

Iran's 'Class of '79' boosts Mike Dukakis

by Scott Thompson

Some of the same academics who helped the Carter administration topple the Shah of Iran in 1979, returned to Teheran in early August to boost the election campaign of Gov. Michael Dukakis. One of the main proposals that they made to influence the election, was that the Iranians keep the American hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian terrorists, to deny Bush his "October Surprise." After a major Iranian role in shaping the last three U.S. presidential elections, the same Iran lobby that installed Khomeini's Islamic regime is seeking to do it once again.

In the 1980 presidential campaign, the fate of the U.S. hostages being held in Teheran was one of the more significant causes for the defeat of President Jimmy Carter. Carter had brought this defeat upon himself, by being the vehicle for the Anglo-American Establishment's covert campaign to topple the Shah and play the "Islamic fundamentalist card." So far in the 1988 campaign, the bungling attempts of the Reagan-Bush administration to free American hostages in Lebanon has been the main albatross around Bush's neck.

Now, *EIR* has discovered that the Iranian Foreign Ministry favors engineering a tilt toward Dukakis, according to sources who recently met with Iranian officials. One source who took part in these discussions with the Iranians reported that there would be no "October Surprise" release of hostages: "There will be no reward to the Reagan administration for its activities. The Iranians would find a Democratic administration more palatable. After the U.S. role in the Persian Gulf, they will not reward the Republicans for their hostile activity."

While this question remains the subject of intense debate within the Iranian leadership, sources report that plans may be afoot by some members of the pro-Iranian lobby in the United States to assure that Iran will come out favoring Dukakis over Bush. These sources report that one well-connected, recent traveler to Teheran, Prof. Richard Bullit of Columbia University, has already written to Dukakis adviser Graham Allison, advising him on the steps that should be taken by the governor to assure the Iranians that they could get a better deal if the Democrats were elected. Allison, the dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a former member of the Trilateral Commission, has been a leading adviser on national security matters to the

Dukakis campaign, along with Harvard's Joseph Nye.

The discussions with Iranian Foreign Ministry officials about Dukakis occurred during an Aug. 8-10 conference in Iran, titled "International Conference on Aggression and Defense." Planned before the abrupt Iranian decision to pursue a United Nations-supervised ceasefire in the Gulf War, participants in the conference noted that it was somewhat unfocused, apart from private lobbying around such issues as which presidential candidate would provide the greatest concessions to Iran, under what conditions.

The conference was sponsored by the Institute for Political and International Studies (the Iranian Foreign Ministry intelligence section), whose head, Shams Ardekani, is rumored to be in the running to become foreign minister, should Ali Akbar Velayati be elevated from that post to become prime minister. Shams, who received a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois before the Iranian Revolution, has been suggested as an ideal contact point for the Dukakis campaign, as has Speaker of the Parliament Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who previously dealt covertly with the Reagan-Bush administration, according to well-informed sources.

The Iran lobby

The U.S. participants in the conference included:

- **Prof. Richard Bullit** of Columbia University, who has been an emissary in hostage negotiations and speaker with the U.S. Information Agency.

- **Prof. James Bill** of William and Mary College, whom Iranian officials reportedly believe is in the running to become the first U.S. ambassador to the Islamic regime, whether under a Bush or Dukakis presidency. On his return from Teheran, Bill wrote a commentary for the *Washington Post* in which he recommended restoration of relations between Washington and Teheran, working through Hashemi-Rafsanjani (the "ultimate pragmatist"), and based upon such issues as condemnation of the Iraqi role in starting the Gulf War, support for the 1975 Algiers Treaty on the boundary between Iran and Iraq, and so forth. Bill has been a consultant to the U.S. State Department.

- **Sheikh Oleslami**, who recently left Harvard University to take a post at St. Antony's College, Oxford.

- **Dale Bishop**, a former professor at Columbia University, who is today the Middle East secretary of the United Church Board for World Ministries, which is the missionary arm of the United Church of Christ.

- **Hamid Algar**, a British citizen who converted to Sufism and teaches at the University of California at Berkeley. Algar has been closely involved with the Muslim Brotherhood networks that toppled the Shah with Anglo-American support, and he has traveled frequently to Teheran. Currently, Algar favors the emergence of an Islamic fundamentalist zone of cultural and economic relations uniting Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, which would spill over into the Muslim republics of the U.S.S.R.