

Government tries to make friends

Iran seeks support in war with Iraq

By Charles J. Hanley
AP Writer

Bruised by war and strapped for cash, Iran's revolutionaries have put out a hand for international help, seven years after their showdown with a super-power left them stranded in defiant isolation from much of the world.

Analysis

The Iranian overtures come as U.S. officials seek Tehran's aid in freeing American hostages in Lebanon. But the new Iran connection ranges far beyond Washington — to Moscow, Peking and Tokyo.

Analysts point to a key event — the purging last month of an Iranian group in charge of exporting Islamic revolution — as a sign that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's government has begun trying to make and keep friends abroad.

Leaders of that group, the Global

Islamic Movement, were arrested and charged with murder, treason and other offenses.

Many Tehran revolutionaries still favor a policy of encouraging anti-Western upheavals, Bakhsh said. But others are leaning toward a pragmatic approach that will win them broader international support as they wage their 6-year-old war with Iraq.

The 1979 anti-Shah revolution and the subsequent American Embassy hostage crisis wrecked Tehran's ties with the Western powers, especially the United States, long Iran's most important economic and military partner. Disputes with the Soviet Union also damaged relations with the Communist superpower.

The revolutionaries boasted they would make Iran more self-sufficient. But in recent months, out of wartime necessity, they have rebuilt burned bridges:

- In August, Iran announced it was resuming shipment of natural gas to the Soviet Union. Six weeks later, the Soviets said they would send technical specialists to work in Iran for the first time since 1979.

- Last week, France announced it had settled a major dispute with Iran over French repayment of a \$1 billion Iranian loan.

- In recent months, China has become Iran's leading arms supplier, U.S. officials report. The relationship grew after the Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, a leading Iranian "pragmatist," met Chinese officials in Peking last year.

- The Iranians are improving relations with Saudi Arabia, whose Shiite minority has been a target of Iranian revolutionary agitation. The Saudis sent a delegation to Iran last year, and — in an unusual move — Iran's oil minister conferred with Saudi King Fahd to try to coordinate

oil-pricing policies before last month's OPEC meeting.

- Iranian-U.S. trade has expanded steadily in recent months, the U.S. Commerce Department reports. The Iranians shipped \$530 million in oil and other exports to the United States in the first nine months of this year, compared with \$469 million in the same period last year.

At the United States' behest, Israel in the past year has shipped military supplies to Iran, including spare parts for warplanes, a well-placed source told The Associated Press in Washington Thursday. In return, Iran helped gain freedom for three American hostages in Lebanon.

But some analysts, including Gary Sick, a former Iran specialist with the U.S. National Security Council, do not believe a true U.S.-Iranian rapprochement is in the works.

Court extends Hasenfus trial for four days

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — The Peoples' Tribunal trying American mercenary Eugene Hasenfus on Thursday extended the trial for four days to let court members visit the site where his aircraft was shot down.

Court president Reynaldo Monterrey also rejected a request by defense attorney Enrique Sotelo Borgen to let Hasenfus' wife testify on behalf of her husband.

"The charges are not against Mrs. Hasenfus and she is not being tried," Monterrey said. "The law says that relatives of defendants cannot be witnesses."

Hasenfus, 45, of Marinette, Wis., was on a C-123 cargo plane carrying supplies to the U.S.-supported rebels fighting the leftist Sandinista government. He parachuted from the plane after it was hit by a missile on Oct. 5, and was captured. Two American crewmen were killed in the crash.

19 found dead in helicopter crash

ABERDEEN, Scotland (AP) — A helicopter carrying 47 people from an offshore oil rig crashed and sank in the North Sea on Thursday. Only two survivors were found, and the rest were killed or missing and feared dead.

The Royal Air Force said the two survivors were plucked from the sea moments after the two-rotor Chinook crashed. Nineteen bodies were recovered and 26 people were missing, it said.

Six ships and six helicopters scanned the area, and the RAF said the ships would continue searching through the night.

"However slim it is, there's always hope there may be more survivors," said an RAF spokesman at Dunfermline, Scotland, coordination center for the rescue operation.

Ian Henderson, director of operations for Shell U.K. Exploration and Production, which operates the rigs, told reporters it was extremely unlikely anyone in the water remained alive.

The helicopter was ferrying Shell oil workers from the Brent offshore field 135 miles northeast of the Shetland Islands to Sumburgh Airport on the southern tip of the archipelago when it went down about two miles from the runway.

The coast guard said visibility was 12 miles, but waves were 12 feet high and winds ranged from 25 to 38

knots. Water temperature was 48 degrees and the air temperature was 43 degrees.

The two survivors — the pilot and a passenger — were rescued by a coast guard helicopter that had taken off from the airport on a training flight minutes before the crash.

Capt. Gordon Mitchell, the helicopter's pilot, spotted what he thought was a fishing boat or an oil slick. Seconds later, he said, he heard Sumburgh air traffic control calling the Chinook, telling its crew they were too low for radar.

"I went in the direction of what I thought was the oil slick and when I got there I discovered it was the wreck," he said.

He said the helicopter had vanished. "As we watched, bits of the debris started coming to the surface, and a couple of survivors appeared," he said.

"One was clinging to a bit of wreckage and the other was hanging on to a dinghy."

The survivors were flown to Lerwick, the Shetland capital, and taken to the 10-bed Gilbert Bain Hospital. Spokesman David March said both suffered from back injuries and exposure.

The Air Force said the helicopter carried 44 passengers and three crew members.

The world's worst helicopter disaster was in May 1977 when an Israeli military helicopter crashed, killing all 54 soldiers on board, according to the Guinness Book of Records.

