

SWP (USA/CIA) agents The Ahwaz operation terminated

BY ALEX MITCHELL

THE FBI-CIA agents at the top of the revisionist Socialist Workers Party of the United States have again been pulling the strings on policy towards the Iranian Revolution.

They have ordered the SWP and its acolyte groups in Western Europe, including Mr Tariq Ali's misnamed 'International Marxist Group', to change horses midstream.

The result is a spectacle which is resplendent with confusion and cringing. Not a few of the revisionists have been forced to take a ducking in the swirling waters of the Iranian Revolution.

Scarcely four months ago the American SWP was denouncing the Revolution as 'Islamic fascism'.

An 'international campaign' was launched to save a group of self-styled 'Iranian Trotskyists' from execution.

Now, without a murmur of explanation, this campaign has been dropped from sight. Instead, the SWP and the IMG are calling for 'US hands off Iran' and Ayatollah Khomeiny's speeches are reprinted in the SWP's weekly 'Militant' with glowing approval. (November 30, 1979.)

Meanwhile, the 'comrades' of the so-called 'Socialist Workers Party of Iran' are languishing in prison still facing execution. Their photographs have disappeared from the 'Militant' and 'Socialist Challenge' and so have the slanderous denunciations of the Iranian Revolution.

Why have these 'comrades' been abandoned with such chilling disregard? Because they were agents of the CIA/FBI all along!

Since January of this year the revisionists' policy towards the revolution by the

Iranian masses has been a case history of provocation, distortion, intrigue and downright lies.

Organising this counter-revolutionary programme has been the group of agents from Carleton College, Minnesota, who dominate the SWP leadership.

The Carleton alumni include national secretary Jack Barnes, Elizabeth Stone, Doug Jenness, Cindy Jaquith, Mary Alice Waters, John Benson, Caroline Lund, Larry Seigle, Barbara Mattson and Paul Eidsvik.

The existence of the CIA/FBI group in the SWP leadership has been established by the US Supreme Court and other independent evidence; and their safety has been guaranteed by the SWP's decision not to indulge in 'agent-baiting' and to accept a cash settlement from the FBI in return for keeping the agents names secret.

Hallmarks:

The birth of the 'Socialist Workers Party of Iran' had all the hallmarks of a police operation.

On January 22 a Jumbo jet landed at Tehran airport ferrying in the first recruits.

They went straight to Tehran's biggest and plushiest hotel, the Intercontinental, where the group was founded amid a blaze of publicity from the foreign Press.

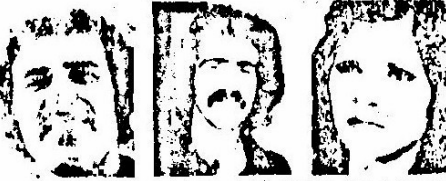
At that time the tyrant Shah had fled the country and the handpicked CIA stooge, Shapur Bakhtiar, was in tenuous office facing the irrepressible movement of the masses.

It was SWP policy to support Bakhtiar and call for a Constituent Assembly, demands which bore a remarkable similarity to those of the CIA!

But even before the SWP could launch its campaign, Bakhtiar was swept away by the revolutionary masses and went into hiding.

The New York headquar-

Intercontinental Press
continued with IMPROVISED



International outcry demands:
STOP EXECUTION OF SOCIALISTS IN IRAN!

Intercontinental Press, headquarters of the FBI-CIA agents in the American SWP, launch their campaign for the 'SWP 14' with front-page headlines on September 10 and September 17, 1979. Now this campaign has disappeared from sight.

ters of the SWP, based on the agent-led editorial board of 'Intercontinental Press', changed tactics.

They began a fierce and slanderous attack on Ayatollah Khomeiny accusing him of being a dictator, a bigot, a fanatic, a lunatic and an Islamic fascist.

This coincided with the so-called 'women's revolt', middle class ladies supplemented by feminist Kate Millet and dubious human rights globetrotter Ralph Schoenman, who took to the streets in March pleading for the return of the Shah and Bakhtiar.

In London, Paris and New York, the revisionists organised pickets of Iranian embassies to smear the revolution and damage its historic conquests in the eyes of

the working class and youth in the West.

