

1978—that optimal relations did not exist between Tripoli and Washington, at least at the political level, and that we had to try to improve relations. Finally one night Lianza said to me, “Our friend is ready to visit Libya, but he doesn’t know what he’s supposed to accomplish there.” I said to him, it could just be a friendship visit, and also to take advantage of his farming experience.

**Q:** How was the visit organized?

**A:** First I went to the U.S., and later, from Rome, came Gabriel Shallouf, an important Libyan diplomat. A month was taken up in agreeing on the itinerary of the visit and the composition of the delegation. Finally Billy, together with experts and his escort, arrived in Rome. We met at the Hilton, and immediately afterward left together for Tripoli. The Americans stayed in Libya for ten days. They visited all the agricultural works and drew up a long report. There were meetings at the American embassy and other manifestations of cordiality. The Libyan people were enthusiastic over the friendship of Billy Carter.

**Q:** Was there a meeting with Qaddafi?

**A:** I don’t know if there was an official one, but I think there was a discussion.

**Q:** And President Carter?

**A:** Naturally he was informed of everything.

**Q:** Everything ended there?

**A:** No. A Libyan delegation led by Foreign Minister Hamed Shahati stayed two months in the U.S. in an exchange visit. Billy always accompanied the delegation. Another relationship developed, and he urged the Libyans to purchase machinery and cement.

**Q:** And at the end did he receive compensation?

**A:** A very modest compensation, which he absolutely did not want to accept. I had to recite to him verses from the Koran to convince him and he, the poor guy, finally accepted, partly because for three months he had neglected his own affairs.

**Q:** Who leaked the whole thing?

**A:** It was Mario Lianza in an interview to an American newspaper. Then the Zionists mounted a scandal. They had already protested during the U.S. visit of the Libyan delegation. Libya, as is known, is favorable to the Palestinians, and this issue too had been the subject of a discussion with Billy Carter, just as many other issues had been discussed. But this is old news dredged up to create difficulties for the American President. I am sure, however, that [Jimmy] Carter will deal with it very well. At bottom, what harm was there?

# Savama agents in Washington

by Robert Dreyfuss

Evidence pieced together since the murder of Ali Akbar Tabatabai, the anti-Khomeini Iranian who chaired the Iran Freedom Foundation, has uncovered the existence of a semi-official network of Iran secret police agents in the United States. The assassination of Tabatabai, according to numerous Iranian sources, was ordered by the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran, and it was carried out by Savama, the highly secret intelligence organization of Khomeini’s regime.

The ringleader of Savama in the United States, according to Iranian sources, is Dr. Cyrus Hashemi of 9 West 57th Street in New York City. Along with his brother Reza Hashemi, Cyrus Hashemi—who is president of the First Gulf Bank and Trust, Ltd.—controls a network of businesses that include International Intertrade, the Arabian Trading Co., ITC Ltd., the First Arabian Bank and Trust, and others.

Hashemi, who has told NSIPS that he is an associate and close adviser to Iran’s President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, is also a friend of Dr. Ibrahim Yazdi, the U.S. citizen who served as Iran’s foreign minister in 1979, and who is presently an intelligence adviser to Ayatollah Khomeini. In 1979, Yazdi reportedly asked Hashemi to become Iran’s commerce minister, although he did not take the post.

According to Iranian sources, Hashemi is the chief organizer of Savama in the United States. Among his responsibilities is the provision of funds to Savama fronts in the United States via branches of his corporate entities in the Bahamas, Western Europe, and the Persian Gulf. In addition, Hashemi is also responsible for providing the Khomeini regime with counterintelligence on the activities of anti-Khomeini groups in the United States, and as such Hashemi would have had direct responsibility for monitoring the work of Tabatabai and the Iran Freedom Foundation.

For this purpose, Hashemi has reportedly hired Captain Siamak Dayhimi, a former fleet commander with the Iranian navy, who is not on leave from Khomeini’s armed forces, and who is still being paid a salary by Iran. Captain Dayhimi is the specialist assigned to gather information and monitor the activities

of anti-Khomeini émigrés, in particular those in the military area. Dayhimi shuttles back and forth from New York to Rome, where he is involved in talks with "certain Italian agencies" on supplying Iran with spare parts for its army, according to Iranians here.

