

"Bush, Iran and Bomb"
"Research on a Programmed War" Eric Laurent

Chapter 13

(Pages 161 to 170)

To fight the Iranian Regime, the Bush administration decided to not only sit at a table with the evil but also to invite itself to evil 's table, allying with a group that has been designated as a foreign terror organization by the State Department since 1997. In fact the position taken by the group and its ideology are perfectly opposite to those of the United States as well as the Islamic Republics ideas, but its leaders impudent manipulators, animated by a logic of existence ,are making alliance with the worst enemies of the Islamic Regime to prolong their existence. Michael Rubin qualifies the MEK (Mujahedin-e-Kalq) as "monsters of the left" , a label that perfectly characterizes this cult-like group which has mixed terrorism, autocracy, Islamism and Marxism since its creation.

Born on the vestige of a reformist movement formed in 1960's by Mehdi Bazargan, MEK was created by a group of students of whom Masud Rajavi supposes that God not only created the world but he leads it to a historical evolution that ends to a society without classes, omitting the capitalistic inequalities. Their theory is a strange "syncretism" where Marxism and Islam coexist and reject the conservative clerics. According to them, the Shiite clerics as well as the Sunnites failed to understand the real essence of Quran and its dynamism. Masud Rajavi who affirms himself as the only leader, interpret religion to justify terrorism. In his opinion, a person who dies while a terror operation is equal to martyr and in his interpretation of Shiite, he has the glorification of a martyr.

A dictator who never had power

MEK, engaged in armed struggle without kindness against Shah multiply the assassination and attempts against American interests in Iran.

In 1979, the movement was one of the elements who supported the hostage taking of American diplomats in Tehran. Meanwhile, the group supported the Soviet invasion to Afqanistan and opposed the resistance of Afghan Mujahedin. Reorganized by Rajavi, MEK functioned as a communist party inspired by Trotskyite, with its central committee and political office and youth and propaganda organizations to recruit new members.

Rajavi, with his Stalinist mustache, has not invented a democratic system but a tyranny and rigorous hierarchy that put him on the head with the absolute power.

For Muajhedin's leader, Khomeini's reaching power, means the victory of conservative clerics to which he has always opposed. On the other hand, the revolution's leader views the mix of Marxism and Islam as intolerable. At the head of a delegation, on the early days after the revolution, Rajavi was received by Ayatollah Khomeini in Qom but the leader of the revolution refuses his offers frigidly presenting a lesson on what the true Islam is.

The gap between the two sides deepened everyday so as Khomeini's supporters call Mujahedin "hypocrites" or "infidels" , the verbal oppression increased and reached a physical phase that is forgotten today. The MKO's partisans who were called," God's enemies " were executed in large numbers. And of course MKO respond by the assassinations and attempts which mounted to 10000 victims during 1981 to 1982.

On July 29th, 1981, Rajavi accompanied by Bani Sadr, the ex-president of Islamic Republic, fled Iran on a military aircraft that landed on military base of Evreux. Rajavi found refugee in Auver-sur-Oise where his medicine brother resided, a few meters from Ravoux motel in which Vincent van Gohg died, Rajavi installed his general base and changed it to a camp which still exists there.

In order to continue his existence, this dictator who has never had power, rules a weakened group, serves the worst enemy of his country: Saddam Hussein.

Mujahedin became the supplementary army for Iraqis in the bloody war between Iran and Iraq. Today all Iranians with any opinion share one idea: the betrayal and hatred towards Mujahedin as a group of "traitors" and "terrorists" .

Murder with Tanks

In 1991, following the defeat of Saddam Hussein, the future of Iraq is the subject of discussions among a small group of advisors of Bush father. Robert Gates has already prepared a lot of scenarios. One of them considers the creation of a mini-state in Southern Iraq dominated by Shiites. Gates was supposed to create an army similar to that of South of Lebanon which is Israelis' agent. Washington repeatedly calls the Shiites and Kurds for uprising. These calculations were due to the Americans' assurance of Saddam's heavy failure. They were sure that he could not oppress the internal uprisings.

On the first occasion, a message of support was sent to Iranian Kurds, however it was so vague that the Kurds couldn't confirm or deny it. At the same time, the American military experts crossed Turkey borders and arrived in Kurdistan.

