

EIR's record: how we called the shots

For the past seven years, EIR has documented in exhaustive detail the role of the Carter administration, and then the Reagan administration, in supplying arms and other support to the Iranian regime of Ayatollah Khomeini. The policy began with Zbigniew Brzezinski's idea of playing the "Islamic fundamentalist card" against the Soviet Union—a scheme which led to the overthrow of the Shah and the installation of Khomeini and his Moscow-trained mullahs, all accomplished with the assistance of the U.S. State Department. The following are excerpts from our coverage:

Jan. 8-14, 1986: "It has recently become obvious that U.S. National Security Council Director Zbigniew Brzezinski has been sold on the idea that Muslim fundamentalism, if properly guided, can be useful to Anglo-American strategy as a 'bulwark against Communism.'"

Jan. 8-14, 1980: "With the full knowledge of the Carter administration, the [Iranian] military attaché, Captain Siavash Setoudeh and his staff conducted their affairs at the ONR [Office of Naval Research] building at 800 North Quincy Street in Arlington, Virginia. Within this highly sensitive facility . . . Captain Setoudeh . . . and a dozen other military agents of Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic Republic of Iran all operate in coordination with U.S. naval intelligence and with the approval of Zbigniew Brzezinski's National Security Council. . . . Setoudeh and his colleagues are engaged in arms smuggling, gun-running, and conduiting weapons to terrorist units. . . . [Setoudeh] has not been asked to leave the country despite an order from the White House in early December expelling the bulk of Iranian diplomatic personnel, and reporters who have sought to inquire about the case are being turned away with a wall of official silence about the matter. . . . It is now believed that the White House and the Pentagon are afraid that any investigation into the matter of Capt. Setoudeh would expose the secret collaboration between Brzezinski, Haig, and the Muslim Brotherhood in Iran beginning in 1978."

Aug. 12, 1980: "The scandal around Billy Carter's 'Libya connection' goes far beyond a mere indiscretion by the President's brother. In fact, the issue raised by the Billy

Carter affair is the issue of the Carter administration's deliberate alliance with the Muslim fundamentalist movement. In 1977, President Carter lent U.S. power to the movement launched one year earlier by British intelligence to topple the Shah of Iran and to install Ayatollah Khomeini in Teheran. Since then, Carter has armed and trained the Iranian military . . . [and] given free rein to terrorists in the employ of the Khomeini regime to wage war-by-assassination on the soil of the United States. . . .

"Over three months ago, the *EIR* exposed in print the activities of Bahram Nahidian, the leading Washington representative of the Iranian secret police Savama, and David Belfield, a Nahidian protégé from the American Black Muslim circles. . . . Because this information was not used by the authorities, [Ali Akbar] Tabatabai is now dead and Belfield is being hunted as his assassin. . . . According to police sources, the U.S. Department of Justice and the CIA are protecting Nahidian from being arrested on grounds of 'national security.'"

Aug. 12, 1980: "According to U.S. intelligence sources and high-level diplomatic informants, the White House is negotiating the deal with the Muslim Brotherhood mullahs that run Iran in order to boost Carter's bid for renomination. In exchange, Carter and Zbigniew Brzezinski have agreed that the Carter administration will look the other way as Khomeini dispatches teams of the Savama . . . to the United States to physically eliminate opponents of the Khomeini regime.

"Under the direction of Zbigniew Brzezinski, the Carter regime established a formal alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood secret society, a paramilitary organization of fanatics with branches in Iran and nearly every other Muslim country, often with sympathizers at the highest levels of government. After Camp David in 1978, the U.S., Egyptian, and Israeli secret services entered into a secret accord to forge a working alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood. Immediately afterward, under the direction of NSC special agent George Ball, the Carter administration supported and encouraged the Islamic revolution that toppled the Shah."

Aug. 12, 1980: "High-level U.S. intelligence sources, exiled Iranian political leaders, and officers of a Washington, D.C. police intelligence unit have each independently charged Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti with covering up for the assassins of Ali Akbar Tabatabai. . . . This obstruction of justice by a U.S. Attorney General was allegedly committed to protect a political 'deal' whereby Iran would release the 51 American hostages."

Aug. 12, 1980: "The ringleader of Savama in the United States . . . is Dr. Cyrus Hashemi . . . 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. . . . Hashemi also reportedly funds directly the work of a prime suspect in the assassination of

Tabatabai, Bahram Nahidian.”

