

IRAN PRESS SERVICE

LONDON OFFICE
94 CORNWALL GDNS SW7 4AX
TEL 01-589 0825

PARIS OFFICE
TEL 331-367 8846

WASHINGTON OFFICE
PO Box 291, Arlington, Va.
Tel: 703-998-5211

BONN OFFICE
IPI, Pressehaus
1/21 Housse Alee
2/10 5300 Bonn 1
Tel: 228-214724

September 18, 1981

Issue No. 38

BP000575

T.V. offices.

The uprising was crushed ruthlessly and with a great deal of deception. First, (President) Bani-Sadr arrived in Tabriz with the promise to amend article 105 of the constitution, which gives Khomeini unlimited powers. He then asked the public to evacuate the T.V. offices and the airport. The people did so, but they held on to the headquarters of the Revolutionary Corps. Then, with the airport in their hands the Khomeini side brought in large numbers of armed men from Tehran, including some Palestinians, and in a sudden raid, captured the headquarters of the Revolutionary Corps and arrested some 700 members of the MPP, along with many air force and army officers. Madani was in charge of the operation, while Mussavi-Tabrizi, who has just succeeded assassinated Ali Qodussi as chief revolutionary prosecutor, acted as the judge at a series of mock trials which resulted in the killing of several hundred Tabrizis. The people of Tabriz subsequently nicknamed Madani Liakhov after a Russian general of the Soviet occupation force in the area early in the century. Madani and Mussavi-Tabrizi were also referred to as commanders of the "Arab occupation army."

The two men's presence in Tabriz was so vital that on two occasions Khomeini vetoed the appointment of Madani and Mussavi-Tabrizi to positions in Tehran. Now as fate would have it, Mussavi-Tabrizi is in Tehran to fill the vacancy created by Qodussi's killing, while Madani himself has been murdered. Ironically, Ayatollah Keshkini, who succeeds Madani in Tabriz, was himself regarded as persona non grata in Qom, where senior theologians had earlier demanded his defrocking and demotion.

It is rumored that the man who killed Ayatollah Madani was an employee of the Tabriz-based Mercedes Benz engine manufacturing plant, whose suicide mission was to avenge the execution earlier this month of plant manager Taher Shokrai.

Shokrai was in West Germany on a short visit early in the summer. Later on his return to Tabriz he was picked up by the revolutionary guards and taken to their headquarters. Nothing was heard from him for some time; then two weeks ago his name was mentioned along with the names of other people who were executed by firing squad. The people of Tabriz were shocked when they heard the news, and Shokrai's friends vowed to avenge his murder, reports say. People said that Mussavi-Tabrizi and Madani would pay for this murder. Madani was subsequently killed, but Mussavi-Tabrizi escaped.

The authorities have arrested Shokrai's German-born wife, but the fate of his two daughters in Iran is not known. Another daughter and a son are studying in the United States.

Since the killing of Madani the authorities have also arrested and killed Mohammad Moghadam Gazi, a prominent physician, on charges of complicity with Shokrai. But the charges against Shokrai have not yet been specified.

BAHAI REPORT "UNFAIR" TO LATE SHAH

A report published by the Bahai International Community on recent atrocities against Bahais in Iran has incensed many exile Iranians who have read it because of its implication of the late Shah's prejudice against the faith and "unfair" aspersions on the general mass of Iranians who lived in harmony with Bahais and people of other faiths.

The paragraphs complained of state: "Although a number of individual Bahais, because of their ability and integrity, were assigned by the former government to important posts in such fields as medicine, management and administration the Bahai community as a whole suffered a sustained and systematic discrimination throughout the Pahlavi regime. Repressive measures initiated by Reza Shah intensified by his son Mohammad Reza Shah and carried out by successive Pahlavi governments by means of discriminating legislation, ministerial decrees and the actions of government agencies such as SAVAK

deprived the Bahais of fundamental human rights, such as seeking employment as Bahais, and having reduced them to second class citizens laid the way open for violent attacks on the lives and properties of the Bahais by fanatical elements within the country."

This statement was described as a "typically craven" piece of ingratitude by Iranian Bahais to a man, in the late Shah, who gave members of their faith both opportunities and a degree of security which they had never known in Iran before.

"It is in the line of the criticisms of the late Shah by some of the multi-millionaires who gained their riches from either his patronage or his policies and promptly shipped them out of Iran, and of the professional people and students who went abroad on government grants or high salaries earned by their fathers, often only minor flunkies in ministries," a prominent Iranian journalist told IPS.

