

The Shah is ready for a fight

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has sounded the battlecry for a U.S.-Soviet showdown over strife-torn Iran.

In a Dec. 11 interview with *Newsweek* magazine's Arnaud de Borchgrave, Kissinger declared that the "West is experiencing a geopolitical decline" in the area from Afghanistan to Angola. "We must stop the USSR" decreed Kissinger, "by defending the Shah and our strategic position."

But the proindustrial government of Iranian ruler Shah Reza Pahlevi has denounced the British Broadcasting Corporation, hardly a tool of Soviet propaganda, as the major instigator of violence against the regime, and European intelligence sources have identified Ayatollah Khomeini, the extreme opposition leader currently wearing out his

welcome in Paris, as a tool of the Israeli Mossad. Kissinger's line that the Shah's government which he pretends to support is "threatened by the USSR" covers up those who actually are threatening the Shah and his policies — the old feudal families of Iran and their British and Israeli underwriters.

Domestically, the Shah's government stiffened its position last week when the new Premier General Gholam Reza Azhari, issued a strong warning to powerful exiled Ayatollah Ruhallah Khomeini. It was the first time the Iranian government has ever attacked a prominent Islamic Shi'ite leader. Azhari denounced the reactionary opposition as not Muslim at all but "atheists" and "saboteurs."

The general made clear that the military would take a hard line on attempts to transform the upcoming religious celebrations of Dec. 11 into mass anti-Shah actions. Dec. 11 is the high point of the religious season known as Moharram, and Shi'ite provocateur elements are pushing for a showdown. It is widely anticipated that the outcome of mass demonstrations on that date will determine the future of the Pahlavi dynasty.

Azhari also laid to rest any hope that the Shah would abdicate the throne to his 18-year old son, a proposal floated both by the British Broadcasting Corporation and the *London Times*. Only the day before the Iranian Information Ministry also issued a declaration denying that the Shah would abdicate. The general made it clear that the Iranian military holds a strong allegiance to the Shah and would take orders from no one else.

The totality of the Premier's statements indicate that the Shah, while willing to negotiate a coalition government with more moderate members of the opposition, is in no mood to appease the demands of Khomeini and Co. What Azhari does not state outright but what high-level French sources have indicated is that Khomeini is a dupe of Israel foreign intelligence, Mossad, and British secret intelligence services which are waging a full campaign to oust the Shah and preserve long standing interests in Iran attached to the influential royalist families.

The BBC's dirty work

The last two weeks have seen four blistering interchanges between Tehran and London over the continued provocative Persian language broadcasting from the BBC. Last month Azhari's government temporarily jammed BBC broadcasts. But when broadcasts were resumed the BBC began broadcasting sermons from Khomeini — a move which prompted the Tehran government to again complain

Iranian leader: 'Reveal Britain's plundering designs'

The lower house of Iran's parliament, the Majlis, held a debate on Nov. 30 on the provocative Persian-language broadcast coming from the British Broadcasting Corporation. Gholam Hoseyn Daneshi, a deputy from the oil-rich Abadan region, made the following remarks regarding the BBC and the British government:

"A glance at the events and developments throughout the world over the past year demonstrate a diabolical plan aimed at the disintegration of Iran. It should not surprise you if you hear Radio Aden has established a Persian section and makes Iran a target of dastardly attacks for half an hour each evening. You should not be surprised if you see that the BBC prepares programs and during its three Persian programs thinks of nothing but to make provocations, create disturbances and chaos. This old fox, no longer able to secure good for itself, is looking for a prey in this chaotic situation, when Iran is the target of devastating attacks. . . .

"My question for the government is: why does it not clarify political facts and why does it not inform the people about the political developments in the world which have been launched against Iran? Why does not the government unveil Britain's designs as it is still tasting the flavor of its plunderings?"