

Some Questions

Left Unanswered

Regarding the U.S.

Military Invasion of Iran

3 May 1980

Ten days have passed since the brazen American military attack on Iranian soil — an event which has added a further card in the file of relations between Iran and American imperialism: one which one would have thought provided convincing evidence for the authorities to realize that no peaceful relationship based on mutual understanding can exist between the imperialists and us. However, it does rather provoke surprise that, so far, the authorities have not made the effort to present a thorough-going report on this highly momentous occurrence to our people, who have been crying "Death to America!" for such a long time now.

Over the past week, we have received a good many calls to our centers from people who have both made inquiries and passed on revealing information. In view of the refusal of the authorities to make any comment, we have deemed it appropriate to present the following report, which constitutes as a summary of the information which we obtained through these calls.

A Report on the Attack: How It Took Place

Thursday, 24 April is a day when the flames of war blaze fiercely on in Kord-estan and tension crackles on as gangs of hoodlums invade the campuses under the pretext of a 'cultural revolution', in the aftermath of which the effects still continue in Tehran and cities throughout the provinces — the precise moment when internal strife and division is at its peak, and the sowers of anarchy and the agents of imperialism are having a field day.

On this auspicious day, around eight o'clock in the evening, five mammoth American C-130 transport aircraft take off from the Masira coastal air-strip in Oman, headed for Iran, bound for a point located some 160 kilometers (100 miles) from the town of Tabas, deep in the desert hinterland. The planes fly in the dark of the night, penetrating a good 1500 kilometers (940 miles) into Iranian territory, apparently evading detection by Iranian radar and arriving their desert destination around 11 PM.

Around the same time, eight helicopters take off from a point near the Chaah-Bahaar seaport in southeast Iran, to link up with the C-130 transport group at a pre-set time. The helicopters are armed with 50-cal. machineguns and loaded with such items as automatic-fire hand weapons, tents, high-power floodlights, knockout gas, four heavy-duty trail motorcycles specially built for rough desert terrain, ammunition, Iranian army uniforms, jeeps, heavy machineguns and a considerable amount of cash [in both dollars and rials].

The first staging area is a fueling stop 160 km. from Tabas, an abandoned air-strip which, under the previous regime, was the site of an American uranium exploration operation, as well as a point for joint maneuvers of the U.S. and Iranian armies, conducted under the titles of 'desert familiarization operations'.

One of the five transports is very probably loaded with the necessary fuel for the operation, while the other four carry a contingent of some 300 special troops, which almost certainly includes Iranian SAVAK agents and defector members of the Iranian army.

The second staging area is to be a place called Kushk-e Nosrat, near the

central Iranian city of Qom. According to the plan, the helicopters and planes are to refuel at the first site, then fly along two separate routes — one more northerly via the town of Varaamin (and the other more directly westward) — to reassemble at Kushk-e Nosrat, which is to serve as the main base of operations.

The next step is for the helicopters to take off alone and head for the Amjadieh sports field [next door to the U.S. embassy site in Tehran] and, after completing their mission [presumably the securing of the hostages], they are to fly back to Kushk-e Nosrat, where the planes stand ready for takeoff. The helicopters are then abandoned, as the C-130s depart Iran.

The mission aborts.

What takes place? It appears that, at 11 PM, when one of the helicopters goes to the fuel plane for its re-fill, a collision occurs and both aircraft go up in flames.

The operation is called off — for this reason and others, as well. The Americans are forced to go back.

But now the mystery. In rushing off, they manage to leave something behind — not the kind of thing which the Americans would overlook in even the most hasty emergency departure: namely, the full set of operation plans and documents relating to the purported 'rescue operation'. Without speculating further, let us go on to the next curious development.

After one airplane and one helicopter are consumed in flames, the surviving Americans ambush an inter-city bus on the highway (near the Tabas site), forcing the passengers to dismount — with the object of taking them along!?! Well, they merely detained

and harassed them took their clothing, and let them go — so we'll never know! Upon release, the bus passengers contact the nearest gendarmerie post [in nearby Robaat-e Kur] and report the incident. The Revolutionary Guards and the army are also contacted. Yet — strangely, they do not react until well into the following day.

Friday, 25 April, 2:00 PM: It is only after the Americans themselves have made their aborted operation public that the Iranian military command issues a statement, to wit: "on being chased by fighter aircraft of the air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, two American aircraft . . . have collided while attempting to escape from Iranian air space. They have caught fire and have crashed in the region of Tabas . . ." !!

3:30 PM: The Iranian high command orders the bombing of the abandoned helicopters by air force fighters. In the course of the bombing, two helicopters containing important documents were destroyed, and the commander of the Yazd city Revolutionary Guards, who happened to be on the scene, was killed.

