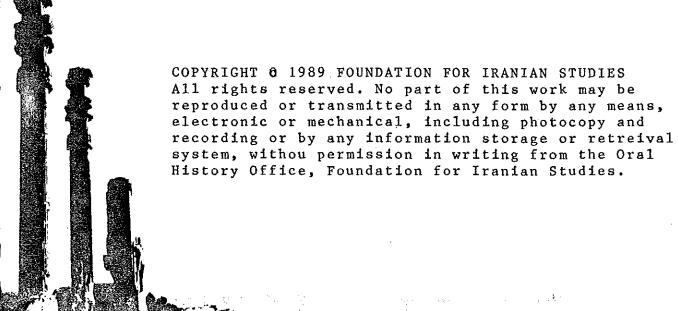
Foundation for Iranian Studies Program of Oral History

AMIR ASLAN AFSHAR

INTERVIEWEE: MR. AMIR ASLAN AFSHAR

INTERVIWER: MRS. MAHNAZ AFKHAMI

NICE: SEPTEMBER 1989



PREFACE

This manuscript is the product of a series of taperecorded interviews conducted for the Oral History of Iran Program of Foundation for Iranian Studies by Mahnaz Afkhami with Amir Aslan Afshar in Nice, in September 1988.

Readers of this Oral History memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcriptof 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 Iranain Studies is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein.

The manuscript may be read, quoted from and cited only by serious research scholars accredited for purposes of research by Foundation for Iranian Studies; and further, this memoir must be read in such place as is made available for purposes of research by Foundation for Iranian Studies. No reproduction of the memoir either in whole or in part may be made by microphoto, typewriter, photostat, or any other device.

این جانب متن ونوار مصاحبه های انجام شده در ارتباط بابرنا مه

" تاریخ شفاهی ایران " را به بنیا دمطالعات ایران هدیه میکنیم

تا در اجرای برنامه های آموزشی و تحقیقاتی بنیا دمورد استفیاده

قرار گیبیرد.

ملاحظات:

موضوع نوار :

AMIR ASLAN AFSHAR

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Born in 1922 in Tehran, Mr. Afshar completed his secondary and college education in Berlin and later received his doctorate in political science from the university of Vienna. In 1948 he began his governmental career by joining the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Following a number of diplomatic tours of duty in the Netherlands, Indonesia, and the United States, he was elected deputy to 19th and 20th sessions of the Iranian Majles.

From 1967 to 1977 he served, repectively, as the Iranian ambassador to Austria. U.S.A., Mexico, and the Federal Republic of Germany. He also served, from 1968 to 1969 as the Chairman of the Board of the International Atomic Agencey in Vienna.

Mr. Afshar's last governmental post was the Grand Master of Ceremonies to the court of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi in the period immediately prior to 1979 revolution. It was during this period that he was in fairly constant touch with the Shah and could therefor observe, at first hand, the events leading to the departure of the Shah from Iran and the unfolding of the Islamic revolution.

```
Pahlavi, Queen Farah
                                      15, 26, 31, 38, 42, 50, 52
Pahlavi, Reza II
                                      44,58,61-62
                                      38
Pakravan, General Hasan
                                      25
Parsons, Sir Anthony
                                     1
Qajar, Ahmad Shah
                                      37
Qarahbaghi, General Abbas
                                     17-18
Qashqa'i, Khosrow
                                   . 12
Qods Nakha'i, Hosein
                                      26,39-40
Qotbi, Reza
                                     14,43
Qotbzadeh, Sadeq
                                      16 - 17
Rafi'zadeh, Mansur
                                      53
Rockefeller, David
                                      53
Roosevelt, Kermit
                                      5,15
Sa'ed, Mohammad
                                      33-34,41-44,47
Sadat, Anvar
                                      49
Sadeq, Hosein
                                      35
Sadiqi, Gholam Hosein
                                      12
Saleh, Allahyar
                                      35
Sanjabi, Karim
                                      10,16,40
SAVAK
                                      26,48
Shafa, Shoja'eddin
                                      2
Shahrokh, Bahram
                                      24
Sharif-Emami, Ja'far
                                      25,27,30,33-34
Sullivan, Walter
                                      46
Tabataba'i Seyyed Zia'eddin
                                      30
U.S., National Security Council
                                      47
U.S., Senate, Foreign Relations
                                      11-12,42-43,49,51,53
Zahedi, Ardeshir
                                      27 - 29
Zia'al-Haq, General
Zia'i, Taher
```

14,47,54

10

25

55

Navvab, Hosein

Nixon, Richard M.

Non-proliferation Treaty

Oveysi, General Gholam Ali

Pahlaviniya, Prince Shahram

CONTENTS OF INTERVIEW WITH AMIR ASLAN AFSHAR (1)

SUBJECT	<u>Page</u>
Childhood years; Educational background; War years in Germany; Employment in the ministry of foreign affairs:	1-4
Mission in the Netherlands; Memories of Dr. Mosaddeq and some of his aides:	5-7
The White Revolution and U.S. role in the land reform:	8-10
Ambassadorship to Austria, U.S. and West Germany:	10-13
Memories of the mission in the U.S.; Activities of the regime's critics; The Iranian Students Confederation:	14-18
Iran's economic development; discontent of the western countries:	18-20
Ambassadorship to U.S. and Mexico; Becoming chief of protocol to the Imperial court:	20-23
Events of the eve of the 1979 revolution; Azhari's appoitment as prime minister:	23-25
Shah's last public speech; Drafters of the speech:	26-27
Zia'al-Haq's message to the Shah; Bhuto's execution; Demonstrations in Tabriz:	27-30
Shah's decision to leave Iran; His illness and state of mind and morale:	31-34
Shah's last meetings with Iranian politicians; leaving for Egypt; Queen Farah's impat on Shah's de- cisions:	34-40
Shah's stay in Egypt, Morocco and Panama:	40-44
Shah's feelings toward Iran; His impressions of some of the world's leaders:	45-47
Memories of some of Shah's meetings in Morocco and his financial situation:	47-52

CONTENTS OF INTERVIEW WITH AMIR ASLAN AFSHAR (2)

SUBJECT	PAGE
Ambassadorship in the U.S.; the role of public relations in promoting Iran's interests; Increase in oil prices:	53-57
Suggestions to Shah regarding the value of increasing his personal contacts with the Iranian public:	57-60
Discussions with crown prince Reza in Morocco; the West's role in Iran' political upheavals:	60-62
Personal reflections on the Shah's character:	62-63