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PARVIZ YAR-AFSHAR

INTERVIEWEE: PARVIZ YAR-AFSHAR

INTERVIEWER: SEYYED VALI REZA NASR

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and January 16, 1989

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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 Parviz Yar-Afshar in Washington, D.C. in July 18 and 25, 1988; and January 16, 1989.

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Parviz Yar-Afshar was born in 1906 in Tehran where he completed his elementary and high school education. After attending the American college in Tehran, he enrolled in the nascent Iranian navy. Following a short training stint in Italy, he returned to Iran and began his government career, in 1940, as an employee of the then ministry of arts and crafts. Mr. Yar-Afshar was later appointed special bureau chief to the commander of the Iranian police force, General Fazlollah Zahedi. In the 1950's, he served in the Majles as a Qazvin deputy and was later appointed by Mohammad Reza Shah to serve in the Senate where he remained until the eve of the 1979 revolution.

Mr. Yar-Afshar's long friendship and close political association with General Zahedi provide a unique perspective for his analysis of the events and personalities connected with the rise and fall of Mohammad Mosaddeq. Furthermore, his long experience as a Majles deputy and later a Senator, give him an insight into the complexities of the Iranian political scene, particularly in the two decades prior to the revolution, that should be of some interest to the student of Iran's contemporary politics.

CONTENTS OF INTERVIEW WITH
PARVIZ YAR-AFSHAR

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Family and educational background; A short stay in Italy; Marrying General Zahedi's niece; Entry into government service; Heading Zahedi's personal bureau during his tenure as the chief of the police force.	1-4
On Reza shah's growing disaffection towards General Zahedi; Zahedi's contacts with German nationals residing in Iran and his subsequent arrest and imprisonment by the British occupying force in 1941; On Zahedi's early support of, and cooperation with Dr. Mosaddeq and his eventual opposition to the latter's oil nationalization policies; On Zahedi's role in Mosaddeq's fall.	5-20
Zahedi's powerful political position immediately after Mosaddeq's fall; More recollections about 1953 events; Entering 18th Majles as a Qazvin deputy; Criticizing British objectives and policies regarding Iran as the main source of Iranian political and economic difficulties; On the problems of rural development and modernization; On the strength of the Tudeh party during Mosaddeq's premiership.	21-29
Criticizing Hoveida's behavior and long tenure as prime minister; On the mistakes made during the implementation of the land reform program; On U.S.'s role in the initiation of the land reform.	30-34
Recollections of the shah's character, moods and objectives; Shah's growing isolation as a result of the exclusivist behavior of his aides and confidants; On his last meeting with an ailing and disconcerted shah; West's role in the 1978-79 revolution.	35-42
On Alam's fascination with erstwhile members and supporters of the Tudeh party; Recollections of 1978-79 revolution; Reminiscences on the events leading to his arrest and imprisonment after the revolution; On his days in prison.	43-56

YAR-AFSHAR, PARVIZ

NAME	PAGE
Afkhami, Hushang,	2
Afkhami, Mendi,	2
Afshar, Colonel	
'Abdol-Hosein,	5
Afshartus, General Hosein,	6-7
Alam, Amir Asadollah,	41-43
Baheri, Monammad,	43
Bakhtiyar, General Teymur,	20
Baqa'i, Mozaffar,	11-12
Bayandor, Yadollah,	2
Eqbal, Manuchehr,	42-43
Events of 1953	5-45
Gilanshah, General,	20
Hekmat, Sardar Fakher,	16
Hoveyda, Amir Abbas,	28, 31-32, 42
Kamal, General,	7
Kashani, Ayatollan Seyyed	
Abol-Qasem,	11-12, 16
Majlesi, Samad,	2
Mossadeq, Mohammad,	7-8, 10, 14, 16-19, 21-23, 44
Pahlavi, Mohammad Reza Shah,	11, 19, 32-37
Parvizi, Rasul,	43
Qarabaghi, General Abbas,	38
Qashqa'i, Naser,	16
Qavam, Ahmad (Qavamossaltaneh),	16-23
Rashioiyan Brothers,	14-22
Razmara, General Ali,	8-9, 19-20
Riyahi, General Teqi,	32
Roosevelt, Kermit,	13-14, 21
Saffari, General Mohammad	
'Ali,	3-
Tajaddud, Mostafa,	6
Tudeh Party,	14-15, 23
White Revolution of 1963,	30
Zahedi, Ardeshir,	19-21
Zahedi, General Faziollah,	4-21