stability in Lebanon. Abu Daoud is reputed to have family links with British networks in Egyptian intelligence.

The "Abu Nidal" breakaway group.

Abu Nidal has been expelled from the PLO, and has set up a countergang, breakaway PLO group in Iraq that has carried out assassinations against Palestinian moderates. Nidal's outfit, which controls the Baghdad Voice of Palestine and terrorist cells within Iraq, is blamed by Fatah for many of the destabilizations of the Palestinian movement in recent months.

The "Wadi Haddad" group.

Wadi Haddad, until his death in East Germany last month, was at the command-and-control center of a major terrorist-hijacking operation located in Iraq and based in breakaway elements within the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). The PFLP itself is not in the PLO, having left the PLO over disagreement with the latter's support of a negotiated settlement in the Mideast. The PFLP leadership around George Habash does not support reckless terrorist acts, and Haddad's death has led to speculation that the PFLP connection to terrorism will be broken, in part as a result of Soviet and Cuban diplomatic intervention to that end.

Press reports from Beirut indicate that a faction inside the centrist group itself, led by Abu Iyad, wants a hardline, no-compromise policy for the PLO. This, however, appears to be a "safety valve" to channel sentiment in the PLO's constituency base, rather than an alliance with the agent networks.

British Push CENTO Remilitarization

Speaking at the 25th ministerial meeting of the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) in London, British Foreign Secretary David Owen called for the remilitarization of alliance members Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan. Owen dismissed suggestions that the long dysfunctional CENTO pact had outlived its usefulness, stressing that it has "immense value" to Britain. Without it, Owen explained, London would have long since lost its influence in the area: Pakistan and Turkey would have "split further apart from the West," he pointed out, and Britain would never have become a major arms supplier to Iran.

By his own admission, Owen steered the conference clear of any discussion of the fate of former Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. According to several well-informed sources, British intelligence and Henry Kissinger played the prime role in the removal of Bhutto from power, and are now pressuring for his execution. These same sources also report that Bhutto was on the verge of pulling Pakistan out of CENTO at the point that he was overthrown and replaced by Gen. Zia ul-Haq.

In remilitarizing CENTO, Owen hopes to use British influence to revive Cold War tensions in this strategically vital and potentially explosive region, undercutting chances for U.S.-Soviet entente there.

Not surprisingly, his efforts have received the support of the self-styled "New Kissinger," U.S. National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski. Brzezinski favors building up CENTO as a military bastion rather than as the instrument of economic development that it had become via its spin-off, the Organization for Regional Cooperation and Development.

In contrast, Brzezinski's factional enemy in the Administration, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, is known to oppose the remilitarization of CENTO. According to the French daily *Le Figaro*, Vance tried to avoid attending the CENTO meeting, and purposely had it shifted from Washington to London so that he would not be obliged to stay long.

Target: Iran

The main target of a remilitarized CENTO is the Shah

of Iran, whose commitment to industrial progress for his oil-rich country has overridden his willingness to forge an Israel-Iran axis against the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia, which Britain desires. As a result, the British are fomenting bloody internecine warfare between the fanatic Shiite Moslem sect and the Sunnis, hoping to trap the Shah into looking to CENTO and Britain for salvation from internal destabilization.

Over the past several weeks, riots against the Shah have broken out in Iran's major cities. In the tradition of their bestial Al-Ghazali ancestors, Shiite leaders are demanding an end to industrialization and have called for a return to no-growth "fundamentalism." The Shiites are also demanding that the Shah break off his recent deals with the Soviet Union.

The chief organizer of the anti-Shah riots is Ayatallah Khumayni, an old British intelligence operative once described by the Soviet press as the "most reactionary" element in the Middle East. Khumayni is coordinating his activities with Iran's reactionary clergy, known as Ulema.

According to an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Iran is facing its "worst crisis." The Shah's government is reportedly "teetering" as a result of the riots and he is under pressure to abdicate and form a council with his wife, becoming a mere figurehead without any say in economic and foreign policy.

The Shah has, so far, responded according to profile, reportedly blaming the unrest on the "Communists." At the CENTO meeting, the Iranian representative, playing right into the British gameplan, called for the strengthening of CENTO militarily to stem the growing internal unrest. According to one Mideast analyst, Owen is "itching to send troops into Iran, run CENTO maneuvers there, and so forth. If the Shah clamors for it, it will make things that much easier," the source added.

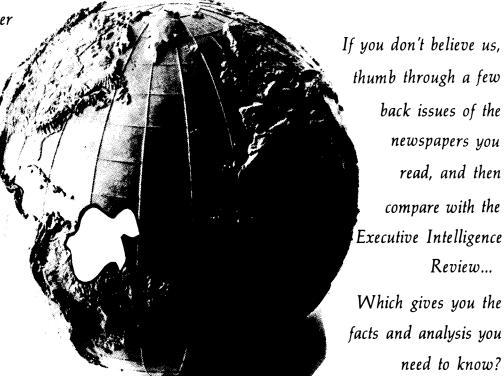
Next month, British Tory leader Margaret Thatcher will visit Iran. In addition, Britain is planning sales of military transports to the Shah as part of Owen's "contingency plans."

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