"And, also of the distasteful attempts of former Anglican Bishop Dehqani-Tafti to blame a Shah whose personal interest allowed many Christian churches to be built in Iran against pressure by mullahs and religious bigots, helped the churches financially, and encouraged the setting up of an ecumenical centre which began a tentative dialogue with a few senior mullahs. The Shah, in fact, created a wonderfully tolerant climate in Iran and now many of the beneficiaries--that is the Iranian ones, at least--are abusing him."

The unfortunate aspect of the new Bahai report as far as moderate Iranian Muslims are concerned is that the Shah's protection and promotion of Bahais to important positions was one of the most powerful criticisms made by the revolutionaries in 1978. Not only were there Bahai ministers but the Shah's personal physician was a Bahai, the chief of Iran Air since its inception was a Bahai in General Khadem, and there were many other powerful officials and industrialists who had considerable influence in the country. The accusation that they had more power than Muslims is still widely disseminated by the late Shah's opponents in Iran.

"The Bahais know all this, but with the same mindless disloyalty of other Iranians they have preferred to try to extract more sympathy from the world by denigrating the Shah and every Muslim Iranian as well as the mullahs who are horrifying the world by even burning Bahais to death," the journalist commented. "It is the same kind of exaggeration peddled by the university professors in Iran who said the Shah had killed tens of thousands of people during the revolution, just to get the world to sympathise more with them for losing their jobs and facing other oppressions under the present regime which they ushered in. Iranians just do not appreciate how these exaggerations not only lose them sympathy but also keep Iranians more and more divided."

A veteran Iranian diplomat who claimed close links with Bahai families in Iran told IPS that in the decade of the Shah's reign, when outbreaks of violence against Bahais were very rare and perpetrators were firmly dealt with, prominent Bahais accepted that politically it would be better to pursue a low profile policy over the status of the Bahai community in the country. Legislation to formalise the position of Bahais officially in public decrees could only be seen as tendentious by the clergy and could revive ill-feeling and even provoke violence, it was agreed, while Bahais experienced little or no pressure in their daily lives or at work.

This policy worked satisfactorily, the diplomat said, until the leftists as well as the religious fanatics joined in openly accusing the Shah of giving the Bahais too much responsibility in 1978. In society a more muted campaign attacked the Shah for his links with Bahais had been conducted by leftists even before that. It was seen as a useful way of trying to turn the devout mass of Muslims against the Shah. The monarch was also criticised by many bourgeois Muslims, still affected by the legacy of the anti-Bahai feelings always spread by extremist mullahs.

"The truth is," the diplomat said, "that the attacks on Bahais were always instigated by the clergy, and even the more 'official' attack on the Bahai temple in Tehran in 1955 was the work of military men who were influenced by the clergy. This is well known. To try to tar the late Shah with the same brush as the fanatical clergy seems a misguided attempt by Iranian Bahais to exploit the opprobrium which his opponents have so unjustifiably built up against him on so many counts just to get more sympathy for themselves. Humane Iranian Muslims are as angry and ashamed of what has been done to the Bahais in Iran in the last two years and in the past, as are non-Muslims. We would like that noted, too."

ISLAMIC REVOLUTION--OR AN EXERCISE IN TRICKERY by a special contributor.

Two years ago, when the Khomeini regime was only six months old and the mullahs were still working mostly behind the scenes, the then prime minister Mehdi Bazargan, brought in several mullahs as deputy ministers for his government.

The present Majlis speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, was made Deputy Minister of Interior and the present IRP secretary-general, Ali Khamenei, was made Deputy Minister of Defence. The appearance of turbanned figures behind their desks upset a lot of people; so much so, they began saying that the mullahs "have stolen our revolution."

Today the public mood inside Iran has changed dramatically. The word "revolution" is equated with "revolting" or "vomiting." Only the leftists and the mullahs, both on the fringes of Iranian society, still refer to the events of February 1979 as a revolution, while ordinary people call it "the great deception."

Enlarging on this theme, a recent publication, circulating clandestinely in Iran, has taken it on itself to explode the myth of revolution and its martyrs. The following excerpts are translated from the first chapter of the publication:

"The left, especially the Mojahedin, claim that they started the revolution, while Khomeini's turbanned gun-slingers counter-claim that the honour is theirs. I say that both are responsible for a social throw-up which has landed us in the present misery.

"I think the brain behind the operation was provided by an internationally-linked organisation which could draw on the 50 years of experience in agitation, creation of mob hysteria, character-assassination and terrorism gained in other revolutions in other parts of the world.

