

Foundation for Iranian Studies

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AHMAD BANI AHMAD

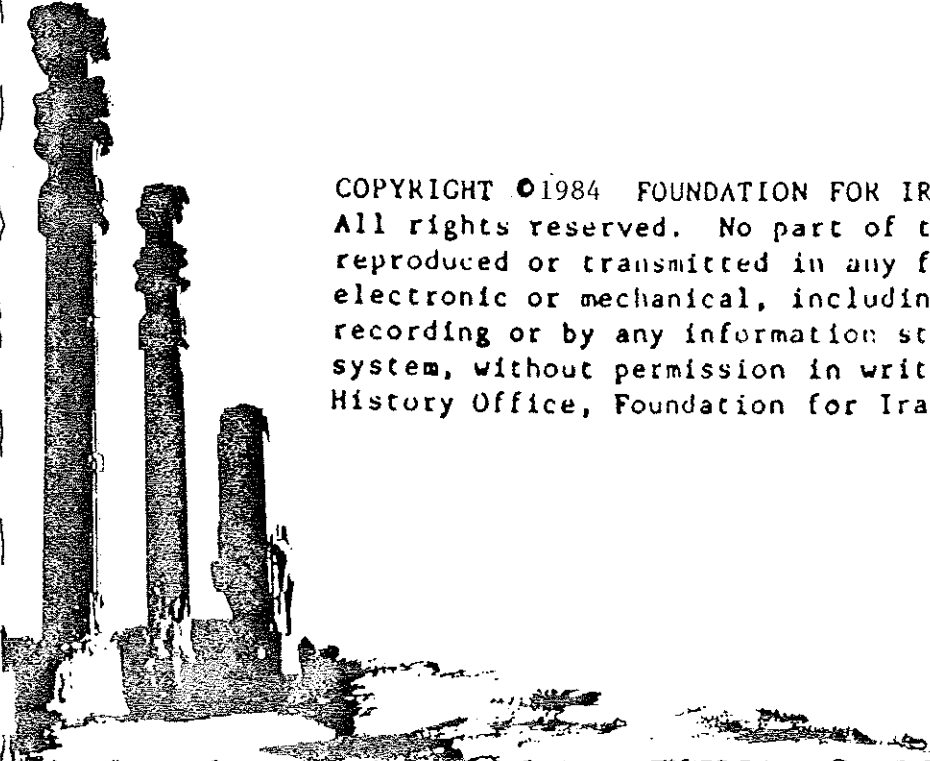
بنیاد مطالعات ایران

Foundation for Iranian Studies

INTERVIEW WITH DR. AHMAD BANI-AHMAD

NICE, DECEMBER 21, 1983 & JANUARY 23, 1984

INTERVIEWED BY SHIRIN SAMI'I



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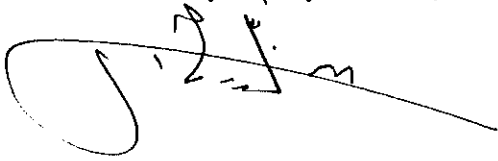
PREFACE

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 Shirin Sami'i with Ahmad Bani-Ahmad in Nice, France, in December, 1983, and January, 1984.

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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"تاریخ شفا هی ایران" را به بنیاد مطالعات ایران هدیه میکنم تا
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مطلحت میدانند از آن استفاده نمایند. (رویداد گریف داکتور)



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تاریخ

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mr. Ahmad Bani Ahmad was born in Tabriz - Azarbayjan in . He completed his secondary education in Tabriz, and later received his degree in law from Tehran University with a concentration on industrial law (patents and ownerships). In Tabriz, he established a career in law, practicing as a lawyer in the Azarbayjan Court System. He also established the newspaper 'Asr-i Tabriz, which was printed in Tabriz and later Tehran until 1969 when it was closed down.