Bush and his partisans were shocked when Saddam Hussein oppressed Kurdish and Shiites uprisings violently. " They had no plan any more" told me a collaborator of Dick Cheney at that time. "I remember that we asked our intelligence Service: how could the Revolutionary Guard of President oppress the uprisings. They were not able to give any answer." And the reason: " the soldiers who were wearing the uniforms of revolutionary Guard , Saddam's favorite force, and assassinated Kurdish civilians and Shiites opponents in Basra were all MEK members. The son of Jalal Talibani, Iraqi Kurds' leader, says: "Until the fall of Saddam's Regime, it (MKO) was a part of Iraqi army that played an important role in oppressing Kurdish uprisings in 1991."

New York Times published the testimony, on these events, of a former member of MEK who was the body guard of Masud Rajavi and his second wife Maryam. He says: " they told us that if these rebels succeed to overthrow Saddam Hussien, it would be the end to our movement too"; Maryam Rajavi advised us to take them under the tanks and keep our bullets for the other operations."

Unique Manipulators

There are evil states" out there but some allegedly "Revolutionary" movements are also evil, including FARC in Colombia and MEK. Masud Rajavi and his second wife Maryam control their movement with despotism: the members are not allowed to read anything except that of MEK, living collectively ,they must remain single ,deprived of any sexual relations, attend regular meetings of auto-criticizing.

In 1985, Maryam and Masud got married, believing that their marriage is the beginner of an ideological revolution in the organization, forced the few married couples of MKO to divorce in order to devote themselves physically and mentally to the cult of personality that they created.

These qualified manipulators know well how naive and oblivious the democratic governments of the world are. Therefore, in 1986 they set out for lobbying in European parliaments especially in that of France they succeed to collect the signatures and 3000 parliamentarians on a petition. In 1992 they repeated the same operation in the United States and could collect the signatures of 1500 of members and collaborators of American congress to "support National Council of Resistance of Iran as a democratic alternative to Khomeini's regime in Iran." They also sent some delegations to meet British Workers Party, communist Party of Italy and Greece, attracting the welcome of several human rights organization and famous scholars. They all had forgotten that enemy of an enemy is not necessarily their friend. Michael Rubin, the specialist of Iran in American Enterprise Institute who is however close to neo-conservatives, speaks of a real aversion for the movement: " Within the United States, MKO members tell Congressmen, their staffs, and other policymakers what they want to hear: That the MKO is the only opposition movement

capable of ousting the unpopular and repressive Islamic Republic. They are slick. Friendly lawmakers and commentators get Christmas baskets full of nuts and sweets. Well-dressed and well-spoken representatives of MKO front organizations approach American writers, politicians, and pundits who are critical of the regime."

Four points that are not negotiable.

Tehran has repeatedly asked Paris for the extradition of MKO leaders and the halt of their activities in French soil. According to the research on relations between Iran and France, published in 2006: " " | Iran has decided to put pressure on France to accept the expulsion of MKO's chief and organize the content of Eurodif." For the cause, the hostage takings in Lebanon and several attempts were organized by Iran. "At beginning of December 1985" write Dominique Lorentz "the Iranians awaken President Mitterrand with two operations. On December 7th two bombs exploded simultaneously in Galeries Lafayette and Printemps." I visited Ronald Dumas in his house in Paris, he told me of his first visit in Iran: " it was 1951, I was working for a small newspaper and I had a skin problem that made me have beard. Mossadeqh was on power at that time and had sympathy for me." Having finished his nostalgic memories, Duma talked of four points that are not negotiable according to Mitterrand, in Iran-France relations: Refusing to pay ransom for the release of detained hostages, to discuss the military contracts with Iraq or to deliver arms to Iran. The last point: he refused the expulsion of Iranian political refugees including Masud Rajavi and former president Bani Sadr."

The Queen of Bees

A few months later Masud Rajavi was extradited to Iraq by Jacques Chirac who had just come to the head of federal government. The Iranian authorities pleased of such decision were definitely wrong. Rajavi became the ally of their worst enemy and the executor of Saddam's dirtiest deals. Rajavi possessed an army included of 7000 to 8000 men, heavily armed that its main mission was the oppression of internal uprisings for Baath regime in Iraqi territory and launching sabotage operations and assassinations in Iran.

In 1987, the Interior Minister, Charles Pasqua, announced the expulsion of Iranian opponents, especially the Mujahedin. The decision causes a wave of protests. High Commissioner for Refugees declares its concern and Human Rights League protests.

Jack Lang claims: " Shame on Pasqua. Shame on Chirac's government for this inappropriate act means the denial of refugees' rights and alliance with Khomeini's dictatorship ." Lionel Jospin names it "brutal expulsion." Charles Pasqua's response is both ironic and exact: " you are free to have sympathy for Mujahedin-e-Khalq that today, fight the regime of Khomeini as well as yesterday that they helped him to reach the power. You will fail to represent them as democratic and you can not imagine what kind of regime will they establish in Iran if they take the power." The only problem was that a few months later, Pasqua signed a text of support for MEK"

The movement which has a little interest in democracy starts a large campaign of protestation all over Europe and America in July 1985, with the blind help of Western newspapers. The pressures succeed finally. Paris accepts the return of seven of the extradited people.

