

NEWS ON IRAN

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National Council of Resistance of Iran - Foreign Affairs Committee

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Mullahs' Air Force Bombs Resistance Bases

Raids arouse global condemnations

Iran-Iraq border area, Sept. 29 (news agencies) - Iranian Air Force warplanes on Monday bombed two military bases of the main Iranian opposition group inside Iraq, the rebels said.

The Mujahideen Khalq said there were no casualties other than several Iraqi civilians whose nearby villages were hit by some of the bombs.

Massoud Rajavi, President of the National Council of Resistance of

Iran, sent letters to the U.N. secretary-general and members of the Security Council "urging them to condemn this terrorist attack," according to a statement issued by the group.

Iran's official news agency said the raid was in retaliation for the Mujahideen operations on Iranian territory in the past few days. It was also aimed at deterring any future attacks by the Mujahideen on Iranian soil, the Islamic Republic

News Agency said.

Reuters reported on September 29: "The Iranian opposition group Mujahideen Khalq said the raids targeted their two camps, one near the city of Kut, 172 km (103 miles) southeast of Baghdad, and the other near Jalawla, 130 km northeast of Baghdad.

"The raids caused no casualties among the (Mujahideen Khalq's) fighters but there are casualties

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Parliament in exile vows to topple Tehran's rulers



President-elect Maryam Rajavi and members of the Resistance's parliament in exile applaud after adoption of a key resolution

Baghdad, Oct. 1 (Reuters) - Iranian opposition groups meeting in Baghdad vowed to escalate their struggle to overthrow the Tehran government, the country's main exiled opposition movement Mujahideen Khalq said.

The group said in a statement that 570 members of what it called Iran's parliament in exile met under Massoud Rajavi to adopt "important resolutions" calling for armed struggle against the Iranian government.

The statement said they vowed to "advance to overthrow the clerics' regime and realize freedom and popular sovereignty in Iran".

"The NCR views armed struggle...as the primary means to sweep aside

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Labour Party conference resolution supports Iranian people's resistance to establish democracy in Iran

Brighton, Oct. 2 (NOI) - The annual conference of the British Labour Party, meeting here from Sept. 28 to Oct. 3, adopted a resolution condemning the violation of human rights in Iran and the Tehran regime's export of terrorism and fundamentalism. The resolution also declared support for the Iranian people's resistance to establish democracy in Iran.

The conference is Labour's first after the party's landslide victory in the general elections last May. It was the first party conference in 20 years to be addressed by a Labour prime minister in office.

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NCR members voted unanimously for the final resolution

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the ruling theocracy,” the statement said.

The National Liberation Army (NLA), the umbrella group’s military wing, has bases along the Iraq-Iran border. It claims to have carried out 400 military operations since January.

Iran has repeatedly bombed NLA bases inside Iraq, using warplanes, mortars and long-range artillery.

On Monday Iranian planes bombed two NLA camps, one in the south and the other in the north of Iraq, which the Baghdad government denounced as aggression.

NCR’s meeting was held in the Mujahideen’s main headquarters at the Hall of Baharestan in the heart of Baghdad. The center is ringed by a concrete wall which has so far weathered several mortar and bomb attacks the group has blamed on Tehran.

NCR adopts key resolution

Baghdad, Oct. 1 (NCR secretariat) - The National Council of Resistance, the 570-member parliament of the Iranian Resistance, adopted a major resolution at the close of a 10-day session of the council and its committees on Wednesday, October 1.

In the 12-point resolution, unanimously ratified, NCR members “vowed to intensify their efforts to topple the clerical regime and realize freedom and popular sovereignty in Iran.”

The NCR resolution described the National Liberation Army as the

main instrument for the overthrow of the anti-human Khomeini regime and transfer of power to the people of Iran. The NCR said supporting and joining the NLA is an urgent and national duty and called on the various sectors of the Iranian people to escalate their resistance to expedite the overthrow of the mullahs’ regime.

The decisions made in this session followed the escalation of feuding within the clerical regime subsequent to Khatami’s presidency which created a tree-man leadership

NCR's resolution condemned any form of appeasement of mullahs, demanding oil, arms and diplomatic sanctions against Tehran regime

for the mullahs’ regime.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Rajavi said the decisions were an important step towards the expansion of NCR activities for the overthrow of the theocracy ruling Iran.

