

Iranian government unstable

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The number of political prisoners in Iran is not known, though many sources refer to 100,000 prisoners. The peace organization Amnesty International has called Iran one of the world's worst violators of human rights because of the prevalence of torture in that country.

"Torture frequently leads to false confessions," Lefue-Veron said, "and the SAVAK has gotten a number of people to appear on TV to recant their crimes." She described one such individual who experienced a mental breakdown after confessing on television.

MIT Professor Noam Chomsky, the noted linguist, told the audience that, "It is wrong to say there is no correlation between the state of human rights in a given country and the amount of US aid and support," he said. An article in the July/August 1977 issue of *Monthly Review*, co-authored by Chomsky, looked, he said, "at a number of Third World countries, including Iran, with which the US has close relations. We looked at significant dates in the recent history of each country, and asked how the events of those dates affected human rights and US aid.

"We found," he said, "that as human rights deteriorated — as torture and repression increased,

as standards of living dropped, as unions were destroyed, and as government death squads became active — US aid increased. This was because as human rights deteriorated the societies became more regimented and the investment climate improved," Chomsky said.

"The purpose of US foreign policy in the Third World is not to effect a deterioration in human rights. It just so happens that many of the conditions we would define as an improvement in human rights are not good for US investment abroad," Chomsky declared.



Institute Professor Noam Chomsky spoke on US involvement in Iran last Monday in 26-100. (Photo by Douglas Birdwell)

news roundup

Nation

"Son of Sam" trail date set — David Berkowitz, accused of killing six people in the "Son of Sam" murders, was judged mentally competent Monday by Justice Joseph Corso of the Brooklyn State Supreme Court. Corso said that "the people have established by a fair preponderance of the evidence that the defendant does not, as a result of mental disease or defect, lack capacity to understand the proceedings against him or the assist in his defense." The trail is set to begin on May 8.

Ex-Representative Hanna sentenced — Richard T. Hanna, former Democratic Representative from California, was sentenced Monday to a 6 to 30 month prison term for involvement in the Korean influence-buying scandal. Hanna, convicted of conspiring with Tongsun Park to defraud the US government, is the first person to be sentenced since the investigation of Korean influence in the Congress began over two years ago. Among other charges, the former Congressman was accused of failing to register as a foreign agent.

State

Supreme Court upholds right of corporate free speech — The US Supreme Court struck down a Massachusetts law Wednesday prohibiting banks from using corporate funds to publicize political views unrelated to their business purposes. Rep. Louis Pines (D-Mass.) said that the decision was "a major blow to consumers."

Prof. searches for alien life

By Laurence Duffy

Current radio technology is "fully capable of transmitting" to potential receivers across the galaxy, Institute Professor of Physics Philip Morrison said Monday night at an LSC lecture entitled "The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence."

According to Morrison, the "Microwave window is the best window" for interstellar radio communication, but he added that this is not an absolute certainty. The optimum course of action is to "play a mixed strategy," he said. He explained that this meant about 90 percent of radio-astronomers' efforts should focus on a specific range in the microwave band, and the rest of the effort should investigate other less promising wavelengths.

Up until now, said Morrison, most searching for communications from extraterrestrial intelligences has been done as a low-priority side activity at radio-telescope installations around the world. A large amount of research has been done at the 135-meter parabolic dish at Arecibo, Puerto Rico.

Soon, however, the National

Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will present a proposal to the Congress calling for funding of two major projects. Morrison, who has worked with NASA for several years, said he is confident that the Congress will involve a recently developed multichannel signal processor which can monitor a million different radio frequencies simultaneously. If the funds are granted, scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory will work on the narrow microwave band while other, non-standard frequencies will be investigated at the Ames Research Laboratory.

of better radio-noise filtering capability. The strongest radio leakage from Earth, said Morrison, comes from missile guiding systems; television carrier waves are the second strongest source.

Morrison pointed out that, in the event of a successful reception of extraterrestrial communication, the mere fact that "we are not alone" would have more in-

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