

Iranian group rejects protest against Shah

By MIKE HOPKINS
Of the Emerald

While members of the Iranian Student Association marched in protest of the shah's reign last Friday, another anti-shah group of Iranians refused to participate.

Members of the Iranian Muslim Association may appear identical to their ISA counterparts from the perspective of some American students. Both Iranian groups advocate the overthrow of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, the establishment of a democratic government in Iran and an end to foreign, especially American, domination of Iranian political and economic affairs.

But the Muslim group charges the ISA is "communist" and refuses to associate with it.

ISA member Ahmad Mobarez agrees that most people in his organization employ a Marxist analogy to explain Iranian historical developments. To be an ISA member, he explains, one must advocate the overthrow of the shah and the establishment of a secular government based on the "toiling masses" of Iran.

In addition, Mobarez says, the ISA regards the United States as the source of world imperialism and supports "progressive, anti-imperialist movements" throughout the world.

The ISA condemns Russian and Chinese policies of support for the shah and opposes the Moscow-aligned Tudeh Party, Iran's Communist party, Mobarez adds.

The IMA, on the other hand, reveres the exiled religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who advocates replacing the monarchy with a democratic Islamic republic based on the Muslim holy book, the Koran. Islam and communism, Khomeini proclaims, are totally incompatible.

"If they (Marxists) come to power, they would establish a dictatorial regime contrary to the spirit of Islam," Khomeini said last May.

Ali Shariati and other IMA members echo this sentiment.

"We won't replace the shah's dictatorship with a proletarian dictatorship," Shariati says.

Ironically, several IMA members formerly belonged to the ISA. Shariati helped found the University's ISA chapter six years ago.

Shariati explains he had remained with the ISA until he says he saw Iranian students of Marxist orientation grow to dominate the group's ranks, substituting a Marxist interpretation of the anti-shah movement for the Islamic view.

As Mobarez explains it, the "leftist ideal" swept through ISA chapters on American campuses during the past five years, tending to alienate those who identified with Islam rather than some political philosophy.

Meanwhile, events in Iran influenced Iranian student politics in the United States. Several older leaders of the Mojahedin, a group Mobarez says represented left-wing Muslims opposed to the shah, were imprisoned or executed. Young Marxists assumed control of the organization and purged the 50 percent of its membership that refused to accept Marxist principles.

When in spring, 1976 a new Mojahedin pamphlet appeared on an ISA information table in the EMU, Muslim members demanded its immediate removal. The ensuing heated argument almost had degenerated into fistcuffs before non-Marxist Muslims stalked off angrily to form their own organization. Today, the ISA at the University has about 50 members, versus about 30 in the IMA.

Neither group is anxious to publicize their differences. Mobarez says his organization is "very disappointed" with the IMA's hard-line anti-Communist stance, preferring that all "progressive" Iranian students display a united front against the Shah.

Another ISA member, Kaveh Ahangar, says his group always has invited the IMA to participate in anti-shah activities, but the Muslims steadfastly have refused.

Citing instances in Iran's recent history where he claims, "Communists have betrayed the Islamic movement," Shariati believes Marxist elements among the anti-shah forces in Iran "will use us and when the time comes, they will attack us."



Photo by Dennis Hickock

Fresh Flake Flurries

Monday morning's white blanket over Deady Hall didn't last a day, but the National Weather Service says Eugene might have snow for Thanksgiving.

Today in Eugene, skies are dry, cloudy and cold, with 10 percent chance of rain. Highs are near 40 and lows 20 degrees.

today

University Pres. William Boyd interviewed for the presidency at Michigan State University where he held his first teaching position, but he has now withdrawn from the running. Page 3.

Eighty years after its creation in Poland, the "artificial" language of Esperanto remains a tongue without a mouth. But Esperantists believe their language is not dead. Pages 6 and 7.

Thirty acres of radioactive sand lies buried near Lakeview. Federal funds may now provide the necessary money to permanently put this and other such sites to rest without danger to humans. Page 12.