
A Chronology of Events

U.S. trafficking with Khomeini's Iran

by Scott Thompson

1975-76: Under National Security Adviser Gen. Brent Scowcroft, the NSC's Office of Policy Coordination completes a revision of National Intelligence Estimates, which resolves that the United States can no longer support Shah Reza Pahlavi of Iran. Scowcroft's predecessor, Henry Kissinger, began the reevaluation and started to destabilize the Shah through covert support for a Kurdish rebellion.

The Kissinger strategy is based partially upon a plan of Princeton Prof. Bernard Lewis to replace newly emergent Arab nations with a balkanized mosaic of ethnic and tribal entities. The "Bernard Lewis Plan" envisioned pan-Islamic fundamentalism as the ideology which would unify these smaller sects. As secretary of state, Kissinger launched a sub-plan to balkanize Lebanon, then partition it between a Greater Syria and Greater Israel. Through Bertrand Russell's Pugwash Conference, the East-West "back channel" for negotiations, he had already pre-negotiated a strategy which would turn the Middle East over to the Soviet Union, as part of a "New Yalta" deal.

1978: National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski adopts the "Bernard Lewis Plan," creating a top-secret Iran Task Force headed by George Ball, which calls for unequivocal support to be given to Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic fundamentalists. Publicly, Brzezinski proclaims that an "arc of crisis" stretches from North and East Africa through the Middle East, Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan, which, he says, necessitates U.S. support for Islamic fundamentalism. Brzezinski lies that the "Islamic fundamentalist card" can be played to balkanize Muslim regions of the Soviet Union.

President Jimmy Carter gives a highly publicized speech, ostensibly supporting the Shah of Iran, which observers describe as a "kiss of death."

Dec. 13, 1978: Henry Precht, a State Department representative on the National Security Council's Iran Task Force, holds a meeting at Washington's Dominique Restaurant with CIA asset Ibrahim Yazdi, who will become Ayatollah Khomeini's first foreign minister. Prof. Marvin Zonis, an Iran Task Force adviser, briefs Yazdi on plans to topple the Shah, but warns that Carter cannot yet give public support to a "fun-

damentalist religious revolution."

January 1979: Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and his deputy, Warren Christopher, deploy former Attorney-General Ramsey Clark to Teheran. Clark leads the marxist Mujaheddin in anti-Shah riots under banners that read "Death to America!" From Teheran he flies to Paris, where he tells Ayatollah Khomeini the United States will "let the nation determine its own fate."

Jan. 3-Feb. 4, 1979: Brzezinski and NATO Supreme Allied Commander-Europe Alexander Haig deploy Haig's deputy, Air Force Gen. Robert Huyser, to Iran. General Huyser urges the Imperial Armed Forces not to let the Shah use them to suppress the revolution, then tells the Shah to take a "vacation."

Jan. 16, 1979: Shah Reza Pahlavi leaves Iran "on vacation," from which he never returns. Asked whether he will use the Armed Forces, the Shah says he is awaiting permission from Washington.

Feb. 1, 1979: Ayatollah Khomeini flies to Teheran, where, within hours, he proclaims the government of Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar to be illegal. Khomeini creates a dual government with Mehdi Bazargan as his prime minister.

Feb. 9, 1979: When pro-Khomeini military personnel begin to seize arsenals, Chief of Staff General Gharabaghi proclaims that the Armed Forces will remain "impartial" in the crisis. Top-ranking officers who oppose such treason are shot.

September 1979: Based on cable reports from Teheran of a pending embassy takeover, the NSC and State Department plan a hostage crisis scenario.

Nov. 1, 1979: Brzezinski meets with Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan and Foreign Minister Ibrahim Yazdi in Algeria.

Nov. 4, 1979: Fifty-three Americans are taken hostage with the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Teheran. They are to be held 444 days.

Nov. 5, 1979: President Carter announces the freezing of Iranian assets in the United States and its banks. Some \$24 billion in Iranian and the Shah's assets become involved, although a much lower figure is announced.

December 1979: U.S. Customs reports that 300 well-trained Islamic fundamentalist terrorists have entered the United States, using Embassy visa stamps. This network is led by Washington, D.C. Savama (secret police) chief Bahram Nahidian, funded through banks connected to New York Sava-

ma agent Cyrus Hashemi (a cousin of Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani), and coordinated with Yazdi's Muslim Student Association-Persian Speaking Group.

Dec. 12, 1979: President Carter orders the expulsion of 183 Iranian diplomats.

