

Middle East Report by Robert Dreyfuss

Khomeini's kooks and U.S. spooks

A gang of American intelligence operatives who helped put the Ayatollah in power are now assembling a motley assortment of persons to promote "understanding" between Americans and Iranians—the idea is terrorism.

According to well-placed sources in Washington, Dr. Thomas Ricks, professor of history at Georgetown University, is devoting the bulk of his professorial time these days to working with the radical Mujahidin, the Maoist Islamic guerilla movement currently vying for power in Iran. The Mujahidin, which operates in the United States and Europe under the banner of the Muslim Students Society (MSS), have formed a temporary alliance with Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr in an effort to use him as a vehicle for eventually seizing power themselves. According to these same sources, Ricks is actively involved in conducting intelligence into the Mujahidin from the Pentagon on U.S. military preparations for operations in the Persian Gulf.

Bani-Sadr's recent charge that 96 American troops had crossed into Iran to help carry out his overthrow emanated, by his own admission, from information received from the United States. The source of the information was, according to insiders, the MSS and its mentor, Thomas Ricks.

Ricks is part of a motley assortment of American university professors, human rights advocates, antiwar freaks, liberated women, and outright terrorists, all of whom are "sympathetic" to the "human content" of Khomeini kookery. These liberal-radicals have joined forces to ensure an "openness

toward and tolerance of other cultures" like Khomeini's.

"The United States has failed to understand the feelings and actions of the Iranian people," stated Dr. William O. Beeman, professor of anthropology at Brown University, in a recent interview. Beeman, who has spent seven years in Iran profiling and working with the Shah's opposition, met with Cyrus Vance last month prior to Vance's resignation to advise the State Department on how to resolve the Iran crisis without offending Iranian sensibilities. "Iranians respond very badly to pressure," Beeman told Vance. According to Beeman, "Vance was very much in sympathy with us."

On May 21, at the law office of Ramsey Clark in New York, Khomeini sympathizers banded together to form a National Coalition for Iranian-American Understanding. Those involved in the Coalition include former attorney general Ramsey Clark, known for his role in undermining the government of Shahpour Bakhtiar in favor of the fanatic Khomeini; Thomas Ricks; Prof. Richard Falk of Princeton University, who has gone on record stressing the need for a new movement in the United States modeled on the Iranian revolution; Eqbal Ahmed of the Transnational Institute/Institute for Policy Studies; David Dellinger; antiwar activists such as the Berrigan brothers; the National Council of Churches;

the leadership of the National Organization for Women; and Norman Forer, professor at the University of Kansas. Forer is the key go-between for the upper-level controllers of terrorism and the Muslim Brotherhood-Khomeini networks in the United States.

Among other things, the Coalition is planning at least two trips to Iran to educate Americans about the "realities" of the Iranian revolution and to foster American "appreciation" of the Iranian revolutionary method. The trips, which are illegal under the President's ban on travel to Iran, are scheduled for June and August.

A parallel effort to "erase" American prejudices pertaining to the Khomeini revolution and to devise "solutions" not offensive to Iranian perspectives is being made by the Committee on American-Iranian Dialogue, a creation of the International Center for Dynamics of Development in Arlington, Virginia. The participants in the Committee include Landrum Bolling, chairman of the Council on Foundations; William Moore, World Future Society; the World Federalists; the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service; and the U.S. State Department. However, two meetings were both canceled due to "lack of interest."

The "tolerance" approach toward Khomeini and the outlaw Iranian revolution is expressly designed to lead to an upsurge in terrorism. International terrorist expert Robert Moss of the *Economist* intelligence service explicitly stated this earlier this month in New York when he "predicted" a terrorist incident to be carried out by Iranians in Washington against a U.S. official.