

NILA

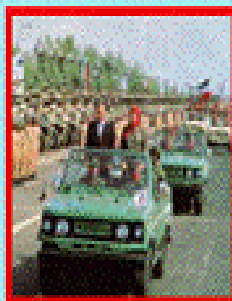
Journal



Day To Remember



Miracle In The Desert



Military Riding High

A DAY TO REMEMBER

After days of constant, concentrated work, the combatants and commanders stationed at this NLA camp are ready for the parade celebrating the second anniversary of the election of Maryam Rajavi, the NLA's Deputy Commander in Chief, as Mojahedin Secretary General. Iranian flags and Mojahedin emblems flutter along the length of the parade route. At one end, sparkling clean military vehicles are parked in neat rows, one



after another. The combatants are in place, giving their weapons a last buffing and their uniforms a final check.

At the far end of the route is the reviewing stand of the Leadership of the Iranian Resistance. To its right, the guest pavillion for the members of the National Council of Resistance; to the left, the

pavillion for the NLA's wounded and the relatives of execution victims and political prisoners. A short distance away, behind the pavillion, stands a row of 21 field guns and their crews.

At another corner of the base, Massoud and Maryam Rajavi, accompanied by Mojahedin Deputy Secretary General Fahimeh Arvani, are visiting the gravesite of some of the NLA's martyrs, where they pay tribute to all those slain in the course of the struggle with the mullahs' dictator ship.



After laying a wreath on the memorial, the Commander and Deputy Commander in Chief prepare to depart for their review of the combatants. Before leaving, Mr. Rajavi speaks briefly with foreign correspondents.

It is 12:30 p.m. The leaders arrive at the parade ground. "Attention!" Commander Mahboobeh Jamshidi, Senior Deputy to the NLA's General Staff, steps forward and salutes. All units are ready for the review and parade, she announces. Massoud and Maryam Rajavi take their places in

the command jeep, followed by another carrying Fahimeh Arvani. The honorguard, stiffly erect as it holds the flag and emblem aloft, provides the guard, stiffly erect as it holds the flag and emblem aloft, provides the formal escort in four more vehicles. A march, Land of Iran, accompanies the motorcade as it proceeds along the route, several kilometers long.

At the guests' pavillion, Massoud and Maryam Rajavi welcome the members of the National Council of Resistance. Next, they greet the wounded combatants and elderly parents of the Resistance's martyrs and captives. Here, they

linger to exchange a word, a smile, an emotion- al embrace.



As the Commander and Deputy Commander in Chief take their places on the reviewing stand, a 21-gun salute is fired, marking the beginning of an unforgettable day.

Infantry and motorized units, mechanized-infantry, armored and artillery groups, and logistics and combat engineering units begin their impressive parade.

Desert

In three years, Maryam Rajavi has transformed the National Liberation Army's image. Under her close and constant supervision as Deputy Commander in Chief, the NLA has evolved from a crack infantry force to a powerful, fully mechanized army. Relying on high mobility, speed and concentrated fire, the NLA is capable of routing an enemy force much larger than itself.

Experts concede that such a revolution in a classical army requires long years of training and reorganization. Observers of the NLA call its phenomenal progress "a miracle in the desert." This miracle is the work of Maryam Rajavi.

A metallurgical engineer by training, Mrs. Rajavi joined the Mojahedin long before the overthrow of the Shah's dictatorship. Throughout the decade of the anti-Khomeini struggle, she has been one of the movement's key organizers, and since 1985 has led the Resistance at Massoud Rajavi's side.

With the formation of the National Liberation Army in June 1987, Maryam Rajavi became the Deputy Commander in Chief, taking charge of the army's day-to-day affairs and, together with Massoud Rajavi, shaping its rapid progress. In many ways, the NLA's history is Maryam Rajavi's story.





From summer 1986 to spring 1988, the National Liberation Army launched some 100 operations against the mullahs' regime along a 1,200 km border.

The appraisal of these operations led to a revolution in the NLA's command structure, improving its tactics and enabling it to concentrate its forces and carry out much larger offensives. The NLA's commander and deputy commander in chief directed the army's three

major offensives in 1988, "Shining Sun," "Forty Stars" and "Eternal Light."

Mahboubeh Jamshidi is a senior deputy to the NLAs General Staff. She recounts: "Mrs. Rajavi took command of the evaluation of these operations, drawing precious conclusions. As a result, the NLA unified its command network and expanded its staff to include planning and operations, logistics, artillery and engineering. We also reorganized the units, which functioned first as battalions, then brigades and finally as combat divisions.

"These advancements bore fruit in the operations of spring 1988, when the NLA dealt strategic and irreparable blows to the mullahs' military apparatus, forcing Khomeini to 'drink the poison chalice' of the ceasefire [in the Iran-Iraq war]."