Dec. 19, 1979: Capt. Siavash Setoudeh, the military attaché at the Iranian Interest Section in Washington, is discovered by *EIR* running an arms network from the United States to Iran with NSC approval. His 16-man staff operated from the Washington, D.C. Office of Naval Research of the Office of Naval Intelligence.

June 1980: Iraq invades Iran. U.S. and Israeli arms-traffickers go into high gear.

Summer 1980: While on the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Robert McFarlane brings an Iranian official to meet with Reagan campaign staffer Richard Allen. The Iranian offers to have the embassy hostages released to Reagan, rather than President Carter.

July 1980: Gen. Hossein Fardoust, one of the leaders of Khomeini's Savama, visits the United States with Carter administration protection to negotiate arms-for-hostages deals and to mount an assassination program against anti-Khomeini exiles.

July 22, 1980: The head of the anti-Khomeini Iran Freedom Foundation, Ali Akbar Tabatabai, is assassinated at his Bethesda, Maryland home. The assassin, David Belfield (a.k.a. Daoud Salahuddin), is a bodyguard of Washington Savama chief Bahram Nahidian. Nahidian's boss, Cyrus Hashemi, is implicated, but he and Nahidian are protected by Attorney-General Civiletti and Brzezinski, who throw a "national security" blanket over the murder.

August-September 1980: Brzezinski orders C-130 airlifts of arms and spare parts to Iran from at least three secret NATO bases.

Aug. 12, 1980: *EIR* breaks the story of Cyrus Hashemi's role in U.S. terrorist operations, including the assassination of Tabatabai.

Aug. 26, 1980: Former Assistant Attorney-General for Civil Rights J. Stanley Pottinger urges Hashemi to sue *EIR* for its exposure of him as a Savama bagman and arms trafficker.

September 1980: Ayatollah Khomeini's son-in-law Sadegh Tabatabai sets up an arms procurement network that includes Israeli arms-trafficker Ya'acov Nimrodi, the former Mossad station chief in Teheran who had arms dealings with the Shah.

Sept. 27, 1980: Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zippori, supported by then-Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, says Israel will give Iran military aid.

Oct. 7, 1980: Israeli chief of military intelligence Yehoshua Sagui tells Iran how to bomb Iraq's nuclear facilities. If Iran fails, he pledges that Israel will carry out the bombing.

December 1980: On behalf of the Israeli military attaché in Washington, Gen. Menachem Meron, Israeli lobbyist Morris Amitay asks Reagan "transition team" head Richard Allen for approval of Israeli arms sales to Iran. Amitay claims Allen signaled approval.

Jan. 20, 1981: President Carter concludes a deal for the release of the 53 hostages. The United States pays Khomeini \$3.5 billion. Most of the protocol's clauses remain classified. Some \$20.5 billion assets claimed by Iran disappear in Wall Street banks.

Feb. 20, 1981: Secretary of State Alexander Haig is briefed on Israeli sales to Iran in preparation for a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Haig does not object at the meeting.

July 1981: A contract is signed by Ya'acov Nimrodi's International Desalination Equipment, Ltd. with the Iranian Ministry of Defense, for the sale of \$135 million worth of U.S. missiles and shells.

July 1981: An Argentine CL-44 turboprop transport plane rented from Transporte Aereo Rio Platense of Buenos Aires is intercepted by Soviet fighters and crashes in Soviet Armenia en route back from Teheran. This is the third in a series of flights from Israel to ferry \$100 million worth of 106mm recoilless rifles and ammunition to Iran.

November 1981: Israeli Defense Minister Gen. Ariel Sharon arrives in Washington, where Secretary of State Alexander Haig approves arms sales to Iranian "moderates." Haig appoints his counselor, Robert McFarlane, to work with Israeli foreign ministry director-general David Kimche on the program. Aided by Michael Ledeen, Haig also negotiates a strategic Memorandum of Understanding with Israel that promotes Israel as a U.S. surrogate for such arms sales.

Feb. 15, 1982: Israeli foreign ministry director-general David Kimche and Ya'acov Nimrodi appear on BBC's "Panorama" program to defend Israeli arms sales to Iran as a way to keep the Iranian army strong.

May 1982: Secretary of State Alexander Haig calls publicly for a halt on arms sales to Iran and Iraq, but takes no action against Israeli-Iran sales.

June 6, 1982: Israel invades Lebanon. Before the month is over, Haig will be fired for setting up a "back channel" with General Sharon to deceive the President on Israeli plans in Lebanon and to run Mossad operations against Reagan cabinet officers who oppose them.