Mr. Rajavi added: The mullahs’ failed air strikes against the bases of the National Liberation Army on September 29 reflected the clerical regime’s fear of increasing public support in Iran for the Resistance and its President-elect, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi. It also displayed the regime’s inability to prevent the increasing number of youths joining the National Liberation Army. Mr.

Rajavi said: This act of aggression reaffirmed that the Khomeini regime is the most serious threat to peace and tranquillity in the region.

Changes were also introduced into the NCR constitution and rules of order to suit the parliament’s expansion to 570 members. The NCR President said: These changes guarantee as never before the Council’s democratic relations and *modus operandi*.

From now on, the presence of majority (half plus one) of the members will make the NCR sessions quorate. All member organizations and personalities have one vote and the bills and plans will be adopted with the affirmative vote of the majority of the attending members.

The NCR resolution exposed the mullahs’ astronomical fabrication of voters turnout during the May presidential election farce. It emphasized: Less than 20% of the eligible voters participated in the elections to essentially express their abhorrence of the medieval dictatorship.

The resolution reiterated that all the internal factions of the regime, including Khatami’s faction, have common interests in the suppression of the Iranian people, assassination of opponents and export of fundamentalism. This regime, therefore, is incapable of any reform or moderation; advocating such notions runs counter to the best interests of the people of Iran.

In its resolution, the National Council of Resistance condemned any form of appeasement of the mullahs’ regime and demanded an oil, arms and diplomatic boycott of the Tehran regime. ■

Labour Party conference...

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Resistance leader Massoud Rajavi welcomed the adoption of the Labour Party Conference resolution in a statement issued by the National Council of Resistance secretariat.

The NCR President described the resolution as a courageous and admirable initiative by the Labour Party, its leadership and its members in defense of human rights principles and against the continuing atrocities of the clerical regime in and out of Iran.

Referring to the regime's unabated crimes, including the air strike against two basecamps of the Iranian Resistance on September 29, Mr. Rajavi called on Labour Leader and Prime Minister Tony Blair to take practical steps in implementing the contents of this resolution, including the adoption of sanctions against the mullahs' regime by the United Nations Security Council.

The resolution, adopted unanimously, calls on the Labour Party leadership and the British Government to "persuade the European Union not to return their ambassadors to Iran so long as the UN Human Rights Commission and General Assembly continue with their condemnation of human

rights violations in Iran."

The resolution also urges the British Government to "initiate a firm policy by the EU countries towards the fundamentalist regime in Iran, to support the Iranian people's Resistance to establish democracy in Iran" and "consider the Tehran regime's terrorism and adoption of international measures against it."

Resistance leader Massoud Rajavi welcomed the adoption of Labour Party conference resolution and described it as a courageous and admirable initiative

A delegation headed by Ms. Beheshteh Shadrou, the NCR representative in Britain, took part in the conference. The delegation met and held talks with many prominent party officials, including members of the National Executive Committee, members of the

Parliamentary Labour Party and trade union leaders.

A fringe meeting organized by the National Council of Resistance was held on October 1. Chaired by the party's former international secretary, Mr. Tony Clarke, the meeting was addressed by Mr. Robin Corbett, MP, Mr. Stan Newens, MEP, and Ms. Shadrou.

The state-run media in Iran reacted to the Labour Party conference resolution with a mixture of blackmail and hysterical propaganda. The official Islamic Republic News Agency wrote on October 2: "Overseas development secretary Claire Short put herself at odds with British government policy towards Iran by backing a resolution sponsored by the outlawed...MKO.

"At the end of her address to the annual Labour Party conference in Brighton she appealed to delegates to vote for a motion that calls for support for the so-called 'Iranian people's resistance'.

"The resolution, which also requests the UK government to initiate a 'firm' European Union policy towards Iran, sets new conditions on the return of EU envoys to Tehran and calls for UN sanctions to be adopted."

