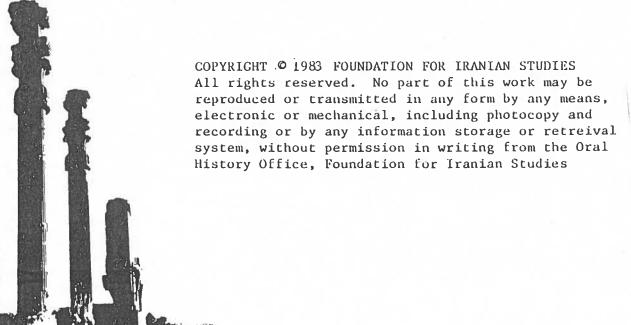
## INTERVIEW WITH MS. FARANGIS SHAHROKH (YEGANEGI)

INTERVIEWED BY MAHNAZ AFKHAMI

Los Angeles, November, 1983



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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 Mahnaz Afkhami with Farangis Yeganegi in Los Angeles, CA in November, 1983.

Readers of this Oral History memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, narrator and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. Foundation for Iranian Studies is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein.

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اینجانب متن و نوار مصاحبه های انجام شده در ارتباط با برنامه "تاریخ شفا هی ایران" را به بنیاد مطالعات ایران هدیه میکنم تا در اجرای برنامه های آموزشی و تحقیقاتی بنیاد به هر نحوی که مصلحت میدانند از آن استفاده نمایند.

مماحبه شو دلاه

مصاحبه کننده تاریخ

موضوع نوار

#### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ms. Farangis Shahrokh (Yeganegi) was born in Tehran in 1917 to an affluent Zoroastrian family. Her father, an educated and cultured man, was a leader of this religious community and served as their representative in the Majlis.

She began her work with the women's movement as a volunteer worker in various charities in Hamedan. As the movement grew to concentrate on political and economic equlity for women, she participated actively in these efforts as the first secretary of the High Council of the Women's Organizations of Iran and later, as the Assistant Secretary-General of the Women's Organization of Iran. In the latter capacity, she planned and administered the vocational training programs of the WOI.

Ms. Shahrokh (Yeganegi) was the founder of the Handicraft Organization. As the Administrator of this organization she travelled throughout Iran in order to locate samples of the local crafts and bring better techniques and materials to the process of production and improved marketing and distribution to the sales procedures.

Ms. Shahrokh (Yeganegi) has had unique opportunities to study at first hand the rural life in Iran, the problems of religious minorities, as well as the evolution of the women's movement in Iran. Her recollections are of unusual interest to historians who interest themselves in the problems of women and minorites in Iran.

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Minority representation in the Majlis, the Zoroastrian associations and their duties and goals, the interviewee's initial involvement with social activities through supervision of an orphanage, cooperation with the American missionaries in the schools and hospitals in Hamedan

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Literacy activities of the women, re-election of the interviewee to the post of first secretary, establishment of the Handicrafts Organization on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, with the aim of expanding craftmen's economic activities in the rural areas. the Queen's support in matters related to improvement of handicrafts, expansion of the industry throughout the country, the interviewees travels with the goal of discovering, knowing and improving the production and distribution of native crafts, improvement of the workshops and materials, marketing inside Iran and abroad, establishment of cooperatives and government assistance to these efforts, general betterment of rural life due to these activities, witnessing the security throughout the nation while travelling to distant points

Observations of the interviewee as member of a religious minority, one of the leaders of the High Council of the Women's Organizations, and the founder of the Handicrafts Organization concerning the problems which led to the 1979 revolution, necessity to raise people's consciousness and understanding concerning the need to modernize, rather than pressuring them in the desired direction, impossibility of uniting Islam and women's rights and the importance of being decisive one way or the other, necessity of establishing closer ties between the various socio-economic classes rather than having members of the more privileged classes preach to the others. Difficulty in predicting how much of the past achievements will remain because of unpredictability of the length of time the present regime will survive and continue its destructive cultural revolution 42-49

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