Revolution enters new stage

The Shah of Iran has had it. The embattled waves of revolutionary struggle launched by the Iranian people in the face of massacres and tyranny concessions have smashed the props out from under the Shah's Peacock Throne. As the new year began, the Shah announced that he will be taking a vacation outside Iran. It looks like it will be a permanent one. Before announcing his departure, however, he set up a new government to keep the door open for a possible return. Although this new government, headed by traitor Shahpur Bakhtiar, promises reforms and will take credit for the Shah's departure, all the leaders of the anti-Shah opposition denounced it as a fraud. The government was met during its first day by angry demonstrations throughout the country. There is no way Bakhtiar's government, with its ties to the US and the Shah, can meet the demands of the people for independence and freedom. In the course of fighting to overthrow the Shah, the common people of Iran are learning how to take their destiny into their own hands.

MILITARY RULE

The Shah's last chance had been the army. After the mummam rebellion in Teheran November 4, when thousands of demonstrators were gunned down, he announced the formation of a military government, headed by General Azhari. Azhari quickly declared martial law and filled the streets with the cuss with tanks and troops. The US government continued to pledge support to the Shah and exchanged nasty diplomatic statements with the rulers of the USSR. Each warned the other not to meddle in Iran's internal affairs, demonstrating clearly that's what both were up to.

The Shah had played the military card, because he couldn't hold the cracks in the opposition. As one businessman told Western newsmen at a Teheran rally, "We formed for the 1966 Constitution," which would leave the Shah in office but relatively powerless.

"But they," he said, pointing to the marchers, "They want the end of the monarchy and, as you can see, they are far more numerous." Leading figures in the National Front, made up of politicians and intellectuals, wavered but refused to form a government under the Shah. They were under pressure not only from the masses, but from the main leader of the anti-Shah faction, Ayatollah (a Moslem religious title) Khomeini, an uncompromising foe of the Shah since 1963.

The mass rebellion paused a little in mid-November, as people checked out how to deal with the military government. Striking oil workers returned to work and production began to climb again. General head Karim Sanjabi arrested but he still refused to make a deal with the Shah and was released. Demonstrations continued and grew in strength and militancy during the month. Hostages, the mercenaries in the huge markets, and the Moslem mosques could be heard over megaphones of thousands in a few hours.

Workers in the Central Bank went on strike and published a report showing that from August through October, 180 wealthy Iranians had shipped over $4.4 billion out of their accounts to foreign banks, preparing to flee the wrath of the people. Among them were nephews, nieces and in-laws of the Shah, former cabinet ministers and high-ranking military and secret police officials.
The new rules provide for a changeover from meanness to safety. The company finally promised repairs and work in the repair hole. Some lines were even stopped completely for awhile over safety charges. The company promised repairs and safety measures. Many drivers are enthusiastic about the new rules, and the union is working with the company to ensure their implementation.