Meanwhile, the official press in Tehran published thinly-veiled terrorist threats against Britain in response to the Labour conference's resolution. ■

Rajavi condemns French firm's deal with mullahs

Paris, Sept. 30 (NCR secretariat) - National Council of Resistance President Massoud Rajavi strongly condemned the French petroleum company Total SA's signing of a two-billion-dollar contract with the theocratic regime in Iran.

"The contract is against the highest interests of the people of Iran and encourages Iran's ruling theocracy to continue its flagrant violation of human rights and export of terrorism and fundamentalism," Rajavi said.

Reuter reported on October 1 that a French group defending victims of terrorism urged French consumers to boycott Total for signing the Iran contract.

"In memory of all those killed on the orders of the Islamic republic of Iran, we, victims of terrorism, call for a boycott of Total products in favor of competing products," said Francoise Rudetzki, head of SOS Attentats (SOS Attacks).

She accused the Tehran regime of sponsoring terrorism and a string of attacks in France.

In her article, Rudetzki said: "The founding principles of democratic states must not be sacrificed in the name of economic imperatives of a company, even one of the national importance of Total."

She wrote that years of Western contacts with Iran had "brought no real change in Iranian policies," pointing to disputes including the fatwa death order still hanging over British writer Salman Rushdie. ■



Source: Washington Post

Mullahs' Air Force...

Continued from page 1

among Iraqi civilians because some of the bombs hit Iraqi residential areas near these camps," the group's foreign affairs chief, Mohammad Mohaddessin, said.

Mujahideen Khalq has several camps, equipped with tanks, heavy guns and helicopter gunships, close to the borders with Iran.

The group's bases in Iraq have been the target of air and rocket attacks by Tehran. Their office in Baghdad, now ringed by a concrete wall, has weathered mortar and bomb attacks.

The United States condemned the attack and warned against retaliation.

"We do not support the reported Iranian incursion into the Iraqi air space for any reason," State Department spokesman James P. Rubin told reporters.

The Associated Press quoted U.S. Defense Department spokesman Kenneth Bacon as saying on September 30 that the United States had told Iran it could shoot down its planes if they violate the ban on flights in the zone.

"We have communicated to the Iranians that ... they could be at risk," he told reporters.

The French news agency said the French Foreign Ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt voiced Paris's concern at the attacks and warned that foreign military interventions in this sensitive area can have grave, destabilizing consequences.

AFP also reported on September 30 that the Bahraini government condemned Tehran's air raids. In Manama, a Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters that Bahrain was gravely concerned at the Iranian Air Force's raids on targets within Iraq. He called the attacks "a threat to regional security and stability."

The 22-nation Arab League condemned the Iranian regime's air attacks on two camps of the National Liberation Army of Iran in Iraq in a statement issued on Wednesday, October 1. It said the Iranian regime's military action was incompatible with recent calls by Iranian officials for improved ties with their Arab neighbors.

The official Iraqi News Agency

called the attack "a perfidious aggression on Iraq." It quoted the Foreign Ministry as accusing Iran of violating "Iraq's sovereignty and air space" and said it held Iran responsible for any damages.

Foreign reporters visit camp

Reporters who were taken to the site after the attack said two Iranian warplanes flew over the camp during their visit but did not drop any bombs, the French news agency reported on September 29.



NLA fighters hold a piece of a 1,000 lb bomb that hit their base (AFP photo)

A Mujahedeen spokesman said nine Iranian Air Force fighter-bombers crossed into Iraqi air space at 7 a.m. to attack the two bases. A statement issued by the Mujahedeen said that "several buildings at the base near Kut sustained some damage."

The jets dropped 500 pound and 1,000 pound bombs as well as cluster bombs. One witness said the bombs made craters 5 meters in diameter and 2 meters deep.

The spokesman said the Iranian jets "made one dive and ran away" without dropping all their bombs when Mujahedeen fighters responded with anti-aircraft fire.

Iran has launched several attacks on Mujahedeen bases in Iraq since the 1991 Persian Gulf war. Iranian forces launched a Scud missile attack on a major Mujahedeen base northeast of Baghdad, Camp Ashraf, in November 1994. Iranian warplanes

bombed the same camp in April 1992 and again in May 1993.

