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Excerpts from the State Department's 1994 report on the MEK

[Note: The MEK responded to the Oct. 28, 1994 State Department with a 384 page book, published in Paris, called "Democracy Betrayed," which attempts to mitigate the following allegations point by point]

"Despite Mojahedin assertions that the group has abandoned its revolutionary ideology and now favors a liberal democracy, there is no written or public record of discussion or debate about the dramatic reversals in the Mojahedin's stated positions. Moreover, the Mojahedin's 29-year record of behavior does not substantiate its capability or intention to be democratic. Internally, the Mojahedin run their organization autocratically, suppressing dissent and eschewing tolerance of differing viewpoints. Rajavi, who heads the Mojahedin's political and military wings, has fostered a cult of personality around himself... Given these attributes, it is no coincidence that the only government in the world that supports the Mojahedin politically and financially is the totalitarian regime of Saddam Hussein." [page iii]

"Collaboration with Khomeini:

"Like most anti-Shah elements, the Mojahedin fully supported Khomeini. When the Shah's army disintegrated in February 1979, the Mojahedin's guerrilla organizations played a critical role in fighting the remnants of the Pahlavi regime, appropriating government weapons in the process. Some observers claim the Mojahedin assisted in the identification, arrest, and execution of alleged supporters of the Shah's regime. Thousands of these individuals, presumed to be opponents of the new Khomeini government, were sentenced to death by Ayatollah Khalkhali, the head of the Revolutionary Tribunal and also known as the "hanging judge." [p4-5]

"Mojahedin support for hostage-taking:

"Following the seizure of the [U.S.] embassy, the Mojahedin participate physically at the site, assisting in holding and defending the embassy against liberation. They also offered political support for the hostage-keeping. For example, the Mojahedin sent a telegram to Khomeini expressing allegiance to the ayatollah's policy of "rotting out the aggressive, American imperialism of the traitorous Shah.... [We are] awaiting the definitive command of the Imam [Khomeini] for uprooting all the imperialist and Zionist foundations." [page 5]

"Switching sides:

"The Mojahedin initiated a wave of bombings and assassinations against the Khomeini regime that reverberates today. The most spectacular attack occurred June 28, 1981, when two bombs ripped apart the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party (IRP, the part of the clerics), killing 74 members of the regime's top leadership, including the IRP's leader, Ayatollah Beheshti, 14 ministers, and 27 Majles deputies.... Throughout the next few years, the Mojahedin assassinated Majlis candidates and members, clerics, judges, and others they identified as foes. The group also detonated bombs in Tehran and throughout the country. [...] Moreover, since 1981, the MKO themselves have claimed responsibility for murdering thousands of Iranians they describe as "agents of the regime." [page 6]

"Brothers in Arms:

"A recent Wall Street Journal report stated that the NLA's [National Liberation Army, based in Iraq] "only major offensive in the past six years came in 1991, just after the Gulf War, when Saddam Hussein ordered Mr. Rajavi to help quell a Kurdish revolt in northern Iraq, participants in that operation say." [p 10]

"Attacks in the West:

"A more recent example of MKO armed activity in the West involved a Danish police raid on a Copenhagen villa used by the Mojahedin. The police arrested four Iranians and charged three with violating weapons laws. According to the Sept. 4, 1994 issue of the Danish daily newspaper Berlingske Tidende, the Danish police suspect that the villa has been the center for international terrorist activities." [p14]

"Campaign of public relations:

"As a result of their public relations campaign, the Mojahedin are also "well-known to Western journalists and officials for their single-minded lobbying." Or as another American journalist opined, "By keeping on good terms with enough journalists, they hope to transform their public image in America from terrorists to freedom fighters." Yet because the Mojahedin are partisan, most academics and specialists on Iran have concluded that the majority of their propaganda is too selective and politicized to be a reliable source of information on Iran. After visiting Iran, a UN Special Representative on human rights, Dr. Reynaldo Galindo-Pohl, likewise found some Mojahedin allegations inaccurate." [p16]