

# Who wants what for the Middle East hostages

Following the release of John McCarthy and Edward Tracy, efforts to free Western hostages depend on a complex inter-relationship between the hostage-taking militias, Iran, Syria, Israel and the West



IRAN



President Rafsanjani wants a resumption of trade with the West, wants Iran's name removed from the list of terrorist countries and wants \$5 billion of assets unfrozen

The hostages are at the centre of a struggle for political credit between Iran and Syria

ISLAMIC JIHAD (HEZBOLLAH)



Hezbollah now holds 10 Western hostages. Five Americans, two Germans, an Italian and two Britons. Abbas al-Mujawir, Jihad secretary general, is willing to negotiate with Israel over prisoners



SYRIA



President Assad wants a resolution of the Palestinian issue and direct US aid

Jihad fundamentalist hardliners want the hostage situation to be controlled from Damascus

Islamic Jihad wants the release of 300 prisoners held at Fort El Khiam by the Israeli controlled South Lebanon Army and the release of Sheikh Abd al-Karim Ubayd, leader of Islamic Jihad, who was imprisoned by the Israelis in 1989

President Rafsanjani's brother is the link between the new Islamic Jihad leadership and Tehran

Islamic Resistance, the paramilitary wing of Islamic Jihad, wants the release by Israel of four of its members in return for the release of Israeli soldiers

ISRAEL



Israel wants clear information on the fate of seven Israelis missing in Lebanon