

dent of the Islamic Council of Europe-sponsored Islamic Commission for Human Rights, former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella.

This international apparatus, based in Paris and London with branches in West Germany and Switzerland, has defined the new targets of the Brotherhood: the Gulf region, Egypt, and Morocco, which are operations to be carried out in coordination with the new Shiite International created by Ayatollah Khomeini.

With Egypt as the key project of Azzam and Ramadan, Africa has been made the responsibility of Ahmed Ben Bella in Paris, who has received considerable support from the regime of Socialist President François Mitterrand.

According to reports, Ben Bella is expected to lead a massive Brotherhood offensive in the North African country of Morocco, which has also been targeted by Iranian terrorist circles for its collaboration with Iraq. While Morocco is being put under military pressure by the Libyan-sponsored "Polisario" synthetic liberation movement—which was granted recognition by the OAU in the beginning of March—sources report that the Brotherhood has intensified its campaign inside the country after having seized numerous mosques, from which they have delivered anti-King Hassan tirades. The West German-based Moroccan community is being put under pressures by Ben Bella and Libyan-connected Muslims. Moroccan sources report that in Dortmund, a national conference of the Brotherhood was held in early March which discussed the case of Morocco as a priority.

A newcomer in the deployment of the Brotherhood, Ben Bella was quick to make it to the top of the hierarchy after his release from an Algerian jail some 18 months ago. He is trying to become for the Sunnite Islamic world what Khomeini is to the Shiite world. Ben Bella has been supported by the very same circles which created Khomeini. Upon his release from prison, his first trip abroad was to London to meet with the leaders of Amnesty International and the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation.

Ben Bella is now championing the rights of the developing countries, although as he told *Le Monde* last year, he acknowledges that his earlier commitment to socialism was "wrong" and that Islam alone can provide the answers to the developing countries' problems. At present, he just wants to be called an "anti-imperialist" and it was in that capacity that he was elected president of the Islamic Human Rights Commission in September 1981, which was established in the Paris offices of UNESCO under the auspices of Salem Azzam. The commission was specially created to give Ben Bella an official job, rather than out of concern for human rights, which are continually violated by Azzam's associates in Pakistan.

A U.S. CONNECTION

Islamic Centennial 14 and fundamentalism

by Nancy Coker

In the summer of 1978, when the phenomenon of "Islamic fundamentalism" was still a novelty and the full implications of the "Islamic revival" had not yet become apparent, a group of approximately 20 people were meeting regularly in Washington to plan how the United States could best play the Islamic card. This group was the preparatory committee for what was later to be called the National Committee to Honor the Fourteenth Centennial of Islam, or Islam Centennial Fourteen (ICF), headquartered in Washington.

Officially, the ICF was set up as a nonpolitical organization committed to fostering an understanding of Islamic civilization and culture in the American population. In point of fact, ICF works to deliberately obfuscate Islam, by creating a smokescreen in the name of religious ecumenicism and cultural relativism for such extremist pseudo-Islamic cults as the Muslim Brotherhood. Like the Aspen Institute, which was instrumental in the overthrow of the Shah of Iran, ICF and its executive director William Crawford, retired ambassador to North Yemen and Cyprus, disseminate the view that Islam and modernization are inherently in conflict with one another. This conflict, they maintain, is what undid the Shah, and if there is to be economic development in the Islamic world, it must be reconciled with local prejudices and beliefs.

Last year ICF raised more than \$2 million in tax-deductible contributions from corporations across the country, including most of the major oil companies and construction firms. Although several of these firms are complicit in the true nature of ICF's activities, most corporate representatives interviewed by *EIR* were uninformed that the ICF is advocating an approach to the region that, expressed in economic practice, would severely limit corporate activity in the Islamic world.

The role of Joe Malone

According to ICF insiders, Islam Centennial Fourteen is the creation of Joseph Malone, a long-time asset of British intelligence who operates out of his Middle East Research Associates in Washington. Malone—like ICF director Crawford's family—is a product of the American University in Beirut, a bastion of British



William Crawford of Islam Centennial Fourteen.

intelligence operations in the Middle East and the seat of the British-KGB networks around triple agent Kim Philby, a friend of Malone's. Malone is an intimate of dissidents throughout the region, particularly in Saudi Arabia, where his close relations with anti-establishment "Young Turk" elements have implicated him in the 1975 assassination of King Faisal and the ongoing operation to undermine Prince Fahd.

"ICF was essentially an outgrowth of the Middle East Educational Trust [MEET], a small front group that Malone was running in the late seventies," said one source. "There was some communication with a group in London—Malone had many friends there—who had picked up the idea of building a new organization around the fourteenth centennial of Islam, which is what Malone then went about doing."

The preparatory committee met frequently in 1978, usually at Washington's Islamic Center. Among the early members were Malone; Malone's sidekick at MEET, Jim Johnston; John Duke Anthony of Johns Hopkins; Ralph Braibanti of Duke University; Mohammed Abdul-Rauf of the Islamic Center; Admiral Marmaduke Bayne of Georgetown University; Jack

Hayes of Mobil Oil; and Tom Snook of Exxon.

The State Department and the National Security Council, encouraged by President Carter, repeatedly began to draw on the services of this group of "old Middle East hands," calling them over for "advice" on Iran. "When Brzezinski discovered Islamic fundamentalism, he asked for a country-by-country review by the ICF preparatory group," stated a source. To this day, ICF maintains close links to the State Department, mediated primarily through Crawford and other ICF members such as Philip Stoddard and Malcolm Peck.

"The ICF got a great boost from the Carter administration," said one ICF source. In a letter to ICF Chairman Lucius Battle on July 12, 1980, Carter pledged to "encourage involvement by appropriate governmental agencies as well as by individual citizens."

In the summer of 1979, Crawford was brought on as full-time executive director of ICF. The ICF inaugural gala was scheduled for November of that year, but was postponed because of the hostage seizure in Iran.

"President Carter precipitated the postponement," said one founding member of ICF. "I thought it was a bum decision to postpone. In my opinion, the ICF has taken an easy route by trying not to upset Khomeini or the radical Muslims. I think this could be seen as an effort by Crawford to apologize for the radicals. Crawford lumps everything together that has to do with Islam, all in the name of promoting Islamic culture. He makes no distinction between the radicals and the moderate mainstream. This is inexcusable. As a result, ICF has become a clearinghouse for all kinds of strange activities. For example, the ICF newsletter prints information on meetings held by Muslim Brotherhood radical groups as well by legitimate organizations."

The Rothko Chapel affair

On March 10, Crawford was in Houston for the opening of ICF's "The Heritage of Islam" exhibition. Attending the inaugural was Schlumberger heiress Dominique de Menil, whose husband John was implicated in the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy.

Six months earlier, Crawford had another occasion to meet with Mrs. de Menil, when he attended a conference at her Rothko Chapel in Houston of 25 Muslim "scholars," many of whom were adherents of the Muslim Brotherhood and proponents of Khomeini-style terrorism—all in the name of Islam. Crawford personally blocked requests by the National Democratic Policy Committee and Houston officials that the State Department refuse to issue visas to the Muslim Brotherhood participants. "A friend of mine at the State Department drafted the answer for the Secretary of State and the State Department on this matter," Crawford confided to a friend, "preventing any action that might have prevented the conference from occurring."