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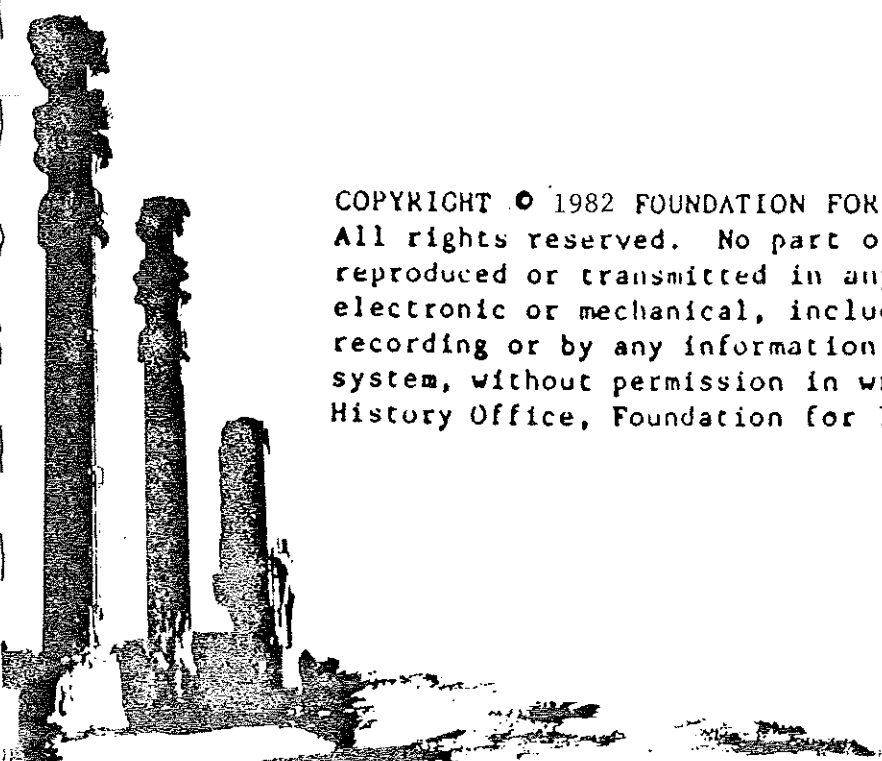
Program of Oral History

PRINCESS ASHRAF PAHLAVI

INTERVIEW WITH PRINCESS ASHRAF PAHLAVI

NEW YORK, JUNE & NOVEMBER, 1982

INTERVIEWED BY AHMAD QOREYSHI



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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 Ahmad Qoreyshi with Princess Ashraf Pahlavi in New York, NY., in June and November, 1982.

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PRINCESS ASHRAF PAHLAVI

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, twin sister of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, was an active social and political figure during the first decade of her brother's rule. In later years, she remained outside the realm of internal politics. She was, however, actively involved in some of the largest and most significant non-governmental organizations including the Women's Organization of Iran, the Iranian National Committee of the Campaign against World Illiteracy, the Imperial Organization for Social Services, and the Iranian Human Rights Committee. She also served as her brother's special envoy on highly sensitive missions overseas in which capacity she had occasion to meet with heads of state and other important international figures. Princess Ashraf took a special interest in the work of the United Nations. For ten years she led her country's delegation to the United Nation's General Assembly.

Princess Ashraf Pahlavi has always been a high spirited, active and ambitious woman whose vigorous participation in affairs of state has been looked upon with disapproval by the more conservative elements within the Iranian society. She has been an outspoken and aggressive supporter of her brother and her much publicized meetings with leaders such as Stalin and Chou-En-Lai have kept her in the spot light and at the center of controversy in Iran and abroad.

As an active participant in various significant events in Iran within the last four decades, Princess Ashraf's recollections remain of great interest to students of contemporary Iranian history.

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