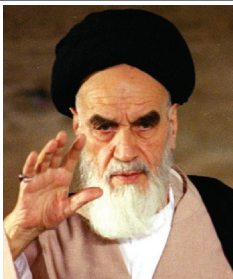


Iran celebrates Ten Days of Dawn

Iran is to commemorate the 1979 Islamic Revolution with its biggest-ever meeting of radical groups – from Hezbollah to Peru's Shining Path – to co-ordinate strategy for fighting "American Imperialism". A "significant announcement" about Iran's nuclear status is also expected

1978 Alienated by rule of **Shah Reza Pahlavi** – with rampant inflation and high unemployment – anti-establishment liberals, Marxists and radical Islamists gain widespread support. Hundreds killed as demonstrations violently crushed

Dec 2: Over two million people gather to call for return of religious leader **Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini** (below), exiled in Paris



1979 Jan 16: Shah flees Iran

TEN DAYS OF DAWN

Feb 1: Khomeini returns from exile

Feb 5: Khomeini appoints rival government with liberal **Mehdi Bazargan** as Prime Minister

Feb 9: Fighting between pro- and anti-Khomeini troops

Feb 11: Day of Victory
Shah's government collapses



Current Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei

