

In its 100-year history, IBM's transformations and technological breakthroughs have been significant. First came time clocks and typewriters, and eventually supercomputers that have helped Russian railways move freight and passengers, prevented tax fraud in the United States and monitored the health of premature babies in Toronto.

On April 7, 1964, then-Chairman Thomas J. Watson Jr. introduced a new generation of computing equipment—the System/360—that would revolutionize the way the world processed information.

Watson, son of legendary IBM leader Thomas J. Watson Sr., called the event the most important product announcement in company history. “The result will be more computer productivity at a lower cost than ever before,” he said.

System/360 succeeded IBM's earlier 700 series, which did not have hard drive space but instead used magnetic tape as memory. The 700 series was used for specific purposes, while System/360 were general purpose computers with interchangeable parts and software.

System/360 was a \$5 billion bet to create something unprecedented, said Bernie Meyerson, vice president for innovation at IBM. “If System/360 had failed, there's a high probability that there wouldn't be an IBM,” he said.

But the gamble paid off. In 1989, 25 years after Watson introduced it, products based on System/360's architecture accounted for more than half the company's revenue.

Pat Meaney is a senior technical staff member at IBM in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, with 25 years of experience at Big Blue, which means he has seen his fair share of changes in technology.

“It's amazing how many changes happened during my career,” said Meaney, 47. “When I look back, there was trepidation, but they turned out good.”

Meaney was encouraged to explore his interests within the corporation. His duties today include working on the reliability of the System Z mainframe memory. In 1986, after graduating from Clarkson University, he was hired by IBM as a logic designer, and focused on frequency timing. His interest quickly became how to make sure the machine never goes down.

“It's always exciting,” he said. “If you are going to work 40-plus hours a week, make sure it's something you like to do.”

Meaney has submitted 60 patents since 1995, with 40 approved patents and is a member of the patent review board.

He said that for the next generation of IBMers, “The thing to look at is the trends technology is taking. As you look to the future, there are always things that look like roadblocks. They look like they will hinder us, but we challenge ourselves to get around them.”

THE BUILDER

Thomas J. Watson Sr., the legendary and controversial president of IBM from 1914 to 1956, oversaw the company's growth into an international force. He had strong ties to upstate. Born in Campbell, Steuben County, he worked in Painted Post, Buffalo and Rochester. While in Rochester, starting in 1900, he was a salesman for National Cash Register, using ruthless tactics against competitors and making such an impression on corporate headquarters in Dayton, Ohio, that he was transferred there.

In 1914, Watson was brought in to run the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Co. in New York City, three years after its founding. In 1924, it was renamed IBM.

IRAN'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE SYRIAN REGIME

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to Iran's ongoing efforts to assist the Syrian regime in violently suppressing peaceful protesters.

I submit the articles “Iran Helping Syrian Regime Crack Down on Protesters, Say Diplomats,” printed in the May 9, 2011, *Guardian*, and “Iran Reportedly Aiding Syrian Crackdown,” printed in the May 27, 2011, *Washington Post*.

Press reports indicate that Iran is playing an active role in helping Syrian President Bashar al-Assad brutally crackdown on peaceful democracy protesters. As the *Washington Post* reports, “Iran is dispatching increasing numbers of trainers and advisers—including members of its elite Quds Force—into Syria to help crush anti-government demonstrations that are threatening to topple Iran's most important ally in the region.”

Syrians have witnessed an increase in arrests, and door-to-door raids, similar to those that helped to crush Iran's Green Movement protests in 2009.

Human rights groups suggest that more than 7,000 people have been detained since the uprising began. And more than 1100 people are said to have died.

Mr. Speaker, Iran is terrified that it is about to lose its most important ally in the Arab world—they will do everything in their power to prevent that from happening. It appears that human life holds no value to the leaders in Damascus and Tehran.

I encourage all of my colleagues to read these articles and follow this development closely. The Congress must continue to put pressure on Syria and Iran so that freedom, respect for human rights and democracy can emerge in both nations.

[The *Guardian*, May 9, 2011]

IRAN HELPING SYRIAN REGIME CRACK DOWN ON PROTESTERS, SAY DIPLOMATS

Iran is playing an increasingly active role in helping the Syrian regime in its crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, according to western diplomatic sources in Damascus.

The claim came as Syria's security forces backed by tanks intensified operations to suppress unrest in three new flashpoint towns on Sunday and it was confirmed that four women had been shot dead in the first use of force against an all-female demonstration.

A senior western diplomat in Damascus expanded on assertions, first made by White House officials last month, that Iran is advising president Bashar al-Assad's government on how to crush dissent.

The diplomat pointed to a “significant” increase in the number of Iranian personnel in Syria since protests began in mid-March. Mass arrests in door-to-door raids, similar to those that helped to crush Iran's “green revolution” in 2009, have been stepped up in the past week.

Human rights groups suggest more than 7,000 people have been detained since the uprising began. More than 800 people are said to have died, up to 50 during last Friday's “day of defiance”. Last night two unarmed demonstrators were reportedly killed during a night rally in the eastern city of Deir al-Zor.