Mr. Bani Ahmad's political career started during his high school years with his involvement with Khalil Maleki's Third Force, and Iran Toiler's Party. Mr. Bani Ahmad later became an advocate of reform within the framework of the Constitution. His attempt to enter the Majles as an independent was rebuffed twice. It was not until elections held under the aegis of the Rastakhiz Party that he was elected to the Majles, where he expressed often his criticisms of the government. Following the uprisings of Tabriz, Mr. Bani Ahmad initiated the move to censure Mr. Amuzegar's government. With Sharif-Emami's premiership, Bani Ahmad established the Union for Freedom Party. Throughout the last months of the Pahlavi regime and during the early part of the provisional government, Mr. Bani Ahmad remained a leading figure of the liberal establishment. His negotiations with the Shah, Ayatollah Shariatmadari, Mehdi Bazargan, and Sharif-Emami reveal much about the politics of the revolution. In addition, Mr. Bani Ahmad's experiences encompass an important era of the Pahlavi period, revealing much about the working of Iranian politics during the two decades before the revolution.

CONTENTS INTERVIEW #1 AHMAD BANI AHMAD

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Personal background; family background; family's political and religious predilections; establishing the ' <u>Asr-i Tabriz</u> Newspaper; starting a career in law; relations with the Toiler's Party; the Third Force and Khalil Maleki	1-2
The closing of his newspaper; departure from Iran; participation in the general elections conducted under the Rastakhiz Party; Maleki's thesis on political activism	3
Participation in earlier elections of the two party system as a "wild-card" candidate. The reaction of the authorities to his candidacy and success in the elections. The Governor's attempt to keep Bani Ahmad out of the <u>Majles</u> ; Bani Ahmad's response	4
The closing of Bani Ahmad's newspaper. The authorities' reaction to his political criticisms. Bani Ahmad's opinion of political and literary freedom in Pahlavi Iran and how the freedom was reflected in the country's legal system. The example of abuse of the legal code by Tabriz's military establishment.	5-6
SAVAK's reaction to Bani Ahmad's newspaper	7
Bani Ahmad's views of the elections conducted under the aegis of the Rastakhiz Party. On the reason for his candidacy. Bani Ahmad's views on the question of the inevitability of the revolution of 1978-79. What lay at the roots of the people's grievances, what could have been done to diffuse the situation, and why the necessary measures were not taken	8-9
Views on Amuzegar, the failure of technocracy to address the problems of Iran in the late seventies. Limitations of western educated elite in relating to the Iranian society. Opinion of Nahavandi	9-10
On the Shah's attempts at liberalization. On his policy alternative throughout the revolutionary period	11
On his own political tendencies. His opinion of Constitutional monarchy; his objectives in the <u>Majles</u> . Carter's human rights policies and their echo in Iran. On the Shah's relation to the Constitution	12-13

CONTENTS INTERVIEW #1 AHMAD BANI AHMAD

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
On the evolution of a dissident bloc in the <u>Majles</u> prior to the revolution. Recollection of his speech attacking the government and its agricultural policy during the debate on the Budget of 1975 (1354). Hoveyda's response to Bani Ahmad's speech. The reaction of other members of the <u>Majles</u> to Bani Ahmad's increasingly stronger expressions of dissent. His subsequent meeting with Amuzegar concerning the speech. Bani Ahmad's censure in the Rastakhiz Party	13-17
His health problems; impeachment plan for the Hoveyda government; censure of Amuzegar's cabinet in the <u>Majles</u>	17-18
Bani Ahmad's views on Ayatollah Shariatmadari's recommendation to the Shah concerning replacement of Hoveyda. The Ayatollah's views on Amuzegar's premiership. On pressures experienced by him in retaliation for his parliamentary dissent	19
On the time when he first sensed the danger which Khomeini posed for Iran. His recollection of Khomeini's arrival in Paris. His meetings with Salamatian, Milkrand, and Michel Foucault and his cohorts	20
On the formation of his new party, Union for Freedom. Arrangements for a meeting with Khomeini, and problems of arranging a face to face dialogue. His refusal to meet Khomeini in the presence of Yazdi, Qotbzadeh, Habibi, and Salamatian. Correspondence with Foucault about the revolution	21-22
Contact with Habibi. On the relations between Khomeini and Shariatmadari. On Shariatmadari, Khonsari, and Milani's joint letter to the Shah in 1963, elevating Khomeini's clerical rank, hence saving his life	23-24
On the roots of Khomeini and Shariatmadari's disagreements. The issue of succession to Borujerdi	25
Bani Ahmad's actions during the political turmoil of the revolutionary period. Opinion on the Tabriz uprising and its aftermath. The effect of the events of Tabriz on Bani Ahmad's move to censure the government. Western support of the regime and the question of political freedom	26-27
On Pischevari and Biria. Pischevari's conversation with Alyev, and speculation on Pischevari's murder by the KGB	27-28