Then, the Islamic associations created by Beheshti and his gang gave it a distinctly Iranian flavour. It was clear that from the summer of 1978 we were witnessing a distinct Iranian flavour in the campaign organised by international terrorism. The provocation of the police, forcing them into opening fire on kids demonstrating in the street, had its Palestinian or Latin American mark. Then the chest-beating and weeping for the random victim, holding the traditional memorial services after one week and then 40 days, had a Shia Iranian colour.

"Later in the autumn of 1978 the mullahs were more active in enticing the people out. But the leftists too had their contribution in organising phony martyrs. On one occasion I saw a small crowd of school children harrassing some soldiers. But the soldiers, well-disciplined, refrained from opening fire. Then a shot was heard from the rear of the crowd and a young man fell. In next to no time an ambulance arrived. From the window of my office I clearly saw the face of the fallen youth, who was carried to the ambulance as the crowd shouted cries of "Allahu Akbar." The soldiers were nervous; the bystanders tricked into believing that a man had been killed, lost their control and began to shout abuse at the soldiers, telling them that they were brutal murderers. One woman in my office screamed and fainted as the ambulance

IRAN PRESS SERVICE

LONDON OFFICE
94 CORNWALL GDNS SW7 4AX
TEL 01-589 0625

PARIS OFFICE
TEL 331-367 8846

BONN OFFICE
IFI Pressehaus
1/21 Housse Alee
2/10 5300 Bonn 1
Tel: 228 214724

October 29, 1981

Issue No. 44

faith. This is contrary to principles of the faith which stipulate there is no coercion in faith.

Many Iranians now fear that through this scheme Khomeini and his henchmen will be able to introduce Marxist ideas and practices beneath a religious cover. This is a genuine fear because the Khomeini clique dominating the Majlis are either themselves deeply affected by Marxism or are opportunists who often try to be more radical than their arch enemies, the Mojahedin.

Leaflets distributed in Tehran last week accused Khomeini of destroying the last bastion against communism which is the Shi-ite "church."

"By deceit, treacher and genocide, you inflicted heavy blows to the institutions of monarchy and nationalism, one leaflet addressed to Khomeini said. "Now you have tried to destroy the foundations of faith through your inside agents, who wear turbans but are atheists and communists."

Meanwhile, it was reported that thousands of letters have been sent to Ayatollahs Golpayegani and Marashi-Najafi protesting at their support for the presidential elections and drawing their attention to the new move to centralise theological affairs in the Majlis, "which is dominated by corrupt, bloodthirsty and non-believing elements."

MORE IRANIAN DIPLOMATS RESIGN

The Islamic Foreign Ministry in Tehran sent a circular to all its embassies and diplomats abroad ordering them to supply information, including names and addresses, on all Bahais, counter-revolutionaries and "so-called students" residing in the areas of their missions.

A photocopy of the circular, signed by Javad Mansouri, deputy minister for cultural affairs at the ministry, has been received by IPS' Paris diplomatic correspondent. A source close to the Paris embassy of the Islamic republic who asked not to be identified confirmed the existence of such a circular.

The circular also orders that there should be no revalidating of passports of the groups mentioned.

The circular is among many other pressures on Iranian diplomats which have led to an accelerating rate of resignations among career diplomats at embassies abroad in recent weeks. According to informed sources in Tehran a total of 35 have given up their posts and sought political asylum from host countries so far. Two other non-career diplomats have also quit. Most of those who have resigned from their posts have done so at great risk to members of their families still living in Iran as well as considerable financial loss. Yet they say they were unable to continue serving under a regime which had no respect for even the most elementary norms of decent behaviour in the international field.

They generally specify their charges as follows:

1. The Khomeini regime has turned all its legations abroad into nests of espionage, as they used to call the U.S. Embassy. All staff are required to spy on Iranians living abroad, engage in propaganda activities and often take part in things like beating up other Iranians.
2. All staff are required to cooperate with intelligence cadres of Libyan, Algerian, North Yemeni and other so-called hardline countries' embassies. Most of these countries are ruled by regimes who also frequently ignore international law.

3. The regime has purged, dismissed and pensioned off almost 60 per cent of the administrative and diplomatic staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As a result, any official with more than 14 years of service has been forced out and replaced by unqualified, inexperienced and ignorant people who have been brought to the diplomatic service not on their merit or qualifications but because they are related to this or that mullah, or are members of the regime's spying apparatus. Diplomatic jobs are also given to students and other supporters of Khomeini as reward for services rendered, such as organising demonstrations or engaging in underhand jobs for the regime.

