

Foundation for Iranian Studies

Program of Oral History

General Hassan Alavi-Kia

RESTRICTED

INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL HASSAN ALAVI-KIA

PARIS, MAY 1983

INTERVIEWED BY AKBAR ETEMAD

COPYRIGHT © 1984 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 retrieval
system, without permission in writing from the Oral
History Office, Foundation for Iranian Studies

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 Akbar Etemad with General Hasan Alavi-Kia in Paris, France, in May, 1983.

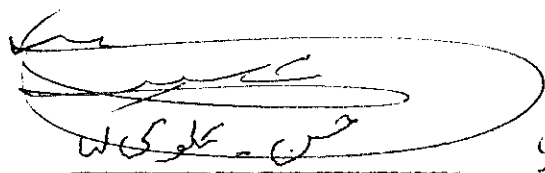
Readers of this Oral History memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, narrator and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. Foundation for Iranian Studies is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein.

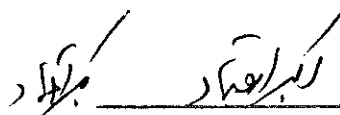
The manuscript may be read, quoted from and cited only by serious research scholars accredited for purposes of research by Foundation for Iranian Studies; and further, this memoir must be read in such place as is made available for purposes of research by Foundation for Iranian Studies. No reproduction of the memoir either in whole or in part may be made by microphoto, typewriter, photostat, or any other device.

اینجانب متن و نوار مصاحبه‌های انجام شده در ارتباط با برنامه
" تاریخ شفاهی ایران " را به بنیاد مطالعات ایران هدیه
میکنم تا صرفاً " در اجراء " برنامه‌های تحقیقاتی بنیاد از آن استفاده
نمایند.

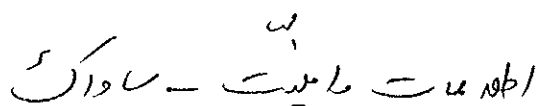
موارد دیگر استفاده از این نوار و متن باید با اجازه اینجانب

باشد.


حسن مولوکی
مصاحبه شونده


امیر خاتمی
مصاحبه کننده

۱۳ آریل ۱۹۸۳
تاریخ


امیر خاتمی

موضوع نوار

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

General Alavi-Kia was born in Hamedan in 1913. He came from a learned, religious family. He lost his father at an early age, but was influenced by his father's friends, among whom were a number of poets and intellectuals.

General Alavi-Kia graduated from the Officer Training College. He received his command early after graduation. He later studied law. He joined Section 2 under General Pakravan's command. When the intelligence operations in the country were re-organized to form SAVAK, he was appointed deputy to General Bakhtiar, the first chief of SAVAK.

General Alavi-Kia was ideally situated to witness the creation of SAVAK and to participate in the establishment of its structure. He was a participant in many intelligence gathering operations as well as some counter-espionage activities. He was also closely associated with various chiefs of that organization and was in a position to know their personalities, their approach to their mission, their inter-action with other personalities, as well as their relationship with the Shah.

General Alavi-Kia's memoir sheds light on the gradual transformation of the organizations dealing with intelligence gathering and internal security and the personalities which contributed to this transformation.

CONTENTS OF THE INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL ALAVI-KIA

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Family and educational background, entering the officer training college, graduation with a degree in law, entering the army	1-2
Leftist propoganda asserting he was connected to the British effected his superior's opinion and curtailed his career, assignment to Tabriz and then Isphahan during Mossadegh's premiership	3-5
Events of the 25th to 29th of Mordad	5-6
Establishment of SAVAK, assignment as deputy director along with Pakravan, membership in "kook" secret organization, Batmangelich calling him a "foreign agent," because of his contact with Colonel Reed of CIA on Shah's command that the Americans be informed of communist activities.	
Counter-intelligence duties of Section 2	9
Intelligence gathering channels, institutional and private groups who reported to the Shah	10-11
Discovery of "High School Students and University Students' Organizations", which were in fact the non-commissioned and commissioned officers' groups of the Tudeh Party	11
An instance of death of an agent through workings of a "mole" within the agency	12
Kia and the "kook" group	13-14
Case of the double agent dealing with Roozbeh of the Tudeh and the interviewee	15-16
Primitive intelligence gathering methods of Section 2, five phones tapped by Section 2, all of which belonged to the Soviet embassy	17
Methods of intelligence gathering, a few instances of counter-espionage work, evidence of contact between the Tudeh Party and the Soviet Embassy	18-20
Underground publications of the Tudeh Party	21
Infiltration of the Tudeh Party and various contacts within the party	22
Contacts with British and American governments limited to advisory assistance	23