NCR President Massoud Rajavi, commander of the National Liberation Army, sent a telegram to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and to the Security Council urging them to condemn the air raid.

Air Force top brass directed air raids

On Sept. 29, the Mojahedin said Iranian Air Force commander Brig. Gen. Habib Baghaili personally commanded the air strikes on two NLA camps. Baghaili and Brig. Gen. Reza Pardis, the Air Force's operational commander, set up their

headquarters at Vahdati AFB in Dezful, southwest Iran on the eve of the air raids.

The Mojahedin Secretary General, Ms. Mahvash Sepehri, stressed that "these criminal attacks will not go unanswered and that the Khomeini regime and its suppressive forces must expect heavier blows from the Mojahedin and Resistance forces inside Iran."

"Today's bombing raids display before all else, the clerical regime's desperation in the face of extensive activities of Resistance forces inside Iran, increasing support for the Resistance's President-elect, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, and mullahs' fear of the growing wave of Iranian youths joining the NLA," Ms. Sepehri added.

Mullahs claim responsibility

Some 14 hours after the raids, IRNA, Iran's official news agency, quoted a military source as saying

that the air raids were designed to "deter" further military operations by the Mojahedin inside Iran.

In a statement issued on September 30, the Mojahedin said the theocratic regime's distortion of the facts in its much-delayed announcement of the attacks showed the ruling clerics' fear of the international backlash to its flagrant act of aggression.

The U.S. Secretary of State William Cohen ordered the aircraft carrier Nimitz to skip a port call in Singapore and hurry to the Persian Gulf for a show of strength.

The Pentagon said the 73,000-

international levels, the clerical regime made the preposterous claim that the attacks were in response to the penetration of two groups of Mojahedin to the cities of Qasr-e Shirin and Mehran in western Iran."

The statement added: "In a telegram to the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, NCR President Massoud Rajavi categorically denied the mullahs' claims, describing them as a desperate bid to evade international consequences of the attacks."

"It is not clear that if the air strikes were indeed in retaliation to

in Dezful (southwestern Iran), the day before the air raids to oversee the attack.

Mr. Rajavi said Tehran rulers' claims reflected the regime's fear of domestic, regional and international repercussions of its strikes at NLA base camps, and also its intention to prepare the grounds for further acts of aggression.

The NCR President urged the UN Secretary General and Security Council members to react decisively and impose trade and diplomatic sanctions on the mullahs and not allow the regime's violation of international law and its flagrant aggression to go unanswered.

Mullahs say aggression can be repeated

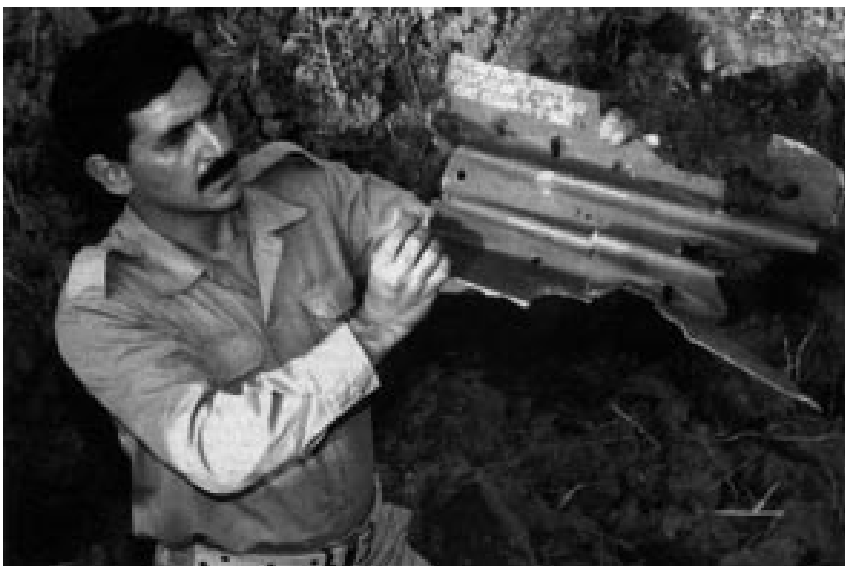
"Iran has the right to attack Iranian 'terrorist' opposition groups in Iraq, Tehran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said in remarks published on Sunday," according to Reuters news agency October 5.

