

previous six years, Abdo had become President Sarkis' right-hand man... serving as the president's primary contact with Bashir and the American diplomats in Beirut...» (Schiff, p. 287).

When this scenario did not pan out, Israeli policy in Lebanon was reduced to what it really was anyway: occupation, blackmail and attempts at population transfer, to create a security belt for itself, steal the Litani water and eliminate as many Palestinians and patriotic Lebanese as possible. This was the background for the May 17, 1983 treaty which compromised Lebanon's sovereignty until being abrogated by the heroic struggle of Lebanese and Palestinian patriots, backed by Syria. In the absence of a treaty with the Lebanese state, 'Israel' has continued its relations with the fascist forces in the North and South, encouraging their aggression and steps toward partition, trying to again create a situation whereby it can move to control all Lebanon.

ZIONISM AND THE SHAH — TWIN IMPERIALIST OUTPOSTS

Before being demised by the Iranian people's uprising, the Zionist state's relations with Iran marked one of the most successful implementations of the US's 'Vietnamization' strategy. US hegemony in the Middle East was to be secured by two gendarme regimes - 'Israel' on the Mediterranean side and Iran in the Gulf. 'Israel' joined the US in supplying arms to make the Shah's Iran a fortress for guarding the oil fields and striking liberation movements, such as the PFLO in Oman. Israeli military exports to Iran in turn contributed greatly to the imperialist-Zionist strategy of strengthening the Israeli economic base via militarizing its industry and export. For example, Tadiran, the third largest Israeli industrial firm, sold whole arms factories to Iran. «Iran before the revolution was purchasing half a billion dollars worth of Israeli goods, mostly

arms. Perhaps a third of Israel's arms export market disappeared with the revolution» (*MERIP Middle East Report* No. 144, January - February 1987, page 2). The Shah's overthrow meant \$225 million in Israeli losses in 1978 and the same for 1979; 2,000 workers were dismissed from Sultan, an artillery manufacturer, as a result (Shahak, Israel, *Israel's Global Role. Weapons for Repression*, 1982, p. 36). Recovering this market was a main motivation for Israeli involvement in the Reagan Administration's «arms-for-hostages» deal.

Besides bolstering Iran's aggressive regional stance, the Zionist state contributed heavily to the Shah regime's internal repression. Yaacov Nimrodi, an Israeli arms dealer who was pivotal in Irangate, was heard to boast: «I built the Iranian intelligence» (*MERIP* No. 144, p. 3). Nimrodi was originally a military intelligence officer and served as the Israeli military attache to Iran from 1960 to 1974, while the Israeli intelligence trained the torturers of SAVAK, the Shah's extensive and hated secret police network.

Israeli relations with Iran preceded the 1956 attack on Egypt as the Zionist state tried to rally allies in its crusade against the Arab national movement and the spread of communism. According to the CIA report on the Mossad, which was found in the US embassy in Tehran after the Iranian revolution: «A formal trilateral liaison called the 'Trident' organization was established by Mossad with Turkey's National Security Service (TNSS) and Iran's National Organization for Intelligence and Security (SAVAK) in late 1958... The general terms of the original agreement with the Turks, aside from legitimizing Israeli liaison with Turkey, stated that Mossad would furnish information on the activity of Soviet agents in Turkey and those working against Turkey throughout the Middle East. In return, the Turks agreed to supply Israel with information on the political intentions of the Arab countries which could affect the security of Israel, and the activity and identifications of the UAR agents working against Israel... Mossad has engaged in joint operations with SAVAK over the years since the late 1950s. The Israelis also regularly transmitted to the Iranian intelligence reports on Egypt's activities in the Arab countries, trends and developments in Iraq, and communist activities affecting Iran» (as reprinted in *Al Fajr*, January 28, 1983).

Iran was the only regional power to make a significant contribution to Israeli aggression in the early period: It supplied oil to the Zionist state during the 1967 war. Though full diplomatic relations were never established, the Zionist-Shah cooperation extended even to the nuclear field.

As reported in *The Observer* of February 2, 1986, «In spring 1977 Shimon Peres, by then Defense Minister, flew to Tehran for talks with the Shah. The outcome was a secret \$1 billion oil-for-arms agreement which covered six military projects, the most important of which was Flower.» Flower was the codename for a project to build a nuclear missile. In July 1977, Iranian Defense Minister Toufani was hosted by his Zionist counterpart at a test showing of the prototype missile, minus nuclear warhead, in the Negev. Toufani was «impatient for it to be deployed along his country's long borders with the Soviet Union and Iraq.» The Shah regime contributed to funding the project in the form of a guaranteed supply of 80 million barrels of oil. The deal was arranged through a Swiss front company

«Israel» - the US's Trojan horse in the Middle East.

