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MOSLEMS DISTRUST USSR ADVANCES

After destroying the strength of the Orthodox church and enslaving it to the Communist will, it was easy for the USSR to use it to promote its policies and objectives. It is true that the Communists have been able to win over a few naive Western clergymen like the bishop of Canterbury. However, according to tradition, the Moslems of the USSR have shown stubborn opposition against any infidel who has tried to govern them. They also have known that their Moslem brothers outside of the USSR are with them in spirit. The Soviet persecution of the Mullahs and Muftis in the Moslem centers of the USSR has had its immediate repercussions in Turkey, Iran, and the Arab world. Moslem refugees from the USSR have talked eloquently in the bazaars and the mosques about the Soviet atrocities against the Moslems.

Recently the Communists have started to wage extensive propaganda about religious freedom in the USSR. They have been circulating pictures of reopened mosques. They have invited non-Communist high-ranking Islamic leaders to travel in the USSR and witness the freedom of the Moslems. They have even announced that Moslems in the Soviet Union would be allowed to go to Mecca. The Moslems of the Middle and Near East, however, do not believe this Kremlin propaganda.

While Moscow agitators are trying to impress the Mullahs and Muftis with their profound knowledge of the Koran and its philosophies, Bagirov recently attacked violently the Koran and the Prophet in an article in Bolshevik. He said that according to history, the Prophet's ideas were harmful to humanity and that Islamic history consists of nothing but massacres, destruction, and mass slavery by feudal lords.

Kashani and other Moslem leaders like him have no illusions about the Kremlin's attitude toward Mohammedanism and the Islamic people. However, Kashani believes that cooperation with the Tudeh party is the expedient thing to do at present to further Iranian interests.

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