

## MIDDLE EAST

# The Ayatollah drops his mask

## *Iran to join Israel-Egypt pact for a Middle East Treaty Organization*

The recent maneuvering on the part of Iranian strongman Ayatollah Khomeini to bring his country into an axis with Egypt and Israel leaves no doubt of what this publication has argued for nearly a year, that Khomeini is a puppet of British and Israeli intelligence. His takeover of Iran was calculated by London and Washington as the complement to the Camp David separate peace; together these serve as the political basis for a London-controlled Middle East Treaty Organization (METO) for which an Iran-Egypt-Israel axis would be the keystone.

Earlier this month the fiercely "anti-British" Khomeini approved the reopening of talks with Britain on salvaging part of a previously negotiated defense package worked out by the Shah. A key feature of the negotiations which the *Financial Times* of London reports brought a secret British delegation to Teheran, is the support for the Iranian Navy.

In this connection, British Defense Minister Francis Pym visited Washington shortly thereafter where he declared that Britain had initiated talks with the Arabian

United Arab Emirates. Pym noted that Britain was considering the possibility of a future reintroduction of British naval presence into the waters of the region, notably the Persian Gulf, to aid in security. These peninsular states have maintained a close relationship with Britain despite London's termination of colonial control of the area in 1971.

Khomeini has already opened a dialogue with Oman this month following the visit of an official delegation to Iran aimed at tightening relations. The official Iraqi press has attacked the Khomeini government's efforts to solidify ties with Oman and Sudan as part of a conspiracy aimed at building a regionwide military bloc controlled by London and Washington. Egypt is reported to have a sizeable troop deployment in Oman replacing Iranian troops placed there by the Shah to protect the Sultan from Marxist insurgents who led the Dhofar rebellion. Sudan is one of the few remaining allies of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat following the signing of the peace treaty with Israel.

Last month the second most powerful Ayatollah in Iran, Shariatmadari, issued a bold call for closer relations between Iran and Egypt and earlier announced his intentions of visiting Egypt—this despite Khomeini's

theatrical break in relations with Egypt because of Camp David.

### **Anti-Soviet diplomacy**

With its goal a solid military-political alliance against the Soviet Union, London is now maneuvering to establish overt Iran-Israeli relations in the not-too-distant future. Key to this strategy is the ouster of the Begin regime and the installation of a new government in Israel led by Israeli Labour Party chief Shimon Peres, who with the backing of the current Defense Minister Ezer Weizman would negotiate a cosmetic settlement with a faction of the PLO and in so doing create the illusion of an overall Mideast peace. Such a cosmetic peace, in which the second international networks led by Austrian Bruno Kreisky and Willy Brandt would play a crucial behind-the-scenes role, which would serve as the cover for implementing the METO plan regionwide.

According to well informed Iranian sources, Khomeini has already established contact with Peres through certain factions of the PLO. In recent weeks, since the well publicized meeting between PLO chief Yasser Arafat and Kreisky and Brandt, U.S. based Muslim Brotherhood connected organizations which strongly support Khomeini have begun to praise Peres as the only option in Israel for negotiating a Mideast settlement which includes the PLO.

In order for this strategy to succeed the governments in the region with the strongest ties to the Soviet Union must either be toppled or destabilized to the point of offering no resistance to the METO plan—most importantly Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Khomeini regime has taken the greatest initiative as an agent of London and Israel in fulfilling this task. Iranian sources indicate that Shariatmadari has left his permanent residence in the holy city of Qom to go to the eastern city of Meshed where he is involved in operations to overthrow the Taraki regime of Afghanistan. Khomeini is cited as putting millions of dollars into the overthrow of Taraki in favor of a Khomeini-style Islamic government. Similarly Iran has been backing various operations designed to destabilize their powerful western neighbor Iraq.

Brazilian sources have revealed that the recent upsurge of unrest within the Kurdish Minority in Iraq—

a traditional eyesore to the Iraqi regime—is backed by Iran. The London *Economist* of July 23 predicts increasing trouble between the two countries, citing various minorities on their common borders that are presently being stirred up. Informed sources anticipate a full-fledged border conflict between the two states in the near term over a large oil well Iraq is presently exploiting which extends under its border with Iran.

