

'American spies' mania in Iran

If some Iranian officials are to be believed, America is sending flying saucers, remote-controlled unmanned helicopters and weather balloons over Iran in a psychological war against the country holding 53 of its diplomats hostage.

Ever since the abortive United States commando raid on Iran to try to rescue the hostages, reports of such sightings have abounded.

The Oil Ministry announced two weeks ago that American helicopters had flown low off Iranian coastal waters and sprayed foam over the sea setting it alight.

The military students occupying the American Embassy in Teheran said they had fired on a

suspicious helicopter which flew over the American compound recently. Its identity was never discovered.

The Islâmic Republic newspaper, organ of the ruling clergy, said recently that President Carter had sent an 18-inch long snake to kill the hostages and give Washington an excuse for attacking Iran.

But, said the newspaper, postal workers at Teheran's main sorting office had intercepted the snake.

The postal workers then "revealed" that the hostages had also been sent blades, knives, bullets and poisonous chemicals through the mail as part of the same purported plot.

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