

## Editorial

# *A third great oil crisis?*

The next phase of Soviet activities in the Mideast was signaled by two events the first week in September.

The first signal was a visit by terrorist kingpin Abu Nidal to East Berlin and other locations in Eastern Europe, immediately after his consultations with the old Nazi Ahmed Ben Bella and the networks of Swiss banker François Genoud, the de facto head of the Nazi International.

Abu Nidal was a mastermind of the murder of such leading PLO moderates as Dr. Issam Sartawi and of the synagogue bombings of recent years. His Fatah Revolutionary Council holds death threats over the head of Jordan's King Hussein, the PLO's Yasser Arafat, and others; it was Abu Nidal who arranged the hit against Israeli ambassador to London Shlomo Argov, providing the pretext for Israel's 1982 move into Lebanon.

The invitation of Abu Nidal to Eastern Europe, with the undoubted nod of Yuri Andropov, demonstrates the Soviet mind-set. There exists no operational distinction at this point between KGB assets and Swiss-controlled "national socialists." Along with the Abu Nidal trip came revelations by the government of Qatar that it had cracked a nest of terrorists preparing to fire anti-aircraft missiles at incoming planes carrying Arab Gulf leaders to a summit meeting in Qatar this month. European intelligence experts conclude that the Soviets are about to "destabilize the Gulf oil-producing states," the operative word being "oil"—to force Europe, Japan, and the Arab states to submit to Russian imperial designs.

The other signal came when Nureddin Kianuri, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Iran, known as the Tudeh Party, held a lengthy interview with Tehran Domestic Television Service. He proclaimed the bankruptcy of Marxism as an instrument for satisfying the deep psychological needs of the Iranian masses, which must now turn to Islam. (The same statement could have been made from Moscow by First Deputy Prime Minister Gaidar Ali Reza Aliyev, merely substituting the words "Russian masses" for "Iranians" and "Russian Orthodox Church" for "Islam.")

Kianuri expostulated: "What I have learned is that Marxism failed to take root and grow in Iranian soil

because the Iranian people are deeply committed to the Shi'ite religion as pursued by Ayatollah Khomeini. . . . This religion, and system of values, provides an all-encompassing parameter that provides all the answers to all the questions arising among Iranian society in general, among the Iranian masses, and among the uneducated hut dwellers of Iran. . . . This also means that Marxism has nothing better to offer them. . . ."

The "conversion" of Kianuri, a decades-long Tudeh leader jailed by Ayatollah Khomeini four months ago, conforms to the shift within the Kremlin, at the instigation of Aliyev (himself a Soviet Shi'ite of Persian heritage), toward the view that Islam will enable the U.S.S.R. to extend its influence across the borders of its southern neighbors.

Kianuri conveniently revealed what he said was privileged information from Soviet sources: that leading exiled opposition leader Shahpour Bakhtiar had covertly worked with Iraq in the Iraqi September 1980 invasion of Iran. That was calculated to blunt the growing power of the Bakhtiar-allied opposition to Khomeini, which on Aug. 5 managed to rally tens of thousands of Iranians in the streets of Iran calling for the reinstatement of the 1906 Iranian constitution and the ouster of Khomeini. So large were those demonstrations that the Iranian guard was unable to stop them.

It is possible that the Soviets will make a major move into Iran, because we can expect more Soviet tests of American will, beyond Muammar Qaddafi's aggression in Africa, and the Syrian-fueled destruction of Lebanon. Some sources say that Iran's Tudeh leaders have "for the first time in a very long time been putting out the line that their main hope now is for the Soviets to invade Iran—a new Afghanistan."

In this week's International section, Western European spokesman express their view that the Soviet murder of KAL passengers was only the first shot in a Soviet offensive, and urgently propose that President Reagan's strategic defense policy go into high gear as the only way to reverse a rapid slide toward world war. With our eyes on the Middle East, *EIR* concurs.