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SUBJECT CIA Activities in Iran

TOM BROKAW: The Washington Post reported today that the CIA has been trying to win favor for the United States in Iran for seven years now, dating back to the Jimmy Carter Administration. The story describes how the CIA set up its Soviet counterpart, the KGB.

More on all of this tonight from NBC's Art Kent.

ART KENT: Intelligence sources confirm that even while there were daily anti-American demonstrations in the streets of Teheran in 1979, the CIA was beginning a series of operations designed to place the United States in the position of supporting whoever ended up in power. When KGB officer Vladimir Kusizhkin (?) defected to Britain in 1982, he supplied details on KGB operations in Iran. The CIA gave that information to the Iranians, and the Iranians arrested and executed more than 100 Soviet agents and outlawed the Iranian Communist Party.

On the other hand, this man, Ahmed Modani (?), the former Iranian Navy commander, was the leader of one of several anti-Khomeini exile groups that received CIA money. The exiles were a source of intelligence, not always reliable, from Iran, intelligence officials say.

The CIA also arranged for another exile, Reza Pahlavi, the son of the late Shah, to make a clandestine broadcast into Iran last September.

Former CIA Director Admiral Stansfield Turner says that seeming contradictions in the CIA operations for and against Khomeini hide the real purpose.

ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER: We want very much to try to insure that when Khomeini dies, and if after that there is a struggle for power inside Iran, that the Soviets don't have a leg up on the situation.

KENT: But one congressional source said tonight that if the CIA were this active in Iran, it should have known about the clandestine arms shipments. CIA Director Casey is likely to be asked why he didn't tell Congress about that when he appears before the Senate Intelligence Committee Friday.