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CONTENTS

26 September 1991

POLITICAL

Commentary on U.S. Opposition to UK Airplane Sales [ABRAR 24 Jul]	1
Letter Confirms No Deals With Iraq [IRNA]	1
Memorandum Signed With Uruguay; Embassy Opened [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 18 Aug]	1
Reported Crude Oil Transfer to Pakistan Denied [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 13 Aug]	2
USSR Coup Failure May Help Afghan Peace [Tehran Radio]	2
Majles Official Comments on ICO Conference [SALAM 15 Aug]	2
Karrubi Meets Fars Province Residents, Clergymen [Tehran Radio]	4
Aqazadeh Briefs Press on Palestine, Gulf Visit [Tehran Radio]	4
Musavi-Tabrizi Supports Return of Specialists [ABRAR 27 Jul]	4
Basij Forces Urged To Refrain From Political Participation [ABRAR 27 Jul]	5
SALAM Reprints Provincial Paper's Editorial [SALAM 19 Aug]	5

ECONOMIC

Trade Ties to Yemen To Expand [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 10 Aug]	7
Ways Being Studied To Improve Trade With Qatar [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 7 Aug]	7
Domestically Assembled Cars Exported to Egypt [London KEYHAN 22 Aug]	7
Tourists Spend \$300 Million Yearly in Dubayy [KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 31 Jul]	7
Air Freight Increase Halts Fruit Exports to Europe [London KEYHAN 8 Aug]	8
Economic Cooperation Discussed With Austria [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 13 Aug]	8
Germany To Help Combat Environmental Pollution [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 25 Aug]	8
Petrochemical Agreement Signed With Germany, Italy [KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 21 Aug]	8
Common Market Established With Turkey in Sarv [KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 21 Aug]	9
Value of Trade With Turkey Down [London KEYHAN 5 Sep]	9
Minister: Job Seekers in Japan To Benefit Country [KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 26 Jun]	10
Trade Protocol Signed With China [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 21 Aug]	10
Commercial Cooperation With Seoul To Expand [ABRAR 27 Jul]	11
Khamushi Predicts Greater Private-Sector Role [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 17 Aug]	11
Regime Obtains Millions of Dollars in Loans [London KEYHAN 15 Aug]	11
Country To Launch Exports Promotion Bank [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 20 Aug]	12
Paper Comments on Exports Promotion Bank [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 26 Aug]	12
Bank To Promote Nonoil Imports [London KEYHAN 5 Sep]	13
First Quarter Customs Revenues Announced [JAHAN-E ESLAM 3 Aug]	13
Anti-Inflation Measures Urged [ABRAR 22 Aug]	13
Paper Advocates Curbing Government Spending [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 25 Aug]	14
Policy on Production, Vehicle Assembly Announced [KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 31 Jul]	14
All Vehicles, Machinery Exempted From Duty [London KEYHAN 8 Aug]	16
Number of Approved Industrial Projects Up [London KEYHAN 8 Aug]	16
Esfahan Steel Mill Production To Increase [London KEYHAN 25 Jul]	16
About \$200 Million of Mineral Products Exported [London KEYHAN 29 Aug]	17
Construction of Electrical Power Plant Along Kuhrang [London KEYHAN 22 Aug]	17
Country's Ports Capacity Increases [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 20 Aug]	17
Railway Official Provides Annual Haulage Figures [IRNA]	17
Caspian Waters Continue To Advance Inland [London KEYHAN 25 Jul]	18
Caspian's Inland Advance Wastes Astara Port [London KEYHAN 8 Aug]	18
Sefid Rud Dam No Longer Productive [London KEYHAN 15 Aug]	19
Erosion Destroys Thousands of Hectares Yearly [London KEYHAN 25 Jul]	19
Country's Pastures Decrease to 80 Million Hectares [London KEYHAN 5 Sep]	19
No New Jobs in Central Province Agriculture Sector [JAHAN-E ESLAM 4 Aug]	20
Rising Prices Worry Gilan Residents [JAHAN-E ESLAM 4 Aug]	20
Price of Chicken Quadrupled in Less Than Month [London KEYHAN 22 Aug]	20

SOCIAL

Daily Interviews Khatami on Social, Cultural Issues [SALAM 9 Jul]	22
Daily on 'Bounds and Limits' of Freedom [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 14 Aug]	27
Qom Seminarians Call for Shunning Discord [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 18 Aug]	27
Blood Plasma Separation Lab To Be Inaugurated [KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 7 Aug]	28
Officers Seize 481 Kg of Narcotics [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 26 Aug]	29
Paper Urges Action Against 'Cultural Offensive' [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 12 Aug]	29
Population Growth Decreasing Educational Quality [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 8 Aug]	30
Status of AIDS Detailed [JAHAN-E ESLAM 3 Aug]	30

Commentary on U.S. Opposition to UK Airplane Sales

9IAS1345D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 24 Jul 91 p 1

[Text]

Relations of a Sort in the Region

In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful.

