# Foundation for Iranian Studies Program of Oral History

GORGIN, IRAJ

INTERVIEWEE: IRAJ GORGIN

INTERVIEWER: MAHNAZ AFKHAMI

LOS ANGELES, APRIL 20, 1985

COPYRIGHT • 1988 FOUNDATION FOR IRANIAN STUDIES
All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy and recording or by any information storage or retreival system, without permission in writing from the Oral History Office, Foundation for Iranian Studies

4801 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 670 Washington, D.C. 20016, Telephone: (202) 686-1224

### 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 Iraj Gorgin in Los Angeles in April 20, 1985.

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.

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.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mr. Iraj Gorgin was born Esfahan in 1934. He completed his early as well as higher education in Iran, and attended Tehran University where he studied literature. Since his highschool days Mr. Gorgin became involved with politics. He first became involved with the Tudeh Party and later with the movements which coalesced around the National Front. After the vents of 1953 Mr. Gorgin parted with active politics and became involved with artistic and literary affairs. He was involved in the publication of several journals in Tehran, and became a news correspondent for Radio Iran. Later he became a founder of Radio Tehran, and eventually one of the early recruits to National Iranian Radio and Television Organization, where he rose to the rank of high official and a director of the news division. Mr. Gorgin's memoirs are a valuable account of Iranian politics in the 1950s, organizational developments in Iranian radio and television industries, the interactions between NIRT and the Iranian government in the 1970s as well as during the months leading to the Revolution of 1978-79 and personage of political and cultural significance to modern Iranian history.

اینجانب متن ونوارمصاحبه های انجام شده در ارتباط بابرنامه " تاریخ شفاهی ایران " رابه بنیاد مطالعات ایران هدیه میکنیم تا دراجرای برنامه های آموزشی وتحقیقاتی بنیاد مورداستفاده قرار گیسیرد.

ملاحظــا ت :

معاحبه شونده البارليم المراد المرد المراد المراد المراد المراد المراد المراد المرد المراد المرد المرد

4801 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 670 Washington, D.C. 20016, Telephone: (202) 686-1224

# TABLE OF CONTENT-INTERVIEW WITH IRAJ GORGIN

SUBJECT	PAGE
Reminiscences of childhood; his early political inclinations; political activism among the youth at the time.	1-4
Tudeh Party's activities in the 1950s; popular image of the Soviet government in Iran; events of 1953 and its repercusions in Iranian society.	4-9
Interviewee's education at Tehran University; Mr. Gorgin's artistic and cultural endeavors; his career at Radio Iran.	9-14
The formation of National Iranian Radio and Television Organization, and its structure and objectives; expansion of the activities of NIRT, and its news division.	15-20
Events leading to Revolution of 1978-79 and NIRT's role therein; strikes in NIRT during the Azhari and Bakhtiyar governments; the advent of the Revolution and Mr. Gorgin's personal experiences with it.	21-25
Concerning the formation and expansion of NIRT; the political climate present in the public communications and broadcasting organizations in the 1970s; the Programing Council of NIRT and its role; the Political Bureau of NIRT and its activities; censorship and control exercised by security forces over programing in NIRT.	26-39

Recollections of official state visits; concerning the internation- 39-41 al image and influence of the Shah; Queen Farah's popularity among the masses.

11
26-27
14
10,23,24
39
15-16
15
10
10
21,22,25
3,6,9
3,6,9
28
7,11
5 <b>,</b> 7
11,23,25
10
24
23,24
2
12
40
4
36
24
5,6,7,9,18,36-37
40
11
21,22,23,34
13
25
12
3
40
12,13,15,17
12,13,13,17
12,13,14
4
12
22
11,34-35
II,34-33
15,17-18,19,26,
38
50
5
24
5
4 <b>,</b> 8
16
17,28-29,33,36
12,13
19
11,14
** • * * *

# GORGIN, IRAJ

Name	Page
Keyhan-e Farhangi Magazine,	11
Khadami,	24
Khadem, Kimiyavi, Mas`ud,	16 22
La Martin,	1
Luganin,	20
Mahjub, Mohammad Ja`far,	12
Mahmudi, Kambiz,	33
Mardom Newspaper,	8
Mas`ud, Mohammad,	2
Mehr A'in School,	3
Mesbahzadeh, Mostafa,	11
Mobashsher, Heshmatollah,	16
Mofid, Bijan,	10
Mohajerani, Ayatollah `Abbas,	36
Mohamedi, Hamid,	10
Mossadeq, Mohammad,	3,4,5,6,7
Mostowfi, Hushang,	15
Mostowfi, `Ali,	8
Mo`iniyan, Nosratollah,	12,13-14,15,
	18-19
Nahavandi, Hushang,	12
Nasiri, General Ne`matollah,	38
National Iranian Radio and Television Organization,	15-38
,	
Nationalization of Oil of 1950-51,	2,7
Nazih, Hasan,	24
Nikzad, Firuz,	24
OPEC,	40
Pahlavi, Mohammad Reza Shah,	6,14,19,22,35,
	36-37,38,39-40
Pahlavi, Princess Ashraf,	38
Pahlavi, Queen Farah,	24-25,37,39-40
Pakdaman, Naser,	24
Pars News Agency,	16,18,19
Payam-e Novin Magazine,	5
People of Iran Party,	3
Peyk-e Solh Magazine,	8
Peyman, Haj Seyyed Esma`il,	11,15 24
Pezeshkpur, Mohsen, Pirniya, Hasan (Moshiroddowleh),	2 <del>4</del> 1
Pirzadeh, Fereydun,	16
Plan and Budget Organization,	30
Point Four Program,	19
Pope, Arthur U.,	20
Pur-Vali,	10
Qaragozlu, Manuchehr,	38
Qavam, Ahmad (Qavamossaltaneh),	23
Qotbi, Reza,	15,16,17,19,20,

# GORGIN, IRAJ

Name	Page
ed to re to a to to the this gas an air he as my ap de to the this an an as as as as the to the as	21,22,28,30-31,33
Qotbzadeh, Sadeq,	24
Radio Iran,	11-12,13,14,18, 30
Radio Omid, Radio Tehran, Rahimi Larijani, General Mehdi, Rahnema, Fereydun, Rasekh, Shapur, Revolution of 1978-79, Riyahi, Mohammad Amin, Rowhani, Rowhani, Mansur, Rowshan, Sabet, Habib, Sadeq, Ahmad, Sadiq, 'Isa, Sadiqi, Gholam-Hosein, Sadri, General Ja'far-Qoli, Safa, Navvab, Safa, Zabihollah, Sami'i, Parvaneh, Sami'i, Parvaneh, Sami'i, Pasha, SAVAK, Sazegar, Jila, Sa'adatmand, General Abol-Hasan, Seyyed-Hoseini, Reza, Shah-Bakhti, Shah-Hoseini, Nasereddin, Shahnavaz, Shamlu, Ahmad, Siyasi, 'Ali Akbar, Sorush, Ahmad, Sotudeh, Stalin, Joseph, Tafazzoli, Jahangir, Takhti, Gholam-Reza, Tamasha Magazine, Tehran University, Tehrani, Third Force Party, Tudeh Party,	* * * *
Vali, Ja`far, Valian, `Abdol-`Azim, White Revolution of 1963, Yar-Shater, Ehsan,	10 35 18,36,38 10