On June 17th, 2003, 1300 policemen raided the organization's headquarter in Auver-Sur-Oise . One hundred sixty-five members and responsible were arrested including their president Maryam Rajavi. In a protest gesture, ten of Mujahedin self-immolated; two of them died. Maryam Rajavi, wearing her Chanel jacket and the scarf always on her head, was released.

According to the study made by " journal of study on eastern Mediterranean and the Turkish-Iranian world" , " this operation can mark a new step in Iran-European relations, characterized, on one hand, by the pressure Europe put on Iran due to its nuclear program, not to give a pretext to the Americans who are seeking a regime change in Iran if the later

refuses to cooperate with AIEA; from the other hand, European union, following its approaches on Iran including the support for " reformists" , wants to omit the options that could lead to the destabilization of the political scene in Iran. In this perspective, considering that People's Mujahedin as a well-organized organization can play a role in destabilization of Islamic Republic French government launched the operation to limit MKO's action on French soil [":]. In order to justify the operation, the interior minister Nicolas Sarkozy explains:" Mujahedin wanted to make a protection base of France and we can not accept it."

The explanation was a little short. The movement has used France as a support base for years. And, in Auver-Sur-Oise, behind the walls and towers that protect her headquarter, Maryam Rajavi continue to control her organization like a queen of bees in her beehive. 2003 was an excellent year for MEK. The fall of Saddam served them with another supporter: The United States.

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In March 2003, the American troops surrounded camp Ashraf ,the principal military base of Mujahedin in Iraqi territory ,located on the West of Iranian border at a hundred kilometers North of Bagdad. It contained 3850 men, armed with heavy arms including tanks and artilleries. They are disarmed and detained in the camp.

Tehran sent a message to White House, by its intermediate Javad Zarif, its ambassador in United Nations. Iran proposed to exchange the Al-Qiada high-ranking members who had been detained in Iran, following the September 11th, for the 3850 men of MEK. "Your terrorists instead of ours" mentioned Zarif.

The suggestion that was made in the middle of March became the subject of a meeting between Bush and his top advisors.

As always, Cheney was sitting on the right side of the president ,in the Situation Room. This conference room , especially decorated ,is located in the basement of the White House. A lot of rooms surround it, with large maps of different regions of the world on the walls. The information that is transmitted every morning to the White House by the secret services are reproduced on these maps. The Situation Room is also equipped with extra ordinarily sophisticated computers that let the authorities in the room contact instantly with any part of the world.

Bush, who had had the war on terror and particularly the elimination of terrorists, should have been satisfied with this suggestion. Besides, the deal was good to Iran because if they could have reached the [MKO] leaders, they could have used their intelligence to prohibit the emergence of possible attacks.

But, finally the Americans refused the suggestion that Cheney resumed declaring:"we preserve all the options."

"This group loves the United States"

For Washington, MEK is not only an "option", but also a reality; it has an office in the very official building of National Press, a high place of the whole American Press in American Capital.

On April 8th, 2003, Ileana Rose-Lehtinen, republican from Florida, president of the sub-committee on international relations for Near-East and Central Asia declared about Mujahedin:" this group loves the United States. They are assisting us in war on terrorism they're pro-US . This group has not fought against the US. It's simply not true. ."

In Washington, numerous figures including Paul Wolfowitz and Douglas Feith are reviewing MEK as an ideal instrument for the politics they would like to take against Iran. The grouplet

also tries to seem credible. Its spokesman in Washington, AliReza Jaafar zade, who took distance from the MKO in 2003, fed the Americans with the revelations on Iranian nuclear program.

On May 10th, 2003 general Ray Odierno, commandant of the fourth infantry division installed in Iraq, declared: "I would say that any organization that has given up its equipment to the coalition clearly is cooperating with us, and I believe that it should be reviewed whether they are still a terrorist organization or not." A declaration that is a little thought of, shows the spiritual status of many military officials. Michael Ledeen has well said: "I'm not the man to get closer than 300 kilometers to MEK, these men are not supported, they have no legality." He knows well that it is a lie. Mujahidin were received at least by the United States that became their really political sponsor.

