Foundation for Iranian Studies Program of Oral History

NAYEREH EBTEHAJ-SAMII

INTERVIEW WITH NAYYEREH EBTEHAJ-SAMI'I

APRIL 6, 1984 DOVER, M.A.

INTERVIEWED BY SHIRIN SAMI'I

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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 Shirin Sami'i with Nayyereh Ebtehaj-Sami'i in Dover, MA., in April, 1984.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Nayyereh Ebtehaj-Sami'i was born in Rasht, Iran in 1914. She received her early education at the Presbyterian Missionary School of Rasht. She concluded her education at a similar institution in Tehran. After a seventeen year interlude, Mrs. Ebtehaj-Sami'i completed her Bachelor's degree in languages at Tehran University.

No sooner had she completed her secondary education that Mrs. Ebtehaj-Sami'i embarked upon a career directed at improving the conditions of women in Iran. Using the intermediary of her alma mater's alumni association, she arranged for meetings and lectures at Tehran's American School. As a spokeswomen for Iran's increasingly active women's movement, Mrs. Ebtehaj-Sami'i participated in numerous international conferences, and sponsored an array of councils and societies inside Iran. She was a member of Women's Council of Iran, and a member of the International Council of Women. She was also the first president of Tehran's branch of International Zonta Club.

Her political career extends further. She was a founding member of the Iran Novin Party, and four times, a representative from Rasht to the Majles, where she also served as a member of the Governing Board of the Parliament. She has been a member of the Board of Governors of Iran's Red Lion and Sun Organization, the Shahnaz Club, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Tehran's Community School and the Damayand College.

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