

Closer examination needed of U.S. foreign policy in Iran

By Cindy Trainor

I am writing in response to the editorial which appeared in the Daily Nebraskan Monday, Sept. 11, entitled, *25 Years Of Aid Too Long*. I am in complete agreement with the conclusion of the author; which was that the public should take a closer look at the U.S. foreign policy — for example as it applies in Iran, and bring a stop to it. I am afraid however that the editorial may have passed on some misconceptions which I will try to clear up.

Misconceptions are impossible to avoid when consulting the local media. Students returning from Iran report that they can get as much truth out of the censored media of Iran as they can over here.

guest opinion

It is difficult to get correct information from the media concerning Iran for these reasons: a) The shah's censorship of the news. Only last Saturday eight journalists were arrested in Iran. "Official" reports vary from half-truths to out and out fabrication. The shah is not a reliable source. b) The capitalistic nature of the media in the U.S. It includes the strong upper-class bias of the owners, the people they need to be friendly with, and of course the influence of the U.S. foreign policy in Iran. Up until a month ago there was a U.S. media boycott of Iran and nothing was mentioned at all about Iran. c) Another economic reason — certain monies that the shah has distributed to world newspapers and magazines to improve his image in the media.

Coup

The editorial stated that the U.S. has been aiding the Shah of Iran for 25 years. What it failed to mention was that in August of 1953 the U.S. sponsored a coup d'etat in Iran, organized by the C.I.A. This infamous event marked the beginning of U.S. "aid" to Iran. The coup deposed the popular government headed by Prime Minister Dr. Mossadegh and installed the murderer Shah Mohammed Reza

Pahlavi.

Beginning with the Nixon Doctrine of the 1960's the U.S. came up with the idea of employing "local gendarmes" to further our corporate interests. These gendarmes, of which Iran was one of the first, were to be equipped, trained and aided by the U.S.; exploiting the indigenous population and local funds. These local forces can be used discreetly against popular uprisings which threaten U.S. imperialism. This has been evidenced in Dofar, and several African countries, and right now inside Iran. The U.S. government and capitalists are as fully involved in Iran as they ever were in Vietnam. There are 24,000 U.S. citizens presently working just in Iran's military programs, not to mention industry.

Thousands march

On Thursday, September 7, 1978 several hundred thousands marched through Tehran (Iran's capitol) shouting anti-Shah slogans and calling for their exiled Moslem leader Ayatollah Khomeini to represent the people of Iran. They called for a "democratic republic" of Iran. Note their slogans had **nothing** to do with women's right to vote or wearing veils. (Voting in an autocratic regime?) A democratic republic is impossible while the decadent dictator is still in evidence-kept in power by his C.I.A. trained SAVAK. (The largest secret police organization in the so-called "free world.")

But the American public is supposed to believe that although the shah is now gunning people down in the streets from helicopters above, etc.; he has stopped torturing his 100,000 political prisoners and is now the benevolent reformer.

Living conditions

The several hundred thousand protesters are not fighting progress, or the shah's giving women the right to vote. This is absurd. They are protesting living condi-

tions for everyone. There is a 50 percent infant mortality rate, 80 percent of the people lack adequate housing but spend 80 to 90 percent of their salaries on it. Seventy-five percent of the population is illiterate, and the inflation is as high as 30 percent annually.

Iran used to be agriculturally self-sufficient. Now they import most of their food. These are reforms? These conditions have deteriorated rather than improving in the last 25 years. The people of Iran are getting tortured and shot fighting for freedom; freedom from the shah's brutal oppression, insane spending of money on arms, and selling Iran's people and resources over to American imperialist exploitation.

BBC estimates

BBC (the British Broadcasting Corp.) of London estimated that on Friday, Sept. 8, when marshall law was imposed on Tehran and eleven other cities by force, that between 4,800 to 5,200 people were shot

down. This is in contrast to the murder's "official" report of 58 people. (The figure reported in all the local media.) With hundreds of thousands of courageous freedom fighters in the streets it is unrealistic to assume that they could be dispersed by the slaying of 58 of them.

So in conclusion, be careful of things you read in your local newspaper. Check out the U.S. foreign policy. Soon U.S. troops will be over in Iran protecting U.S. businessmen that don't belong over there and U.S. big business interests. Our materialistic and wasteful way of life cannot last anyway—the earth can't tolerate it and neither can starving masses. So don't sit back—get involved, join us in our demonstration, do your part.

A supporter of the Iranian Student Association

Editor's note: The author is a senior psychology major from Omaha.

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