

antifeudal policies from the country's backward tribes, who are being played upon from the outside with appeals to Islam and cries against the Taraki government as "communist" and "un-Islamic." Nonetheless, there is no indication, despite the major press play given to the frequent grandiose claims of the exiles in Pakistan, that the Taraki government is not in firm control of the situation inside Afghanistan.

The danger comes from the outside and the possibility of an Afghan-Pakistan war. The reports of armed border clashes, coming right after Bhutto's death, are ominous. A border war could bring two reactions. One would be an immediate uprising among the tribally-based Baluch and Pathan populations against the Pakistani regime. Baluch leaders have publicly criticized the Zia regime for its anti-Afghan policies and condemned "theocratic politics" in Pakistan. The second would be a tough Afghan response to any more provocation. The Afghans could shut down the Karokarom highway, the newly completed strategic road and the only land route between China and Pakistan. It is now being used to transport military supplies to the Afghan rebels.

## 2. Iran: a new reign of terror

The sudden execution this week of former Premier Abbas Amir Hoveyda marked a turning in Iran's turbulent political arena since the takeover of the country by the Ayatollah Khomeini last year. Just last month, Khomeini had conceded to Iran's premier Bazargan that his government should have all judicial authority with respect to future political trials of former officials under the Shah. Khomeini had agreed to halt the secret political trials which radical revolutionary committees, known as Khomitehs, were conducting throughout the country.

For a moment it seemed that the government of Bazargan might be given some power to rebuild the country and centralize his authority, at the expense of a radical grouping around Khomeini led by Deputy Premier Ibrahim Yasdi which not only backed the Khomitehs but continues to usurp Bazargan's power.

Since Hoveyda's execution, another round of shootings of top officials from the Shah's regime has occurred, as the Iranian press carries front page photos of their bullet ridden bodies. At the same time, the Khomitehs search all people on Iran's streets, and have even arrested couples who were not married—a supposed offense under Islamic laws. And they continue

to conduct public floggings. This and the continued unrest with Iran's eight leading tribal groupings spell a new phase of radicalization for the country, as its economy continues to disintegrate.

Yasdi is a recognized collaborator of international terrorist and environmentalist networks linked to Jean-Paul Sartre and former World Bank Advisor Rene Dumont.

As the interview below spells out, his economic program for Iran will spell disaster not only for Iran, but for the already troubled region of the Mideast and Subcontinent.

### Iran: the new Cambodia?

*The following are excerpts from an interview with a Georgetown University professor who supported the Khomeini takeover of Iran. He expressed his support for Khomeini through the U.S. People's Committee on Iran. Here he lays out the thinking of Deputy Premier Ibrahim Yasdi with respect to Iran's future.*

Iran's unrest is being exaggerated. What is happening with the ethnic groups is a general process of decentralization. A radical reallocation of the economy, the "de-Teheranization" of Iran. The provinces will be given more clout. Each will make its demand in order.

The aim is economic self-reliance. The agricultural sector is now a disaster. The people are near starvation in several areas. The situation has gotten much worse in the last two years. The government is literally sending out food to the Baluchi areas. Sixty to 75 percent of the 55,000 villages of Iran are in that condition. Yasdi thinks that to correct this you have to get the people back to the villages from the small towns and from Teheran, to utilize the unused land, to produce. Yasdi is trying to reverse the standard 20th century pattern of going from rural to urban.

Yasdi has appointed a Council of Experts, a group of Iranians of all aspects in Iranian society, to brainstorm on problems of agriculture and rural electrification. This will develop self-reliance.

So far this is not like Cambodia, because this is a town-made revolution. But a Cambodia situation could happen in a more radical stage. In this sense, the Cambodia analogy is the best one, without the bloodbath. The extremes of Cambodia won't occur for awhile, until a new stage is entered into in the revolution. Unrest is possible from several areas, as you try to attain self-sufficiency from the minorities, from women, from religious groups. But the economy now is so bad, it can't get much worse at this point.

The Iranians, under these conditions, are phasing out nuclear, they are much more interested in solar than nuclear. There are experiments in solar throughout the villages, Iran has a lot of sun.