"This is a right to self-defense," Kharrazi told the Saudi-owned newspaper *al-Hayat* when asked whether Tehran planned to renew raids on Iraqi territory.

A Mujahideen statement faxed to Reuters said two of its members were killed in a surprise attack by Iranian "agents" on September 27 in northern Iraq near the Iranian border.

It said the group's leader Massoud Rajavi had sent a letter to the U.N. secretary-general and member states of the Security Council blaming "the silence and inaction of the international community" for allowing Iran to "escalate the flagrant violations of human rights and export of terrorism".

IRNA quoted Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi as saying: "These operations (the air raids) should not be considered as violation of Iraqi territorial integrity and sovereignty, neither are they contrary to the security council resolutions and the imposed arrangements in the Iraqi air space." He did not elaborate as to how the bombing of two locations deep inside Iraqi territory and one within the "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq did not constitute a breach of Security Council Resolution 598 establishing cease-fire between the two countries and the air exclusion zone imposed by the allies in southern Iraq. ■



NLA combatant in Camp Faezeh shows bomb shrapnel to visiting foreign journalists (Reuters)

ton carrier would arrive in the region by the middle of October, four or five days earlier than originally scheduled. Navy spokesmen declined to elaborate on the reasons but the Pentagon's Col. Richard Bridges said it was reasonable to assume a connection with the Iranian raids on bases of the Mujahideen Khalq, the main Iranian opposition group, Reuters reported from Washington.

IRNA reported on October 3 that the mullahs' regime has protested to the United Nations over alleged Mojahedin cross-border attacks and said the incursions prompted its air raids on NLA bases inside Iraq.

The Iranian Resistance responded by issuing a statement in which it said: "Four days after the air strike against two NLA base camps and the ensuing condemnation and outrage in Iran and on the regional and

an incursion into Iran by the Mojahedin the same day, why did the regime not refer to them when it first accepted responsibility for the air raids 14 hours later," Mr. Rajavi said.

He added: "It is not the first time that the mullahs' regime fabricates such lies. When in April 1992, the Iranian Air Force attacked the NLA's Ashraf camp with 13 fighter-bombers, the regime falsely claimed that the Mojahedin had attacked two border villages."

Mr. Rajavi pointed out that the decision to go ahead with the air strikes was made well in advance. The regime's Thunder-9 Air Force maneuver, staged two weeks before the attack, had been organized to prepare for these operations against the NLA. Moreover, the commander and operational commander of the regime's Air Force flew to Vahdati Air Force Base

Exile army seeks to topple Iran government

Dubai, Sept. 29 (Reuters) - Armed Iranian rebels whose Iraqi bases were raided by Iranian warplanes on Monday have waged years of warfare against the Islamic revolutionary government in Tehran.

Mujahideen Khalq (People's Holy Warriors), Iran's main exile opposition group, has bases and military camps inside Iraq close to the borders with Iran. The group has intensified its cross-border raids and attacks inside Iran in the past year.

An Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman in Baghdad said eight Iranian warplanes raided targets inside Iraq and the Mujahideen said two of its camps near the Iraqi capital were attacked. No casualties were reported.

The group, which advocates the armed overthrow of the clergy-dominated government in Tehran, was formed by Islamist leftists who played a key role in the 1979 revolution that ousted Shah

Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

But they soon broke with the revolution's leading light Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and the movement was suppressed in a widespread crackdown launched in 1981.

Earlier this month the Mujahideen's leader Massoud Rajavi said it had carried out 294 operations inside Iran in the first seven months of this year.

Mujahideen bases in Iraq have been the target of air and rocket attacks by Iran in the past. The group's office in Baghdad is ringed by a concrete wall which has withstood mortar and bomb attacks.

Rajavi's wife and the group's president-in-exile, Maryam Rajavi, said in a speech to 15,000 supporters at one of its Iraqi bases in June that Iran's "clerical regime will be toppled before the end of the 20th century".

The Mujahideen's political arm, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, is based in Paris.