“Tehran has upped the level of technical support and personnel support from the Iranian Republican Guard to strengthen Syria's ability to deal with protesters,” the diplomat said, adding that the few hundred personnel were not involved in any physical operations. “Since the start of the uprising, the Iranian regime has been worried about losing its most important ally in the Arab world and important conduit for weapons to Hezbollah [in Lebanon],” the diplomat said.

Last month White House officials made similar allegations about Iranian assistance for the regime, particularly in terms of intercepting or blocking internet, mobile phone and social media communications between the protesters and the outside world. But the officials did not provide hard evidence to support their claims.

Activists and diplomats claim Iran's assistance includes help to monitor internet communications such as Skype, widely used by a network of activists, methods of crowd control, and providing equipment such as batons and riot police helmets.

Syria has denied seeking or receiving assistance from Iran to put down the unrest. In a statement issued on Friday, Iran's foreign ministry stressed Syria's “prime role” in opposing Israel and the U.S., and urged opposing forces in the country to compromise on political reform. U.S. policy towards Syria was based on “opportunism in support of the Zionist regime's avarice”, it said.

The Assad family, from the Shia Muslim minority Alawite sect, is likely to be nervous about appearing to be helped by its Shia-dominated ally to crush protesters drawn from the 75% Sunni population.

Regime forces backed by tanks were in action over the weekend in Homs, in the town of Tafas north of Deraa, and in the coastal city of Baniyas, activists said. Violence was also reported in the Damascus dormitory town of Zabadani.

Along with arbitrary detentions, shootings have continued.

Razan Zeitounieh, a lawyer in the capital who is monitoring the protests, said four women were shot dead in the village of Merqeb, close to Baniyas, and six men were shot dead in Baniyas on Saturday.

IRAN REPORTEDLY AIDING SYRIAN CRACKDOWN

[From the *Washington Post*, May 27, 2011]

U.S. officials say Iran is dispatching increasing numbers of trainers and advisers—including members of its elite Quds Force—into Syria to help crush anti-government demonstrations that are threatening to topple Iran's most important ally in the region.

The influx of Iranian manpower is adding to a steady stream of aid from Tehran that includes not only weapons and riot gear but also sophisticated surveillance equipment that is helping Syrian authorities track down opponents through their Facebook and Twitter accounts, the sources said. Iranian-assisted computer surveillance is believed to have led to the arrests of hundreds of Syrians seized from their homes in recent weeks.

The United States and its allies long have accused Iran of supporting repressive or violent regimes in the region, including Syria's government, the Hezbollah movement in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Many previous reports, mostly provided by Western officials, have described Iranian technical help in providing Syria with riot helmets, batons and other implements of crowd control during 10 weeks of demonstrations against President Bashar al-Assad.

The new assertions—provided by two U.S. officials and a diplomat from an allied nation, all of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe sensitive intelligence—are clearly aimed at suggesting

deepening involvement of Iranian military personnel in Syria's brutal crackdown against anti-Assad demonstrators. There was no response on Friday to requests for comment left with the Syrian Embassy and Iranian interests section in Washington.

In the account provided by the diplomat and the U.S. officials, the Iranian military trainers were being brought to Damascus to instruct Syrians in techniques Iran used against the nation's "Green Movement" in 2009, the diplomat said. The Iranians were brutally effective in crushing those protests.

Officers from Iran's notorious Quds Force have played a key role in Syria's crackdown since at least mid-April, said the U.S. and allied officials. They said U.S. sanctions imposed against the Quds Force in April were implicitly intended as a warning to Iran to halt the practice.

The Quds Force is a unit of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps responsible for operations outside the country. It has helped fund and train Hezbollah and Hamas militants and supported anti-U.S. insurgents inside Iraq.

While the size of the Iranian contingent in Syria is not known, the numbers of advisers has grown steadily in recent weeks despite U.S. warnings, according to the U.S. and allied officials.

The Obama administration mentioned the role of the Quds Forces in announcing two sets of sanctions imposed against Syrian government officials in the past month. A White House executive order last week that targeted Assad and six other top government officials also included a little-noticed reference to Mohsen Chizari, an Iranian military officer who is the No. 3 leader in the Quds Force in charge of training.

The naming of Chizari—who in 2006 was arrested but later released by U.S. forces in Iraq for allegedly supplying arms to insurgents there—suggests that officials possess evidence of his role in assisting Syria's crackdown on protesters, said Michael Singh, a former senior director for Middle East affairs for the National Security Council during George W. Bush's administration.

"There's a deeply integrated relationship here that involves not only support for terrorism but a whole gamut of activities to ensure Assad's survival," Singh said.

It is not unusual for governments to draw on foreign assistance during times of unrest, as Western-allied governments in Bahrain and Egypt did when protests were building in those countries.

Iran's increasing engagement in the Syrian crackdown reflects anxiety in Tehran about the prospects for Assad, who has failed to end the protests despite rising brutality that human rights groups say has left more than 800 people dead and perhaps 10,000 in prison. While managing to hold on to power, Assad has been severely weakened after months of Syrian unrest, according to current and former U.S. officials and Middle East experts.