The Carter Administration is currently operating discreetly to strengthen a political faction within Saudi Arabia which would be amenable to the METO conspiracy. According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, July 16, the Department of State has recommended the sale of \$1.2 billion in arms to the Saudi National Guard to enhance Saudi security of the oil fields. The Guard is led by second Crown Prince Abdullah, a well known leading figure in the Muslim Brotherhood and long time challenger to first Crown Prince Fahd for the throne.

The United States, too, is according to Iranian sources beginning contact with the Iranian government over sending U.S. technical military advisors back into Iran.

The key question which still remains unanswered is just how the fragmented Iranian military will be put back together again. A reconstituted Iran military is key to the METO strategy and numerous Iranian watchers agree that the octagenarian Khomeini cannot rebuild the military. The London *Economist* this week names Admiral Madani, the former head of the Iranian Navy, and current governor of the oil rich Khuzistan region as a possible figure to seize the reins of power and reconstruct the military. Not only has London always maintained intimate ties with the Iranian Navy but it is the only branch of the military today which remains virtually intact following the revolution.

—Judith Wyer

## Iraqis blast U.S., Iran

Ath-Thawra, the government daily of Iraq, issued an attack on the Iranian government June 24 for its clandestine efforts to return U.S. military advisors, linking this move to the Camp David separate Mideast peace.

The official statements by Iranian officials in Tehran regarding the increasing need for U.S. military advisers have become something normal and no longer surprising or astonishing to the new rulers, despite the fact of their shouting declarations of “hostility” to U.S. imperialism....

Exposing the contradiction between the two stands—the extreme statements of hostility toward the United States on one hand, and the demand for greater U.S. presence on the other—needs no exceptional effort.

The Tehran rulers are trying in vain to prove their hostility toward imperialism, but at the same time are

stepping up their overt demand for bringing in more U.S. military advisors and experts as well as rearranging their treacherous alliance with the United States and the forces of treason headed by As-Sadat's regime, declaring their open hostility toward, and expansionist designs upon the Arab gulf, and encouraging the spirit of chauvinism and revenge against the Arab citizens in Arabistan.

Ath-Thawra, July 10, questions a budding alliance between Iran, Sudan and Oman:

Why is the Iranian regime strengthening its relation with the regimes of Qabus and Numayri which are known for their strong ties and connections with U.S. imperialist circles, particularly at a time when the Iranian regime is talking day and night about the “Revolution and the revolutionaries” and is insisting on fabricating disputes with and creating problems for Iraq in an attempt to preoccupy Iraq and divert its attention from fulfilling its pan-Arab responsibilities in confronting the constant imperialist-Zionist plot against the Arab nation?

## British and Iranian moves

*Iranian Ayatollah Shariatmadari called for an Egypt-Iran link. Below is the June 20 Teheran Domestic Service coverage of Shariatmadari's call to the Egyptian daily Al Ahram:*

Ayatollah Seyyed Kazem Shariatmadari in an interview with the Cairo newspaper *Al-Ahram* called on Egypt as an Islamic country to support Iran's struggle to prevent the infiltration of foreign and communist agents. Ayatollah Shariatmadari said: “Iran is disturbed by the maneuvers of the pro-Soviet government of Afghanistan against Iran. Ayatollah Shariatmadari called for cooperation between the Egyptian and Iranian mass media in exchanging news and information so that the Egyptian media may thereby reflect the views of the Iranian regime concerning the dangers threatening it.

*The London Sunday Telegraph reports on the Gulf states-British military relationship:*

In a speech, British defense Secretary Francis Pym announced that “several Arab countries in the area are keen on greater British involvement. This will have to be diplomatic and not military because of Britain's limited resources.” But “if there is a major change, military involvement might have to be reintroduced.”

Pym announced that the British navy will be making “more frequent” naval trips to the Gulf waters. He stated that during a recent trip to Washington he received requests from North Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman for more British involvement in the area.