

# How Carter and Brzezinski played the Islamic card

by Judith Wyer

Not long after the 1976 inauguration of Jimmy Carter, the White House and the State Department began to set the stage for the Islamic revolution in Iran which brought the theocratic Ayatollah Khomeini to power. The revolution in Iran was a predetermined component of the Carter administration's foreign and economic policy.

That policy is defined by a series of documents published two years ago by the prestigious New York Council on Foreign Relations entitled the Project 1980s Studies. The project's directorship included a number of Carter administration advisers and cabinet members, including Cyrus Vance and Zbigniew Brzezinski. The policy as it relates to Iran and the Mideast had two primary strategic features.

The first was to use the Islamic revolution as the global "shock" to trigger what the CFR called "controlled disintegration" of the world economy primarily through the chaos in the international oil and monetary markets caused by the Iranian revolution.

Numerous elite planning centers—which include the Colorado-based Aspen Institute; the CFR's mother organization, the London Royal Institute for International Affairs; and its sister, the Institute for International Strategic Studies.

Second, the Islamic revolution was designed to trigger the spread of "Islamic fundamentalism" throughout the Muslim world. A wave of such instability, emanating from Iran, was the basis of Zbigniew Brzezinski's so-called arc of crisis policy, by which the Soviet Union's southern flank would be engulfed in Muslim insurgencies.

## Undermining American allies

But the immediate target of the operation was *not* the Soviet Union. It was the policymakers in West Germany, France and Japan referred to with alarm in the Project 1980s documents as "neo-mercantilists," referring to their commitment to an aggressive industrial expansion policy. Oil-supply strangulation was intended to undercut the Franco-German-led European Monetary System's leverage in world trade and invest-

ment, while the "Bernard Lewis Plan" subverted their potential partners among oil-producing nations. "Limits to growth" would be imposed where none had existed.

A primary function of the Khomeini revolution as an asset of Anglo-American intelligence is the spreading of tribal, religious and sectarian strife throughout the Middle East and Muslim world, as prescribed by the 1970s "Bernard Lewis Plan" for balkanizing these areas. The aim is to eliminate national sovereignty of the Muslim nations, as a regional correlative of the controlled disintegration policy of the CFR.

As *EIR* has documented, the overthrow of the Shah of Iran was an included feature of the Camp David agreements between Egypt and Israel. On the one hand, the Khomeini regime is seen as the centerpiece for spreading Islamic fanaticism and extremism through the clandestine Muslim Brotherhood to challenge the sovereign governments of the Muslim world. On the other, the unified Egypt-Israel military capability facilitated under Camp David, in tandem with the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force and new U.S. bases in the region, are to provide a military capability to intervene into any "area of instability." As many Washington insiders know, a primary aim of the Islamic Card policy is the combined U.S., Egyptian, and Israeli military takeover of the Persian Gulf oilfields.

It is this strategic policy which has motivated the Carter administration's consistent support for the evil Muslim Brotherhood and the Khomeini regime. Below is a summary of the evidence *EIR* has assembled over recent years.

One of the first foreign initiatives taken by the new Carter administration was to unleash a full-scale human rights campaign against the Shah's regime. This move, which received wide publicity from the international media, triggered a number of British intelligence-run "human rights" organizations including the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, Amnesty International, the Transnational Institute, and the Institute for Policy Studies into a concerted action to organize inside and outside Iran the opposition to the Shah.

## Ramsey Clark's 'human rights' game

A central figure in this operation was former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who to this day remains an official White House liaison to Iran. Clark's former deputy attorney general, Warren Christopher, then number-two man under Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, also coordinated the drive to oust the Shah. So did Amnesty International adviser and Princeton University Professor Richard Falk, himself a contributor to the Project 1980s Studies.

An on-the-ground capability was provided by the British Broadcasting System, whose militant Persian

language programming was central in manipulating pro-Khomeini sentiment in Iran. The BBC began to broadcast anti-Shah reportage. Under these circumstances, the Shah acceded to Washington's demand to "liberalize" his rule, and allowed internal opposition groups to come together with Khomeini's network of Shi'ite mullahs.