Sept. 23, 1980: “It is a matter of public record that Brzezinski’s NSC in fall 1978 secured the services of George Ball to conduct a top-secret official task force on the crisis in Iran and . . . that Ball’s task force recommended that the United States abandon the Shah and throw its unequivocal support behind the Khomeini-led opposition. . . . During this period, Brzezinski commissioned a special team of the Special Coordinating Committee of the NSC to prepare a worldwide study of the potential for an alliance between the United States and Islamic fundamentalism throughout the so-called ‘arc of crisis,’ a term coined by Brzezinski in December 1978.”

Nov. 4, 1980: “In recent days, Carter and Secretary of State Ed Muskie have declared that the United States is prepared to send weapons and spare parts to the aid of Khomeini’s terrorist clique if the hostages are freed. . . . Reagan yesterday blasted Carter . . . for having let the hostages languish. . . . Because key elements in the Reagan camp, such as Henry Kissinger and David Rockefeller, were themselves directly involved in the conspiracy to seize the hostages, it is certain that Reagan will not raise the real issues of the Tehran crisis unless he breaks with the Kissinger-Rockefeller faction.”

Sept. 22, 1981: “Prominent Reagan advisers once criticized Carter and Co. for supporting Khomeini. The very same Reagan advisers are now arguing that American support for the ‘Islamic Republic’ is required to halt the Soviet advance in the region. Some opponents of the ‘Muslim card,’ such as former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Robert Neumann, have even been summarily dismissed from their posts by Secretary of State Alexander Haig.”

March 16, 1982: “U.S. and NATO weaponry is being channeled into Iran through transshipment points in Israel, Brazil, and certain Persian Gulf sheikhdoms. . . . In the United States, the military procurement effort for Iran is being led by Commander Firuz Davari, . . . who previously served as Iran’s military purchasing agent in London for two years and maintained links to the black market arms traffickers in London and Switzerland. . . . Davari is reportedly in league with banker Cyrus Hashemi, an Iranian Khomeini loyalist. . . . During 1980, it was reported that Hashemi was a secret intermediary for relations between Khomeini and the Carter administration.”

March 16, 1982: “During the negotiations over the American hostages being held by the Khomeini regimes, Hashemi is reported to have met at various times with officials of the State Department and the National Security Council. On the day after the release of the hostages, Hashemi appeared on NBC-TV with his friend David Mizrahi. Hashemi was described as a ‘top adviser to the government in Teheran’ who was involved in the hostage negotiations. Ask the State Department about Hashemi today, and you will still

be told that the information is classified for national security reasons. . . . Hashemi is identified in Iranian government documents as the official representative of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee in New York.”

March 29, 1983: “On March 7 . . . explosive affidavits were filed in response to subpoenas issued in the case of *Hashemi v. Campaigner Publications, et al.* . . . The subpoenas . . . sought any government files pertaining to Hashemi’s and Nahidian’s reported involvement in illegal activities in the United States. . . . Although three government agencies admitted to the existence of relevant documents, disclosure of these files was refused on grounds of ‘state secret privilege’ and national security classification. These three agencies are the FBI, CIA, and National Security Agency (NSA). . . . The thickest wall was thrown up by the FBI and the Department of Justice, which not only have classified all their documents concerning Hashemi and Nahidian, but even classified the affidavits which stated their claims of privilege!”

Aug. 2, 1983: “New evidence has just been disclosed which confirms that the Carter administration was providing covert protection to Iranian arms dealers and terrorists in hopes of securing a politically favorable release of the U.S. hostages during the 1980 election campaign. . . . Declassified CIA documents confirm *EIR*’s earlier charges that the Carter administration and the FBI were responsible for massive cover-up of the 1980 assassination of a prominent anti-Khomeini spokesman.”

Dec. 25, 1984: “The FBI has ‘lost,’ or ‘misplaced,’ the wire-tapped conversations between convicted gun-runner and terrorist-bankroller Cyrus Hashemi and the former chief of the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division under the Nixon and Ford administrations, J. Stanley Pottinger. . . . These tapes would prove conclusively that the cover-up of one of the most massive gun-and-drug dealing operations, under orders from Zbigniew Brzezinski and the State Department, is still protected by the FBI.”

Aug. 16, 1985: “A series of indictments and arrests in recent weeks and months, involving illegal exports of arms and spare parts to Iran, signals the breaking up of a widespread arms-smuggling ring which developed under the protection of the Carter administration. . . . The arms smuggling network . . . involves a secret arrangement with the Israeli Mossad faction linked to Ariel Sharon which has allowed the Mossad to conduct extensive penetration of U.S. military agencies. Secret accords negotiated as part of the Camp David agreement allowed the Israelis to sell arms to countries which had been cut off by the U.S. government . . . often at a 300% markup. . . . The Khomeini regime created its current arms-procurement network following the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in September 1980. . . . A key figure was Jacob Nimrodi, the former Israeli military attaché in Teheran under the Shah.”