U.S. sends carrier to Persian Gulf after raids

Washington, Oct. 3 (Reuters) - The United States, reacting to Iranian attacks on targets in Iraq this week, has told the aircraft carrier Nimitz to skip a port call in Singapore and hurry to the Persian Gulf for a show of strength.

The Pentagon said on Friday the 73,000-ton carrier, which usually carries about 50 F-14 and F/A-18 combat aircraft, would arrive in the region by the middle of the month, four or five days earlier than originally scheduled.

Navy spokesmen declined to elaborate on the reasons but the Pentagon's Col. Richard Bridges said it was reasonable to assume a connection with the Iranian raids on bases of the Mujahideen Khalq, the main Iranian opposition group.

One of the bases was inside the no-fly zone imposed by the United States and its allies since 1992 over southern Iraq.

On Tuesday Defense Department spokesman Kenneth Bacon said the United States had told Iran it could shoot down its planes if they violate the ban on flights in the zone.

"We have communicated to the Iranians that ... they could be at risk," he told reporters.

The United States and its allies already have combat aircraft at bases in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states to patrol the no-fly zone for any air activity by the Iraqis.

Since the Iranian raids on Monday, the planes have stepped up the flights, sources close to the force said on Wednesday.

"The Nimitz was scheduled to go to the Persian Gulf, with a port call in Singapore. The port call was canceled and it will arrive four or five days early," Bridges said.

"There has been activity in the Persian Gulf area," he added, referring to Iranian air raids on the bases in Iraq of an Iranian opposition group. Asked if this was the reason, he said: "It's reasonable to assume that."

The Mujahideen bases are mostly very close to the Iranian border, making it simple for Iranian planes to make quick hit-and-run raids without running into Western patrols.

Iranians express outrage at air strikes on NLA

Paris, Oct. 30 (NCR secretariat) - Thousands of Iranians held demonstrations and rallies in 17 cities around the world on September 30 and condemned the clerical regime's air strikes at two base camps of the National Liberation Army of Iran. The demonstrators reiterated their support for the Iranian Resistance and the overthrow of the mullahs' regime in its entirety.

The demonstrations and rallies were held in New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, Ottawa, Sydney, the Hague, Hamburg, Bonn, Wiesbaden, Geneva, London, Brussels, Rome, Stockholm, Gothenburg, Copenhagen, and Oslo. Protesters received considerable support from political dignitaries and parliamentarians in various countries.

Iranian Resistance leader Massoud Rajavi sent separate letters to the U.N. Secretary General, members of the Security Council and leaders of Islamic and Arab nations, urging them to condemn the clerical regime's terrorist act of aggression.

Demonstrators issued a joint resolution at the end of the rallies. It read in part: "The policy of appeasement and continuation of diplomatic and trade ties with this regime, under whatever pretext, emboldens the regime in the suppression of the people of Iran, export of fundamentalism and terrorism, and violations of human rights, and run counter to the highest interests of the people of Iran...."

"We urge all governments, particularly the member states of the European Union and permanent members of the UN Security Council, to condemn the air strikes on the NLA basecamps and adopt binding measures, including an arms and oil embargo, to punish the Iranian regime...."

"The Khomeini regime and all of its internal factions are the sworn enemies of the people of Iran who demand the overthrow of this regime in its entirety," the resolution read.

Iran -EU relations still deadlocked over ambassadors' return

Luxembourg, Oct. 6 (news agencies) - European Union foreign ministers meeting here to discuss EU's relations with Iran did not reach a decision on the return of their ambassadors to Tehran, according to diplomatic sources.

All European Union members recalled their ambassadors from Tehran last April after a German court established a direct link between the top leaders of the Iranian regime and the gangland style murder of four Iranian dissidents in Berlin in September 1992.

A day before the EU ministers' meeting, German Foreign Ministry rebuffed an Iranian offer of bilateral talks to solve the dispute, Reuters reported from Bonn on October 5.

German Foreign Ministry spokesman Martin Erdmann said Bonn would only hold talks once the EU envoys were back in Tehran.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi as saying that Bonn and Tehran should hold talks to solve the row.

