USADI Dispatch

A publication of the U.S. Alliance for Democratic Iran

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Volume 1, No. 33

USADI Commentary

Mullahs' NGO of Terror

Non-Governmental Organizations are mostly associated with humanitarian and peaceful advocacy work. They cooperate with international bodies such the United Nations, Red Cross and others to fight hunger, poverty, human rights abuses and underdevelopment. They strive for the rights of women, children, ethnic and religious minorities, expansion of peace and democracy. NGOs are an invaluable part of global campaign against inequality and for improvement in quality of life.

So it is not everyday that one would hear that an NGO was in charge of recruiting "suicide volunteers" to combat "World arrogance."

The Tehran-based daily *Sharq* reported last week on a three-day governmentsponsored conference in Tehran. The state-financed "Committee for Commemoration of Martyrs of the Global Islamic Movement", billed by the officials as an NGO, ran the event, which dealt with the issue of suicide bombing and provided a forum to volunteers from across the world to register for suicide attacks.

As everything else in world of the tyrannical mullahs in Iran, such as elections, parliament, law and order, etc., NGO activity has been perverted and lacks any constructive and humane substance. The mullahs have skillfully managed to take the universally recognized institutions and turn them into instruments of power and terror.

The "First International Commemoration" of suicide bombers, was held in a government-owned building in Tehran. The Revolutionary Guards Corps' Joint Chiefs of Staff Director of Operations Brig. Gen. Salami delivered a speech entitled "Suicide operations: A security and military strategy perspective."

He told the *Sharq* daily, "Since the Committee for Commemoration of Martyrs is an NGO, it does not need to ask for permission of the country's military institutions if it decides to carry out an operation. Their operations would be similar to those by Palestinians and have nothing to do with regime in Iran."

This is an unequivocal admission to carrying out terrorist activities inside Iran and abroad. The regime provides the organization, logistics, funding and recruitment under a front group, in this case an NGO, to ensure plausible deniability while reaping the political windfalls of such operations.

There is little, if any, doubt that this committee is not an NGO and has nothing to do with humanitarian work. It is just another terrorist off-shoot of a terrorist regime used to advance a particular policy objective of the Iran's tyrants.

As the mullahs find themselves under international heat, use of terror has become the instrument of choice to bully the world community.

Events such as the "international commemoration" must be taken seriously. Tehran leaders must be served notice that the world is watching and this time they cannot get away with it.

Courageous Iranians, especially students and women, who are bent on unseating the ruling theocratic regime, will make Iran free of torture, terror, and weapons of mass destruction. They must be supported in their endeavors.

Iran Plays "cat and Mouse" with UN

VIENNA - An Iranian exile accused Tehran Tuesday of playing a "cat and mouse" game with U.N. nuclear watchdog while it secretly develops atomic weapons, a charge that was vehemently denied by a senior Iranian official.

The latest allegation comes from Iranian exile Alireza Jafarzadeh, formerly a spokesman for the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) and the man who reported in August 2002 that Iran was hiding a massive uranium enrichment plant at Natanz and a heavy-water production facility at Arak.

Jafarzadeh said his latest information -that Iran's leaders have adopted an official policy of feigning cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) while forging ahead with hidden nuclear weapons activities -- comes from the same sources who told him about Natanz and Arak.

"Their strategy is to keep this inspection process going as long as possible, to keep the inspectors busy, and then pull the plug and leave the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)," he said. "It's like cat and mouse, a nuclear shell game."

Jafarzadeh is now president of the Washington-based Strategic Policy Consulting Inc. He is not officially affiliated with the NCRI, whose Washington offices were shut down last year after the United States listed it as a terrorist organization.

Joe Circincione, an analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said Jafarzadeh's allegation was credible.

"It certainly looks like Iran's strategy is a traditional guerrilla war strategy -- draw the enemy in deep," he said, adding that the majority of the 35 nations on the IAEA Board of Governors thinks Iran is playing "cat and mouse" with the U.N.

Monday, IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei's said Iran's cooperation with the agency

"While we don't support the NCRI in its methods, their public information about Iran's program has not infrequently proven to have some basis in fact," the diplomat said.

