# Foundation for Iranian Studies Program of Oral History

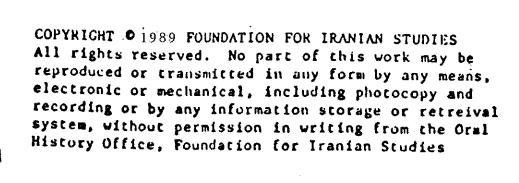
HABIB BAHAR

INTERVIEWEE: HABIB BAHAR

INTERVIEWER: SEYYED VALI REZA NASR

WASHINGTON, D.C.: MAY 9 AND 16 AND

JUNE 16, 1988



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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 Seyyed Vali Reza Nasr with Habib Bahar in Washington, D.C. in May 9 and 16, and June 16, 1988.

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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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Habib Bahar was born in Mashhad in 1926 to a prominent literary and political family. Mr. Bahar began his political career with the Pint Four Program of Khorasan. He then joined the staff of the Governor's Office in that province, and worked closely with governors such as Mehran and Amir Azizi. Under the latter's aegis Mr. Bahar became involved with the land reform efforts of the 1960s.

In the early 1970s Mr. Bahar became interested in parliamentary politics, and was elected to the Majles as a deputy of the Mardom Party from Mashhad. He served as a representative of Mashhad until 1979. During his tenure in the Majles he became closely acquainted with the proceedings of the Majles, especially pertaining to the martial law government of General Azhari, the proposal to disban SAVAK, and the selection of Bakhtiyar to become premier.

Mr. Bahar's memoirs moreover pertain to important political personages such as, "Ali Shari ati, Mas ud Rajavi, Ayatollah Khamene'i, Dr. Baqa'i-Kermani, General Azhari, and provide insights into the workings of the governorship of Khorasan, the miliatry rule during the revolution, and the workings of the Majles.

# CONTENT OF INTERVIEW OF HABIB BAHAR

<u>SUBJECT</u> PAGE

Family background; relations between Reza Shah and 1-9 Malekoshsho ara Bahar; Reza Shah's modus operandi; beginnings of the interviewee's career in public services in Khorasan; concerning the Point Four Program; changes in structure of Iranian agriculture; development programs of Khorasan Governorship.

Concerning the White Revolution and the impact of 10-22 land reform; the reaction of the ulama to land reform; relations between the governor's office and Mashhad's religious circle; Governorship's modus operandi; renovation of the shrine of Imam Reza and its consequences.

Circumstances under which the interviewee participated23-30 in the elections; extent of autonomy and freedom of Majles deputies; concerning the leadership of Riyazi in the Majles; memories of the Majles' Agriculture Commission; relations between the deputies and the local and national figures.

Recollections of <sup>c</sup>Ali Shari<sup>c</sup>ati; reasons for his 31-41 popularity; recollections of the Rajavi family and Mas<sup>c</sup>ud Rajavi; the interviewee's relations with the Ahmadzadeh brothers; recollections of Dr. Baqa'i-Kermani; reflections on General Azhari, and the interviewee's meeting with the General in 1978.

The proposal to disban SAVAK; concerning the breakup 42-45 of relations between Baqa'i and Mossadeq; concerning the offer of premiership to Baqa'i in 1978; reflections on Jamshid Amuzegar; concerning the payments to the ulama and its termination under Amuzegar.

Recollections from Azhari's premiership; confrontation46-59 with General Qarabaghi; riots in Mashhad and the role of Ayatollah Shirazi therein; Palestinian connections in the riots of Mashhad; balance-sheet of the martial law policies adopted in Mashhad; concerning the proposal to disban SAVAK and the reaction of the ulama to it; SAVAK's role in inciting the revolution; meetings with the Shah prior to the latter's departure from Iran; recollections of Ayatollah Khamene'i, Sheykh Ali Tehrani and Vacez-e Tabasi.