CONTENTS OF THE INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL ALAVI-KIA

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Tudeh's reporting procedures	24
Training of intelligence officers undertaken by the Americans, British, and later the Israelis	25-27
Withdrawing his support for Mossadegh because of his indirect contact with the Tudeh Party and activities of such supporters as "nationalist officers,"	28-30
Events leading to the murder of General Afshar-Toos, Mossadegh's Chief of Police	31-33
An incident involving a family living close to the Russian border being falsely accused of collaboration with the Soviets	34-36
Two incidents of Soviet manipulation of Iranian agents	37-39
The idea of creation of SAVAK originating with the British and the Americans, the law by which the organization was established specified its functions as intelligence gathering	40-41
Organizational structure of SAVAK suggested by the Americans, was taken from the Turkish model and consisted of external intelligence gathering functions and internal security	42
Internal structure of SAVAK and its various functions	43-44
Training by the Israelis and the Joint commission with Turkey and Israel	45
Heads of various departments	46-47
SAVAK's reports to the government and the Shah	50
Transfer of intelligence files and personal files from other organizations to SAVAK	51
Other intelligence gathering offices retained some of their operations and used them in internal conflicts and personal squables, lack of coordination and cooperation between the four institutions dealing with intelligence gathering	52-55
Shah's acceptance, if not encouragement of the situation	56
Gharani's trip to the United States and the effect of his contacts there on his political future, Gharani's character	57-61

CONTENTS OF THE INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL ALAVI-KIA

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Original role envisioned for SAVAK and the limits of its activities, gradual expansion, establishment of branches in all cities	63-64
Special Bureau's establishment as a coordinating body for intelligence information, Fardoust's dual role as Chief of the Special Bureau and Deputy Chief of SAVAK,	65-66
Contact with American representative and his attitude toward the Shah, Bakhtiar's visit to the United States, his meeting with Kennedy resulting in his dismissal	70
Appointment of General Pakravan as Chief of SAVAK on interviewee's recommendation, Bakhtiar's contacts, style of interaction with tribal and religious leaders, character, and gradual deterioration of his relation with the Shah	72-76
Bakhtiar's conflict with Amini, leading to his exile in Switzerland, his trips to Iraq, his contacts with opposition groups including Khomeini and his attempts to overthrow the regime, his death in a SAVAK organized "hunting accident."	80
Pakravan's personality traits; political terrors, Tudeh leaders Khosrow Roozbeh and Lankarani murder Mohammad Masoud in order to incriminate the court, interviewee's full agreement with Dr. Keshavarz' versions of political terrors, having reconfirmed their accuracy through other sources	81-82
Tudeh officer's escape from prison, discovery of the military organization within the Tudeh, the policy of leniency toward the officers after the first trials, the gradual loss of credibility and appeal of the Tudeh	83-91
Mossadegh's relations with the intelligence community and changes in reporting procedures	92-93
Dr. Baghaee's role as a leader, causes of the various splits within the Tudeh Party, Khalil Maleki and <u>Nirooye Sevom</u> , Iran Party	94-96
Roots of Tudeh influence in the army, discovery and neutralization of Tudeh apparatus before establishment of SAVAK	102-103
The use of torture in SAVAK questioning	104
Intelligence reporting to Amini during his premiership	105-106

CONTENTS OF THE INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL ALAVI-KIA