When this counter-revolutionary stunt failed to produce results, they dropped the women's issue and haven't returned to it since.

Fresh orders arrived in the Paris office of 'Intercontinental Press' relayed from New York. Now it was the question of the Kurds.

By the middle of this year, the remnants of SAVAK and imperialist mercenaries had gathered in Kurdistan to provoke military actions against the revolution.

Having never spoken about the oppressed minorities when the Shah ruled, now the revisionists became the foremost champions of Kurdish rights.

In the middle of this opera-

tion, the SWP sent some members to Ahwaz to stir up provocations among the oil workers and the Arab-speaking community.

When this group was arrested the revolutionary guards found leaflets calling for the arming of the oil workers and strike action, as well as a bundle of American dollar bills estimated at \$30,000.

Hysterical

Their imprisonment brought the most hysterical denunciations of the Iranian leadership from all corners of the revisionist movement.

'Worldwide outcry against threatened executions — save the lives of Iranian socialists', wrote Cindy Jaquith in the weekly 'Militant'

Intercontinental Press
continued with IMPROVISED



Worldwide Outcry Against Threat of Execution

SAVE THE LIVES OF IRANIAN SOCIALISTS!

Nicaragua: Sandinista Army Prepares to Defend Revolution

Full Text of Castro's Speech at Havana Conference

Top: Mr Tariq Ali's 'Socialist Challenge' whips up counter-revolutionary propaganda against Khomeiny (June 28 and August 30, 1979). Bottom: The SWP agents change course. In the SWP's 'Militant' on November 30, it is 'Stop the US war against Iran', but no mention of the trial of the US hostages for espionage.

nised pickets of Iran Air and the Iranian embassy. They drummed up protest petitions from Alex Kison of the Transport and General Workers' Union executive, Bernadette McAlliskey (Devlin), Labour MPs Reg Race and Ernie Roberts (not forgetting the Liverpool trades council and the 'Militant' group).

A protest operation like this is never satisfactory without some of Mr Ali's 'ad hoc-ery' so a new body was born — 'The Ad Hoc Committee to Defend Democratic Rights in Iran'.

Its title expressed the 'broadness' which is much admired by Mr Ali. It allowed for the widest gathering of human rights believers, opponents of the Iranian Revolution, social

democrats, liberals, fellow-travelling Stalinists and undoubtedly, a smattering of out-of-work SAVAK agents doing some freelance for Bakhtiar and the Shah and the CIA.

The latter were especially impressed by 'ad hoc-ery' having some first-hand experience with fake committees of mullahs in Mahabad and in other 'fronts'.

Bloodcurdling

'Intercontinental Press', 'The Militant' and 'Socialist Challenge' poured out page after page of the most bloodcurdling attacks on the Iranian Revolution with pledges 'never to rest' until the jailed SWP members were released and the charges lifted.


These were the two men upon whom imperialism was depending most and they had been targeted by the CIA

Iran exposed



The Workers Revolutionary Party holds a rally and a torchlight demonstration in London on Tuesday night, November 27, in support of the Iranian Revolution and its demand for the extradition of the ex-Shah. The WRP is the only party which has consistently supported the revolution against imperialism, Zionism and

More Trotskyists seized in Iran



KHOMEINI DECLARES WAR ON NATIONAL MINORITIES AND LEFT

14 socialists face execution

Andrew Pulley at Detroit rally:
U.S. workers have stake in Iranian revolution

Top: Mr Tariq Ali's 'Socialist Challenge' whips up counter-revolutionary propaganda against Khomeiny (June 28 and August 30, 1979). Bottom: The SWP agents change course. In the SWP's 'Militant' on November 30, it is 'Stop the US war against Iran', but no mention of the trial of the US hostages for espionage.

It is interesting to note that the SWP and the IMG asked that telegrams and letters of protest be sent to Dr Mehdi Bazargan and Hassan Nazih. Bazargan resigned as Prime Minister in disgrace on November 4, the day the revolutionary students occupied the US embassy in Tehran. It followed his secret meeting with Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski, the US national security adviser, in Algiers on November 1.

