

ParsBrief

Number 38
January 2008

1. Department Spokesman Sean McCormack :the MEK, the Mujahedin-e Khalq is considered a terrorist organization
2. Baroness Nicholson:Mojahedin Khalq Organisation (MKO) still on terrorist list in UK
3. EP Delegation to Iran visits Nejat Society
4. Mojahedin Khalq supporter "Struan Stevenson" undermines efforts to promote democratic Values
5. Gordon Brown: No evidence that MKO has given up terrorism
6. Adm Gregory Smith: US military does not support terrorist Mojahedin Khalq (MKO)
7. Home office to take the case of MKO to the Court of Appeal
8. Terrorist groups says Iran NIE wrong...



Brief No.38

www.nejatngo.org

Jan. ,2008

Department Spokesman Sean McCormack :the MEK, the Mujahedin-e Khalq is considered a terrorist organization

Daily Press Briefing

Sean McCormack, Spokesman

Washington, DC

December 11, 2007

QUESTION: Today an Iranian dissident said that the military program -- the military nuclear program was suspended in 2003, but it -- that it restarted in 2004. So that actually it was alive. It was still working -- it's working. Do you have any information about that?

MR. MCCORMACK: I don't, Sylvie. I can only just refer you back to the consensus intelligence estimate that we released last week from our intelligence community.

QUESTION: But this guy is the one who actually made revelation in 2002 about (inaudible).

MR. MCCORMACK: Sylvie, I can't -- you know, can't offer any comment beyond the fact that our intelligence community -- 16 intelligence agencies in that community -- came up with a consensus assessment. This was what it was. And I can't speak to this. And you know, they had access to a whole variety of different information. They actually went back

and carefully went through all the information that they had and came up with this assessment.

QUESTION: Okay. I have a small question. This guy is the former spokesman from the National Council of Islamic Resistance.

MR. MCCORMACK: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Is it a group that you consider as a terrorist?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, the MEK, the Mujahedin-e Khalq is considered a terrorist organization.

QUESTION: But not the National --

MR. MCCORMACK: Sylvie, I can't tell you --

QUESTION: You don't know.

MR. MCCORMACK: -- off the top of my head, you know, where they fall. I think this is a group that was in some way constituted in the United States. I can't tell you exactly how we view them. You'd probably get a better read on that from the Department of Justice or the FBI.

Baroness Nicholson: Mojahedin Khalq Organisation (MKO) still on terrorist list in UK

Press TV, December 12, 2007

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail.aspx?id=34645§ionid=351020101>

EU lawmaker, Emma Nicholson has proclaimed that a British court, not government, believes in lifting the ban on MKO terrorist group.

In an exclusive interview with Press TV, member of the Human Rights Subcommittee of the European Parliament, Emma Nicholson, said that a special new court has been convened and decided that the British government acted in haste in putting the Mujahedin Khalq Organization on the terrorist list.

Nicholson said the findings were that the British government's actions on putting the MKO on the list had not been carried out properly.

"But the British government does not agree. The British government is appealing and is against that judgment," she added.

Concerning the MKO presence and operations in Iraq, Nicholson said the sovereign nation of Iraq has to decide about this terrorist group's presence in the country.

The situation requires a dialogue between the Iranian and Iraqi governments, adding that the expulsion of MKO members has nothing to do with the US or UK forces in Iraq.

When asked why Britain still supports tougher sanctions against Iran with respect to IAEA and NIE reports proving that Iran is not involved in a military program, Nicholson stated that Iran did not fully explore the European Union's offer in 2006 which suggested Iran stop its uranium enrichment and in return, the European Union would lift sanctions.

In response to a question regarding the West's increasing pressure on Iran to stop nuclear enrichment which is completely in line with IAEA regulations, Nicholson answered, "There has been a loss of confidence on both sides - a loss of trust."

When asked if Britain is following US policy and not making independent choices, Nicholson replied that Britain, Germany and France began negotiations with Iran from "a specifically European Union position".