Salutes

By Dawn Butz

A&M archaeologist to receive award

Dr. George Bass, a nautical archaeologist at Texas A&M and a leading expert in scientific and scholarly investigations of shipwrecks, will receive the Lowell Thomas Award from the New York Explorers Club today.

The award, named for the late CBS radio and television commentator whose popular programs dealt with exploring the unknown, will be presented by CBS Evening News anchorman Dan Rather and the club president.

Bass will be in New York on a round of appearances in the Northeast that includes a trip to his hometown of Annapolis, Md., to address the midshipmen at the Naval Academy there.

He also is meeting with officials of the National Geographic So-

ciety, sponsors of the excavation of a 3,500-year-old Bronze Age wreck.

The excavation is being done by researchers with the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, which is affiliated with A&M.

Bass, who moved the INA operations from Pennsylvania to Texas in 1976, is overseeing the INA studies of the hull, one of the largest wrecks ever found in the Mediterranean.

Bass is the holder of the George T. and Gladys H. Abell Chair in Nautical Archaeology at A&M. He also has received the La Gorce Medal from the National Geographic Society, and in 1981, became the third American — the first not from the Ivy League — to hold the Geddes-Harrower Chair of Greek Art and Archaeology at the University of Aberdeen.

Senior wins top Alpha Zeta scholarship

Derek Fisher, a senior animal science major from Comfort, has been named the 1986-1987 recipient of Alpha Zeta's Burkett-Cunningham-Dennis scholarship.

A professional service and honorary fraternity in agriculture, the Alpha Zeta Foundation awarded the \$1,200 scholarship in the name of its founders and of

a national leader of the fraternity.

As a recipient of the top scholarship, Fisher will serve as a voting member of the foundation's board of directors.

Fisher is president of the Texas A&M chapter of Alpha Zeta, president of the A&M Horseman's Association and a recipient of the Texas 4-H Foundation Incentive Scholarship.

Hostages

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three American hostages, most recently David Jacobsen, who was freed last Sunday by Lebanese Shiite Moslem extremists with ties to Iran, according to the reports.

Earlier shipments led to the release of two other American hostages, the Rev. Benjamin Weir in September 1985 and the Rev. Lawrence Jenco last July, the reports said.

The Times reported that the deal with Iran was worked out by McFarlane before he stepped down as Re-

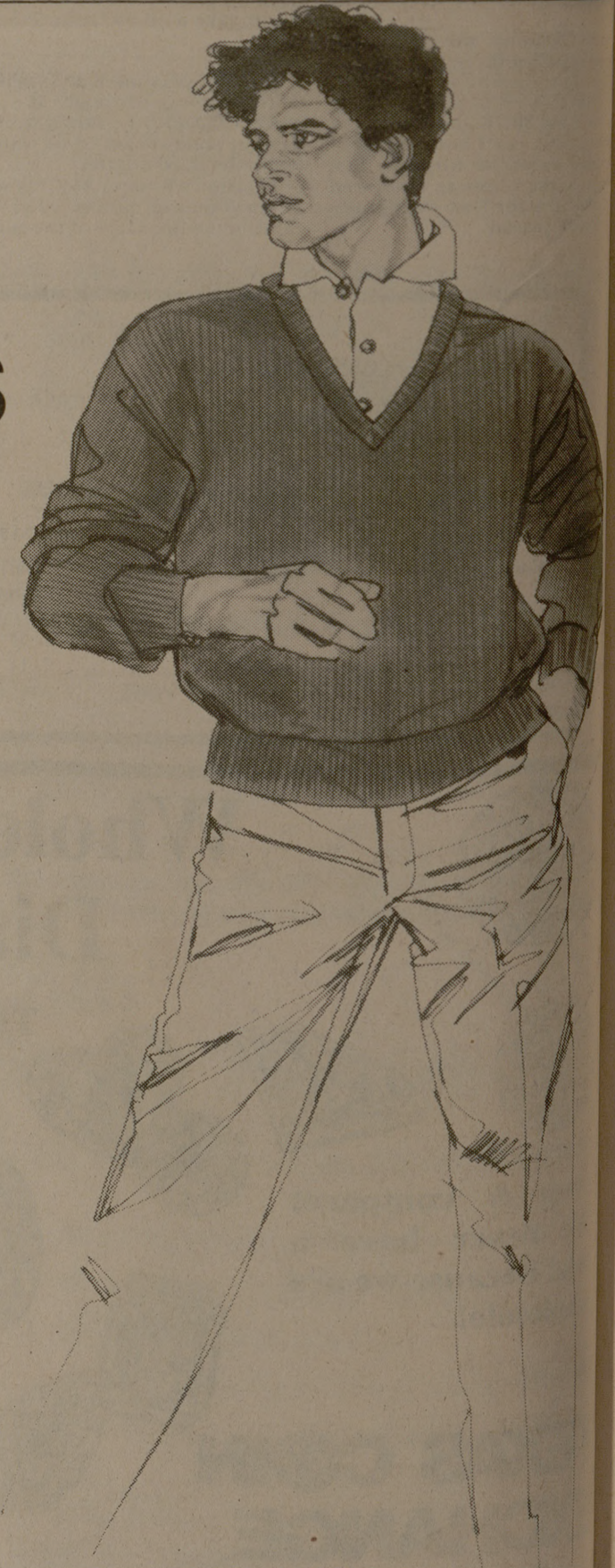
gan's national security adviser earlier this year.

McFarlane traveled to Iran several times with a top aide, Lt. Col. Oliver North, the National Security Council's deputy director for political and military affairs, the Times reported.

The operation was run almost entirely by the White House and was kept secret from officials in the State, Defense and Treasury Departments until several months ago, when word began to circulate, the Times reported.

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