Mehdi Bara’i, a veteran member of the NLA’s General Staff, has also closely witnessed these developments: “In July 1988, the NLA’s major ‘Eternal Light’ operation thrust 170 kilometers deep into enemy controlled territory. Maryam Rajavi’s role was pivotal in planning the operation and in its advance preparations. Based on the experiences of that battle, she transformed the NLA’s military perspective and doctrine. She made NLA commanders understand how to think in terms of the ‘overthrow operation,’

and how to deduce its rules and create a

suitable command and combat apparatus. “With the formation of fully developed divisions and various staff organs, the NLA began a new phase, requiring that it undergo more major changes. The NLA had to change from an infantry force to a mechanized and armored army.”

The arms and equipment necessary for this radical change had already been captured from the mullahs’ regime, and the specialties and skills acquired by the veteran NLA commanders and the officers of the Shah’s and Khomeini’s armies who had joined the Resistance. But devising a new theory and tactical doctrine, laying a new basis for training, and reorganizing this huge

conglomerate in so short a time while constantly confronted by the enemy required a miracle. Maryam Rajavi made it happen.

“The National Liberation Army needed training in a variety of fields, such as armor, artillery, engineering and communications. And all of it fast,” explains Abdolvahab Faraji, an NLA commander. “Maryam Rajavi accomplished this task by founding the Eternal Light Academy, comprised of several schools, and closely monitoring the intensive curriculum.

“The NLA’s deputy commander in chief held daily meetings with the commanders, regularly inspected the classes and training centers, and was personally involved in solving the problems that arose, thereby ensuring rapid progress. Her constant presence inspired everyone, Mahin Moshfeqnia, a senior armored commander, believes that all of Maryam Rajavi’s achievements were put to the test this spring in defeating the attacks on the NLA’s bases by the Khomeini regime’s Guards Corps, and in the parade by elite units. She explains:

“The NLA, its commanders and combatants



skilled in modern tactics and warfare, had acquired extraordinary prowess. That is how we managed to rout seven divisions and brigades during the Guards' offensive last April, even though we only deployed 20% of our forces.

Operation Pearl was a masterpiece in terms of military planning and tactics. Its evaluation brought new improvements in the NLA's effectiveness.



“All that specialized, technical training on all levels meant a marked improvement in strategy and tactics, and the efficiency of service support and logistical systems. We are indebted to the round-the-clock efforts and supervision of Maryam Rajavi. The well-organized, successful parade by the NLA's elite units embodied this achievement.”

After years of intensive, arduous work, today Maryam Rajavi has made her vision a reality: an effective, well-equipped and battle-tempered army ready to fulfill its momentous patriotic duty, the overthrow of the mullahs' regime. A miracle, indeed, in the desert.

NLA Rolls Out Military Might

In an impressive display of firepower, elite units go through their paces. The long row of steel and flesh, gleaming under the mid-day October sun, stretches as far as the eye can see, melting into the haze. Waiting impatiently, bronzed combatants in green or khaki fatigues, eyes piercing as they clutch their automatic assault rifles. Men and women flanked by tanks, armored personnel carriers, multiple-rocket launchers and military vehicles.

The distant hum of a car engine, and then a commander shatters the silence of the field: "Atten. . .tion!"

Colors dip, commanders salute and heads whirl. Filled with love, hope and courage, all eyes are riveted on two people: Massoud and Maryam Rajavi.



Ten years after the onset of the just armed Resistance against the Khomeini regime, the man who has vowed to topple the mullahs' dictatorship reviews the elite units of the National Liberation Army of Iran at one of its basecamps. Beside him, Maryam Rajavi, Deputy Commander in Chief of the NLA and the architect of this unique army, whose women fight in frontline combat. The all-volunteer army is focused like an eagle on one target: Tehran.

The two leaders are accompanied by Mrs. Fahimeh Arvani, the Mojahedin's Deputy Secretary General, who, in the past two years as Mrs. Rajavi's senior assistant, has been directly involved in her outstanding initiatives in the Mojahedin Organization and the NLA. On October 18, the National Liberation Army celebrated the second anniversary of Maryam Rajavi's election as the Mojahedin's Secretary General with a five-hour parade of its elite infantry, motorized, armored, artillery, air corps, communications, engineering and logistics units. By day's end, the NLA had displayed more than its elite units: The parade was a demonstration of the army's ability and determination to overthrow the religious dictatorship ruling Iran. It had one message. Powerful, resolved and independent, the NLA is preparing for the promised day, when it will liberate Iran from the clutches of Khomeini's fundamentalism and establish peace and freedom. And that day will come-sooner than you think.