

From this standpoint, the British intend to take advantage of the very fact of the appearance of a crazed White House in order to attempt to strengthen their own influence in continental Europe. Essentially, the British argument is that the "special relationship" between London and Washington will allow the British—whose Lord Carrington arrives in Washington this week—to represent the interests of all Europe in taming the American monster.

Thus, within the councils of the EEC the British have been arguing, albeit with questionable success, that they be allowed to become the arbiter and spokesman for Europe.

But along with the wreckage of American helicopters and C-130s on the Iranian desert is the wreckage of the painstakingly cultivated U.S.-British strategy for putting cumulative pressure on Western Europe. Whereas only last week the Europeans were caught up in a process of step-by-step capitulation to NATO, since the Iran events, the entire geometry of European politics has shifted. Which direction Paris and Bonn will now take is an open question.

U.S. command panicked and the escapade was called off.

According to one leading New York-based foreign policy adviser to several presidential administrations, "the only information that I have seen that makes any sense at all is that the mission was aborted because of an actual Soviet attack or because of the threat of such an attack."

A Washington-based expert on Iranian affairs provided the following account of the chain of events: "Once the Soviets got wind of the dimensions of the operation being launched inside Iran, they immediately began overflights into Iranian territory in the vicinity of the staging-ground. They sent MIG-25s up there as a warning. When our people realized what was going on, they panicked, they lost their nerve and called a retreat."

One well-informed oil industry source added an important twist to these accounts: "My information is that the Russians probably just blew the planes up. There was a Soviet air strike that wrecked the mission, that caused panic in the command. The Soviet action was not based on hostility to our getting the hostages out; that they can go along with. What they can't stomach is the dimensions of the operation that we mounted—especially with Zbigniew Brzezinski at the helm of American policy."

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## THE RESCUE RAID

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# Will Brzezinski try it once more?

The Carter administration's aborted raid into Iran last week has set the stage for gradually escalating, low-intensity operations in Iran and throughout the region, leading inexorably to a follow-up U.S. military adventure that could well trigger a cutoff of oil supplies and a full-blown military confrontation with the Soviet Union.

The first in this series of escalating incidents occurred early April 29, when U.S. Air Force fighter planes attacked an Iranian reconnaissance jet over the Gulf of Oman. Although the Pentagon denied the affair stating that the incident involved only a routine "shadowing" of the Iranian plane, the Iranians claimed that an altercation took place, with their air force successfully repulsing the U.S. jets.

National Security Council chief Zbigniew Brzezinski, the loose nut of the Carter administration, is the architect of Washington's suicidal policy to go to the brink—and beyond—in Iran in the interest of taking on the Soviets "once and for all." In a nationwide television interview April 27, Brzezinski made this all but official by announcing that an aggressive "long reach" policy would henceforth characterize America's posture abroad.

Brzezinski's Operation Long Reach is taking the dimension of the largest military buildup ever by the U.S. in the Indian Ocean-Arabian Sea theater. The U.S. aircraft carrier Forrester has entered the Indian Ocean area and, later in the week, the nuclear-powered carrier Eisenhower will also join the deployment, as the fourth aircraft carrier poised for action in the strategic Persian Gulf. A total of 44 warships are now positioned at the entrance to the Gulf and are reportedly assuming battle formations. In addition, U.S. Airborne troops are being airlifted into Bahrain and other "suitable areas."

In short, everything is primed for a showdown.

The Soviet armed forces newspaper *Red Star* has charged that the United States may try military actions in Iran again. Such actions "will inevitably lead to a further heightening of the danger of hostilities in the Middle East and a further aggravation of the international situation," the paper warned.

There is no doubt that the entire military operation into Iran, including its aftermath, is being coordinated tightly between Washington and the Teheran government. According to well-placed Paris-based intelligence sources, the April 24 "rescue attempt" was plotted in detail at a meeting in Paris of Iranian Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh and First Secretary Murphy of the U.S. Embassy in Paris. In addition, reports in the Syrian and other Arab-language press attest to the fact that U.S. government officials are conducting intensive, ongoing discussions with the Muslim Brotherhood, the secret society of Islamic fundamentalists behind Khomeini and related revivalist movements in the region.

