

756

An eye-witness report
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5/31

INSURRECTION TEHERAN

IN IRAN today, there is every prospect for the continuing development of the struggle of the masses not only against every remaining vestige of the barbaric regime of the Shah but also for a democratically organised society whose maintenance depends on the independent organisation of the toiling Iranian masses. Of course, the capitalist press would have us believe otherwise. However, no matter how hard it tries to lump the situation in Iran with other Moslem states like Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, there is no disguising that what we have seen in Iran is a national, democratic revolution which has entailed a most incredible level of mobilisation of the population. And it is this deep involvement of the Iranian masses which guarantees that it won't be an easy task to roll back the gains that have been made already.

This character of the events in Iran with its enormous implications for the projects of U.S. imperialism has prompted the capitalist press to try and discredit the gains and overall goals for which the masses have fought. The picture painted by the press is that the Shah tried to modernise and westernise Iran, but he went too rapidly. Today, we are told, there is an almightly backlash against his efforts with reactionary Moslem leaders capturing the sentiment of the masses to institute a rigid religious code of life. **But nothing could be further from the truth!**

Of course religion plays a role in Iranian events. And there are even some Moslems who would like to see a society as it exists in Saudi Arabia or Pakistan where those who drink can be subject to lashes of the whip; or women who commit adultery, stoned; or thieves can have their hands cut off. But if anyone tried to substitute this code for the deomocratic and social demands of the masses in Iran today, they would soon get short shrift. In Teheran, despite Western press reports, the cinemas **are** all open now that the Savak is unable to burn them down. The great Islamic feature films which are showing include such titles as 'Superman' and 'Dracula'. An army captain responsible for burning down a cinema in Ahwaz with a loss of 400 lives, has been executed. To be sure, drink is not yet widely available in the shops and there is a massive moral pressure against drink. But it is available. In fact, in some districts it was delivered to the dorr for the period of its unavailability on public sale. Yet these aspects of the new Islamic republic are hardly in keeping with what we read in the press today. Only if the present upsurge of the masses is defeated will the Islamic code be able to be fully imposed. But that prospect is a long way off.

The action of the masses in Iran today is far from reactionary. There is one sentiment which provides the motor force for the struggle. That is the thirst of the Iranian masses for democratic rights. This helps to explain why Khomeini today has the leadership of the struggle. In all of his 25 years in exile, Khomeini was firm on

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