Nazih was forced to resign as chairman of the National Iranian Oil Corporation (NIOC) last month after oil workers accused him of sabotaging the revolution.

These were the two men upon whom imperialism was depending most and they had been targeted by the CIA

ists have put up a new barrage of slogans. 'Intercontinental Press' for November 26, 1979, carries the headline: 'Stop US war threat against Iran' and 'One million march in Tehran for extradition of Shah — Risk of war sparking intense debate across US'.

'The Militant' said on November 30: 'Protests say "No war against Iran" — "Inside Shah's jails. Murder and torture" and "Why Iranian people want him to stand trial".'

Slogan

And Mr Ali's 'Socialist Challenge' for November 29, 1979: 'US Hands off Iran'. This front-page item ends with the following: 'We will do so. Mobilise solidarity against US war plans despite our strong disagreements with Khomeiny and the Islamic Republic. For at the present time there is room for only one slogan: "US hands off Iran".'

This will make chilling reading for the agents in the 'SWP 14' in the prisons of Ahwaz. It means that the agents have decided to change horses because of the deepening of the Iranian Revolution and that they have been left high and dry.

This is not the first time that the agents at 'Intercontinental Press' have scuttled one of their agents. It also happened to Fausto Amador, the agent provocateur who was recruited and trained by the late Joseph Hansen, and given the title of 'leading Latin American Trotskyist'.

For more than 18 months up until the Nicaraguan Revolution Amador, a self-admitted traitor to the Revolution, was given space in 'Intercontinental Press' to attack the Sandinistas accusing them of allowing unnecessary slaughter of the civilian population, adventurism, neglecting the aims of the working class and peasantry, and urging the freedom fighters to surrender!

More important, the case of the 14 SWP prisoners in Iran completely faded from sight. No protest meetings, no telegrams to Tehran, no pickets of Iranian embassies demanding their release, no college seminars and no petitions. It has all come to a grinding halt!

In its place, the revision-

Amador's counter-revolutionary attacks were aimed at discrediting the Sandinistas, demoralising the fighters and spreading confusion among the masses.

Having heaped abuse on the revolution during the days leading to its great victory, the SWP agents had to rapidly change course in the days following. Only then did the SWP take the decision that the agent Amador was a liability and his mission had to be terminated.

They invited him to contact the FSLN leadership and make a peace offering. Amador responded by quitting the SWP faction in Latin America and joining another group headed by Nahuel Moreno where he can find immunity in the factional jungle.

Sudden

But the SWP's sudden expressions of support for the Iranian Revolution fall to pieces when one notable omission is observed. What do they say about the US hostages at the American embassy? Absolutely nothing!

Yet it was the seizure of the embassy which marked the flashpoint in the deepening of the revolution. On the embassy takeover, centres the struggle for the return of the Shah to stand trial, the removal of the pro-American elements in the Tehran government and the mighty blows directed at the base of world imperialism, the US dollar.

Hiding behind abstract calls to the Iranian Revolution, the SWP/IMG very deliberately avoid supporting the revolution's demand for the hostages to be tried as members of a 'nest of espionage'.

Their 'neutrality' on the US hostages is the hallmark of the SWP connection with the CIA-State Department.

It echoes their attitude to the Vietnamese Revolution when they called for the US troops to be withdrawn while avoiding the call for 'Victory to the NLF'.

All revolutions are great schools of experience for the revolutionary party and the masses of the world. One of the decisive lessons from Iran and Nicaragua is that the revisionist groups are led and controlled by the US State Department.

Abandoned

Just as they abandoned Amador, so they have abandoned the 'SWP 14'. They can rot in jail so long as the CIA/FBI agents are concerned.

They are now hailing events in Iran and Nicaragua in a desperate attempt to climb aboard a bandwagon. Their aim is thoroughly professional — it is to secure new ways of sending fresh agents into the field to replace those who have been exposed.

It is the intention of the Workers Revolutionary Party, British section of the International Committee of the Fourth International, to continue the remorseless investigation of these CIA/FBI agents and to unmask their whereabouts and their provocations.