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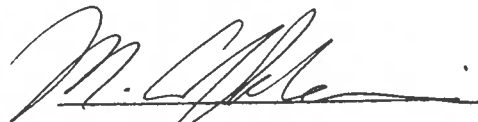
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mahnaz Afkhami was born in Kerman, Iran in 1941. She completed her High School education in Seattle, Washington. She received her B.A. and M.A. degrees in English Literature from the University of Colorado in Boulder. She returned to Iran in 1967 when she started her teaching career at the National University of Iran. In 1968 she became the chairwoman of the department of English at the same university.

In 1969 she founded the Organization of the University Women of Iran. In 1970 she attended the General Assembly of the United Nations as advisor to the Iranian delegation. During the same year she became the secretary-general of the Women's Organization of Iran. In January, 1976 she became Minister of State for Women's Affairs in prime minister Hoveyda's cabinet. In 1977 she was appointed Minister of State for Social and educational Affairs in prime minister Amouzegar's cabinet. She was the prime-minister's deputy in the South Tehran Urban Development Project. She was a founder and director of the Organization for Exceptional Children. She was a member of the board of trustees of Kerman and Farah Universities. She was a member of the high councils of welfare and family planning. She was a member of the executive committee and vice-president of the political bureau of the Rastakhiz party.

Ms. Afkhami's contact with the various strata of the Iranian population through the network of the Women's Organization and the Urban development projects on the one hand, and the court and the government on the other afford her^a vantage point which makes her recollections of special value to the scholar of contemporary Iranian history. She has also been a key participant and observer of the evolution of the Women's movement in Iran and abroad. The movement has been one of the points of conflict and controversy within the context of social and political developments leading to the Iranian revolution.

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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 Fereshteh Noorai with Mahnaz Afkhami in Washington, D.C., in September, 1982.

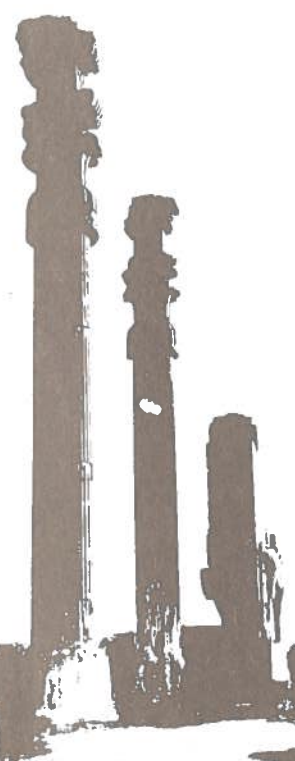
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INTERVIEW WITH MAHNAZ AFKHAMI

WASHINGTON, D.C., SEPTEMBER 1982

INTERVIEWED BY FERESHTEH NURA'I



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