Asked if the International Atomic Energy Agency is not the legal referee in decisions about Iran's nuclear case rather than the UN Security Council, she replied, "Because the nuclear issue is so important, it has gone up to the Security Council level."

EP Delegation to Iran visits Nejat Society

Nejat Society, 12 December

On Sunday 9th December 2007, the European Parliamentary Delegation to Iran met with the members and associates of Nejat (rescue) Society in their office in Tehran. The Delegation which was headed by Ms Angelika Beer MEP from Germany (the Chairwoman of the EP Iran Delegation) consisted of 24 MEPs from various groups from different European countries.

Mr Arash Sametipur a former member of the military section of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation (MKO) and one of the administrators of the Nejat society welcomed the delegation and introduced the goals and activities of the society. He discussed how he was recruited in the USA and sent to Iraq to receive military trainings as well as ideological teachings and then sent to Iran to carry out assassinations. He explained that since the

Iranian authorities have a good understanding of the cultic nature of the MKO and they are well aware that the followers are brainwashed, they consider the members of the MKO as the prime victims of the organisation which must be helped rather than be punished. Then Mr Sametipur invited Mr Ebrahim Khodabandeh and Mr Jamil Bassam former members of the MKO from the political section to talk about their experiences with the activities of the organisation in the western countries. Mr Khodabandeh referred to the absence of Mr Paula Casaca MEP from Portugal who dropped his name from the list of the delegation in the last minutes due to the pressure imposed by the MKO. He said that he was really willing to visit Mr Casaca today and tell him some mere facts about Iran and about the MKO. He mentioned that surely Mr Casaca missed an opportunity to face the truth.

Next was Ms Hura Chalchi another administrator of the Society and also a former member of the military section of the MKO who went into the details of the society's activities. She brought up the case of the families of the members of the MKO in Ashraf Camp in Iraq who have no contact with their beloved ones and urged the European parliamentarians to make every possible effort to ensure a safe and private meeting between the families and their relatives inside the MKO...

Members of the delegation also expressed their regret about the presence of Mrayam Rajavi in the European Parliament and emphasised the fact that these people like all cults do not expose their real identity and try to deceive people to reach their own goals. In the end Ms Beer thanked the Nejat Society for providing them with good information about the MKO.

Some materials and documentations on MKO were handed over to each member of the delegation.

Mojahedin Khalq supporter "Struan Stevenson" undermines efforts to promote democratic Values

Press tv, December 19, 2007

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=35653§ionid=351020101>

A senior member of the European Parliament, Angelika Beer, condemns the invitation of the MKO terrorist group to a parliament session.

Beer slammed the Greens Alliance in the European Parliament for providing the outlawed

Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) with an opportunity to attend a parliament session. The European legislator said ignoring the terrorist group's violation of human rights and inviting it by Struan Stevenson would undermine the European Parliament's efforts to promote democratic values.

Beer expressed strong opposition to lifting the ban on the outlawed group.

The MKO has carried out countless terrorist acts against the Iranian nation, including the assassination of a president, a prime minister, 80 senior officials as well as thousands of defenseless civilians.

Gordon Brown: No evidence that MKO has given up terrorism

House of COMMONS, December 13, 2007

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmliaisn/uc192-i/uc19202.htm>

Link to the video broadcast of the session:

<http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/VideoPlayer.aspx?meetingId=665>

UNCORRECTED TRANSCRIPT OF ORAL EVIDENCE To be published as HC 192-i

House of COMMONS

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

LIAISON COMMITTEE

THE PRIME MINISTER

Thursday 13 December 2007

RT HON GORDON BROWN MP

Evidence heard in Public Questions 1 - 120

USE OF THE TRANSCRIPT

1. This is an uncorrected transcript of evidence taken in public and reported to the House. The transcript has been placed on the internet on the authority of the Committee, and copies have been made available by the Vote Office for the use of Members and others.
2. Any public use of, or reference to, the contents should make clear that neither witnesses nor Members have had the opportunity to correct the record. The transcript is not yet an

approved formal record of these proceedings.