Reports indicate that the United States prevented the sale of 50 passenger airplanes by England to Iran, while at the same time, the Washington ambassador to Kuwait said in an interview that Iran is considered one of the elements in creating security in the region and that to ensure the security of the Persian Gulf, the role of that country cannot be ignored.

The U.S. ambassador to Kuwait added: Ensuring security in the region requires increased cooperation between the countries, which are members of the Persian Gulf cooperation council and other countries in the region. To achieve this goal it is necessary for cooperation treaties to be signed between the members of the cooperation council and the United States, Egypt, and other allied governments, on the one hand, and also for relations of a sort and coordination in this area with the other countries of the region, on the other.

The U.S. prevention of the sale of 50 passenger airplanes by "British Aerospace," a continuation of the economic embargo on Iran under the pretext that some parts of these British-made airplanes are made in the United States, is nothing new. The United States had announced earlier that it will prevent the sale of passenger airplanes through any country that in any way makes use of U.S.-manufactured parts.

U.S. pressure, both politically and through the economic embargo on Iran, has continued for years. The clear examples of such pressure, despite the improvement in relations between Iran and European countries such as Germany and France, can be seen in the prevention of economic treaties.

Nevertheless, these pressures from the perspective of the United States sources can be modified under certain conditions. The statements of the U.S. ambassador in Kuwait in regards to ensuring the security of the region and creating relations of a sort and coordination between the members of the cooperation council, the United States, Egypt, and other countries of the region, in the opinion of political observers, represent the imposition of the policy in the region through economic pressures.

At the present, Iran considers regional cooperation between the countries in the Persian Gulf the only way to ensure security in the region and the presence of the world powers disruptive to regional security. Washington is seemingly trying through creating "relations of a sort" in the region, while justifying its own presence, to ensure the grounds for the presence of countries outside

the Persian Gulf region, an issue that will place the region forever under the control of foreign forces, particularly the great powers.

Letter Confirms No Deals With Iraq

*LD2508003391 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT
23 Aug 91*

[Text] United Nations, New York, Aug. 23, IRNA—Iran has not made any deal with Iraq since that country occupied its tiny neighbor Kuwait last August, in accordance with a decision taken by the Supreme National Security Council. In a letter sent to the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar published Thursday, Iran said its decision not to transact with Iraq was in compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions banning deals with Baghdad. Last month, the secretary general cabled letters to all UN member states urging them to report the measures taken by their respective governments to abide by Resolution 700. Resolution 700 required all governments to take necessary measures to ban the sale of arms to Iraq by organizations and companies involved in production of military weapons and spare parts. The letter made it clear that the Islamic Republic has not been involved in deals of any kind with Iraq since the Security Council issued its Resolution 661 following the Persian Gulf crisis.

Memorandum Signed With Uruguay; Embassy Opened

*9IAS1424D Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 18 Aug 91 p 8*

[Text] Tehran, Aug 17 (IRNA)—The Islamic Republic of Iran and Uruguay signed a political, economic, scientific and technical memorandum in Montevideo Thursday.

The memorandum was inked by Uruguay's Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell and Iranian deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs, Mahmoud Vaezi who is currently on an official visit to Montevideo.

The memorandum said the two governments are satisfied with the existing bilateral ties, and called for their further upgrading in all domains.

The two sides also expressed willingness to conclude a cultural, scientific and technical agreement in the near future and called for holding regular consultations between their respective foreign ministries.

The Uruguayan minister hailed the upgrading of Tehran-Montevideo ties and termed the recent opening of the Iranian Embassy in Montevideo as a "major step" in expansion of bilateral ties.

In response, Vaezi called it a "positive and important step" in bilateral relations.