"A terrorist group is not necessarily illegal"

Just after the reelection of George W. Bush, the Vice-president Cheney declared on January 20th, 2005 on CBS: "if you provide a list of potential zones of problem, Iran is on the top." At the same time, he asked the director of CIA to think of using MKO forces for sabotage operations inside Iran.

Maryam Rajavi and her movement who assassinated in the past several Americans and served Saddam Hussein as supplementary force, became an arm in the hands of American president and his advisors. The only obstacle against an open cooperation between MEK and the American administration: the organization has figured on the list of foreign terrorist organizations of the State Department since 1997. A designation that curiously didn't forbid it from having an office and activities in American capital. John Ashcroft, the ultra-conservative minister of Justice, supports the group actively and one of his collaborators explains this juridical ambiguity: "the simple designation of a group as a foreign terrorist organization doesn't make it necessarily illegal." The organization is recorded by the Justice Department as a lobbyist foundation, an activity that they are skilled in.

In January 2005, a former collaborator of Ronald Reagan, Raymond Tanter, created Iran Policy Committee, composed of "former officials of White House, State Department and Pentagon, The Intelligence Agencies, the research centers and universities." And, he fails to mention the several important representatives of arm industries. According to members of IPC "Iran poses the main threat against the United States and its allies." Since its creation, the committee put pressure on the Administration to remove MEK from the terrorist list and "to put these freedom fighters on the top of the strategy for regime change in Iran." During a conference, on November 21st 2005, Tanter declared: "one of the military options is the 'Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator [a nuclear bomb tactic in large measure] that could have the capacity to destruct the tunnels profoundly undergrounded and sub terrain installations." After, this radical introduction, he adds: "the international community should realize that there is only one group that can terrify the regime of Tehran: the People's Mujahedin and National Council Resistance of Iran, the political coalition that MEK belongs to. [...] They are not only the best sources of Intelligence on the potential violation of the rules of non-proliferation, by Iran; but also they are possible allies of the West to bring regime change in Tehran."

"The Increasing quarrel of the civilizations"

Tanter's innovation was supported by Tom Tancerdo, the Representative of Colorado in house of Representatives. The man whose reputation is due to his plan for the deport of clandestine workers on American territory, the construction of a wall throughout the borders of the country and the necessity for the United States to engage in the "The Increasing quarrel of the civilizations". "I think" he says, "we are not fighting only a small group who

took religion as hostage, but a civilization that is determined to destruct us: radical Islam. Radical Islam has been the enemy of Christians since centuries ago. "

In 2005, he also founded "the Assembly for Democracy and the League for Human Rights in Iran." He described Maryam Rajavi as "very charismatic; she believes in the women's rights, she believes in democracy in Iran. I support her efforts. I know that the US has qualified it as a terrorist organization, but you have to know that they were designated after the Clinton Administration was seeking to achieve a relation with Iran and with Mullahs; these ones wanted to formulate an only exigency: that the Mujahedin be listed as a terrorist organization and the designation was made due to political reasons and it doesn't mean that they pose a threat to the United States. "

"Thanks, sister Maryam"

On the early days of May 2005, MEK organized a large demonstration in Washington, at Constitution Hall, to represent itself as the legitimate representative of resistance .A lot of members of Congress were present. A number of lecturer were there too. One of them was Captain Vivian Gembara of the fourth infantry division, a jurist who negotiated the disarmament of Mujahedin in Iraq. She is the daughter of an officer of special forces that was a really legend during the Vietnam War:"It's just simply imprudent" she said " to continue the exclusion of MEK, since we have to face a much more important threat in Iran."

On October 20th,2005, Maryam Rajavi addressed the congress. The self-proclaimed President of Iran attended the Capitol by video satellite directly from Auver-Sur-d'Oise . The 51 year-old woman received the cheers of the audience with a humble smile. At the end of her speeches, the democrat representative of Texas, Sheila Jackson said emotionally:" thanks, sister Maryam."

The title "Freedom Fighter" is an appropriate title for any political rebel ... At their eras, Jonas Savimbi in Angola and Masud in Afghanistan practiced it successfully, having received financial and military support.

Maryam Rajavi promises exactly what her sympathizers like to hear. In January 2005, she engaged in organizing the free elections in six months following the regime change and to form a constituent assembly in order to lead the affairs by the representatives elected by people." The admirable declarations that were contradicted by the report published Human Rights Watch at the same time. Twenty-eight onerous pages with the appropriate title:" No Exit: Human Rights abuses inside the MEK Camp." According to Joe Stork the director of Middle East branch of HRW, in Washington: "The Iranian government has a shameful record on human rights, but it will be a big mistake to support a dissident group that is responsible of a lot of cases of human rights violations."