3. Members who receive this for the purpose of correcting questions addressed by them to witnesses are asked to send corrections to the Committee Assistant.

4. Prospective witnesses may receive this in preparation for any written or oral evidence they may in due course give to the Committee.

....

Q97 Malcolm Bruce: Just on that, Prime Minister, the main democratic opposition to the Iranian regime is the People's Mujahideen organisation of Iran, which has been proscribed in this country. The proscribed organisation's appeals committee have said that they are not involved in terrorism and that the refusal of the Home Secretary to de-proscribe them was flawed, perverse and must be set aside. Why does the Government not accept that?

Mr Brown: I have looked at that issue that you raise. It is certainly, however, the case that the organisation that you describe has been, in the past, involved in terrorist activity, and I do not think there is any doubt about the evidence that that has been the case. Therefore, to proscribe an organisation that has been involved in terrorist activity seems the right thing to do by the decisions of this Government to be consistent with other decisions that we make.

Q98 Malcolm Bruce: We have accepted sometimes that terrorist organisations can change their ways?

Mr Brown: But I do not think we have that evidence.

Adm Gregory Smith: US military does not support terrorist Mojahedin Khalq (MKO)

Interview with MEHR News, November 25, 2007

BBC Monitoring Middle East

Text of report by Iranian conservative news agency Mehr

Tehran, 25 Nov: Rear Adm Gregory Smith, Communication Division Chief for the Multi-

National Force-Iraq, who has repeatedly - and without proof - accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of engaging in negative activities in Iraq responded to questions from Mehr news agency concerning US military support to the MEK terrorist group [pejorative meaning hypocrites used by the Iranian government to refer to the Mojahedin-e Khalq (MKO)]. The group has been placed on the list of terrorist groups. He claimed that the US military does not support any terrorist group including the MKO. He admitted: The American government considers the MKO group to be a terrorist group and once again claimed that the US military was not supporting them.

Responding to a question from Mehr asking if the US government and the American military would assist the Iraqi government should it expel these individuals - or at the very not interfere with the expulsions, he answered in generalities, saying: We don't respond to questions that are based on conjecture. This question is speculative, we don't work on speculations.

Gregory Smith said he had no knowledge of plans for a new round of Iran-US talks on Iraq, saying: Issues relating to these talks are handled by the US embassy in Iraq. The official spokesperson for the American forces in Iraq commented on the fate of Iranian diplomats who have been held captive by the occupiers since they were taken in Dey last year [Iranian month starts on 22 December], saying: As far as US officials are concerned these individuals are not diplomats. They shall remain in detention for as long as US official believe them to be a threat to Iraq.

Smith went on to say: A committee made up of representatives from the coalition [forces] and the Iraqi government is reviewing this issue.

Iraqi MP Ali al-Adib contradicts claims by this American military official that his country does not support the MKO group, saying: Even though the Iraqi constitution has banned the activities of opposition groups and organization from neighbouring countries, the US military supports the presence of mko terrorist group .

Home office to take the case of MKO to the Court of Appeal

Agence France Presse, December 14, 2007

LONDON, Dec 14, 2007 (AFP) - UK govt loses bid to keep Iran opposition group outlawed: ministry

The British government lost a bid Friday to keep an Iranian opposition group on its list of proscribed terrorist organisations, the Home Office announced.

The Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission (POAC) rejected an application by

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith against its November 30 ruling that the People's Mojahadeen Organisation of Iran (PMOI) should no longer be blacklisted.

Home Office minister Tony McNulty said he was disappointed at the decision and would now seek to take the case to the Court of Appeal.

"The government adopted a cautious approach in relation to the de-proscription of the People's Mojahadeen Organisation of Iran," he said in a statement.

"I remain convinced that where terrorism is concerned, the rights of the law abiding majority and the overriding need to protect the public, both in the UK and abroad, must lead us to take such a cautious approach.

