Foundation for Iranian Studies Program of Oral History

Assadolah Nasr-Esphahani

INTERVIEW WITH ASADOLLAH NASR-ESFAHANI

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INTERVIEWED BY FERESHTEH NURA'I

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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 Assadolah Nasr-Esfahani in New York, NY, in September, 1982.

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 نحو ی که مصلحت میدانند از آن استفاده نمایند.

مما حبه شو نده

مما حبه شو نده

رخم رزای

مما حبه کننده

مما حبه کننده

تاریخ

تاریخ

دریان به به رزاز کار رای به رزاز دریان به موضوع نوار

ASSADOLAH NASR-ESPHAHANI

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mr. Nasr-Esphanani was born in Isphahan in 1930. He received a Bachelor of Law degree from Tehran University in 1955, and M.S. degree in Management from the University of Indiana in 1961, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Tehran University in 1963.

He served as Vice-President of the Police University; Advisor and Economic consultant to the Minsitry of Economy, taught at various universities and research institutions, including Tehran University. He was Governor-General of Kerman and Shiraz provinces. He was Minister of Interior during Jamshid Amouzegar's premiership.

His recollections are most valuable in that they present a picture of the administrative structure of provincial government, influential groups, including the clergy and their effect on local politics, the resistence within the Cabinet to plans for decentralization, the Shah's attitude with regards to local decision-making, and the process of planning leading to final approval of the plan to decentralize the government administrative and financial structure.

Mr. Nasr's memoir is also interesting for the light it sheds on the events such as the shooting incident at Ayatollah Shariatmadari's house in Qom where a student was killed, leading to a series of demonstrations against the regime, Cinema Rex fire in which hundreds were killed—one of a series of such acts of terrorism instigated by the religious oppositions, but attributed to the government, and the government's lack of preparedness and coordination in facing and combating the opposition.

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