

Foundation for Iranian Studies

Program of Oral History

COLONEL ISSA PEJMAN

بنیاد مطالعات ایران

FOUNDATION FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

INTERVIEWEE: COLONEL ISA PEJMAN

INTERVIEWER: AKBAR E^CTEMAD

PARIS: MAY 1983

COPYRIGHT ©1983 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 of Foundation for Iranian Studies.

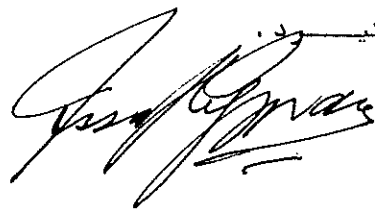
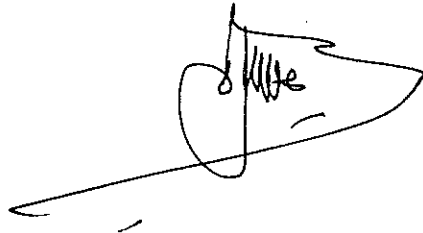
PREFACE

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 Issa Pejman 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.

این جانب متن و نوار مصاحبه های انجام شده در ارتباط با برنامه
" تاریخ شفاهی ایران " را به بنیاد مطالعات ایران هدیه میکنم
تا در اجرای برنامه های آموزشی و تحقیقاتی بنیاد مورد استفاده



قرار گیرد.

ملاحظات :

مصاحبه شونده سرینت تادوسیان

مصاحبه کننده لیلا محمدی

تاریخ _____

موضوع نوار :

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Issa Pejman was born in Sanandaj. He entered the Officer Training College in 1944. He began his work with counter-intelligence by infiltrating the newly organized Tudeh network among the officers at the college. He continued intelligence work after graduation. Later, he was appointed to the Kurdish section of SAVAK where his Kurdish background provided unusual access and contacts among various Kurdish groups. He was sent to Iraq to establish contact with the Iraqi Kurds.

During his stay in Iraq he had occasion to accompany Teymour Bakhtiar in his travels and meetings in that country. On returning to Iran he was transferred to the Police Force where he headed the intelligence section. He was given tasks which were parallel to SAVAK programs, among them activities to counteract and destroy Bakhtiar's opposition to the regime.

Issa Pejman's recollections shed light on subjects which due to their confidentiality have thus far remained unknown to researchers interested in contemporary Iranian politics and history. His relationships with security and police chiefs and his direct contact with the Shah demonstrate the attitude of certain personalities who tended to put matters of personal power and inter-agency rivalry above national security interests.

Colonel Pejman's memoir gives first hand information concerning the role of Iran in the Kurdish activities in Iraq, events leading to the Iraqi revolution, and generally the problems of Kurdish autonomy as addressed and sometimes used by the leaders of the two countries.

CONTENTS INTERVIEW # 1 COLONEL ISSA PEJMAN

| <u>SUBJECT</u> | <u>PAGE</u> |
|--|-------------|
| Military background, organization of a Tudeh network in the army and the mission of the interviewee in discovering the network, relationship between Razmara and HIM | 1-3 |
| Activities of the interviewee in the army, participation in the events of 28th Mordad, transfer to SAVAK | 3-8 |
| Work with the Kurdish Affairs Section of SAVAK, interviewee's mission during the Iraqi revolution, drawing the government's attention to the problems of Kurdistan, meeting with Jalal Talbani, attempts to overthrow the Qassem government in Iraq, views of the U.S. and Great Britain concerning the government of Qassem | 8-14 |
| Mobilization of the Iraqi Kurds in the overthrow of the Qassem regime, audience with HIM to discuss Kurdish problems, shortcomings of the development programs of the government in the Kurdish areas, gaining government support for activities against the Iraqi regime, arrangement for Iraqi Kurdish chiefs to travel across the border to Iran to discuss the issues, preparations to deliver arms to the Iraqi Kurds | 14-18 |
| Meeting with Barzani, payment of funds to Barzani to oppose the Qassem regime and preparations for the coup d'etat, attempt to assassinate Qassem, the fall of the Qassem government and his execution | 18-24 |
| Views of Israel and the U.S. concerning the Kurds, meeting between General Pakravan and Mola Mostafa Barzani, preparations for the meeting between Israeli Army officers and Mostafa Barzani, murder and execution of the communists in Iraq | 24-29 |
| Audience with HIM to report on Kurdish affairs, follow up on matters related to the Iraqi revolution after Qassem's execution, meeting with Saddam Hossein and discussions concerning relations between the two countries, death of Aref in a helicopter crash, election of Aref as president of Iraq and his visit to Iran, his positive attitude toward relations between the two countries, unsuccessful coup against Aref's government | 29-34 |
| Teymour Bakhtiar's trip to Iraq and response of the Iraqi officials, Teymour Bakhtiar's meeting with Ayatollah Hakim, report of Bakhtiar's activities in Baghdad to Iran and lack of response from Tehran, Meeting of Bakhtiar with Iraqi and Kurdish leaders | 34-39 |
| News of the 15th Khordad uprising, Bakhtiar leaves Baghdad for Beirut, concern of the chief of SAVAK regarding lack of news of the reports sent on Bakhtiar's activities, recall of the interviewee to Tehran and questioning concerning contact with Bakhtiar | 39-42 |