At one time, the present Iranian charge d'affaires in Pakistan was a maintenance worker repairing coolers. The job was a reward for his efforts in mobilising thousands of residents of South Tehran to take part in demonstrations for the regime. A well-known adventurist mullah, Nategh-Nouri, and a notorious turbaned gun-slinger named Hadi Ghaffari are said to be the managers of intelligence operations abroad for the mullahs, using diplomatic immunity as a cover. These two mullahs appoint their own aides as top officials in Iranian diplomatic missions abroad.

The defectors have also said that the Iranian Embassy in London houses some of the most notorious gun slingers of the Khomeini regime. The diplomats say many staff attached to the embassy in the British capital are former agitators who have been deported from the U.K. in the past for breaches of the peace. Now they have been brought back to London under new passports with diplomatic cover. In Paris, Bonn, West Berlin and Stockholm, too, most of the so-called accredited diplomats are former gang leaders of South Tehran who allied themselves with the Islamic Republican Party, the defecting diplomats say.

The hanging judge Saiegh Khalkhali is also keen on getting a foothold for himself in the embassies abroad. He has claimed that he has sent his gunmen to France to kill Bani-Sadr, Rajai and Spahpour Bakhtiar, and he has also claimed to the press that he has already placed some of his killers in diplomatic missions.

What has astonished the resigning diplomats is the way Western governments have tolerated acts of international terrorism by Khomeini, they say. One of them told IPS that during the Shah's reign Western journalists as well as human rights activists were magnifying often minor incidents, but now major crimes have been committed by the Khomeini regime and the same journalists have either ignored them or worse, tried to justify Khomeini's atrocities on grounds that he believes in what he is doing and that he has the support of the people.

EDUCATION SYSTEM BEING CORRUPTED, SAYS FORMER MINISTER

Iranian schoolchildren and students are being subjected to communist-style brain-washing as 10,000 so-called teachers who are agents of the regime have been sneaked into the education system, Mohammad Derakhshash, head of the Iranian Teachers' Association, now in exile in Paris, told IPS this week.

Held no less than seven times in the Shah's jails himself and minister of education in the government of Ali Amini in 1961 Derakhshash pointed to the fact that the killing of a single teacher, Dr. Khanali, in demonstrations in 1961 had caused so much reaction the Sharif-Emami government had resigned.

"The government resigned over the death of one teacher then, but today more than 50 people are killed in a day and nothing happens, nobody dares protest," he said. "Khomeini is leading Iran to violence, fratricide and revenge."

Derakhshash contended that the army and the educational system were the main targets of the Khomeini regime. Up to now 100,000 teachers, professors and students had either been expelled or even executed. And 70,000 schoolchildren had been denied the chance to take courses.

DE VIOLENTS ENGAGEMENTS ONT EU LIEU DANS LE KURDISTAN

Téhéran (A.F.P.). — Le maire de Boukan, en Azerbaïdjan occidental, a affirmé, dimanche 8 novembre, que « le gouvernement de République islamique ne perdra plus jamais sa souveraineté ferme totale » sur cette région. Celle-ci avait donné lieu, vendredi, à de violents affrontements qui ont fait plus de cent morts dans la population civile et chez les assaillants du parti démocratique kurde, du parti Komale (marxiste) et des Moudjahidin Khalq.

Les affrontements de Boukan, située sur la route stratégique nord-sud traversant les régions kurdes, témoignent d'un regain d'activité de la rébellion autonomiste, alors que les forces gouvernementales avaient affirmé contrôler toutes les villes. En outre, c'est la première fois que les Moudjahidin sont cités à l'occasion d'incidents dans cette région. En outre, alors que les communiqués militaires diffusés par l'armée et les Pasdaran font généralement de peu de pertes parmi les combattants de l'islam, l'annonce de soixante-douze morts ou blessés dans leurs rangs montre que la situation n'est pas sûre pour ces forces dans cette ville de 20 000 habitants, dont Téhéran avait annoncé la prise le 3 octobre.

Depuis la fin octobre, des attaques très nombreuses sont signalées de la part du P.D.K.I. et du Komaleh, qui aligneraient chacun entre cinq mille et dix mille guérilleros, mais seraient

assistés par de nombreux militaires. Ces attaques sont concentrées sur des villes comme Mahabad, Sardacht, Boukan, Piranchaahr et Mianabn et sont parfois menées à l'arme lourde. Des incidents très nombreux ont également eu lieu sur l'axe nord-sud qu'empruntent les convois gouvernementaux. Ces attaques pourraient s'intensifier en hiver, les guérilleros kurdes contrôlant alors plus aisément cette région montagneuse.