The reports are based on the evidences of twelve former Mujahedin who were interviewed from February to May, 2005. They explained the use of torture, maltreatment and solidarity confinement after they had criticized the undemocratic methods of the movement and declared their willingness to leave the organization.

Two of them declared that they had witnessed the death of two prisoners during the interrogations. "The MEK" they said " has installed special prisons in its Iraqi Camps where the dissidents are detained." One of the eyewitnesses explained that he had been imprisoned for eight and a half years, the other one, for five years.The four other defectors, accused of having opinions, affirmed of having been severely tortured and forced to sign false confessions in which they are recognized of having links with the agents of Iranians Intelligence Service. Three former Mujahedin witnessed the death of Parviz Ahmadi, the commander of a unit. He died in February 1995 after he was beaten violently. It lasted three years for the MEK to announce his death, in the organization journal, Mojahed, as a "martyr" assassinated by the Iranian Intelligence Service.

All these testimonies, finally describe the very evidence that " People's Mujahedin is not a political movement but a cult devoted to the personality of the couple leaders."

The report was not considered as important by the media.

It should be said that nowadays in Washington the tensions are on the rise as well as 2002-2003 while the American invasion to Iraq.

" CIA attracts too much lightening"

In the fall 2004, while George Bush was campaigning for his reelection , declared in an interview by Fox NEWS network that feeds him with a pleasant support: " Iran will never be allowed to achieve nuclear weapons"

In February 2005, in his annual lecture on state of Union , he spoke a long speech on Iran that " is the principal state sponsor of terrorism that seeks the program of the development of nuclear weapons, depriving its own people of liberty [...] " . A few days before that, in January 2005 , " Iran Freedom Support Act" , intended to support a transition toward democracy in Iran, was introduced in the Chamber of Representatives. A month later it would be adopted by Senate. The act permits financing the opposition groups. At the head is the MEK which the only one that has an operational structure.

In the unrevealed scene of American politics, including the State Department and the Pentagon, MEK is a source of confrontations. A testimony of this iron arm summarizes the situation: " the militarists consider them as their comrades and the diplomats consider them as terrorists" Condi Rice reproaches Rumsfeld for using MEK secretly for the clandestine operations. The information of the State Secretary is exact. They have become the "counter Iranian", used in a totally illegal way, by the pentagon and DIA, the secret military services for the guerilla's activity inside Iran. CIA is totally put away," because it attracts too much complaints against the administration" said to me, one of the officials of CIA.

"Our policy has not changed"

There is not any presidential directive to permit such operations. The thing that, allows, at least in theory, to short-circuit the eventual investigations of Senate and home of Representatives. The camps, controlled by the Special Forces and located in the deserts around Iran – Iraq border, have been used for the formation and military training of Mujahedin for their sabotage operations inside Iran.

An only man who knows everything on these clandestine operations is the sub-secretary of Defense, Stephen Combone, and a neo-conservative that a lot of people consider him as the real arm of Rumsfeld. A man "in shadow", according to one of his collaborators, he is literally fascinated by the potentiality of MEK: about the intelligence on the Iranian nuclear program, but also because it is the only group that has the power to launch terrorist operations to make the Iranian leaders anxious. Cambone has also negotiated with the Pakistani authorities and gained the agreement of President Parvis Musharaf so as the Mujahedin could use the Baluchistan Province to launch their operations.

Interviewed by a reporter, the spokesman of the White House, Scott Mc Clellan, denies the intervention of the Administration.

" – a lot of reports" asks a journalist," reveal the operations launched in Iran, from three different areas. PKK on Iraqi border, MEK on the Southern border and also some operations from Baluchistan. Does the United- States have any policy? There are also some reports on the possible operations launched by the Special Forces in Iran."

"- our policies towards these organization haven't changed" replied the spokesman of White house. [...] "We still consider them as terrorist organizations."

" – and we have never cooperated with them, I mean?"

"Our policies haven't changed" repeated Mc Clellan. Auver-Sur-Oise, April 2007. The man who joins us in the garden of this property, located at 200 meters from Mairie Place, is a close collaborator of Maryam Rajavi ... in his forties, fine moustache, imposing glasses, he oppose my questions as well as the spokesman of the White House : ' we have no contact

with the United States and we don't launch ,with their help , any operation inside Iran." To any question he gives the same smile. "No, we don't receive any financial aid from Washington." an American military operation against Iran? His fingers touch the edge of the cup of coffee: "our position is very clear. We oppose any foreign intervention."

Translation: Nejat Society