CONTENTS INTERVIEW #1 AHMAD BANI AHMAD

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
On meeting with the Shah and the Shahbanu in 1977-78 through the aegis of Shiravani and Javadi	29-31
Impressions of the Shah	31-32
Topics of conversation with the Shah, opinion of the Shah's famous speech "I have heard the voice of the revolution". Views of General Azhari and Sharif-Emami's governments	33-34
On Sharif-Emami's role in the revolution. Encounter with sharif-Emami concerning his premiership following Amuzegar's resignation. Why Bakhtiar was chosen to replace Azhari. On how Bakhtiar dissuaded Sadiqi from premiership. On Sadiqi's consideration of the office of prime minister. Bazargan's reaction	35-37
Impression of Bani Sadr. On Shariatmadari's television interview following Qotbzadeh's conviction, on charges of sedition. On relations between Shariatmadari and the liberal forces	38-39
On leaving Iran after the revolution. On his arrest by revolutionary guards, his appeal to Bazargan. Story of his arrest. Memories of Prison, contact with a revolutionary guard, release from prison through the intermediary of Hadavi and Amir-Entezam	39-42
On boycotting the referendum, reaction by the authorities, and being assaulted. Problems in the airport prior to departure from Tehran	42-43
On his refusal to resign from the <u>Majles</u> , and pay back his salary, in response to Khomeini's call. His letter to the revolutionary council on this topic	43-44
His opinion of the current state of Constitutional monarchy	44
On his contacts with his constituency	45
Bani Ahmad's views on the Shah's ideas of modernization. On the demise of the Iranian agricultural sector. On conspicuous consumption in the urban sector	46-47
An explanation for the involvement of the well-to-do in the demonstrations. On the intrinsic limitations of the Shah's system	47-48

CONTENTS INTERVIEW #1 AHMAD BANI AHMAD

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
His opinion of Azarbayjani national consciousness and the issues of separatism and federalism. On Eqbal Azar. On the Azari language	48 -50
On the formation of his party, Union for Freedom. Structure and membership of the Party	50-51
Documents submitted by Mr. Bani Ahmad to the interviewer	52
More on his meeting with the Shah, talks about Saleh. Bani Ahmad's meeting with Saleh. Account of Saleh's meeting with 'Alam in 1963. Sincerity of the monarch about adherence to the Constitution. The Shah's attempt to arrange a meeting with the leadership of the National Front	53-55
On the Shah's alternatives following Sanjabi's return from Paris. His final meeting with the Shah and the question of abdication. The monarch's reaction	56-57
Bani Ahmad's own opinion of the Shah and his regime	57-58
On why Bazargan accepted the premiership of a clerical regime. America's role in the relations between the clerical and liberal elements of the revolution. On his relations with the revolutionary leadership. On Shirazi's attempt to arrange a meeting for Bani Ahmad with Khomeini. Khomeini's public receptions in Paris, Bani Ahmad's refusal to accept such an arrangement	58-61
Reason for interest shown in meeting with Khomeini	61
Bani Ahmad's response to the accusation that he opened the door for Khomeini. The Shah's reaction to Bani Ahmad's censure of the Amuzegar cabinet	62-63
Various pressures on members of the <u>Majles</u> ; extent of parliamentary criticism tolerated by the Pahlavi regime	63-64
On the reasons for closure of his newspaper	64-65
On the Shah's offer of premiership to Bani Ahmad. Collaboration with Sadiqi	65
Bani Ahamad's views on the Hoveyda era. How Hoveyda separated the shah from the people, hence paving the way for the revolution. On the roots of the Shah and 'Alam's financial involvements	66-67

CONTENTS INTERVIEW #1 AHMAD BANI AHMAD

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Views on Sheikh ul-Islamzadeh. On the primary force of the revolution	67-68
On Women's rights, its relevance in the context of Islamic rule; Bani Ahmad's proposals and the reconciliation of women's rights and acceptance of primacy of religion in society.	68-70

