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Khomeini's Agents Abound

The world has not heard the last of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini. The irascible old mullah is stirring up revolutions wherever he can find enough disciples to carry the torch.

There is even more alarming news: Khomeini is trying to develop nuclear weapons. The CIA has learned that he hopes to use the shah's old nuclear power program to build bombs.

Even with conventional weapons, meanwhile, Iran is taking its place with the Soviet Union and Libya as a threat to the stability of other governments. The scowling Khomeini has a unique gift for insurrectionary incitement. To millions of Shiite Moslems, he has projected himself as the bearer of the true flame. If the Shiites make up only about 10 percent of the world's 500 million Moslems, he evidently believes the odds can be overcome by dedication and terrorism.

Khomeini has a training academy for terrorists at the holy city of Qom, where recruits from Morocco, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia are instructed in guerrilla tactics along with their religious indoctrination.

A principal target of the Shiite agents is the United States. As I revealed on May 10, top-secret intelligence intercepts indicated that the ayatollah's terrorists played a part in the April bombing of the American Embassy in Beirut.

Now a fuller list of Khomeini's deadly trade in revolution has been made available to my associate, Dale Van Atta, by CIA and other sources:

Afghanistan: The Iranians are secretly aiding anti-Soviet guerrillas who are Shiite Moslems, and giving relief to the thousands of Shiite refugees from Afghanistan. Yet Iran is giving no aid to Sunni Moslems inside Afghanistan, and imprisoning thousands of Sunnis who have fled their homeland.

Lebanon: Khomeini has more than 1,000 agents operating in the Baalbek region of eastern Lebanon, where a breakaway Islamic state has been proclaimed.

Iraq: As part of its three-year war with Iraq, Iran has given aid to terrorist groups among the Shiite majority in enemy territory, hoping for a sectarian rebel uprising.

Bahrain: Details from the secret trial of plotters in a December 1981, coup attempt in this pro-Western Persian Gulf nation show the extent of Khomeini's involvement. The plotters were trained in Tehran and got arms and fake Bahraini police uniforms from Iran, including two-way radios smuggled in by diplomatic pouch by the Iranian charge d'affaires.

Saudi Arabia: At least 200 of the Iranian "students" who stormed the American Embassy in Tehran in November 1979, have been sent at various times to stir up trouble in Saudi Arabia, disguised as pilgrims. The Iranians have tried to smuggle weapons and explosives into the country by diplomatic pouch; the Saudis intercepted at least one shipment. Thousands of Iranians have incited riots at the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

Egypt: Iranian agents have been busy along the Nile. At one point, a Soviet diplomat helped recruit Egyptian academics at the University of Alexandria to work with Khomeini's agents and other Moslem fundamentalists to overthrow the government.

Philippines: Khomeini has been supporting the anti-Marcos Moro National Liberation Front, which has an office in Tehran.

Pakistan: Iranian agents instigated the Shia-Sunni riots in Karachi earlier this year.

Turkey: Alarmed by the attempts of Iranian agents to stir up trouble in eastern Turkey, the Turkish government had a secret committee of military and political experts study the Iranian revolution. The group concluded that "Turkey's democratic roots and historical traditions" would prevent a similar catastrophe. But the secret CIA report on this added ominously: "We are not certain that this is true."

North Yemen: Iranian agents have been helping dissident plotters, and Yemeni exiles in Saudi Arabia have used Iranian diplomats in North Yemen to smuggle out militants and instructions.

France: Khomeini's agents are suspected of helping Armenian terrorists in Paris, in retaliation for French weapons sales to Iraq. The CIA notes that Armenians attacked French targets in Tehran last summer virtually unchecked by the authorities, and that Armenian terrorists who hijacked an Air France plane in Vienna in August ordered it finally to fly to Tehran.