A. IRAN — Proscription of Tudeh Party - Other security developments - Government appointments

Proscription of Tudeh Party (May 4, 1983).
Trial of Tudeh supporters (December).
Proscription of Bahai organizations (Aug. 29).
Clashes with Kurdish and Mujaheddin guerrillas (March to September).
Ministerial appointments (Dec. 7).
Inaugural meeting of Assembly of Experts (July 14).
Hijacking of Iranian aircraft to France (July 6).
Expulsion of Soviet diplomats (May 5).

The Iranian government moved decisively during 1983 to crush the *Tudeh* (People's) Party, which had constituted the sole remaining legal source of opposition to the regime. The party was declared illegal in May, and most of its leaders were arrested and detained. [For government moves against *Tudeh* in 1982 see pages 31798; 32099.]

Established in 1920 as the Communist Party of Iran, the party had been proscribed in 1931. After reconstituting itself as the *Tudeh* Party in 1942, it was represented briefly in the cabinet in 1946-47 [see 8084 A; 8432 A], but was again declared illegal in 1949 [see 9785 A], many of its leaders being imprisoned. The party supported the revolution in 1979, which it referred to as a "people's revolution of religious tendency", and it called for a "yes" vote in the constitutional referendum on the establishment of an Islamic republic in March of that year [see page 30143].

After a number of reports at the beginning of 1983 that *Tudeh* leaders had been detained, *Islamic Republic*, the official journal of the ruling Islamic Republic Party, confirmed on March 15 that 30 leading *Tudeh* activists, including Mr Nureddin Kianouri, the secretary-general, had been arrested during February. Those detained also reportedly included a number of party members who, as Army officers, had been arrested after an alleged coup attempt in 1953 [see 13010 A; 13959 A].

The arrests were denounced as illegal by the "National Voice of Iran", a pro-*Tudeh* radio station which had been broadcasting from Baku, in the Soviet Union, since 1959. In a broadcast on March 23, the radio claimed that, as a pretext for the moves against *Tudeh*, the Iranian authorities were circulating leaflets purporting to be from the party denouncing the regime.

In the first of a series of public "confessions" by *Tudeh* leaders, Mr Kianouri appeared on Iranian television on April 30 and described his party's activities as those of "treason and espionage against the Islamic Republic". In particular Mr Kianouri claimed that he had been in constant contact with Soviet agents, and that *Tudeh* members in the armed forces had passed military secrets to the Soviet Union.

Further arrests were reported in a communiqué issued by the Revolutionary Guards headquarters on April 29, which stated that quantities of arms and ammunition had been seized from the houses of *Tudeh* sympathizers. All *Tudeh* members were ordered on May 2 to register at Revolutionary Guard centres.

In a further series of televised confessions, broadcast on May 3, *Tudeh* members stated that they had worked for the KGB (the Soviet State Security Committee). A *Tudeh* central committee statement published the following day in *L'Humanité*, the French Communist party newspaper, asserted that there was no truth in the "confessions", which it claimed had been obtained through "physical and psychological torture".

The *Tudeh* Party was officially proscribed in a statement issued on May 4 by Hojatolislam Hossein Mussavi Tabrizi, the then Islamic Revolutionary Prosecutor-General (whose resignatio was reported on Tehran radio on Jan. 24, 1984). The statemer said that the party had been dissolved on the basis of Articles 24 and 26 of the constitution [see page 30144], and that "ar activity in favour of it [was] illegal and counter-revolutionary"

Mr Mohsen Rezai, commander of the Revolutionary Guard announced on May 10 that approximately 1,000 *Tudeh* membe and sympathizers were currently under arrest, and he added tha those who had already confessed to their crimes had "signed the own execution order". Among those reported to be detained wa Mr Eshan Tabari, the party's leading theoretician.

L'Humanité of June 16 reported that five of those held, including th wife of Mr Kianouri, had died in prison as a result of torture, and o June 20 it was reported that 39 supporters of *Tudeh* in the armed force together with two civilian central committee members, had been execute although this was not confirmed by the Iranian government.

