

Note on George Bush (No date but probably early 2008)

George Bush loves to make speeches about spreading peace and democracy. One of the ways he is doing this in the middle east is through increased covert military operations inside Iran with \$400m approved for the 'secret war' aimed at destabilizing the country's govt. and including abductions and assassinations.

If Bush and Rice were serious about supporting the democratic aspirations of the Iranian people, they would take account of the Womens, Students, and Workers' movements who have all indicated that an escalation of threats from Washington and the EU is the last thing they want. For human rights defenders in Iran the possibility of a foreign military attack on their country represents an utter disaster for their cause.

The propaganda war currently being waged against Iran is very similar to that conducted by the White House in the run-up to the invasion of Iraq, using CIA sourced "evidence" to the UN that Iran is designing a nuclear bomb - just like former US Secretary of State Colin Powell presented "evidence" of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction in 2003.

Just like 2003, lurid headlines, allegations of WMD and a diplomatic charade at the UN is designed to create excuses for a US or Israeli attack.

British and American govts. have very little to be proud of when it comes to Iran. Between 1945 & 1950, the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company was making billions. In fact the British govt. received more in taxes from Iranian Oil than the Iranian govt. received in royalties. Incredibly it cost more to buy oil in Iran than it did in Britain.

Nationalistic anti-colonial feelings began spreading throughout the Middle East resulting in the Oil companies being forced to renegotiate more favorable contracts with their host countries. Anglo-Iranian refused to renegotiate and after holding out made a renewed offer. The Iranian parliament turned it down. When Mohammed Mossadegh became the new prime minister of Iran he announced the nationalization of the oil industry on 1 May 1951.

The CIA together with MI6 organized the overthrow of the popular Mossadeq. The resulting coup of 1953 made Iran safe again for the Shah's murderous dictatorship which denationalized the oil industry, 60% of which went to American firms. As this advert of the time shows, the US govt. were quite happy for their man in Iran to have nuclear power.

In 1979 the Iranian people rose up and the Shah and all foreign oil companies were thrown out of the country.

The breath taking hypocrisy of Britain and the US toward Iran's nuclear programme needs no reiteration here except to remind oneself that Iran is surrounded by countries with nuclear weapons. India and Pakistan, both nuclear armed, lie to its east. To its west lies Israel with at least 200 nuclear warheads, not to mention neighboring Afghanistan and Iraq occupied by two nuclear powers, Britain and the US, the latter being the only country to have ever used nuclear weapons.

Alan Greenspan head of the US Federal Reserve for 18 years, wrote in his recent memoirs: 'I am saddened that it is politically inconvenient to acknowledge what everyone knows: the Iraq war is largely about oil.'

There's no source of oil in the world more plentiful, profitable and easy to extract as that in the Middle East today. The domestic needs of the US are not the only reason for its behavior. Both China & Europe are now more dependent on Middle Eastern oil than the US. The invasion of Iraq is also about US control over its allies and business competitors and 'their' access to oil. With Iraqi oil the US will have a hand on the windpipe of its competitors.

The report that surfaced on December 3, 2007 proved very embarrassing for Bush and his partners . A US intelligence report on Iran, the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) found that Iran halted its nuclear weapons development program in autumn 2003 and their prospects for a nuclear bomb could be as far away as 2015. This report received worldwide coverage and blew a hole in Bush's claims against Iran.

It inspired me to do this cartoon of Bush who has visions of himself as Napoleon pushing on to Tehran, unlike the clown Bush whose credibility has been shot to pieces by the report.



Escalation