Reported Crude Oil Transfer to Pakistan Denied*91AS1423B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 13 Aug 91 p 1*

[Text] Tehran, Aug 12 (IRNA)—An informed source at the Foreign Ministry on Monday denied as “baseless” a report published by a Pakistani daily alleging that Iran has proposed to transfer crude oil to Pakistan through a pipeline from its southeastern oil fields.

The Rawalpindi-based English language daily NEWS carried a report on Saturday claiming that Iran has offered to supply to Pakistan the total crude output from 150 wells in Sistan-Baluchestan Province and elsewhere in southeastern Iran.

The daily also claimed that the proposal was made by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to Pakistani authorities.

USSR Coup Failure May Help Afghan Peace*LD2408050891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of
Iran in English 1830 GMT 23 Aug 91*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Events within the Soviet Union and Mikhail Gorbachev's quick return to power following the defeat of a coup staged by the Communist Party radicals now bring up this question: What will be the impact of these events on regions like Afghanistan?

Concerning the developments within the Soviet Union and the temporary removal of Gorbachev, it was (?imagined) that assumption of power by the party radicals would intensify the civil war in Afghanistan and the Najibollah regime would be strengthened by the coup plotters. Even though one cannot correctly predict the impact of such a likelihood, it could not be ignored that the Kremlin's return to previous policies would have adversely affected East-West relations, and even led to a regional rivalry between America and the Soviet Union.

Some observers have even stressed the point, during the peak of the recent Soviet crisis, that the world might see the return of the Cold War era. Hence, it was natural to imagine that the Soviet coup would also bring about confrontation between the policies of America and the Soviet Union in regions like Afghanistan. But now that Gorbachev has returned to power and the (?abortion) of the coup has met with a rare enthusiasm within the USSR and the Western world, it can be hoped that the peace process in Afghanistan will receive greater attention from America and the Soviet Union.

Defeat of the coup in fact means the weakening of radicals within the Soviet Union, and this will give Gorbachev an opportunity to implement his desired reforms with seriousness and greater speed. Probably, coordination between America and the Soviet Union will increase and the grounds will become more favorable to settle regional conflicts.

As for Afghanistan, it appears that the peace process will be positively affected by recent Soviet events in the sense that these may boost cooperation among America, Europe, Japan, and the Soviet Union, creating suitable global conditions for resolving such problems as the civil war in Afghanistan. Therefore, it will not be something unexpected that the UN Secretary General's five point plan on Afghanistan is given more serious attention by the parties to the dispute, and that America and the Soviet Union eventually reach a formula acceptable to these parties for terminating the war in Afghanistan.

Majles Official Comments on ICO Conference*NC2308195591 Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Aug 91
p 3*

[Interview with Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, member of the Majles foreign policy committee, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [SALAM] Ayatollah Khalkhali, you represented the foreign policy committee of the Majles in the high-level delegation that accompanied Foreign Minister Velayati to the recent session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. Please tell us something about who else attended this meeting and what it discussed.

[Khalkhali] Some of those attending the ICO foreign ministers conference were there as observers, including representatives from Baku and Kazakhstan in the Soviet Union, an Albanian for the first time, the Yugoslav foreign minister, a delegation from the Afghan mojahedin headed by Borhaneddin Rabbani, president of the Afghan interim government, and a few representatives of British Muslims. All the leaders of the delegations and all the foreign ministers delivered detailed speeches.

In his speech, the Iranian foreign minister condemned Zionist actions in the occupied territories and reiterated support for the 45-month-old intifadah. He described the stone-throwers of Palestine as the heroes of history, and said that the Palestinian Muslim nation should be proud that even after the passage of 40 years, the stones have hit the lords of corruption so hard that the reverberations continue to be felt by the colonialists, including the United States.

The PLO representative spoke with great emotion and asked everyone to support human rights in the land of Palestine.

The Syrian representative rejected any compromise, reconciliation, or plots regarding the Palestinian issue and announced that his country would not compromise over the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank.

The Iraqi representative described his country's condemnation in the conference resolution as unjust, but as this statement had already been approved by the sub-committees his protests were to no avail.

The Sudanese representative spoke in support of the Iraqi people, particularly the helpless children who have no food or medicine, and condemned the embargo against Iraq from the point of view of humanitarian and human rights considerations.

[SALAM] What had Your Excellency expected from the conference? Did you believe it was possible to achieve good results at a meeting held in Turkey, an ally of the United States?

