An Iranian student's view of development

(The following Commentary was submitted by a member of the MIT's Arabian Student Association. The opinion, which wished to remain anonymous, is not necessarily those of the Association. - Editor)

In the wake of MIT's decision to train 34 nuclear engineers for the Shah of Iran, the nuclear engineering department of Boston and the Committee on Development of Individual Freedom in Iran have tried to demonstrate the vanity of such projects by decrying the plight of the Iranian people under the Shah's regime. The MIT administration, as usual, considered the charges of torture, opposition, poverty of the masses, and idol worship as irrelevant, unsubstantiated personal attacks.

Well, it has been MIT's established practice to be slightly bald, and dub on such occasions and todamn arguments that have been identified and counted like dollar bills.

It is interesting to consider that the MIT of the US Organization's 1970 report that the consumption of protein and calories in Iran to an amount of 10 to 20 percent lower than those published by the US administration, and less than those reported in the same period. At the same time, according to the Iranian Government of the country's exaggerated statistical data, the population of wheat is annually produced 150 to 200 percent. Considering all factors, MIT's contribution is 60 percent of the population. (Reported militarily for the US.) Compare this to the US where 5 percent of the population is producing 40 million tons of wheat annually.

The act of helping the Iranian whose diet's most important item is bread, means this one tenth as much bread for our American's and it also means charity for the people but there. But what is really wondrous about MIT is that it is active in the development of the nuclear engineering department of the backward countries almost in a completely secret mode, as Mark Rattray, Economic Development (AID) states, the AID pamphlet which is available in Dewey library, gives an unapparent view of the US "interests" and multiple intentions in Iran. The section under the title "US Interest in Economic and Social Development in Iran" includes the following paragraph:

"Iran's mineral potential, underdeveloped and partially identified, may prove one of the biggest sources of national population in increasing demand by low income individuals in the nation receptive to foreign capital and expertise. The United States, Iran is able to use its economic and technological advantages in the East and South East Asia, an important competitor in the global market of nuclear armament, software, for the economic development of the United States is one of the main reasons for which the US will have significant influence in the global market and not only in the demand and supply."

AID's interest in economic and social development in Iran is a movement that is more evident in Iran, not different than the interest of the British colonialism in America. By the way, the British also wanted to trade with America and perhaps "industrialize" it, but Revolutionary America knew better and that is what the Boston Tea Party symbolized.

Of course, we should have been used to this because many of the important technologies, for serving the status quo and the dollar dollar. For example, Mr. Gordon Brown, who writes the article in the Tech and expresses his intense "satisfaction" about the training program, is on the Iranian Government's payroll (see page 16 of Tech and Cooperation with Iran). This man who receives an income for providing his services to the Government of Iran, regards the outside citizen as "opposers" and "non-"factual." The interest of these gentlemen in Iran is not different than the interest of the British colonialism in America. By the way, the British also wanted to trade with America and perhaps "industrialize" it, but Revolutionary America knew better and that is what the Boston Tea Party symbolized.

The process of industrialization, in countries which it has taken place, historically has been accompanied by the restriction of agriculture and the reduction of the number of the workers in this sphere, thereby freeing large numbers of people for further production of machinery. But in Iran, where 75 percent of the arable land needs the employment of workers, and work and soil preservation efforts, this process is not taking place. A political scientist from Princeton University, notes in the Tech, "the Pitot, The Political elite of Iran that the Iranian businessmen try to import factories without local production lines, minimizing the number of necessary workers and therefore avoiding the government hassles."

No wonder that the Shah is going to import 700,000 workers and 49,000 technicians from abroad. The Shah certainly doesn't care about the nuclear reactors themselves, but for some reason he does not like a large working class. The Shah, a sea of poverty and misery, he is interested in machinery, weapons and a "comfortable" middle class to run the country. And the intermediaries have been told about the Shah after we leave Iran.

The Agency for International Development (AID) is a similar organization as the CIA, with the same interests and the same economical aspects of the jobs at hands. The AID pamphlet, a book of clandestine policies, states that:

"In 1972 this agency was committed with Technical Cooperation with Iran: A Case Study of Goals and Policy Implications for the United States. This pamphlet which is available in Dewey library, gives an unapparent view of the US "interests" and multiple intentions in Iran. This section under the title "US Interest in Economic and Social Development in Iran" includes the following paragraph:

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