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Dismissal from SAVAK and assignment to Germany to oversee intelligence activities in Europe	107-109
Shah's trip to Germany and events leading to his recall	110-111
Contact with students in Germany, attempts to effect government policy toward opposition members, ineffectiveness of the commission ordered by The Shah to review the situation of student members of the opposition	116-117
Student informers within the Confederation	118-119
Pakistan intelligence reports concerning passage of Iranian students through that country on their way to China for training	120
Shah's request that the interviewee find an arms dealer for Saudi Arabia and the purchase arrangement	121-123
Negotiations with KRUPP concerning construction of steel mills, Shah's message that if they don't cooperate, he will deal with the Russians	125
Nasiri replaces Pakravan, Nasiri's background	126
The British Section Chief informs him that the Shah intends to assign him as ambassador to Iraq, preliminary meetings at the Foreign Ministry, plans thwarted by fears of his potential ties to Bakhtiar who was active in Iraq, work in the private sector	130-133
Attempts to see the Shah, system of dealing with the Shah which created conflict and animosity and misled the Shah, recollection of two examples of interaction involving the Shah and other officers	134-139
Nasiri's character and his unsuitability for the post of Chief of SAVAK, Sabeti's background and character, his emphasis on gathering information about the establishment rather than the opposition, motives for this attitude, deterioration of SAVAK under Nasiri, internal and external causes for SAVAK's negative impact	140-149
Number of SAVAK's personnel, responsibility of the third bureau for misdeeds attributed to the whole organization	152-153
Torture: truth and fiction related to its practice by SAVAK	154
SAVAK and various religious, tribal and professional groups	155-156

CONTENTS OF THE INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL ALAVI-KIA

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
SAVAK's interaction and cooperation with the religious leaders	157
Relations with the religious minorities	158-159
Relations between SAVAK and other intelligence organizations abroad	160-161

ALAVI-KIYA, GENERAL HASAN

Name	Page
Abbasi, Hedayat,	85
Afshar, Amir Khosrow,	108
Afshartus, General Mohammad,	22,29-33
Ahanchiyan,	144
Akhavi, General Morteza,	7,8
Alam, Amir Asadollah,	105,142
Alavi-Mogaddam, General Mohammad `Ali,	52,53,70
Alikhani, `Alinaqi,	43,47-49
Ameli, `Ezzatollah,	127
Amini, `Ali,	77,104
Amir-A`la'i,	33
Amjadi, General Mostafa,	42
Ansari, General Naser,	47,71
Anushiravani, Colonel,	23
Ardalan, Fereydun,	16,17
Ardalan, `Ali-Qoli,	112,123,124
Ardehshirchi, Shapur,	60,61
Arfa`, General Hasan,	97
Arsanjani, Hasan,	137
Arsham,	34,64
Asadollahi,	97
Ayromlu, Colonel `Abbas,	108
Ayromlu, General Mohammad,	50
Azar, Colonel,	96-98
Azərbayjan Crisis of 1945-46,	98
Azarniya,	109
Azima, General,	49
Azimi, General Reza,	71
Azmudeh, General Eskandar,	86
Badarkhan, Kamran,	137
Baharmast, General Mahmud,	3,5
Bakhtiyar, General Teymur,	6,40-42,45,46,52,53, 57,60-62,69-79,99-102,106, 154,155,158
Bakhtiyar, Shapur,	96
Baluch-Qara'i,	33
Baqai-Kermani, Mozaffar,	22,29,94,95
Batmanqelich, General,	6-8
Behbudi, Soleyman,	153
Besuye Ayandeh Newspaper,	21
Bozorgmehr, Esfandiar,	58
Buzari,	120
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA),	7,68-69
Confederation of Iranian Students (CIS),	109,118
Dashnak,	156,157
Davallu, General,	5
Davvani,	10
Dehqan, Ahmad,	81
Education, Ministry of,	15
Eisenhower, Dwight,	59
Emami, Hasan,	10,14,82,83
Emami, Taqi,	4

ALAVI-KIYA, GENERAL HASAN

Name	Page
Eqbal, Manucheher,	10, 62, 63, 90
Esfahani, Seyyed Musa,	78
Eskandani,	96
Events of 1953,	5-7, 10, 12, 15, 22-24, 27, 29, 32, 40, 63, 84
Events of 1963-64,	79, 106
Fada'iyān-e Eslām,	81
Fardust, General Hosein,	65-67, 107, 122, 123, 125-127, 133, 134, 143, 146
Faris, Amir,	78
Farzanegan, General `Abbas,	74, 75
Fazl-e Elahi,	10, 11
Freemasonary,	14
Garzan, General `Ali,	4-5
Ghaffari,	12
Ghafuri, Colonel,	25,
Gohari, General,	29
Golesorkhi, Naser,	143
Hajir, Abol-Hosein,	81
Haqiqi, Reza,	47
Hatami,	96
Hedayat, General `Abdollah,	135-136
Hedayat, Habibollah,	89
Homayuni, General,	4
Hormoz, Mahmud,	2, 8, 29
Hoveyda, Amir `Abbas,	139
Iran Party,	95
Izadi, `Ali,	143
Jahanshahi,	114-115
Ja`fari, General Fazlollah,	65-66
Kamal, General,	71, 135
Kambakhsak, Abdol-Samad,	81
Kennedy, John F.,	67
Khajenuri, Foruq,	144
Khanbaba-Tehrani, Mehdi,	109
Khatibi, Hosein,	22, 31-33
Khomeini, Ayatollah Seyyed Ruhollah,	79, 105, 106, 156
Khonsari, Parviz,	110, 114-116, 127
Khosravani, General Morteza,	136
Khosravani, General Parviz,	144
Kiya, General,	4, 6, 13, 52, 53, 70, 115, 158
Kiyanuri, Nureddin,	81, 82
Kuk Organization,	4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 15
Lankarani, Hesam,	81
Mahutiyan,	47, 49
Majidi, General Mohammad-Taqi,	8
Malek, `Isa,	108
Maleki, Khalil,	95

