

ON THE SAME BOAT

Remember the two PLO envoys who went to Iran to moderate the situation and rescue the American hostages? Do you know who they were?

One was Abu Jihad (aka Halil El Vazier); the other was Abu Al Walid (aka Saad Sail). They are chief PLO terrorists, who were involved in planning such prior humanitarian ventures as the murder of the Munich athletes and the coastal raid in Israel which killed thirty four. They are also in charge of PLO connections in North Vietnam and North Korea.

But most remarkable of all, they are the PLO specialists in bargain-terrorism; that is, the taking of hostages! If there were an annual award for cynicism, this PLO team's trip of mercy to Teheran would win hands down.

Of course, it is always possible that they did not go to plead mercy, but to be technical consultants. In a November 19 interview in the Algerian *Al-Shaab*, Arafat had this to say about the trip of the two Abus to Teheran:

"We have not and will not make any efforts to mediate the Iranian revolution. We and the Iranian revolution are on the same boat. From the beginning we have maintained close contacts with the Iranian revolution on the principle that Iran is a friend of the Palestinian revolution. On the strength of this, I have sent Saad Sail, the head of our operations room, to Iran to observe the situation."

That isn't quite the way he announced it to the West. It might be well for everyone to write his or her Congressman -- and media -- to identify the two Abus, and to quote Arafat's Algerian interview. It might just help keep the PLO in perspective.

Other perspectives seem to be in need of repair. Last week, the *Chronicle* columnist, Mary McGrory, charged Kissinger with the responsibility for our plight, because he allegedly pressured the government to allow the Shah into this country for medical treatment.

To put the blame on Kissinger is much like blaming the bank for a bank robbery on grounds that it allowed too much money to accumulate in its vaults. Or blaming the woman who was raped because she dressed too attractively. It is a cheap and silly diversion from the main culprits: the rapists, the bank robbers, the kidnapers themselves.

There is also the perspective of the American public on whether the Shah should be sent back to Iran, as registered by a Harris poll. About three out of four Americans think we should *not* send him back; about one out of four think we should.

What is *that* person thinking about? The Shah was undoubtedly a tyrant, as was the ruler who preceded him, and the one who followed him. But America has a rule of law about shipping people back where they came from. In brief, such a person is not to be deported if it appears that his life will be endangered without the semblance of a fair trial.

Consequently no Iranian Jew, or other Iranian in America, who feels threatened by the Khoumeini regime, will be deported to Iran -- even if his or her papers are out of order. Or even if they are alleged criminals. If exceptions are made to this rule of law, then it is no longer a rule of law and protects none of us.

There is another perspective which will be examined at an Energy Conference at the San Francisco Jewish Community Center this Sunday from 10:00 to 4:00, and to which you are invited. We are being faced with blackmail by oil, as well as blackmail by kidnapping.

Earl Raab

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But above all, we should remind everyone of Arafat's words that the PLO and Khoumeini are "on the same boat," evidence that we cannot allow the PLO on *our* boat, if we want to stay afloat.