

## Middle East Report by Robert Dreyfuss

### The Israel-Iran military axis

*It involves a British scheme for creating a military "Third Force" in the Persian Gulf.*

For the first time, officials of the Israeli government have publicly confirmed what *EIR* has been charging for two years: that the regime of Israel's Menachem Begin is arming the Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic Republic.

The British Broadcasting Corporation "Panorama" program on Feb. 1 documented in detail how Israel supplies arms to Khomeini's Iran. A number of Israeli officials participated in the program, including a reputed high-level official of Israeli intelligence (Mossad), David Kimche. None denied the claims.

The program made the case that Israeli arms shipments to Iran were made in order to strengthen the anti-Khomeini forces within the Iranian military. In fact, the alliance is actually aimed at Saudi Arabia and the Arab gulf states. *EIR* talked with David Kimche's brother, Jon Kimche, editor of the *Afro-Arab Report*, in London just after the Panorama broadcast. Kimche volunteered that the Iran-Israel axis was the most important factor in the Mideast today. He further made it clear that the Mossad's widespread penetration of both Iran and U.S. policy-making was more important in bringing Khomeini to power than Islamic fundamentalist ideology. "There has been a lot of exaggeration over the Iranian Islamic fundamentalists and the way they seized power. It was only an accident that they succeeded, and

that was only because the Americans pulled out on Iran," Kimche said, adding, "at the right time" the Iranian military will probably oust Khomeini once Iraq were defeated by Iran in their 16-month-old war.

On Jan. 31 Patrick Seale wrote in the London *Observer* that the Israeli-Iran alliance is now well known, and its purpose is to "demoralize Iraq and other Arabs." Seale reports that since Iran escalated its offensive against Iraq in November, Israel has commenced provocative overflights of Iraqi territory and is violating both Jordanian and Saudi airspace in the process, creating an "Arab nightmare of being caught between an increasingly confident Iran and Begin."

A well-informed U.S. military strategist told *EIR* that Israel has been arming the Iranians "consistently" since the outbreak of the war in order to "wear down the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and eventually topple him." Last week Khomeini vowed that Iran was militarily strong and would not stop fighting until Hussein was ousted.

Not only is Begin militarily backing Iran's war against Iraq, but Iran and Israel are working together to incite the Kurdish rebels in Northern Iraq, adding to the drain on Iraq's military.

But the Israeli-Iran strategy extends beyond ousting the Hussein regime. A Georgetown University professor with close ties to the Arab

left says that Iran intends to capture Iraqi territory at the head of the Persian Gulf in the contested Shatt al-Arab region. In so doing, "Iran will shift the balance of power in the Gulf by asserting itself as the superior military force."

Iran and Israel are, wittingly or otherwise, serving the strategic design of Britain's Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington to forge a military alliance among the six Arab states of the Persian Gulf through the newly established Gulf Cooperation Committee (GCC). According to Carrington's calculations, an Iranian victory over Iraq, including seizure of territory on the "Arab" side of the Persian Gulf, would impel the Arab states into a military alliance and overcome the Saudis' resistance to such an alliance.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig is reportedly working on the same policy track as Carrington and is using his influence to swing the Pakistanis to provide pilots and maintenance for the Gulf states' air force. At the Jan. 27 GCC Defense Ministers' meeting, a resolution was passed to study proposals to build an "indigenous" Rapid Deployment Force for the GCC.

A Gulf RDF is an integral part of Carrington's so-called Third Way doctrine, which aims at undercutting the military and economic power of both the United States and the U.S.S.R. In intelligence circles, it is no secret that London opposed the sale of AWACS radar planes to Saudi Arabia, because it affirmed strong U.S.-Saudi ties. By cashing in on the actions of the Iran-Israel axis, London now hopes to break the Saudis from the United States by forging a Gulf alliance which pledges "neutrality" with respect to the superpowers.