Hashemi also reportedly funds directly the work of a prime suspect in the assassination of Tabatabai, Bahram Nahidian, whose Washington-based Islamic House was the last known residence of the suspected assassin, David Belfield. Hashemi and Dayhimi maintain close links with Admiral Kamal Habibollahi, the former commander of the Iranian navy.

### **The Huyser link**

It was, Iranian sources say, Admiral Habibollahi who was a top collaborator of NATO General Robert Huyser of the U.S. Air Force, whose mission to Iran in January 1979 prevented the Iranian armed forces from staging a coup against Ayatollah Khomeini. Habibollahi was also reportedly the source of information that tipped off the Khomeini regime to an attempted coup d'état last week by military supporters of exiled Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar.

Working with Hashemi are two brothers who act as official but second-level Savama operatives, the Sadjadi brothers, one of whom is a diplomat in the Iranian Interests Section of the Algerian embassy in Washington, D.C., and the other of whom is located in Los Angeles. Hashemi is also close to the leadership of the Indiana-based Muslim Student Association (MSA), which is the U.S. branch of the Muslim Brotherhood secret society. In Iran the head of the Muslim Brotherhood is Ayatollah Khalkhali, the executioner who heads the Fedayeen-e Islam.

Bahram Nahidian, alias Abolfazel Nahidian, a Washington, D.C.-based Iranian "rug merchant" whom *EIR* has previously identified as the Washington, D.C. station chief for the Savama, is directly implicated in the July 22 assassination of Iranian Freedom Foundation director Ali Akbar Tabatabai. The connection is directly through one of the assassins—Daoud Salahuddin, alias David Belfield—who at the time of the assassination resided at a terrorist safehouse operated by Nahidian, and who has been positively identified as Nahidian's personal bodyguard.

### **Nahidian's terrorist cells**

Nahidian's Savama role, as well as his recruiting, training, and arming of Iranian student and terrorist networks in the United States, have been known to federal agencies and to the public since at least January 1980. One incident which became public involved \$700,000 which Nahidian brought from Iran (laundered through his rug business) to finance the purchase of

armaments. Nahidian also ran a safehouse located at 5714 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C., calling it an Islamic teaching center.

The connection between Nahidian and assassin Salahuddin/Belfield was publicly known no later than November 4, 1979, when Salahuddin and Nahidian's son were arrested together at a protest takeover of the Statue of Liberty in New York. Nahidian's son, Abdullah Nahidian, is the head of the Muslim Student Association in Washington, D.C. At the time, sources identified Bahram Nahidian as the controller of the takeover, as well as of a simultaneous takeover of the Washington Monument.

The group involved in both these actions was renamed the Islamic Guerrilla Army in early January 1980; it then issued a series of communiqués threatening to "kill enemies of the Iranian Revolution" in America. At least one member of this Islamic Guerrilla Army, Fred Hanks, was identified as a member of the Maoist Revolutionary Communist Party. He had traveled to Iran for training on at least one occasion.

By May 1980 it was publicly revealed that Nahidian had launched a recruiting drive into black organizations and among black prisoners in the United States. Sources also reported weapons training camps in the state of Virginia run by Nahidian in connection with Black Muslim sects.

### **U.S. Naval Intelligence and the Setoudeh operation**

It has been established that Nahidian was in close and regular contact with Captain Siavash Setoudeh, the military attaché of the Iranian embassy who, until late December 1979, actually conducted his daily business at the Washington offices of the U.S. Office of Naval Research (ONR), under the supervision of U.S. military personnel and assisted by a 16-man team of Iranian terrorist controllers and gun-runners. New Solidarity International Press Service, which exposed this scandalous collusion between the Iranian embassy and the Pentagon last December, learned during its investigation that Setoudeh—by his own admission—coordinated student activities at over 40 American universities where Iranian students are enrolled. At each such university, said Setoudeh, "there is a military liaison officer." (The full story on Capt. Setoudeh and the U.S. Office of Naval Research is in *Executive Intelligence Review*, Vol. 7, No. 1, Jan. 8, 1980.)

