

Defeat Imperialist Conspiracy Against Iran!

A Revolutionary court in Ahwaz, Iran has sentenced to death twelve imprisoned members of the Iranian Socialist Workers Party (HKS). Two other HKS members were sentenced to life imprisonment.

All of those sentenced were convicted by the revolutionary court of crimes against the state. The charges included, participation in anti-Islamic and anti-popular activities, instigation of riot, responsibility for the "tragedy in Naqadeh" (a bloody clash between revolutionary guards and Kurdish rebels) and encouraging armed struggle by the Kurdish people against the central government.

Revolutionary guards who raided their homes are reported to have found between \$20,000 and \$30,000 as well as literature urging the oil workers to take up arms and seize the oilfields.

The Workers League strongly urges the revolutionary government to spare the lives of the HKS prisoners and to revoke the death sentences.

In saying this, we do not grant one ounce of political credibility to this group, which falsely claims to be Trotskyist and has inflicted serious damage on the revolution.

It is important to compare the record of the HKS with that of the revolutionary government led by Ayatollah Khomeini. Since the historic February insurrection, this government has conducted a relentless struggle to wipe out SAVAK agents and henchmen of the Shah's regime for their bestial crimes against the Iranian people.

Despite the reactionary propaganda of the capitalist press the number of executions have been astonishingly moderate, considering the atrocities carried out by the old regime.

These executions have been entirely justified both from the standpoint of revolutionary justice and that of the security of the new government.

No revolution worthy of the name has failed to organize retribution against the criminals and hirelings of the over-thrown regime.

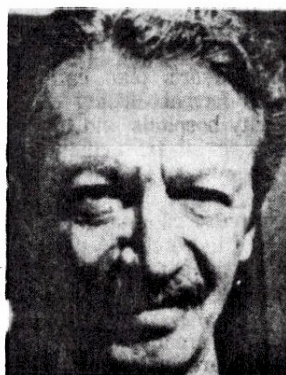
Statement by the Workers League Political Committee



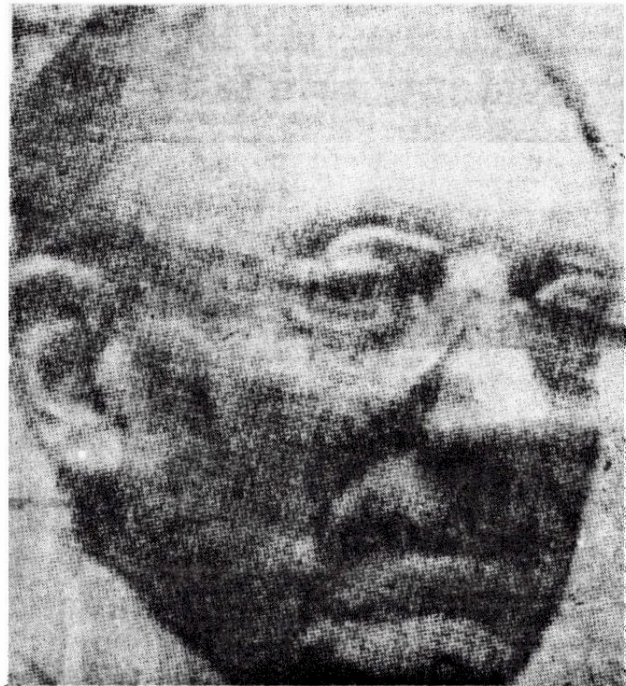
Mass crowd in Tehran carries portraits of Khomeini during the Revolution.



Cindy Jaquith — one of the dubious Carleton eleven, visited Iran.



Bakhtiar — HKS did not call for his overthrow.



Joseph Hansen — 37 year career as double agent

This was true not only of the French and Russian revolutions but of the American Civil War as well.

It is also the case that the revolutionary government has been subjected to an incredible series of provocations because of the decisive blow struck by the

Iranian Revolution against the interests of imperialism.

In the face of these provocations the government of Ayatollah Khomeini has valiantly striven to defend the revolution, first and foremost through the elimination of imperialist interests in Iran.

In this situation, twelve members of the Iranian Socialist Workers Party have found themselves under sentence of death, alongside the scum of the Shah's dictatorship facing revolutionary firing squads.

The SWP in the United States in launching its worldwide campaign is trying to present these sentences as an enormous crime against humanity.

We are convinced that they are nothing of the sort.

Both the origins and the activities of the group in Iran strongly validate the charges made against them.

First, the organization which they represent has no history of struggle against the Iranian Shah. It was not founded underground during the dark days of the Shah's repression, but rather in the Hotel Intercontinental when the CIA stooge, Shapour Bakhtiar was still in power.

Its first press conference was a media event sanc-

tioned by the counter-revolutionary Bakhtiar regime. And for good reason — its leaders, having just arrived by jumbo jet from New York, significantly refused to call for the overthrow of Bakhtiar.

Their milquetoast statements hardly bear comparison to the passionate revolutionary appeals made by Ayatollah Khomeini from the headquarters of the impending insurrection.

