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GHOLAM REZA AFKHAMI

INTERVIEWEE: GHOLAM-REZA AFKHAMI

INTERVIEWER: HOMAYUN MAJD AND
SEYYED VALI REZA NASR

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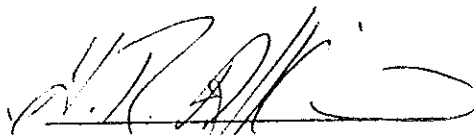
PREFACE

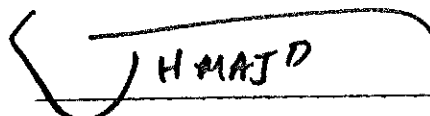
This manuscript is the product of a series of tape recorded interviews conducted for the Oral History of Iran Program of Foundation for Iranian Studies by Hodayun Majd and Seyyed Vali Reza Nasr with Gholam-Reza Afkhami in Washington, D.C. in September 9, 1982; and June 26 and 28, 1990.

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Interviewee


Interviewer

Date of Agreement


Subject of Tapes

GHOLAM-REZA AFKHAMİ

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mr. Afkhami was born in a military family in Tehran in 1936. He finished high-school in Tehran and studied political science in the United States where he received his Ph.D. degree from the University of California at Berkeley. Upon return home he taught at the National University, participated in the advisory group working on social issues for the Queen Farah, and later became the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior where he coordinated the last parliamentary elections to be held before the revolution. Finally, Mr. Afkhami served as Secretary General of the National Committee of the World Campaign Against Illiteracy.

Mr. Afkhami's recollections are most valuable in that he, as a political scientist and also as a practitioner of that science, looks at events leading to the Islamic revolution from both angles. He first presents an image of the political atmosphere in Iran since the Mossadeq era. Then, he brings to light the role of political parties and the processes by which a true multi-party system was transformed to a system of two, government and opposition parties, and that finally a one-party system was openly announced with the creation of the Rastakhiz Party. His analysis of the role of prime ministers in the shaping of Iranian history is also worthy of consideration since it suggests, on the one hand, a causal relationship between a multi-party system which brought to power independent prime ministers with strong personalities, and on the other hand a one-party system which caused the premiership of those who were dependent on the monarchy in the realm of decision-making.

Mr. Afkhami's memoirs are of further value due to the light they shed on the processes, development, and difficulties of execution of the literacy campaign programs in developing countries such as Iran.

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