The clerical regime has been insisting that the German ambassador must be the last EU

envoy to return to Iran. The Europeans have rejected this proposal, insisting that all ambassadors return together.

As the EU foreign ministers gathered in Luxembourg for the meeting, National Council of Resistance President Massoud Rajavi called on the European Union to impose a trade embargo against Iran's ruling regime and cancel all oil contracts with it.

Mr. Rajavi condemned the signing of a contract with the clerical regime by the French oil company, Total. He emphasized that these deals openly sacrifice the principles of human rights before economic interests and embolden the mullahs to escalate repression and export of terrorism.

The NCR President said returning the EU ambassadors to Tehran only days after the Iranian regime's air strikes on two NLA base camps, in blatant violation of the UN Security Council resolution 598 and international law, would send a green light to the criminal rulers of Tehran for further terrorist operations and acts of aggression.

"Since Khatami took office, at least 46 persons have been hanged

in public in various parts of Iran and 14 opponents of the regime assassinated abroad," Rajavi told the EU foreign ministers.

He added: "The mullahs' Foreign Minister specifically reiterated that the fatwa for Salman Rushdie would remain in force (interview with CNN, Sept. 24, 1997), that the government of Khatami did not believe in reforms (interview with PBS, IRNA, Oct. 1, 1997) and that the regime would continue its acts of aggression in Iraq (interview with *Al-Hayat*, Oct. 5, 1997)."

Rajavi said that "those who hype up the illusion of change or reform within the ruling theocracy merely seek to justify business deals and economic ties with it. Developments in the past several months confirm that Khatami has neither the interest nor the ability to initiate any change in the conduct and policies of the religious, terrorist dictatorship ruling Iran," he said.

French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine said on October 7 that the European Union had made no progress towards resolving a dispute over the return of its member countries' ambassadors to Iran.

"I have to say that I think we're in the same situation as before," Vedrine told journalists. "Solidarity with Germany is a fundamental principle in this matter." ■

Tehran's terrorists target UN office in Baghdad

Baghdad, Oct 5 (news agencies)- Gunmen lobbed four hand grenades into a United Nations office in Baghdad during the night, causing damage but no casualties, the U.N. said on Sunday.

Eric Falt, spokesman for Iraq's U.N. co-ordinator, said the attackers "neutralized" the Iraqi guards at the World Health Organisation building before tossing grenades through the door.

CNN's correspondent in Baghdad quoted Western diplomatic sources in the Iraqi capital as saying that security guards at the nearby People's Mojahedin central office apprehended one of the gunmen.

It was the first reported attack on the United Nations in Iraq since the implementation of a food-for-oil deal started last year, easing world

trade sanctions imposed during the 1990-91 conflict over Kuwait.

The WHO building, in the heart of the capital Baghdad, serves as headquarters for about 200 U.N. observers who monitor the distribution of food and medical supplies delivered in exchange for limited exports of Iraqi oil.

"A four-wheel drive vehicle was destroyed and two other cars suffered extensive damage. Gun shots were also fired at the building," the UN spokesman said.."

The official Iraqi News Agency INA said investigations showed that the arrested gunman was "an agent for the Iranian regime who infiltrated into Iraqi territories to carry out the cowardice aggression on WHO headquarters in Baghdad.

"INA has learned that the

perpetrator of the cowardice aggression was sent by the intelligence of the Iranian regime...and he was an Iranian subject whom Iraq had deported to Iran in 1983."

Falt said the United Nations in Baghdad and its co-ordinator Denis Halliday were "alarmed by the attack."

Falt said Halliday had already asked for an urgent meeting at the highest level of Iraqi leadership in order to express his concern."

In two other incidents, unidentified gunmen fired on United Nations personnel in northern Iraq, according to UN sources.

"The two incidents mark a serious escalation in security situation in northern Iraq," a UN spokesman said. ■

News in Brief

Khatami appoints extremist as top advisor

Paris, Oct. 13 (NCR secretariat) - Clerical regime's President Mohammad Khatami appointed former Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Moussavi as his senior advisor.

Moussavi is well-known for his advocacy of totalitarian domestic policies, export of terrorism and enmity to peace. His appointment is a clear indication of Khatami's increasing reliance on repression at home and export of terrorism, crisis and fundamentalism abroad.