"Iran is focused intently on how things are evolving in Syria," said Mona Yacoubian, a former Middle East expert with the State Department's intelligence division and who is a special adviser to the U.S. Institute of Peace. "The two countries have a long-standing alliance of 30 years-plus. Syria is Iran's most important inroad into the Arab world, and its perch on the front line with Israel."

Assad, whose army is stretched across dozens of cities in an unprecedented domestic deployment, increasingly needs help to survive, Yacoubian said. And Iran desperately needs Assad. "If they lose the Syrian regime, it would constitute a huge setback," Yacoubian said.

Iran, a longtime supplier of military aid to Syria, has been helping Damascus battle

the current wave of civil unrest since at least mid-March, said the U.S. and allied officials. The emergence of Syria's first true mass protests—with tens of thousands of demonstrators pouring into the streets demanding Assad's ouster—initially flummoxed the country's security leaders, who had little experience with such phenomena.

On March 23, Turkish officials seized light weapons—including assault rifles and grenade launchers—on an Iranian cargo plane bound for Syria. Whether the shipment was intended to help suppress the uprising is unclear, but around the same time, Syria received other Iranian shipments that included riot control gear and computer equipment for Internet surveillance, the U.S. and allied sources said.

Just before the shipments, Assad announced with great fanfare that he was lifting the country's ban on the use of social media such as Facebook and YouTube. While widely hailed at the time, the move gave Assad's security police an Iranian-inspired tool for tracking down leaders of the protest movement, said Andrew Tabler, a former Syria-based journalist who is a Syria expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"Lifting the ban on Facebook helped the regime pinpoint where the [activists] were coming from," Tabler said in an phone interview from Lebanon, where he remains in contact with opposition figures. "It was not about being magnanimous; it was a way to allow more surveillance, leading to thousands of arrests."

HONORING THE BOYES HOT SPRINGS POST OFFICE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor the 100th birthday of an important community institution, the Boyes Hot Springs Post Office. On July 8, 1911, the Sonoma Index Tribune reported that "A.D. Graham of Graham's Cash Store received the appointment as post master of Boyes Springs. Located at his store."

The store, lost in a 1923 fire along with most of the town, was near the train depot at Boyes Boulevard and the Sonoma Highway (Hwy 12). After rapid rebuilding, the post office was located in the Woodleaf Store (now a diner that is part of the Sonoma Mission Inn) until 1951, when its current site was built at the Plaza Center at Boyes Boulevard and Sonoma Highway.

This site, previously known as the Boyes Springs Plaza, had been the scene of street parties and fiestas. Now, redevelopment plans include a public plaza in the surrounding space, reviving it as a place for celebration.

Boyes Hot Springs has a lively history, integral to the fabric of the Sonoma Valley. Formerly the center of a great resort area, it hosted thousands of visitors during its heyday. There were dozens of resorts, from small motor courts to the grand Sonoma Mission Inn. The Boyes Bath House boasted the second largest indoor swimming pool in the country. And, for many years, the area was a training ground for professional football and baseball teams such as the Cleveland Browns and the San Francisco Seals.

After the demise of the passenger railroad, the area still thrived with the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge and the rise of the automobile. Boyes Springs real estate man L.E. "Bud" Castner was one of the first directors of the Golden Gate Bridge District.

In the 1960s, as the resorts faded, Boyes Hot Springs faded a bit as well. Community pride, however, never waned. The area became attractive in the 1980s and 1990s to home buyers who were priced out of the Bay area market. Attracted by its rural charm, they purchased its large stock of charming cottages to rehabilitate. At the same time, the population of Mexican immigrants grew, attracted principally by the grape growing and wine businesses.

To old timers and new residents alike, the post office is the center of the community. Since most of the surrounding streets receive no mail delivery, residents make a daily trip to the post office where they catch up on the latest local news with their friends and neighbors. The immigrant population relies on it for communication with their families back home. The postal workers are personally known to all, a part of the broader community family.

Mr. Speaker, the community is hosting a celebration to honor this anniversary. In the words of one of the organizers, Michael Acker of the Springs Community All, it will "salute the past, show appreciation for service, and look to the future with hope." Please join us in honoring the centennial of the Boyes Hot Springs Post Office.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of fully funding the CFTC.

According to Gene Guilford, Executive Director of the Independent Connecticut Petroleum Association, and former Reagan Energy Department Presidential appointee, gas prices should be \$2.50. He goes on to say that 15 to 20 percent of the price of a barrel of oil is due to pure speculation.

Even big oil executives agree, Exxon Mobil CEO and President Rex Tillerson recently testified that the price of a barrel of oil without speculation should be between \$60 and \$70. According to an April 2011 analysis by Goldman Sachs, unregulated speculation adds over \$20 per barrel to the price of oil.

In my home state of Connecticut, 4 million gallons of gas are sold a day. That means every day my constituents are spending an extra \$6 million for speculation. In this fragile