Some Questions to Pose to the Responsible Authorities

Along with the reports which have reached us, we have collected a number of questions from different people who have noted peculiarities in the situation. These we publish here in the form of an open query, in hopes of eliciting a response from the officials of this country.

The relevance of this should be made clear, for the greater number of dubious circumstances surrounding this issue indicate collusion on the part of

elements within Iran, who had a key role in the implementation of the plan — to such an extent that the operation would not have been possible without their collaboration. Unquestionably, the detection and exposure of these political figures and agents would advance our people's anti-imperialist struggle immensely, as well as providing a solution to so many of our complex problems.

1) On Wednesday afternoon — the day before the attack — a teletype message was sent from the operations section of the air force command headquarters to the land-to-air defence battalion posted at Air Force Base Number One and bases in several of the provincial cities, including Shiraz and Mashhad. The number of this message was 1303-7/20-8, dated 4 Ordibehesht 1359 [the Iranian calendar date for 23 April 1980]. The dispatch contained an order for the immediate removal and depot storage of all anti-aircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles stationed at the runways of certain air force bases and civil airfields. The effect of this was to withdraw the security from the great majority of the major Iranian airports and air force bases. What was the motive for this order?

2) What was the reason for the blasting of the abandoned helicopters with airborne rockets? Especially since members of the United States Senate had already publicly disclosed that they contained secret information. We have it on factual evidence that the Revolutionary Guards who had arrived on the scene were in a position to prevent the removal of the helicopters from the site.

3) Although the first report of the spotting of the U.S. aircraft apparently reached the Robaat-e Kur gendar-

merie post at 10:45 PM, no action was taken by the supreme command until the afternoon of the following day.

4) Even if we accept the claim that the Americans were familiar with blind spots in the Iranian radar system and were thus able to escape detection by making use of them, was it not possible to cover these blind spots through the use of mobile radar units?

5) Although numbers of competent volunteer groups and individuals have offered their services in pursuing inquiry into the matter, they have been met not merely with apathy, but even downright hostility and obstructiveness. Why?

6) Word has reached us of the following coincident occurrences. Do they have any bearing?

a) The radar installation at Baabolsar, which could have easily covered the region where the aggression took place, broke down a week before the attack.

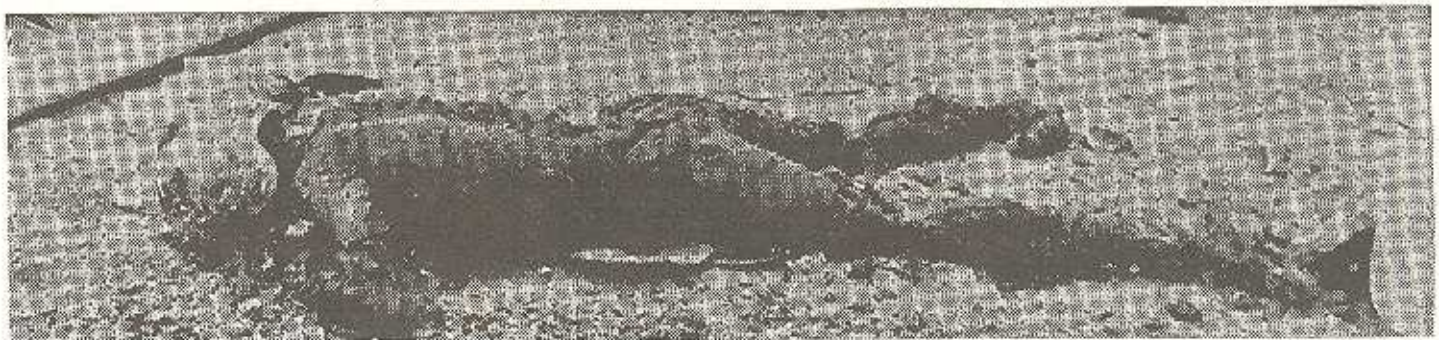
b) The air defence personnel at Mashhad [in Khorraasaan province, where the first-stage airfield is located] were reportedly sent on leave a few days before the incident.

c) The radar team at Darband-Kermaan [right on the invaders' route] reported detection of a large number of aircraft on Thursday.

d) On the night of the invasion, the floodlights of Amjadih stadium were left on all night — the final staging ground for the operation!

