many to drug addiction.

Iran treatment looms for Indonesia

Nominally the largest Islamic nation in the world, Indonesia is a major oil supplier to Japan. It is ruled by a strictly secularist government that is eager to achieve rapid industrialization in cooperation with Japan and Western countries. Their aggressive industrialization policies have more than once earned the ire of World Bank planners who oversee the nation's \$10 billion of foreign debt.

Under continual pressure from the World Bank to abandon its modernization program for labor-intensive rural development schemes, there are ominous signs that Indonesia is now slated to undergo the same feudalization drive that the London-backed Islamic fundamentalism brought to Iran.

The industrialization policies have for over two decades irked the country's Muslim Brotherhood-connected Islamic political, student and religious organi-

zations, which see the military-backed government of President Suharto and its secularist policies as a threat. Figures such as Mohammad Natsir and General Nasution have recently stated their intent to oversee the Iranization of Indonesia in the *New York Times*. In league with organizations like the Muhammediyah, they currently oppose the Suharto government, and for the past two decades have worked in collusion with Anglo-American intelligence services. Mohammad Natsir, at age 70, is currently the leading Islamic figure linked to Muslim Brotherhood circles since the early 1930s.

Though no riots or demonstrations have been staged in recent months, these networks were responsible for the 1974 anti-Japanese student riots which helped to smash Japanese Prime Minister Tanaka's efforts to establish oil-for-technology deals between Japan and Indonesia.

During the events following the Communist coup attempt in 1965, these same networks carried out the hideous massacre of between 500,000 and a million suspected Communists. In 1958 Mohammad Natsir, as chairman of the now outlawed Islamic Masjumi Party (which was funded by the CIA) led the so-called Outer Island rebellion with the aid of the CIA and British intelligence.

Muslim Brotherhood: a legacy of British rule in Nigeria

The Muslim Brotherhood has extensive capabilities in Nigeria, the largest black African country and the second largest supplier of oil to the U.S. after Saudi Arabia, to pressure or destabilize the government. This is particularly critical now for the Nigerian government, since it is attempting to implement a return to civilian rule for the first time since 1966 and the disastrous civil war of the later 1960s.

Roughly half of Nigeria's population is Muslim, living to a large extent in northern Nigeria. During the colonial period the British deliberately kept this region separate from southern Nigeria, while preventing any modernization and industrialization from taking place.

As a result, the power of the traditional Islamic leaders was entrenched. A recurring theme during constitutional debates in Nigeria has been whether or not Moslems should be subject to the law of the state as well as the law of the Koran (*sharia*).

In 1966, prior to the civil war, tens of thousands of Nigerians from the south were slaughtered in the north following a coup attempt that involved the assassination of several leaders, including the prime minister, a northern Muslim. The premier of the northern region, who was also the traditional Muslim leader of the north, was also assassinated.

Of the five civilian candidates for president in the upcoming Nigerian elections, three are reportedly members of the Muslim Brotherhood. Already there have been events which could lead to a repeat of the social breakdown of the 1960s, including rioting between supporters of different candidates; these outbreaks have led responsible Nigerians to warn about the possibility of just such a breakdown.