CONTENTS INTERVIEW # 1 COLONEL ISSA PEJMAN

| <u>SUBJECT</u> | <u>PAGE</u> |
|--|-------------|
| Cooperation between Khomeini and Bakhtiar in the 15th Khordad uprising, parallel plans in SAVAK and police concerning murder of Bakhtiar, expansion of relations with the Kurds, transfer of the interviewee from SAVAK to the Police and appointment as chief of police intelligence office, discovery of a bomb on Hoveyda's route, receipt of the news of Bakhtiar's death, Iraqi guard for Bakhtiar, relations of Khomeini and Bakhtiar subsequent to Bakhtiar's second trip to Iraq | 42-50 |
| Aref's trip to Iran, meeting with Sadam Hossein, difference of opinion between SAVAK and police concerning certain security issues, retirement of the interviewee, employment in the Ministry of Land-reform and Rural Cooperatives, Algiers Accord and improvement of relations between Iran and Iraq, effects of this development on the Kurds who were no longer assisted by Iran, mission abroad to study Kurdish attitudes in various countries, arrest and questioning by SAVAK on returning to Iran, release from prison, appointment with HIM to report on the post Algiers Accord Kurdish attitudes and problems, meeting with the leaders of the autonomy movement in Kurdistan to eliminate the negative feelings about HIM | 50-61 |
| Travel abroad to continue studies, meeting with Princess Ashraf in New York accompanied by Salar Jaf, discussion of Kurdish problems with the Princess, waste of the funds allocated for the mobilization of the Kurds | 61-64 |

PEJMAN, COLONEL `ISA

| Name | Page |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Afsha'i, General `Isa, | 47-48 |
| Akhavi, General Morteza, | 1-6 |
| Alam, Amir Asadollah, | 35, 39, 62 |
| Alavi-Kiya, General Hasan, | 8, 14, 16, 39, 65 |
| Amani, Jamshid, | 18, 51, 52, 55, 56 |
| Anjadi, General Mostafa, | 1, 7 |
| Ansari, General Mohammad, | 7 |
| Aram, `Abbas, | 22, 24, 32 |
| Aref, Fu'ad, | 22 |
| Aref, `Abdol-Rahman, | 32-34, 50 |
| Aref, `Abdol-Razzaq, | 33-34 |
| Aref, `Abdol-Salam, | 19, 20, 23, 28, 30-32 |
| Arfa`, General Hasan, | 3 |
| Ariyana, General Bahram, | 3, 4, 39 |
| Askari, `Ali, | 16 |
| Baba `Ali, | 21-22 |
| Bakhtiyar, General Teymur, | 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, 34-44, 47-49 |
| Barzani, Molla Mostafa, | 12, 14, 15-19, 24-28, 38, 45 |
| Bazzaz, | 32 |
| Beglari, General Manucmehr, | 53 |
| Ebrahim Ahmad, | 17, 38, 45 |
| Emami, Hasan (Emam Jom`eh), | 51, 54 |
| Eslaminiya, | 64 |
| Events of 1953, | 5-6 |
| Events of 1963, | 39, 40, 42-44 |
| Fardust, General Hosein, | 32, 46, 48 |
| Farsiyo, General, | 41, 42 |
| Hadi Kalbi, | 13 |
| Hakim, Ayatollah Mohsen, | 30, 37 |
| Hasan al-Bakr, | 20, 28, 30, 31, 49, 50 |
| Hashemi, General, | 58, 59 |
| Hoveyda, Amir `Abbas, | 32 47-48, 56 |
| Hushmand Afshar, General, | 3, 4 |
| Jaf, Borhan, | 11, 12 |
| Jaf, Salar, | 57 |
| Jaf, Sardar, | 57, 63-65 |
| Jahanbani, General Mansur, | 11 |
| Jam, General Fereydan, | 47 |
| Jamal Habas, | 57, 61 |
| Ja`fari, General Fazlollah, | 52-54 |
| Kamal, General Hosein, | 32 |
| Kaveh, General, | 45 |