Disproving earlier reports of his execution, Mr Kianou appeared on television again on Aug. 27, and, with other *Tude* officials, denied that the earlier televised confessions had bee extracted under the influence of drugs or torture.

The trial of 100 *Tudeh* supporters in the armed forces, includin Capt. Bahram Afzali, commander of the Iranian Navy until Apr [see below], began on Dec. 6. Iran's official news agency IRN reported on Jan. 21, 1984, that all the accused had been sentence to prison terms of between eight months and life after bein convicted on a number of charges including (i) attempting t overthrow the Islamic Republic, (ii) espionage, (iii) possessio and concealment of arms, and (iv) failing to observe the la prohibiting the military from belonging to political parties.

The names of 86 of those sentenced were published by the government This list did not include Capt. Afzali, although his trial was reported t have ended on Dec. 8; nor did it include the names of 13 of the accuse who had been found guilty on Dec. 27 of espionage and conspiracy t overthrow the regime, but whose sentences had yet to be decided.

IRNA reported on Feb. 4 that three leaders of *Tudeh*'s militar wing had been sentenced to death after being found guilty o spying for the Soviet Union.

Government measures against Bahais

The detention and execution of members of Iran's Bahai com munity continued during 1983, despite a number of internationa appeals to the Iranian government.

The Bahai delegation at the United Nations in Geneva claime on March 16 that three Bahais, two men and a woman, had bee executed in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz on March 12. The previous day, the UN Commision on Human Rights had adopte a resolution criticizing the Iranian government for its treatmen of the Bahai community. [For earlier reports of harassment o the Bahais, see pages 31798; 32100.]

On May 22 (the anniversary of the founding of the Baha religion in 1844) President Reagan of the United States made a personal appeal to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Iranian national leader, to spare the lives of 22 Bahais reportedly sentenced to death in February.

US administration officials subsequently said that the appeal had bee prompted by a number of recent congressional resolutions expressing concern over the fate of the 300,000-strong Bahai community in Iran (an estimated 100,000 Bahais being resident in the USA). An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman dismissed the appeal on May 25 as an "interference in the internal affairs of Iran and as such without value".

A Bahai spokesman in New York reported on June 16 that six Bahais had recently been executed in Shiraz after being accused of spying

The inaugural meeting of the Assembly of Experts (which had been elected on Dec. 10, 1982, with the task of choosing a successor to Ayatollah Khomeini—see page 32098) was held in Tehran on July 14. The 83-member Assembly elected Ayatollah Ali Mishkini, the Friday prayers leader of the holy city of Qom, as its chairman. The Assembly was then presented with a sealed copy of Ayatollah Khomeini's will, which was not however reported to give any guidance as to the succession.

Continuing economic recovery

A record income from oil exports of US$23,000 million in the financial year 1982-83 was the principal factor in the continuing recovery of the economy, which showed a balance-of-payments surplus of $6,000 million in March 1983. Although industrial production remained well below pre-revolution levels, the agricultural sector had continued to expand, with egg production in 1982 being 120 per cent above the 1978 figure, potatoes showing an increase of 50 per cent, and rice an increase of 20 per cent over the same period.

The relative buoyancy of the economy in 1983 was illustrated by the fact that foreign debts incurred before the revolution were starting to be honoured. In January, the government paid $333,000,000 to the French oil company Société nationale Elf Aquitaine in respect of debts incurred before 1979.

Mr Hossein Moussavi, the Prime Minister, announced on Nov. 27 that the defence budget for 1984-85 was 350,000 million rials ($3,923 million), adding that there were provisions to increase it to 500,000 million rials ($5,602 million) should the need arise.

Foreign relations

Iran's relations with France, which were already strained due to France's open support for Iraq in the Gulf war [see 32594 A; 32687 A], deteriorated further as a result of the hijack to Paris of an Iran Air Boeing 747 flight from Dubai (United Arab Emirates) to Tehran on July 6.

