

## Middle East Report by Mark Burdman

### British penetration in the Gulf

*British intelligence is aiming to bring about "behavior changes" which augur badly for U.S. interests.*

**F**rom a growing base of operations in the kingdoms and emirates of the Arab Gulf, Britain's Secret Intelligence Services (SIS) continue to seek to restructure the internal and external political alignments of that region in a manner potentially highly disadvantageous to the United States.

In a recent discussion with *EIR*, a high-level officer in the British armed forces who now directs a leading London strategic institute made the following suggestive admission about the United Kingdom's operational status in the Gulf: "It's not the kind of description that I would want written down, but what in fact has happened is that the British have penetrated very deeply into the day-to-day management levels of the military and diplomatic world of the Gulf. We have to press forward in this regard."

The London-based strategist singled out the activities of the six-member-state Gulf Coordination Council, (GCC) formed soon after the Khomeini destabilization in Iran, as the vehicle through which British dirty tricks are run into wider areas of the Gulf and the Middle East. "The GCC is based on countries banding together out of mutual fear of Iran," he explained. "The GCC intends to be independent of America, especially in the context of the mood of anti-Americanism now existing in the region. In this arrangement, the British play a key advisory role, a role that is not advertised. The idea is to push the Arabs to the forefront and make it appear that it is all their doing."

The operations run through the

GCC and associated networks into Iraq and Iran give the British enormous blackmail capabilities aimed particularly at Saudi Arabia and at the strategic Saudi-American relationship. With enough such pressure, the British hope to engineer into power in Saudi Arabia the faction associated with the radical Crown Prince Abdullah, and to program Saudi Arabia into a "neither-East-nor-West third way" posture and a low-oil-production and slow-growth policy.

Operationally, the British are working inside Saudi Arabia primarily through Abdullah, second in the kingdom and head of the Bedouin-based National Guards and border units. Abdullah advocates reducing oil production to about 3 million barrels a day, from previous levels of 10 million barrels a day, and has grown in influence since the Saudis have been forced by the British-managed world economic crisis and the British oil companies' dumping of oil stocks to lower production to the perilously low levels of 5.5 million bpd.

The story of lowered Saudi oil production may as well have something to do with the "accommodation" to Iran indicated by the above-mentioned British strategist. Sources say the Saudis have been involved in little-publicized behind-the-scenes discussions with Khomeini's Iran, during which agreements have reportedly been reached for lowered Saudi production and raised Iranian production, as well as Saudi payment of war damages to Iran caused by the war with Iraq. One of the individuals re-

sponsible for contacts with Iran in Saudi Arabia is reportedly Maarouf Dawalibi, head of the World Muslim Congress and the Malthusian "Islam and the West" organization for the Arab world. Dawalibi would be of the same pro-British faction inside Saudi Arabia as its Crown Prince Abdullah.

A member of the still-extant British "Arab Bureau" grouping in London put forth the prevailing London viewpoint: "The so-called moderate Arab states are doomed. The seeds of destruction are automatically being sown, as long as they can't bring to bear in an effective way their influence on the United States to do something to stop Israel. Look at the recent 50,000-person anti-American demonstrations in Kuwait. These are the first of such a magnitude since 1956, and look at all the calls for anti-American sanctions, breaks in diplomatic relations with the U.S. and all this crazy stuff! Expect a rise of Libyan-style Arab nationalism throughout the region; I wouldn't be surprised to see a nut-case from the Saudi Air Force topple the regime. Even if regimes are not overthrown, they will have to undergo notable behavior changes to survive."

This is the kind of strategy developed in the heart of British intelligence, the Tavistock Institute for Human Relations. In this case, the British-spread propaganda that the United States is behind the Israeli assault into Lebanon and the ongoing Khomeini threat is being used to force the desired changes in action.

Sir John Wilton, a former British ambassador to Saudi Arabia, told *EIR* recently that he expects to see "drastic action" against the United States from the Gulf states, including "moving capital out of the United States, stopping investments there, and eventually using the oil weapon."