According to Iraqi state radio, the U.S. attack was "play acting carried out in orchestration between Washington and Teheran." On April 25, when asked about rumors of prior coordination between the U.S. and Iranian officials such as Ghotbzadeh and Iranian President Bani-Sadr, White House Press Secretary Powell answered with a stony "no comment," thus causing CBS to speculate about the existence of a "fifth column" inside Iran. Sen. John Glenn stated explicitly that there must have been a "fifth column in or near the embassy that we have developed."

Coordination between the U.S. and Iran continues. Following the sabotage of the mission in which three helicopters "broke down," the Iranian air force rushed to bomb the U.S. helicopters and the disabled C-130 transport left behind by the Americans. The operation was carried out so fast that two Revolutionary Guards guarding the site were killed because they were not informed of the air force decision to bomb the planes.

The Iranians are now doing their utmost to create the climate for "Take 2" of the Iran invasion. Following the aborted raid, Ayatollah Khalkhali, the head of the Muslim Brotherhood in Iran (the very same Muslim Brotherhood with which the Carter administration is colluding) displayed the charred remains of the dead U.S. servicemen left behind. The display was part of a deliberate effort on the part of the Iranian leadership to play into Carter's attempts to rally the American population around a confrontationist course of action. In his most "anti-Iran" statement since the beginning of the crisis, President Carter "denounced" Khalkhali's actions as "ghoulish" and "horrible," saying, "This has aroused the disgust and contempt of the rest of the world and indicates quite clearly the kind of people we have been dealing with."

### **A short fuse to civil war**

Setting the stage for U.S. follow-up military action into Iran are a chain of violent incidents—all activated by the raid—that have placed Iran on the edge of civil

war. Last week, the first of a series of bomb explosions ripped through Teheran—the first such terrorist actions since the revolution. Several Revolutionary Guards at the U.S. embassy in Teheran were wounded by shots fired from a passing car. The incidents, a first for the capital, mark the degree to which Bani-Sadr and company are losing control over the deteriorating internal situation. Outside the capital, heavy fighting has erupted between anti-Khomeini Kurdish rebels and government forces, which are leveling the Kurdish provincial capital of Sanandaj in an attempt to crush the Kurdish resistance.

The U.S. raid into Iran and the threat of further action are serving to radicalize the entire region against the U.S. and into the arms of the Muslim Brotherhood. As a result of the raid, a number of Arab states are being forced by growing internal pressure from "anti-West" factions to become "more Muslim." The Kuwaiti daily *Al-Aqba* denounced the raid as a "blatant violation of a Moslem state's sovereignty." Expressing Saudi alienation as a result of the U.S. intervention, the Saudi daily *Madina* cited a recent statement by the Islamic Conference against the use of force in Iran or any Muslim country. What is significant about the *Madina* report is not so much the denunciation of the U.S. action but more the adoption of the Islamic Conference position since it is a front for the Muslim Brotherhood.

### **Iran conspires against its neighbors**

Taking ample advantage of the growing polarization in the area—a polarization viewed favorably and nurtured by Brzezinski as the number one weapon against the Soviets in the region—Ghotbzadeh embarked on a tour of the Arab world scarcely 48 hours after the aborted rescue mission. Ghotbzadeh's aim is to stir up Shiite Muslim Brotherhood militancy against moderate Arab leaders in the Gulf. His principal targets are the governments of Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

The operation against Iraq is particularly intense. Coinciding with Ghotbzadeh's Arab tour, Iran media launched a vicious propaganda campaign against Iraq, reporting as fact the outright lie that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had been killed in a coup d'etat. In a Damascus news conference, when Ghotbzadeh was told that the report had not been confirmed, Ghotbzadeh stated: "Hussein and his regime can go to hell."

Arriving in Kuwait, Ghotbzadeh became the "victim" of a phony assassination attempt, which he rapidly blamed on the Iraqis. The "proof" put forth by Ghotbzadeh that the Iraqis were involved was that a car, purportedly used by the would-be assassins, was found planted in front of the Iraqi embassy in Kuwait filled with arms!

The provocations against Iraq signal an imminent new round of Iran-Iraq clashes.