

connection with the Savama or student militants or terrorists, was the official representative of the "Komitech" in New York.

Behind Hashemi

Behind Cyrus Hashemi is a powerful group delegated to perform the dirtiest side of Arab money dealing, including the financing of the Muslim Brotherhood activities worldwide. Among these are an Egyptian-Lebanese financier, Roger Tamraz, and the much-publicized investor and reputed gun-runner Ghaith Pharaon. In the United States, this group is part of the orbit of John Connally's Vinson & Elkins law firm in Houston, Texas.

Arab dirty-money networks are not really independent financial dealers, of course; they interface the banking level of the Propaganda-2 (P-2) Freemasonic networks identified by Italian authorities as among the controllers of terrorism and the narcotics traffic which finances it. Hashemi is linked to P-2 financial circles through at least three tracks:

- 1) the Tamraz-John Connally circles;
- 2) the Safra family-run Republic National Bank of New York, which took over the international banking operations of the Mafia-linked Franklin National Bank in New York;
- 3) the Pakistani-run Bank for Commerce and Credit International (BCCI), which ties directly into the P-2

Interalpha Group and the California-based Bank of America, which has a joint venture with Interalpha's Banco Ambrosiano. (Another fruitful "Billygate" lead with regard to Hashemi's Atlanta connections are Bert Lance's ties to BCCI.)

Hashemi's First Gulf Bank & Trust, Limited was originally incorporated in Anguilla as "First Arabian Bank & Trust," reported to be owned by Tamraz's First Arabian Corporation. Hashemi is linked to Tamraz and Syrian-American financier John Shaheen in numerous financial deals.

A John Connally protégé, Frank van Court, also ties Hashemi to Tamraz and Pharaon circles. Van Court was Ghaith Pharaon's representative on the board of Bert Lance's First National Bank of Georgia. He was also the head of Pharaon's Interdec corporation. Van Court, now a partner at Vinson & Elkins, is also an officer in Hashemi's International Intertrade, Limited, also known as Arabian Trading Company, run out of Hashemi's New York offices.

Hashemi is a man who travels in many circles, high and low. He runs the gamut from petty financial swindles to high finance, from being a revolutionary "Komitech" official to negotiating with the highest levels of the U.S. government. He has operated with the help of powerful protectors, who may come to regret this association with Hashemi as his lawsuit against *EIR* proceeds.

James Bill continues revolutionary support

Professor James Bill of the University of Texas at Austin, a Council on Foreign Relations-sponsored Iran specialist who was one of the few American academics who helped to engineer the fall of the Shah and install the Khoemini regime, said in New York on Feb. 22 that most Iranians "are better off now than they were under the Shah."

Bill's assertion, which drew protests from some members of the audience at the prestigious Asia Society, was part of a presentation by Bill on the current status of the Iranian revolution. As an open apologist for Khomeini's revolution, Bill remains influential in the State Department and among other U.S. agencies, including the CIA. "We get a lot of our information from Bill," said one CIA official not too long ago. Perhaps he should have said "misinformation."

According to Bill, the Khomeini junta and the

ruling Islamic Republican Party will rule Iran for at least another 10 years. He claimed that the clergy had taken advantage of the "mystique of martyrdom" to rally the forces of the "dispossessed" and down-trodden masses; the mullahs therefore have a strong and unshakeable base, and so the "exiles are not going to go back."

Bill carefully noted that the IRP is an enemy of the Tudeh communist Party, a line often used to rally gullible American officials to support the clergy as an alternative to the left. "The IRP has described the Tudeh as 'the most dangerous and cunning force' in Iran, 'willing to use any tactic,'" said Bill, who did not add that the IRP and the Tudeh seems to have established a fine working relationship over the last three years.

As for the future, Bill said that the revolt in Iran had "captured the imagination" of millions of people in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf states, and that "the contagion of the Iranian revolution is spreading like wildfire, spreading and seeping throughout the Middle East." Or so he hopes.