Controlling the masses of peasants and slumdwellers that made up the ranks of the anti-Shah demonstrators, the mullahs in turn were part of the Muslim Brotherhood, a clandestine movement founded and backed by British intelligence since the 1920s through such figures as Sir John Bagot, Glubb Pasha, Faris Glubb, Robert Swann and Lord Caradon.

September 1978 marked the turning point in the uprising against the Pahlavi dynasty with the first major violent encounter between pro-Khomeini street demonstrators and the military during a bloody showdown known as "Black Friday." The Shah responded by installing a military government. In his last interview before his death, the Shah told the *Washington Post* in June that it was Washington which restrained him from using the full force of his military against the insurgents.

During the months leading up to Khomeini's February takeover, Carter had appointed George Ball to lead a special interdepartmental team on the Iranian crisis and Persian Gulf security. Included in that team were a number of U.S. "academics," including the University of Chicago's Professor Marvin Zonis, the University of Pittsburgh's Richard Cottom, and Prof. James Bill of the University of Texas. These were the very "Iran experts" who were known supporters of the revolution against the Shah. They associated themselves with the Boston-based Iran Society, a small group of Iranians and Iranologists who were central in creating and spreading revolutionary ideology among the thousands of Iranian students studying in the United States, many of whom became Khomeini operatives.

### **The NATO connection**

In the last days of the revolution in February 1979, following the exile of the Shah, the Carter administration deployed NATO deputy commander U.S. Air Force General Robert Huyser to Iran. Huyser's assignment was to keep the military from exercising its full force under Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar and quashing the revolution.

Huyser plotted with a clique of Iranian generals to bring Khomeini to power in Iran. The key figures in this conspiracy were the then chief of staff General Gharabaghi, Air Force General Rabii, Admiral Kamal Habibollahi, the Commander of the Imperial Navy, and General Hussein Fardoust, the former deputy director

of Savak. Other military figures collaborated with Huyser only to find themselves later doublecrossed by Khomeini, who ordered many of them, including General Rabii, to face execution by firing squad. But Gharabaghi remains to this day a top adviser to Khomeini, and Fardoust and Habibollahi are still leading Khomeini's secret police, Savama.

It was Gharabaghi who most closely worked with Huyser to undermine an alliance between Bakhtiar and Khomeini's newly appointed Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan. Through General Rabii, Huyser and Gharabaghi set into motion an insurrection at the Qar-e Firuzeh Air Base south of Teheran which triggered mass violence in Teheran and led to the ouster of Bakhtiar. As pro-Khomeini mobs took over Teheran, Gharabaghi, in close collaboration with Huyser, ordered the Iranian military back to the barracks and the Khomeini takeover was complete.

During the period leading up to Bakhtiar's ouster, Ramsey Clark personally led mass demonstrations through the streets of Teheran clamoring for Khomeini. At the same time Richard Falk, Zonis, Cottam and others maintained direct communication with the Khomeini entourage near Paris.

The time between the February Khomeini takeover and the Nov. 4 seizure of the U.S. embassy in Teheran, the U.S. continued to supply arms and spare parts to the Khomeini regime as it unleashed a savage policy of repression and political executions. According to Iranian sources, these arms shipments still secretly continue to this day through Italian conduits. The U.S. as well was recently reported by Washington sources to be supplying the Khomeini regime with badly needed spare parts for its oil refinery to insure adequate fuel for the winter, as a means of averting mass action against Khomeini.

*EIR* also learned that Georgetown University Professor Thomas Ricks, a member of the Iran Society, was acting as an intelligence liaison between the Pentagon and the Islamic Republic. The State Department official who headed the Iran working group was also reported by numerous sources to have been in collusion with Iranian supporters of the Khomeini regime.

At the same time, The Voice of Free Iran reported this summer that Ramsey Clark's widely publicized "illegal" visit to Iran earlier this year was only one of many contacts Clark had with the Revolutionary Council and the Iranian Foreign Ministry through which Clark was receiving funds which were in turn supplied to dissident black groups in the U.S. It is a minority of the Black Muslim movement here which has been groomed for terrorism by the Setoudeh-Habibollahi-Nahidian nexus.

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