D'autre part, trois dirigeants de la secte Baha'i ont été récemment arrêtés à Téhéran et à Chiraz, et une opération d'« épuration » qui a touché quatre-vingt-quinze membres de cette secte a été entreprise aux usines Azadi, annonce ce lundi le journal République islamique. En outre, trois enseignants membres des « hypocrites » (Moudjahidin Khalq) ont été exécutés et cent sept autres ont été arrêtés au cours du mois dernier à Téhéran. a annoncé dimanche le journal Kayhan.

LIBERATION 9 NOVEMBRE 1981

Iran: Baha'i «épurés»

Trois dirigeants de la secte Baha'i ont été récemment arrêtés à Téhéran et à Chiraz et une opération d'« épuration » qui a touché 95 membres de cette secte a été entreprise aux usines « azadi », annonce lundi le journal « République islamique ». Les comités révolutionnaires qui ont arrêté les trois dirigeants, écrit le journal, ont affirmé avoir découvert à leurs domiciles « des livres sur la secte, des bandes enregistrées vulgaires, des cartes à jouer, des billets de banque de l'ancien régime et des photos des dirigeants de la secte ». « République islamique » indique d'autre part que la firme « Azadi » a été « épurée de l'existence impure de 95 éléments du sionisme qui n'avaient pas pu s'adapter à la révolution » et écrit que le directeur de la société s'est vivement félicité de cette « épuration ».

LE MONDE 10 NOVEMBRE 1981

Fièvre en Iran

Les vieux démons...

Ce n'est qu'une simple coïncidence. Mais elle a joué comme un véritable révélateur : il a suffi qu'un hebdomadaire britannique, le « Sunday Times », annonce le retrait de la scène politique de l'ayatollah Khomeiny avant le troisième anniversaire de la Révolution, en février prochain, pour que l'Iran, un peu oublié ces derniers temps, semble retrouver soudain tous ses vieux démons.

● Démons de la fièvre religieuse, avec la folle commémoration, par des centaines de milliers d'Iraniens, de la mort de Hussein, petit-fils de Mahomet et « père » du chiisme. Cris, flagellations, louanges délirantes à la gloire de Khomeiny et de l'ordre islamique, hurlements de colère contre Bani Sadr, contre les « hypocrites », contre les « corrompus sur la terre », contre l'Amérique, contre la France... Téhéran a montré samedi qu'elle n'avait rien perdu de ses réserves de foi et d'indignation.

● Démons de la guerre étrangère aussi, avec l'annonce de nouveaux combats contre l'ennemi irakien — sur mer, sur terre et dans les airs — et la publication de communiqués de victoire aussi fantaisistes que ceux lancés de Bagdad. De part et d'autre, on parle de dizaines ou de centaines de tués.

● Démons de la guerre civile enfin, avec, ici, l'exécution de dix-neuf « hypocrites » des « moudjahidines du peuple » et, là, l'arrestation ou l'« épuration » d'une cen-

taine de membres de la secte BAHAI. Avec, surtout, la reprise de combats meurtriers en Azerbaïdjan occidental, en plein pays kurde.



L'ayatollah Khomeini, leader des étudiants islamiques. Pour lui, le diable c'est Reagan.

Cette brutale flambée de violence au Kurdistan est, pour la République islamique, une très mauvaise surprise. Les autorités de Téhéran en effet ne cachent pas ces derniers temps leur satisfaction d'avoir mis en

pas la rébellion kurde. Et voilà que les troupes du P.D.K.I. (Parti démocratique kurde) mettent d'un seul coup hors de combat soixante-quatorze « gardiens de la révolution ». Le choc est d'autant plus grave pour le gouvernement iranien que les Kurdes étaient épaulés dans cette affaire — qui a fait des dizaines de victimes civiles — non seulement par leurs traditionnels alliés marxistes-léninistes mais encore, et c'est tout à fait nouveau, par les « moudjahidines du peuple ».

Tout se passe donc comme si les divers mouvements de résistance de la République islamique, jusque là isolés, cherchaient à puiser dans une union, tardive mais réelle, la force de bousculer enfin un dictateur octogénaire dont rien, hormis les indiscretions du « Sunday Times », n'annonçait le départ. De cette évolution, on verra un autre signe dans la toute récente adhésion, à Paris, du chef du P.D.K.I., M. Ghassem Loh, au Conseil de la résistance de Bani Sadr.

Patrick LE DANTEC.