After the aircraft, with 385 passengers and crew on board, had made a scheduled stop at Shiraz, five armed men who claimed to be members of the *Mujaheddin-e-Khalq* ordered the pilot to fly to Paris. Half of the passengers were freed at a refuelling stop in Kuwait, and the aircraft landed at Orly airport in Paris on the morning of July 7.

In radio negotiations with the hijackers, Mr Massoud Rajavi, the leader of the *Mujaheddin-e-Khalq*, denied that the hijackers were members of the group and expressed his disapproval of their action. The hijackers surrendered to French police after Mr Rajavi had persuaded them to release the remaining hostages.

After the Iranian government had demanded the hijackers' extradition, French officials commented that, while they would be prosecuted for air piracy, the hijackers' request for political asylum would be given sympathetic consideration. Hojatolislam Rafsanjani denounced the use of Mr Rajavi as a mediator on July 8, and accused France, the USA, Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia of participating in the planning of the hijack, adding that Iran would take its revenge. The following day the Iranian government closed the French cultural centre in Tehran and the French consulates in Tehran and Isfahan.

An Air France jet on a flight from Vienna to Paris was hijacked on Aug. 27 by five Arab gunmen, who forced it to land at Tehran after making three stops at Geneva (Switzerland), Sicily (Italy), and Damascus (Syria). The gunmen, who were described by Tehran radio as Lebanese with Tunisian passports and members of the hitherto unknown "Islamic Liberation Movement", demanded the release within 48 hours of all Lebanese prisoners held in France and also the justification by the French government of its policies with regard to Chad, Lebanon and Iraq. After the French government had refused to meet their demands, the hijackers surrendered to the Iranian authorities on Aug. 31, having been offered political asylum in Iran.

On Dec. 24 the French government closed the (Iranian) Islamic Cultural Centre in Paris and expelled three Iranian diplomats. Three French diplomats, including the first secretary at the embassy, were expelled from Iran two days later.

Iran's relations with the Soviet Union deteriorated following the suppression of the *Tudeh* Party, and there were reports in the first half of 1983 of a number of clashes between Iranian and Soviet troops on the border with Afghanistan, following which Iran reinforced its units in the area.

Mr Vasily Safranchok, head of the Middle East department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, visited Tehran for talks on "mutual relations and a number of international issues" on April 5.

18 Soviet diplomats, who had been accused by the Iranian authorities of having links with the *Tudeh* Party, were expelled from Iran on May 5. On May 20 the Soviet government ordered the expulsion of three Iranian diplomats from Moscow.—(BBC Summary of World Broadcasts - International Herald Tribune - Times - Guardian - Le Monde - New York Times - Daily Telegraph - Financial Times - Sunday Times - Economist) (*Prev. rep. 32098 C; Cabinet changes 32535 A; Iran-Iraq war 32594 A*)

A. KUWAIT — Bomb attacks - Foreign relations - Economic developments

Bomb attacks in Kuwait City (Dec. 12, 1983).
Security measures against Iranian Shia Moslems (March 1983 to January 1984).
Rejection of US nomination for ambassador (August 1983).
Arms purchase agreements (July to November).
Legislation to combat effects of Souk el-Manakh collapse (April and August).
Resignation of Central Bank governor (Oct. 3).

In six bomb attacks in Kuwait City on Dec. 12, 1983, five people were killed and 61 wounded. The largest explosion took the form of a suicide attack on the United States embassy, where four people were killed and at least 14 wounded when a truck packed with explosives was driven through the embassy gates and exploded in the compound. The blast destroyed a three-storey annex and severely damaged other nearby buildings; one of the two men in the truck was killed instantly while the other was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

The five other attacks were mounted against the French embassy, the international airport (where one man was killed), the Electricity and Water Ministry, the Shuaiba industrial and petrochemical complex on the outskirts of the city, and a residential development used principally by US nationals. In all of these attacks, explosives were packed in strategically parked cars and detonated by remote control.

Responsibility for the bombings was claimed by the *Al Jihad al-Islami* (Islamic Holy War) organization, a militant Shia Moslem group widely seen as having close links with Iran. The same group had also claimed responsibility for attacks on the