Reuters, June 15, 2004

The US Alliance for Democratic Iran (USADI), is an independent, non-profit organization, which aims to advance a US policy on Iran that will benefit America's interests, through supporting Iranian people's aspirations for a democratic, secular, and peaceful government, free of tyranny, fundamentalism, weapons of mass destruction, and terrorism. The USADI is not affiliated with any government agencies, political groups or parties. 1201 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20004

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National Review Online Jun 15, 2004 Bad Debts: The World Bank props up the Iranian mullahcracy

Even as the Islamic Regime of Iran accelerated the number of arrests, tortures, and death sentences it carried out, on May 29, the World Bank awarded it with two loans totaling \$369 million. As justification for granting the loans, the World Bank claims they were awarded to help the people of Iran. "In many countries we have enfranchised civil societies," the Bank's president, James D. Wolfensohn said at a luncheon. "Should we stop doing that and wait until we had perfect countries before we lend?"

Wolfensohn added: "The easiest thing for me, for the Bank, would be to say, just wait until these countries are democratic, but that is impracticable. The bank is not the United Nations. Its goal is economic development. Sometimes this must go hand in hand with democratic development."

These are fair points, but surely Wolfensohn is aware that in Iran, 70 percent of non-oil revenue and 50 percent of the economy is controlled by the "tax-exempt organizations" (bonyaads), which are accountable only to the Supreme Leader. The people of Iran, in other words, will not benefit from these loans.

Since May 2000, Iran has borrowed \$801 million from the World Bank and another \$276 million has been approved for two more projects.

Based on information provided by the Bureau of International Information Programs of the U.S. State Department, the U.S. has always opposed World Bank's assistance to Iran, but has been unsuccessful to block the approval of the loans to that country in recent years, mainly because other large Bank shareholders have sought to increase their engagement with Iran...

However, the need of the Islamic Regime to stabilize its bankrupt economy is not going to be satisfied by these loans. A recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) report on the Iranian economy predicted that Iran needs to mobilize \$4 billion a year in foreign loans and in direct investments if it is to achieve a level of growth that stabilizes unemployment.

There is a lot at stake for the World Bank, as we expect more loans to be awarded to Iran in the future. But, the World Bank should realize that supporting the present regime by granting loans is to ignore the will of the people of Iran. The World Bank should know that as the people of Iran do not recognize this regime as their legitimate representative, and as these loans will mostly be used to support the mischief of the regime (such as acquiring weapon of mass destruction or sending terrorists across the border to Iraq), and because they are not the beneficiary of these loans, the World Bank is putting its investments at a great risk.

Every tyrant regime — including this one — comes to an end. The World Bank should have the vision of the future that, when the people of Iran have freed themselves from this monstrous regime, Iran under its future democratic government will not have any responsibility to pay back these loans.

Excerpts from an article by Mohammad Parvin, an adjunct professor at the California State University and director of the Mission for Establishing Human Rights in Iran.

Associated Press Jun 15, 2004 EU Softens Resolution with No Trigger Mechanism

VIENNA - Europe's major powers floated a finely tuned draft resolution Tuesday that reprimands Iran for delaying an investigation into its suspect nuclear activities but refrains from direct threats of sanctions.

Even without such threats, the toughly worded document under consideration at a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency maintains pressure on Iran to come clean on aspects of what was a covert nuclear program for nearly 20 years until discovered two years ago.

The new draft, written by France, Germany and Britain and seen by The Associated Press, toned down demands on Iran to abort plans to build a heavy water reactor and slightly modified tough language taking Tehran to task for hampering the IAEA probe.

The draft contained no deadline or "trigger mechanism" as sought by the United States and its allies that could set into motion possible sanctions on Iran if it continued its foot dragging past a certain date. Delegates, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity, said that the draft was unlikely to undergo major changes before being formally submitted for a vote later in the week.

In a letter to the leaders of the European powers that drafted the text, Iranian President Mohammad Khatami warned them against giving in to "U.S. pressure." Quoting from the letter, the daily Sharq cited Khatami as saying that "Iran's cooperation with the international community for the peaceful use of nuclear energy" was at stake.

But in Vienna, Kenneth Brill, the chief U.S. delegate to the IAEA, said Washington remained convinced that Iran was "trying to hide ... a weapons program."