BANI-AHMAD, AHMAD

Name	Page
Abedi, Rahim,	40
Alam, Amir Asadollah,	55,67
Aliyev, Geydar `Ali,	28
Amir A`la'i, Shamsoddin,	56
Amir Entezam, `Abbas,	41,42
Amuzegar, Jamshid,	9-10,13,15-18,20, 53,63
Asr-e Tabriz Newspaper,	2
Azhari, General Gholam-Reza,	34
Azmun, Manuchehr,	35,41,42
Bakhtiyar, Shapur,	36,37 56
Baluhar,	52
Bani Sadr, Abol-Hasan,	37,38
Baqa'i-Kermani, Mozaffar,	31
Barq-Lame`,	27,28
Bazargan, Mehdi,	37,39,42,43 56,59-60
Biriya, Mohammad,	27-28
Borujerdi, Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Hosein,	25
Carter, James E.,	11,12
Chehrizi,	52
East Azarbayjan Governorship,	4
Eqbal-e Azar,	50-51
Eshraqi, Ayatollah Shahaboddin,	61
Ettehad Baray-e Azadi Party,	50-52
Foruhar, Daryush,	36 56
Foucault, Michel,	23
Habibi, Hasan,	22,23
Hadavi, Mehdi,	42
Hoveyda, Amir `Abbas,	10,11,15-20,32,41, 42,67-68
Information and Tourism, Ministry of,	6,7
Interior (State), Ministry of,	7
Javadi, Fereydun,	29,31
Katebi, Hosein-Qoli,	52
Kho'i, Ayatollah Seyyed Abol-Qasem,	25
Khomeini, Ayatollah Seyyed Ruhollah,	20,23-25,39,40, 61-63
Khonsari, Ayatollah Ahmad Musavi,	24
Malek, Hosein,	38
Maleki, Khalil,	2,3

Name	Page
Mansur, Hasan `Ali,	10
Mar`ashi-Najafi, Ayatollah Shahaboddin,	25
Matin-Daftari, Hedayatollah,	56
Milani, Ayatollah Seyyed Hadi,	24
Mitterand, Francois,	20
Mogaddam, `Ali,	52
Mo`iniyan, Nosratollah,	4
Nafisi,	3
Nahavandi, Hushang,	10
Najafi,	52
National Front,	36
Pahlavi, Mohammad Reza Shah,	11,12,16,17,19,25, 26,28-29,31-37,45-46,54- 56,58,63,65,67,68
Pahlavi, Queen Farah,	29-31
Pahlavi, Reza Shah II,	29
Pan Iranist Party,	3
Peyman,	52
Pishevari, Ja`far,	27,28
Qajar, Mohammad `Ali Shah,	33,50
Qanatabadi, Shams,	31
Qarib, Hormoz,	30
Qashqa'i, Naser,	39
Qotbzadeh, Sadeq,	22,38
Rambod, Holaku,	15,63
Rastakhiz Party,	3,6,15,17,33
Ravandi, Morteza,	52
Revolution of 1978-79,	20-48,59-67
Riyazi, `Abdollah,	15
Rowhani, Mansur,	14
Sabbaghiyan, Hashem,	56
Sadiqi, Gholam-Hosein,	36,37 57,59,66
Sadr Haj Seyyed Javadi, Ahmad,	56
Saffari, Rahim,	52
Sahabi, Yadollah,	56
Salamatian, Ahmad,	20
Saleh, Allahyar,	55,56
Sanjabi, Karim,	36,37,56
Sarlak, Taqi,	3
SAVAK,	4,6,19,29
Sa`id, Javad,	14
Shalchiyan, Hasan,	35
Shams, Yahya,	52
Sharif-Emami, Ja`far,	20,34-35
Shari`atmadari, Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Kazem,	19,23-25,38,39,60
Sheykholeslamzadeh, Shoja`oddin,	68
Shiravani, Daryush,	29
Shirazi,	60

BANI-AHMAD, AHMAD

Name	Page
Third Force Party,	2
Toilers of Iran Party,	2
Varahram, General Karim,	32
Yazdi, Ebrahim,	22
Zoka', Hosein,	52