September 1982: Paul Sjeklocha (a.k.a. Paul Cutter), a Moscow-educated American professor, returns from Israel, where he was asked to sell arms Israel captured in Lebanon to Iran. Sjeklocha, who will be targeted by the FBI in an Iranian arms-sale "sting," is a board member of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs. JINSA's founders are Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Stephen Bryen and Haig's aide Michael Ledeen. Bryen's Office of Technology Transfer approves what arms and technology can be sold to Israel and thence Iran.

October 1982: Israeli Ambassador to the United States Moshe Arens tells the *Boston Globe* that "almost the highest levels" of the administration have approved Israeli arms sales to Iran.

December 1982: Gen. Ariel Sharon visits Honduras, where he signs contracts that involve Israel in military support for anti-Sandinista forces.

Jan. 8, 1983: Ya'acov Nimrodi's partner, Sadegh Tabatabai, who funds Iranian terrorists in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, is arrested in West Germany in possession of 1.2 kg of opium. West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher obtains his release.

Jan. 8, 1983: Cyrus Hashemi's partner, George Perry, disappears in New York. He will be found shot to death. Perry had met with Tabatabai in Zurich to arrange a \$1 billion arms deal for Iran with Stiil, Inc. of Brazil. One of George Perry's partners in Stiil, Milan Jedlicka, was convicted of cocaine smuggling in New York in 1982.

March 7, 1983: In the course of litigation of *Hashemi v. Campaigner Publications, EIR, et al.*, the FBI's Oliver "Buck" Revell files affidavits claiming that FBI documents on Cyrus Hashemi's illegal activities are classified under "national security" provisions and are protected as "state secrets."

July 1983: The CIA releases documents under FOIA to *EIR*, which is being sued for \$100 million by Cyrus Hashemi. The documents state that Hashemi's First Gulf Bank and Trust has been used to launder funds for Khomeini's covert operations in the United States. These funds were passed through Bahram Nahidian, who was "probably involved" in the assassination of Iranian exile leader Ali Akbar Tabatabai in Maryland.

July 25, 1983: *Time* magazine names Balanian (Jamshid) Hashemi and his brother Cyrus, together with their Brazilian partner, Carlos de Mello, as prominent in illegal Iranian arms deals. They were also said to be under federal investigation.

November 1983: After a meeting between President Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Lawrence Eagleburger and Israel's David Kimche are assigned to coordinate a Joint U.S.-Israeli Political-Military Group. Under the guise of combating increased Soviet involvement in the Middle East, the Group picks up Haig's suspended Memorandum of Understanding for using Israel as a U.S. surrogate to sell arms in areas ranging from Iran to Central America. When Eagleburger leaves State to join Kissinger Associates, the assistant secretary of state for political-military affairs becomes the U.S. coordinator.

March 16, 1984: William Buckley, the CIA station chief in Beirut, is abducted by Islamic Jihad.

April 1984: At President Reagan's request, the CIA and State Department ask Israel to give secret support to the Contras. David Kimche is briefed at a meeting of the Joint U.S.-Israeli Political-Military Group.

May 14, 1984: Cyrus, Reza, and Jamshid Hashemi are indicted in New York for the sale of U.S. military equipment to Iran, together with Cmdr. Firuz (Cyrus) Davari, the former Iranian procurement officer in London. Named as a co-conspirator in these deals is former Assistant Attorney-General J. Stanley Pottinger.

December 1984: The FBI admits that Pottinger has not been indicted, but only named as an unindicted co-conspirator, because the Bureau "lost" tapes of Pottinger talking with Hashemi about arms sales to Iran.

Dec. 28, 1984: Israeli sources report that an Israeli consortium led by one Jacob Zifroni sold thousands of U.S.-made TOW anti-tank guided weapons to Iran. The deal was approved by the Pentagon's Export License Department, shortly after Michael Ledeen's wife, Barbara, became associated with it.

July-August 1985: Secret U.S.-Iranian contacts are initiated by the National Security Council with the Iranian regime following discussions between David Kimche and Robert McFarlane and NSC staffer Lt.-Col. Oliver North. Kimche is authorized to sell sophisticated weapons to Iran with Ya'acov Nimrodi and Israeli Aircraft Industries founder Al Schwimmer. McFarlane creates an informal task force that may include: Maj.-Gen. (ret.) Richard V. Secord; former

CIA director of clandestine operations Thomas Clines, who was linked to Edwin Wilson; Assistant Secretary of Defense Noel Koch, who was in charge of counter-terrorism operations; and George Cave, a former CIA station chief in Tehran.