Having served for eight years as prime minister during the Iran-Iraq war, Moussavi is a staunch advocate of state-controlled economy. He also oversaw some of the bloody explosions, hostage-taking and other terrorist crimes carried out in Lebanon by the Iranian regime.

Moussavi's appointment further indicates the growing strife within the regime and its triumvirate leadership. Supreme leader Khamenei had opposed Moussavi's appointment to the top slot of First Deputy President.

45 hanged in public

Tehran, Sep. 23 (AP) - Three men charged with armed robbery and murder were hanged at Tehran's Evin prison, the daily Iran reported...

Meanwhile, an opposition group in exile, the National Council of Resistance, claimed a total of 45 people have been executed since the new government of President Mohamed Khatami took power Aug. 4.

Mullahs' "largest military exercise" a flop

Paris, Oct. 2 (NCR secretariat) - Contrary to the propaganda by the state media, the military exercise code-named *Zolfaqar* did not achieve any of its objectives, according to reliable reports from Iran.

Despite mobilizing all of its resources, the clerical regime could not deploy more than 50,000 troops for this maneuver, only a quarter of the figure publicly announced by the army's top brass.

According to reports from inside the regime, *Zolfaqar* maneuvers resulted in more than 200 casualties. Whereas the mullahs claimed that *Zolfaqar* was their largest ground forces' maneuver in recent years, the exercise's scale was in fact half the scale of a similar Exercise, code-named *Velayat*, held last year.

Terrorists kill two Mojahedin members

Baghdad, Oct. 5 (PMOI statement) - Two members of the Mojahedin were assassinated Saturday, September 27, by the clerical regime's agents in a surprise attack in the border region of Dyala, northeast Iraq. The victims were Jamal Ahani, 39, from Zanjan, and Mahmoud Qolizadeh, 34, from Rasht.

NCR President Massoud Rajavi sent a telegram to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Security Council members, urging them to condemn the terrorist assault.

"The silence and inaction of the international

community has emboldened Iran's ruling mullahs to continue and escalate the flagrant violation of human rights and export of terrorism and fundamentalism," Rajavi said. He also urged the Iraqi government to pursue, prosecute and punish the terrorists.

2,000 university students protest in Tehran

Tehran, Oct. 2 (NOI) - More than 2,000 students in Tehran's University of Technology (Amir Kabir) demonstrated on campus on Sunday, September 28, chanting anti-government slogans and demanding the dismissal of several university officials.

The students protested against the expulsion of some students and professors and called for the dissolution of the university's disciplinary committee which arrests and expels students on groundless charges.

The protesting students also condemned the interference of Khamenei's representative in the university's affairs. Reports say that on many occasions the regime has sent Ansar-e Hezbollah shock troops to suppress and terrorize the students. In condemning these attacks, the students said that the "rule of law" propagated by the new president, Mohammad Khatami, is nothing but hollow rhetoric.

The students also complained of the shortage of dormitories and other basic needs, saying that the university's best facilities and the lion's share of its budget are set aside for the regime's agents and Guards Corps personnel. Some 40 percent of university admission quotas across the country are set aside for members of the Guards Corps, the Bassij and other military, security and paramilitary institutions involved in suppression. The last academic year in Iran witnessed close to 1,000 students protests in different universities and institutes of higher education.

Student unrest in Mashhad University

Mashad, Sept. 21 (NOI) - Some 1,000 students of Ferdowsi University in Mashhad staged a demonstration on September 10 and 11 on campus, chanting anti-government slogans and urging the dismissal of Sarfarazi, the chancellor, who actively participates in the suppression of students.

The demonstration was in protest against continued persecution and harassment of students by security forces stationed on campus.

Security forces have placed iron bars on all dormitory windows to prevent the students from leaving their rooms at night and evade detection by security forces. The action is also aimed at giving Intelligence Ministry agents better control over the situation.

By calling in anti-riot units, university officials quelled the students' demonstration. This was the twentieth protest in the past year by students at Ferdowsi University which has led to extensive clashes between them and the security forces.