"I firmly believe that we should be entitled to take this view."

McNulty said those on the proscribed list were reviewed regularly but the department would look again at its processes to ensure such groups are treated fairly, proportionately and in accordance with the law.

The original case was taken to the POAC by a cross-party group of 35 British lawmakers, including a former home secretary and solicitor general plus senior ranking Scottish and European judges.

The PMOI was the armed wing of the France-based National Council of Resistance of Iran but renounced violence in June 2001.

Chairman of the British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom, Robin Corbett, said Smith "should now admit to the mistake" and implement the POAC's judgment.

Maryam Rajavi, president-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, said in a statement the tribunal's ruling was "another affirmation that the terrorist label against the PMOI was 'perverse'".

also read:

Gordon Brown: No evidence that MKO has given up terrorism

Terrorist groups says Iran NIE wrong...

at-Largely, Posted by Larisa Alexandrovna on December 11, 2007

You could not make this stuff up even if you tried. Under the direction of new owner Rupert Murdoch, the Wall Street Journal is becoming the paper version of Faux News. Here is their latest nonsense on the Iran NIE:

"The Iranian opposition group that first exposed Iran's nuclear-fuel program said a U.S. intelligence analysis is correct that Tehran shut down its weaponization program in 2003, but claims that the program was relocated and restarted in 2004.

The claim, to be made public today by the National Council for Resistance in Iran, joins a broad pushback by conservative hawks who say the U.S. analysis has wrongly given the impression that Iran's nuclear-fuel program doesn't present an urgent threat."

Since when is a terrorist group a credible source for anything, let alone one to be used in a mainstream article?

The National Council for Resistance in Iran is the MEK lobby in DC. They call themselves the true government of Iran in exile and their president is Maryam Rajavi. Let's do a MEK/MKO basics crash course:

- During the 1970s, the MeK was accused of conducting several assassinations of US military personnel and civilians working in Iran, and of actively supporting the takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran in 1979. That same year, the MeK helped to overthrow the Shah and install the new Shiite regime led by the Ayatollah Khomeini.
- The Secretary of State has amended the designation, under Executive Order 13224 on terrorist financing, of the Mujahedin-e Khalq, known as the MEK, to add its aliases National Council of Resistance (NCR) and National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI). That Executive Order blocks the assets of organizations and individuals linked to terrorism. The decision also clarifies that the designation includes the U.S. representative office of NCRI and all its other offices worldwide, and that the designation of the People's Mujahedin of Iran ('PMOI') as an alias of the MEK includes the PMOI's U.S. representative office and all other offices worldwide.
- Tehran proposed ending support for Lebanese and Palestinian militant groups and helping to stabilise Iraq following the US-led invasion. Offers, including making its nuclear programme more transparent, were conditional on the US ending hostility. But Vice-President Dick Cheney's office rejected the plan, the official said. The offers came in a letter, seen by Newsnight, which was unsigned but which the US state department apparently believed to have been approved by the highest authorities. In return for its concessions, Tehran asked Washington to end its hostility, to end sanctions, and to disband the Iranian rebel group the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq and repatriate its members.

So basically, what the Wall Street Journal is saying is that a terrorist group on the US State Department's list of terrorist organization - who has also killed US citizens and was close to Saddam Hussein - is unhappy with the Iran NIE. Moreover this same group is close to the Vice President, who chose to protect his friends rather than hand them over to Iran in exchange for...Iran giving up all enrichment activities - the thing that Cheney has claimed is the problem. Do you follow this logic? Does the WSJ not have a fact-checking crew? Is the Wall Street Journal now aiding a terrorist organization by giving them a say in US foreign policy?

This is good to know. So next time there is a Saudi Arabia NIE, perhaps the Wall Street Journal can feature al Qaeda as supporting the conservative position. Like I said, you could not make this crap up if you tried. Propaganda news at its finest folks... and the war on terror at its most laughable.