July 15, 1985: A 61-count indictment from a Southern California grand jury is made public against a 20-person California-to-England ring that smuggled F-14 spare parts obtained from U.S. aircraft carriers to Iran.

August-September 1985: The "first" NSC-approved, Israeli planeload of TOW anti-tank guided weapons arms is sent to Iran. The CIA had requisitioned the TOWs from stockpiles in Europe and the United States. President Reagan approves the sale after the fact.

Aug. 1, 1985: Israeli-connected arms trafficker Paul Sjeklocha (a.k.a. Paul Cutter) and five others are arrested through an FBI sting for trying to sell thousands of TOWs and other missiles to Iran. Lt.-Col. Wayne G. Gillespie of Alexandria, Virginia, an assistant to the deputy chief of staff for international programs at the Army Materiel Command, will win acquittal on the basis that the United States had approved the sale.

Sept. 14, 1985: The Rev. Benjamin Weir, a hostage, is released.

November 1985: The "second" shipment of TOWs and obsolete HAWK (SAM) missiles are shipped to Iran by Israel. When asked to provide a plane for the shipment, Deputy CIA Director John McMahon says a presidential order would be needed for further CIA support.

Dec. 4, 1985: President Reagan announces the resignation of National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane.

Dec. 6, 1985: The first known full-scale discussion of Iran operations is held by President Reagan's cabinet. McFarlane and NSC consultant Michael Ledeen fly to London, where they discuss arms sales with Iranian procurement officer Manucher Ghorbanifar, in a meeting arranged by David Kimche and Gen. Richard Secord.

Jan. 17, 1986: President Reagan signs a secret document, called a "finding," that authorizes arms shipments to Iran. President Reagan orders DCI William Casey not to tell Congress about the operation.

February 1986: Iran returns obsolete HAWK missile parts. The "first" U.S. arms shipment is made via Israel to Iran. Two Southern Air Transport 707s, each carrying 45 tons of TOW missiles and other unknown cargo, make deliveries

from Kelly Air Force Base in Texas to Tel Aviv.

April 14, 1986: The Iranian news agency IRNA announces that former Khomeini Foreign Minister Ibrahim Yazdi will visit the United States. He holds meetings with former Carter administration Iran policymakers in New York, then stays at Savama agent Bahram Nahidian's home outside Washington, while meeting with top State and NSC officials.

April 22, 1986: U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani indicts Gen. Avraham Bar-am (a former deputy of Gen. Ariel Sharon) and 16 others in a plot to sell over \$2 billion worth of jet fighters, tanks, and missiles. The deal was arranged by Cyrus Hashemi with London-based attorney Sam Evans. While General Bar-am and the Israeli defendants claim they had Israeli government approval, defendant Col. (ret.) John Delaroque had sought approval from the Reagan administration, possibly including Vice-President George Bush's office, through his associate Michael J. Brenneke, a broker in an earlier Iran arms deal who may have had U.S. government backing.

May 28, 1986: Robert McFarlane secretly visits Teheran in a 707 jet full of arms to explore "political-diplomatic feelers," possibly accompanied by a convoy carrying additional arms. It has been confirmed that NSC staffer Lt.-Col. Oliver North and George Cave, a former CIA station chief in Teheran fluent in Farsi, accompanied McFarlane.

July 21, 1986: Cyrus Hashemi dies under mysterious circumstances in London. All charges against him are dropped by U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani.

July 26, 1986: The Rev. Lawrence Jenco, a hostage, is released.

August 1986: The "third" U.S. arms shipment is made via Israel to Iran. The White House announces more hostages will be released.

Oct. 26, 1986: The "fourth" U.S. arms shipment is made to Iran. Between \$10-30 million in profits from previous arms sales deposited in the Geneva, Switzerland investment bank Cr dit Feduciaire Services were diverted through CFS's Cayman Islands subsidiary for the Contras. Whether the Contras received this aid is now in doubt.

Nov. 2, 1986: David P. Jacobsen, a hostage, is released. Three other Americans were abducted since Reverend Jenco's release in July.

Nov. 3, 1986: The pro-Syrian Lebanese magazine *Al Shiraa* reports that Robert McFarlane traveled secretly to Iran. It also charges that four Galaxy C-130s had been flown to Iran carrying arms from Clark Air Base in the Philippines.