Foundation for Iranian Studies Program of Oral History

FORUGH KAFA'I

INTERVIEWEE: FORUGH KAFA'I

INTERVIEWER: MAHNAZ AFKHAMI

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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 Mahnaz Afkhami with Forugh Kafa'i in Washington, D.C. in August 23, 1989.

Readers of this Oral History memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word, and 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

Forugh Kafa'i was born and raised in Mashhad. Following her primary and secondary education she became active in the women's circles in that city, and also became involved in business endeavors. Later she became Khorasan's Animal Protection Organization's Director, and subsequently became the Director of Khorasan's Blood Transfusion Organization. Her recollections shed much light on the travails of a woman's life in the public sector, as well as on the working of Iranian bureaucracy.

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Family and educational background; memories of 1-5 childhood in Mashhad; the cultural life of Mashhad at the time; concerning the status and social life of women at the time; beginnings of her commercial activities in Mashhad.

Beginnings of her activities at the Animal Protection 6-14 Organization; activities at the Blood Transfusion Organization; cultural problems before both organizations; problems with the press.

The working of the Blood Transfusion Organization in 14-18 Mashhad and its growth; reaction of the 'ulama to the Organization, and Dr. Ala's meetings with the religious leaders; support given to the Organization by Queen Farah; concerning Daryush Mehrju'i's film: Da'ireh-e Mina.

Problems of the Organization with the Revolution of 19-25 1978-79; reasons for political discontent in Mashhad, and its spread; memories of the unfolding of the Revolution.

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