Name	Page
Mansur Lashkar, Vali,	37
Mansur, Hasan-`Ali,	81,82,114,134
Mansurpur, Colonel,	6,7
Mardom Newspaper,	21
Mar`ashi-Najafi, Ayatollah Shahaboddin,	156
Masali, Hasan,	79,109,111-113
Mas`ud, Mohammad,	81
Mas`udi, General `Ali Asghar,	30
Mehrdad, General,	64
Milani, Ayatollah Seyyed Hadi,	59
Mobasser, General Mohsen,	42,144
Mohaggeq,	10
Mohaggeqi, Colonel,	85
Mohtadi, `Ali Akbar,	57,58
Montaz,	30
Moqaddam, General Naser,	65,66
Mossadeq, Mohammad,	2-4,6-9,13,15,28, 91-93
Mozayyan, General,	11,25,98
Musaviyan, Hamid,	29
Naderi, Colonel,	10,31
Naraqi, Hashem,	128,129
Nasiri, General Ne`matollah,	5-7,77,103,104,111,124,126, 137,138,159
National front,	68,95,118
Nikuboniyad, General,	34
Organization of Highschool Students,	11,12
Organization of University Students,	11
Pahlavi, Mohammad Reza Shah,	4,6,7,19,22,27-29,32,39, 41,50,51,53,54,62,65-74,77,78, 80,81,89,94,105,106-108,110- 114,121,123,132-137,140,144
Pahlbod, Mehrdad,	115
Pakravan, General Hasan,	2,3,5-8,28,46,47,49,63, 71,72,80,102-106,137,146
Pan-Iranist Party,	28
Panahiyan,	79
Pishevari, Ja`far,	97
Puladdej,	12
Qarane'i, General Mohammad Vali,	52,53,56-61
Qobadi,	83-84
Rahimi, `Abdol-Hosein,	47
Rasdi,	96
Razavi-Hamedani, Hosein,	1
Razmara, General `Ali,	81-83
Reed, Colonel,	7

Name	Page
Riyahi, General Esma`il,	4,71
Riyahi, General Taqi,	4
Rowhani, Mansur,	128
Ruzbeh, Khosrow,	12-13,16,81,96
Sabeti, Parviz,	63,138-143
Sadiqi, Gholam-Hosein,	3
Sam, Mohammad,	115
Samadianpur, General Samad,	58,65,66
Sanjabi, Karim,	96
Sarreshtehdari, Colonel,	92
SAVAK,	1-13,40-56,62-67,96-106, 137-159
Sazeman-e Mojahedin-e Khalq-e Iran,	146
Shafa'i,	96
Shahed Newspaper,	32
Shahrokh,	30
Sharifi,	114-115
Sharifi, Amir,	83
Shari`atmadari, Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Kazem,	156
Siyamak,	10
Siyasi, Colonel,	92
Sumka Party,	28,30
Tabataba'i, Seyyed Ziaoddin,	39,86
Tajaddod, Mostafa,	77
Tajbakhsh, Gholam-Reza,	43,47,48
Third Force Party,	95
Toilers of Iran Party,	95
Tudeh Party,	3,11,13,15,18-22,27-29, 48,81,83,84-87,90,94-96,99
Valian, `Abdol-`Azim,	132,133
Varahram, General Karim,	7,8
White Revolution of 1963,	146
Yatsevich,	75
Zahri, `Ali,	29
Zanganeh,	47
Ziba'i, Colonel,	151
Zirakzadeh, Ahmad,	96