

Iranian revolution a success, says student group secretary

By Richard Burr
Of the Emerald

Iran has made "tremendous" progress under the rule of Ayatollah Khomeini, contrary to the allegations of anti-Khomeini groups, says Firooz Arash, secretary for Iranian Student Association.

Arash is challenging anti-Khomeini student groups, including the Moslem Iranian Student Society and another group called the Iranian Student Association, to debate the situation in an open forum. The evidence favors Khomeini supporters, he says.

Mohammad, a secretary for MISS, says although he's opposed to sitting at the same table with a man who supports the executions in Iran, he is not opposed to the debate and will check with other group members to reach a group decision. Mohammad asked to remain anonymous because he fears repercussions from Khomeini supporters in the United States.

More roads have been built within the last 3½ years than during the 20 years of the Shah, Arash says. This progress is important because more than 78 percent of countryside villages are illiterate, he says.

Thousands of miles of roads have been built to connect the villages to larger cities, Arash says. The road construction helps bring in badly needed government services, he says.

But the Iranian revolution has not ended, Arash says. Big landowners, former officials of the Shah and Western nations are trying "to bring the revolution to its knees," he says.

Although the government has nationalized most large corporations and banks and has made some land reforms, legislation is pending in the Iranian Parliament to return the lands and businesses to capitalist interests, Arash says. This legislation would deter Iran from reaching its goal of economic self-sufficiency, he says.

Because Western nations know Iran's economy is dependent on foreign capital, they have imposed an "economic blockade" to prompt a counterrevolution, Arash says. The nations have persuaded Iraq to attack Iran and have orchestrated subversive terrorism by "lackeys" within the country, he adds.

Despite these efforts, Iranians still overwhelmingly support the Ayatollah, Arash says. If the people did not support Khomeini, they would have overthrown the leader like the Russians ousted the czar, he says.

Instead of such a movement, "massive waves" of citizens have voted at the polls for replacements of murdered government officials, Arash says.

Problems still exist in Iran because the Aya-



Graphic by Shawn Bird

toliah inherited the Shah's problems and faces economic hardship because of the war, he says. The Iraq war has postponed economic recovery policies because of war-inflicted destruction, Arash says.

Anti-Khomeini forces say numerous executions have occurred in the country. Arash says the execution figures cited by the groups and Amnesty International are too high.

"In some cases unfair executions have taken place," he says. But most of those who are executed are either former Shah officials or people who killed revolution supporters during the overthrow, Arash says.

Allegations that Khomeini has a secret police force more dangerous than the Shah's Savak are false, he says. Khomeini has asked the 36 million Iranians to act like a secret police in reporting suspicious activities they observe, Arash adds.

The government favors basic political freedoms, not suppression, he says. A bill in the Iranian Parliament calls for the freedom of parties and the formation of committees, Arash says.

But until the war, Western interference and opposition from capitalists and Shah supporters ends, the Iranian revolution will continue, he says.

IFC refuses Food-Op goals

The Incidental Fee Committee refused Thursday to allow the fee-funded Food-Op outreach program to integrate with unsubsidized store operations.

The committee rejected two Food-Op goals and asked the outreach program to withdraw another of the five goals presented.

The funded Food-Op program educates students about food.

Food-op director Pat McGurk said students are unaware they can shop at the store. But the committee voted 5 to 2 against a goal to publicize store operations. "We don't feel we should be dealing with the store at all," said David Gibson, ASUO vice president of administration and finance, giving the ASUO Ex-

ecutive recommendation.

The goal could be approved as a one-year opportunity to publicize the store, said committee member Dianne Ritterband-Mason. The decision could be included in a budget note, said Mary Alice

Holmes, IFC member.

An effective outreach program would publicize the store through its activities, said Jeff Nudelman, committee member.

McGurk withdrew a similar goal integrating the store and outreach program.

Bookstore may alter text discount

The University Bookstore may extend the textbook discount to general interest books next fall if a proposal currently before the board of directors is passed.

The proposal would reduce the current eleven percent discount on textbooks to ten percent, and extend the lower discount to other books sold in the bookstore, said trade book manager Thom Chambliss.

The total cost of the proposed discount will be difficult to compile, Chambliss said, but added, "I think everyone will come out ahead if we establish one general discount."

Student identification would be required for book purchases if the board adopts the proposal, store manager Jim Williams said.

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