In its weekly paper the *Militant*, the SWP claims that the condemned HKS members are, "all long-time fighters against the Shah and his US backers."

Who are these longtime fighters? It is strange that the *Militant* gives no history of any of the condemned. It claims that "some worked underground in Iran" Who? For how long?

The fact is that the HKS comes out of something called the Committee for Artistic and Intellectual Freedom in Iran (CAIFI)

whose plush headquarters was in New York.

CAIFI was the organizational brainchild of Joseph Hansen, the long-time FBI agent who led the SWP until his death last January.

Among those working inside of it was Reza Baraheni, a man widely referred to by anti-Shah students as an agent of SAVAK.

The most damning evidence against this organization is that while in their comfortable American "exile" these future leaders of the HKS were not in the least concerned about collaborating with an organization massively infiltrated by the FBI.

Their apparent disinterest in the activity of informers contrasted sharply with the continuous complaints of Iranian students that they were being spied upon and harassed by SAVAK agents with the active assistance of the FBI.

In 1977, one of the future

HKS leaders was asked by a *Bulletin* salesman if he feared that the presence of so many agents might expose him to reprisals from SAVAK. His reply was to giggle and say, "SAVAK, who cares about SAVAK?"

All those who served in CAIFI collaborated closely with the leadership of the SWP, a body which is controlled entirely by FBI agents.

Among those who flew into Tehran with the founders of the HKS was Cindy Jaquith, who belongs to the mysterious group of eleven graduates of Carleton College who are the principal leaders of the SWP.

From the moment the group arrived in Iran it was up to its neck in activities which had two functions; first to discredit Trotskyism, and second to foment as much discord as possible against the revolutionary government.

From supporting the short-lived regime of Bakhtiar, it suddenly became the most ferocious 'left' critics of the new revolutionary government.

They first staged demonstrations around the women's liberation issue until their collaborator, the adventuress Kate Millet, was expelled from the country, her eyes brimming with tears for the executed agents of SAVAK.

Then their attention was turned to the complex issue of Kurdish nationalism. The thoroughly dubious and multi-lingual Gerry Foley of the CIA's SWP house organ, *Intercontinental Press* suddenly popped up in Iran and focused his attention on the provinces.

For all its concern with the national rights of the Kurdish people, both the Iranian and the American branches of the SWP chose to ignore the fact that all nationalities including Persians had been subjected to ruthless oppression until the overthrow of Bakhtiar.

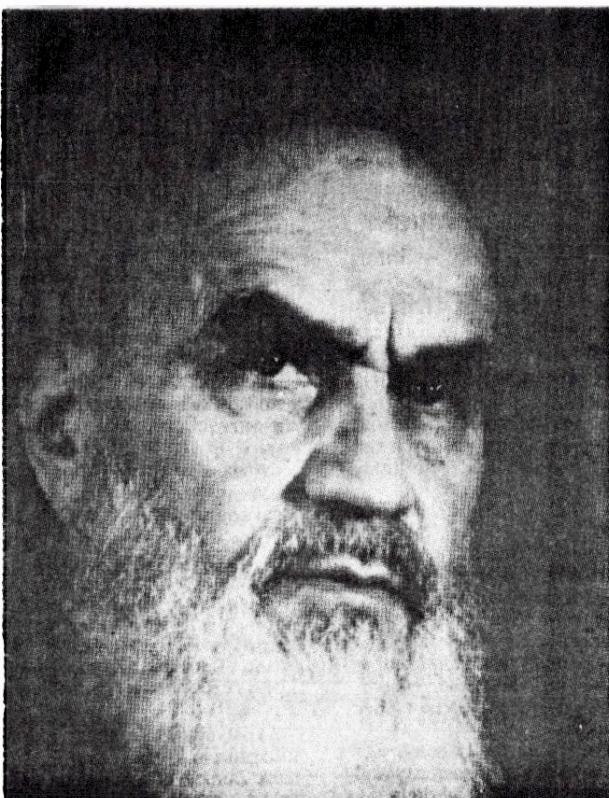
Furthermore, the SWP's incitement of Kurdish nationalism stands in sharp contrast to their totally reactionary support for the Ethiopian Mengistu regime's repression of the Somalis in Ogaden, and implicitly for its bloody war of attrition against the Eritrean people.

In short, the record of the HKS bears no resemblance to principled politics, but smells of provocation.

However, we do not believe that the interests of the revolution can be served by carrying out death sentences against this particular organization.

There may be elements in this organization who are politically sincere but confused, and who are not aware of the record of provocation of the string-pullers in New York. We do not favor capital punishment or other harsh measures against them.

We would urge the government to follow the precedent established in the deportation of the provocateurs and associates of the Socialist Workers Party, Ralph Schoenman and Kate Millet, who were expelled for counter-revolutionary activities earlier this year. The HKS prisoners should be deported and any other agents of the FBI-controlled SWP should be blocked from entering the country.



The Ayatollah Khomeini