Additional information has begun to document Nahidian's extensive contacts in the Khomeini regime, and the depth of his involvement with the Iranian "student" terrorist movement simultaneously inside Iran and in the United States, as well as his connections to international dirty money.

It has now been documented that Nahidian had official relations with the Iranian ambassador to the United States, in court documents obtained from Fairfax County, Virginia, relating to the March 1979 incorporation of "Research and Publications Inc." (which publishes a rabid pro-Khomeini journal entitled *Islamic Revolution*), as a nonprofit publishing company based in Falls Church, Va.

The documents list the director of this corporation as Ali Agha—who at the time served as Iran's ambassador to the United States, and retained that position until the United States expelled Iran's diplomats in the spring of 1980. On the board of directors of Research and Publications Inc. was Kawkab Siddique, a founding member of the Muslim Student Association. And a second Fairfax County court document, dated June 5, 1979, recorded that the "registered office" of Research and Publications Inc. was located at premises at 2046 Kirby Rd., McLean, Va. owned by Bahram Nahidian.

Back in Iran, to which Nahidian made frequent "rug-buying" excursions, he was particularly close to former Foreign Minister Ibrahim Yazdi, an American citizen who is presently an intelligence adviser to Khomeini; to Shahriar Rouhani, Yazdi's son-in-law; and to Nasser Minachi, the Minister of National Guidance, with whom Nahidian frequently speaks by phone.

After the takeover of the U.S. embassy in Teheran and seizure of the American hostages, Nahidian was in daily telephone contact with the students holding the embassy, according to the *Washington Post*.

## Congressmen demand answers

*The following appeared in the Congressional Record on July 24:*

Yesterday 19 of my colleagues joined with me [Rep. Larry MacDonald (R-Ga.)] in asking the Attorney General to immediately initiate an investigation into Iranian terrorism in Washington, D.C.

"Dear Mr. Attorney General:

With the murder of former Iranian diplomat Ali Akbar Tabatabai on July 22 by a group evidencing terrorist training and support by their modus operandi we must urge Department of Justice and the FBI to provide us with reports on the activities of pro-Khomeini

terrorists and terrorist support groups presently active in the United States. . . . It also creates a threat to the national security of the U.S. Responsibility for preventing terrorist attacks rests with you as Attorney General and with your department.

Specifically we wish to be informed on:

1. The activities on behalf of the government of Iran and/or Khomeini or any other Iranian principals of Bahrain Nahidian of 2046 Kirby Rd., McLean, Va., and whether any action has been taken against him under the foreign agents registration act or any other federal law.

2. The activities of Bahrain Nahidian in relation to the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C.: his attempts to coerce the leadership of that center by force and his use of that religious institution to cloak political activities of a nature inimical to the interests of the United States.

3. The activities of Nahidian and his associates to recruit support among Muslims and other prisoners in Lorton Reformatory and in other local and state prisons in other parts of the United States.

4. Information related to contacts and meetings between Nahidian and members and former members of revolutionary groups' activities in Washington, D.C., together with known reports of weapons owned or stored by Nahidian.

5. The activities of the Iranian Student Association and its fronts and splinter groups including the organization known as the Islamic Guerrilla Organization possibly based in Moscow, Idaho.

6. The activities of revolutionary groups in the United States supporting the activities of the Islamic Student Association including but not confined to the support provided by the Workers World Party, the Socialist Workers Party, the Communist Party USA, the Communist Party Marxist-Leninist, and the Revolutionary Communist Party.

7. The activities of persons serving as diplomats for the governments of Afghanistan and Libya in support of groups in 4 and 5.

8. The activities of diplomats accredited to the United Nations representing the governments of Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, and representatives of the Organization of Arab States and the Palestine Liberation Organization in supporting financially and logistically the activities of the groups listed in 4 and 5."

They demand response by July 31.

Letter done by Larry MacDonald [and Senators and Representatives] Rousselot, Mendel Davis, Benjamin Gilman, Ashbrook, Kindness, Elden, Rodd Sonny Montgomery, Guyer, Don Crane, Collins, Hubbard, Don Young, Danmeier, Ron Paul, Lester Wolff, Phil Crane, Devine, R. Shelby, Robinson.