PEJMAN, COLONEL `ISA

| Name | Page |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kelid-Dar, Rashid, | 13, 35-36, 43 |
| Kelid-Dar, `Ali, | 36, 38 |
| Khomeini, Ayatollah Seyyed Ruhollah, | 44, 49 |
| Khosravani, General Morteza, | 41, 43 |
| Kordestan Newspaper, | 10, 11 |
| Kurdish Democratic Party, | 11-12 |
| | 57 |
| Mahmud Baban, | 13 |
| Mansur, General, | 27 |
| Mashayekh-e Faridani, | 41 |
| Mir-Jahangiri, General Habibollah, | 6 |
| Mobasser, General Mohsen, | 2, 3, 6, 7, 44-48, |
| | 51-53 |
| Mobayyeni, | 58 |
| Moqaddam, General Naser, | 51, 52, 54 |
| Moqaddam, Hushang, | 34 |
| Mossadeq, Mohammad, | 5 |
| Mo`inzadeh, General, | 57 |
| Mo`tazed, General `Ali, | 24, 29, 46, 51 |
| Naqshbandi, Mazhar, | 64 |
| Nasiri, General Ne`matollah, | 44-45, 50-56, 58-61 |
| Nasser, Gamal `Abd, | 19, 23, 28, 30, 33 |
| National Movement Organization, | 3, 4 |
| Nuri al-Sa`id, | 12 |
| Onar Davabbeh, | 15, 16, 18, 19, 45 |
| Oveysi, General Gholam-`Ali, | 65 |
| Pahlavi, Moahammad Reza Shah, | 1, 3, 4, 14-16, 21, 22, |
| | 28, 29, 31, 32, 41, 43, 44, 46, |
| | 47, 48, 51, 53-55, 57, 59, 61, |
| | 62, 63 |
| Pahlavi, Princess Ashraf, | 64-65 |
| Pakravan, General Hasan, | 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, |
| | 24-25, 29, 32, 39-41, 43, |
| | 44, 54-56, 59, 60, 62 |
| Pasha'i, Colonel, | 8, 39, 42 |
| Pirasteh, Seyyed Mehdi, | 33-34 |
| Qasem, `Abdol-Karim, | 12-15, 19-25 |
| Ra'ed, Ja`far, | 22 |
| Razmara, General `Ali, | 3, 4 |
| Riyahi, General Esmā`il, | 6 |
| Saddam Husein, | 31, 49, 50, 56 |
| Sadri, General Ja`far-Qoli, | 53-54 |
| SAVAK, | 7-11, 18, 24, 26, 37, |
| | 38, 44-45, 47, 48, 50, |
| | 51, 56, 59, 60-62 |
| Shahbakhti, General, | 11 |

PEJMANI, COLONEL `ISA

| Name | Page |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Sharif-Bunai, Ja`far, | 39 |
| State Police Department, | 44-51 |
| Talebani, Jalal, | 12,15,38-39,45 |
| Tavakkoli, | 2 |
| Tayyeb, | 44 |
| Tudeh Party, | 1-2,4,7 |
| Valiyan, `Abdol-`Azim, | 55,56,59,62,63 |
| Yazdanpanah, General Morteza, | 39 |
| Zahedi, Ardeshir, | 63 |
| Zargham, General `Ali Akbar, | 1-3 |