

Middle East Report by Robert Dreyfuss

Khomeini exports reign of terror

Hit squads, funding, and orders are in place for assassinations and insurgencies abroad.

The extensive publicity given to the back-and-forth between the Carter administration and the Khomeini regime over the American hostages and the arrested Iranian students in the U.S. has shielded from the public view a much uglier reality now unfolding in Iran. The leaders of Iran's government are concretizing advanced plans for the "export" of Iran's "Islamic Revolution," and are not hiding their intent to murder heads of state and prominent citizens in the United States, France, and throughout the Arab world to accomplish that purpose.

On July 21, Jallaledin Farsi, candidate for the premiership of the Islamic Republican Party (IRP), informed the Teheran newspaper *Keyhan* that he had given marching orders to a group of fanatics called the "Guardians of Islam" to kill leading opposition figures such as Shahpour Bakhtiar, who is in exile in France. "They asked me, and I signified that I approved of their action," Farsi told *Keyhan*. "I know some of them, and their leaders too, and I told them: 'Kill them whenever you find them, whether in France, Germany or America.'"

The Guardians of Islam, Farsi stated, "are a group that believe in a sort of Islamic internationalism in action, and they aspire to be the guardians of Islam the world over. Some of them come from Teheran, while some of their supporters are from other Middle East countries.

... They have no doubt decided to destroy the enemies of the Islamic revolution wherever they are."

This is hardly a street-corner ayatollah babbling; Farsi's Islamic Republican Party holds 75 percent of the seats in Iran's Parliament, and he may be chosen as Iran's premier in the next few weeks.

A leading Iran-watcher in the Anglo-American intelligence community forecasts that Farsi's appointment will be accompanied by the formation of a "cabinet of wall-to-wall hardliners controlled by IRP head Ayatollah Beheshti" and by the political demotion of "Western-trained intellectuals like President Bani-Sadr." Once this happens, he commented, "there's no question they'll export the revolution into the Gulf. They'll step up their intervention into Afghanistan more vigorous. They'll step up their intervention into Iraq, into Lebanon. By the end of this summer, you'll see more action like this. Some of it will be guerrilla infiltration into other countries, especially Iraq; they've already tried to assassinate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein three times."

A foretaste came in an Aug. 5 speech at a Teheran mass meeting by IRP Parliament member Fakhredin Hijari. Whipping the crowd into a frenzy about the plight of the detained Iranian students in the U.S., Hijari warned that Iran will soon "strike at the oil fields by blocking the Straits of Hormuz"

through which much of the world's oil flows daily. This "revolutionary action," Hijari declared, "will entirely destroy the U.S. economy."

The IRP ayatollahs are setting the "export-the-revolution" psychosis in motion by creating a mood of unprecedented anti-American rage. "There is more anti-Americanism in Iran than ever before," a U.S. Jesuit-linked source sympathetic to Khomeini commented after returning from Teheran Aug. 3 . . . They even gave me a hard time, and that's never happened."

Four other factors are abetting the ayatollahs' policy. Beheshti and Ayatollah Khalkhali (a former mental patient) are receiving extensive material aid from Libya's Colonel Qaddafi, sources report. Qaddafi's plan for worldwide "Peoples' revolutions" neatly complements the ayatollah's schemes.

Second, Israel's annexation of Jerusalem has provided a new pretext for organizing mob psychosis. "Israel has given Iran quite a card to play," an Iranian exile source noted ruefully.

Third, Iran's hit-team capacity is under the coordination of the highly efficient General Fardoust, a former director of Savak secret service. Fardoust, Iranian sources report, was in the U.S. last week to arrange arms purchases and to mobilize hit squads.

Finally, Iran's internal situation is evolving so fast that external "diversions" have become the only way to keep the population organized. A July 31 account in Switzerland's *Journal de Genève* daily report that Iran's mobs are exhorted each day on the state radio: "Destroy. Destroy again. You will never destroy too much."