7) The heroic people of Iran continue to remain uninformed of the results of investigation which has purportedly been carried out. Why is it that, up to now, all that has been made

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The charred corpse of an American commando, who came to the distant wastes of our homeland, armed to the teeth, to bring us the good tidings of the beginning of the end of imperialism. Indeed, the imperialists do make mistakes, meet defeat and can even be eliminated through the application of strategy. However, their mistakes are hardly grounds for rejoicing. We are still faced with the disturbing question: What would have happened if they had not slipped up? It is, thus, clear that the inevitable demise of the imperialists can only be brought about through a correct policy, alertness, readiness, resistance and the unflagging will of the peoples — and nothing else. Let us make Iran the graveyard of imperialism and replace it with the will of the peoples.

clear: There is absolutely no doubt about the necessity of a cultural revolution involving fundamental changes in our educational system. It was our Mojahed Brother Mas'ud Rajavi who declared it "the highest stage of the Revolution", particularly in a society where corrupt, imperialistic fetishistic class relations have penetrated so deeply. However, the fact is, we cannot bring about a cultural revolution, without achieving one in the political, social and economic spheres, as well. In other words, a cultural revolution requires, as a fundamental condition, the complete rooting out of economic and social influences of imperialism from our nation.

Furthermore, the method must be consistent with the spirit and content — popular and Islamic.

The cultural revolution, unlike its political and social counterparts, is not wrathful; it is opposed to antagonism, for its relations are involved with the spirit and heart of human beings. It is natural that, when a select group makes decisions without the participation of the activist, committed strata of the universities, the imposition of the decisions of such a limited and unrepresentative group can lead only to the deprivation of the syndical and political rights and freedom of activity in the student domain, where the way of thinking of the said group prevails, generating divisiveness, dispersion and antagonism within the various sectors of the people and, most particularly, amongst the most aware and leading to the exploitation wreaked by imperialism and its elements.

In this light, decisions concerning the cultural revolution and changes in the educational system should be made by councils in the university itself in an atmosphere free of the imposition of monopolistic attitudes of one group or another, free of the imposed, self-centered views of individuals, with all groups participating together freely in open debates and working towards reducing the differences. If it is otherwise, where the law of the truncheon and the assaults on the universities rule the day, not only does the notion of a 'cultural revolution' become invalidated in itself, but the consequences will have such gravity that a wave of violence and turmoil will sweep through the entire society.

Therefore, in light of the foregoing, we would like to point out that the keeping open of the universities would

not interfere, in any way, with the maintenance of such community-oriented activities as the Crusade for Construction (in which students had been encouraged to participate in lieu of attending classes). The campuses serve as centers for forging more active and dynamic relations in the way of God and the people.

Thus, it is a matter of profound concern that plans seem to be afoot to close the universities for as much as two years. In alerting all committed and conscious forces, notably amongst the faculty and students, we propose their consideration — and that of the responsible authorities of this country of the following points, in the belief that the implementation of these guidelines will serve the cause of forging the unity of the people more than ever, while charting the anti-imperialist struggle on a firm course with less chance of deviation: will impart continuity to the vital role and mission of the universities in deepening the bond with the masses in the path of the anti-imperialist and Islamic liberation of our country; and will be tantamount to honoring the blood shed by countless numbers of university martyrs.

1) The campuses should remain open after the close of the present (spring) term and also it should be guaranteed that the fall term, opening the next school year, will begin normally. This is not merely to say that classes have to be held, but that the campuses should also be available as forums for discussion, debate and analysis of the aims and approaches for changing the educational system.

2) University councils should be formed and strengthened by the active participation of committed faculty and students in the struggle, with the official recognition by the responsible authorities in the land.

3) (Following on this), committed faculty and students in the struggle should participate actively in the process of changing the educational system; it is on the basis of such active engagement that one may hope for fundamental changes to take place, revolutionary changes whereby all creative abilities can be brought to bear as never before towards achieving independence and severance of all dependent connections with imperialism.

4) A purge of all anti-popular remnant elements from the previous regime

should be made from the universities, an action for which we have repeatedly called since the first day of the Revolution. But it is our belief that such a purge, if conducted simply by a limited group without the consultation and participation of others, can only result in intensifying internal contradictions and conflicts and damaging the anti-imperialist unity of the people as a whole.

Once again, in expressing our deepest concern over the future of the universities and conveying our warning to the officials of the country, we call for a responsible encounter with this matter on the part of the authorities, declaring herewith that the closure of the institutions of higher learning will only exacerbate antagonisms and deepen existing wounds rather than producing the desirable revolutionary and decisive healing effect of working towards the solution of the multitude of problems which the Revolution is facing. In the light of this, we draw the attention of all committed and responsible forces in the universities to be alert to monopolistic plans veiled behind any sort of pretext in the context of the universities, being prepared to demand a serious encounter in the effort to disclose and neutralize such intentions.

Towards the realization of the unity of all the people against imperialism!

The Societies and Coordinating Offices of the Moslem Students of Institutions of Higher Learning.

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public has been the most mundane and extraneous data — or a pack of gross inconsistencies? Is the intention to sit back and hope it will all blow over, so that the people will forget the yawning credibility gap?

We submit this material in the modest hope that answers will be provided to rectify some of the ambiguities involved in this situation, with a view to an ultimate solution of the enigma.