[Khalkhali] If we expected any move against the United States and Israel, this was not possible in view of the conditions prevailing at the Istanbul conference. An Islamic conference in Turkey is bound to be different from one in Iran. Turkey is a member of NATO, and there are more than eight U.S. and NATO air, naval, and army bases on its soil, including those in Izmir, Incirlik, Yamurtalik, and Adana.

The Turkish Government cannot make any move against the interests of colonialism in the region without a green light from the United States; in fact, Turkey is completely at the disposal of the United States. Holding an ICO session in Turkey is not much different from holding it in the United States. The hostesses at the conference were scantily dressed, and the conference hall did not even have a token inscription of "in the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful." There were no inscriptions, no slogans, no Koranic verses, not a single word. No arrangements had been made for congregational prayers. Apart from its name, there was nothing Islamic about the conference.

Unfortunately, this non-Islamic or rather anti-Islamic atmosphere did not elicit any criticism from the other Islamic countries. This is very strange. The heads of the Islamic countries should have discussed this with Turkish officials in advance and rectified this state of affairs.

You saw how on the eve of the conference's opening, Ozal launched a ruthless attack on northern Iraq at the behest of the United States and penetrated deep within Iraq. Not a single participant at the conference protested this aggression.

In view of the current U.S. policy and the efforts to build the new world order, which is really nothing more than the endorsement of Israel, and in view of the inclination in favor of this policy by the Governments of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria, Turkey and others, there was no possibility of any move against Israel's actions in the occupied territories. We had expected this.

The conference hall was, however, the scene of lengthy speeches of denunciation, and this does serve some purpose. Let me add that Dr. Velayati's speech was the most substantive one delivered there.

Israel has been created in the heartland of the Muslims of the region as the base for U.S. and Western aggression, and all NATO members endorse this. Israel's entire

military, economic, social, and political budget is financed by the United States. If we wish to take even the smallest practical step against this situation, we can only do so by reorganizing the Muslims and promoting unity of the word against U.S. interests all over the world.

[SALAM] What was gained for the intifadah and the Palestinian revolution at the ICO?

[Khalkhali] Nothing was achieved for the Palestinian issue. This will only be settled on the fronts and in the trenches with bullets and with air, land, and sea power. If there is unity of the word among Muslims, this must be something vital to them, not just a flight of fancy. The entire Palestinian nation and all Muslims of the world await the comprehensive uprising Israel and the United States fear. Unfortunately, however, the ICO was quite unable to understand this.

[SALAM] How did you find the cultural situation in Turkey?

[Khalkhali] We visited mosques and holy places, but discovered to our regret that all Islamic centers have been tainted by depraved Western culture. The whole country has been invaded by tourists who bring their contemptible culture with them from Europe and the United States, and this onslaught has destroyed the very fabric of Islamic society there. You will soon see the last nail being hammered in its coffin.

Istanbul has nearly 3,000 mosques and minarets, but Muslims do not have the right to enjoin virtue and express Islamic truths. Meanwhile, nearly 30 television stations blanket the entire country with their propaganda, and they all carry films which are repugnant to Islamic chastity and values. Without proper leadership, the Muslim are unable to combat this Westernized cultural onslaught.

The Turkish Government is trying to obliterate Islam by all means, but the situation in remote towns and villages is somewhat better. Because of the change of script ordered by Ataturk, Turkey is ignorant of its brilliant history and its people know absolutely nothing about Islam's conquests in Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Austria, the Arabian peninsula, Germany, Greece, Italy, and the Mediterranean. This ignorance of history is a tragedy for Turkey and for all nations of the world.

The Koranic script is at least taught to children in mosques, but this is only done as special tutoring and is not available to all.

We also visited the city of Bursa, a place I had long wanted to see as his eminence the imam once stayed there for 11 months. Some of the older residents were aware of this and showed me where he had lived, but this place has now been demolished and replaced by a six-story apartment building.

Karrubi Meets Fars Province Residents, Clergymen

NC2608070491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Continuing his visit to Fars Province, the Majles speaker went to the Shah-e Cheragh Mosque and spoke to the Shiraz people about the world's current situation and America's efforts to extend its influence. Mr. Karrubi said: In the sensitive conditions of the world today, the need for the extensive presence of the Muslim people on the scene is recognized. The Majles speaker pointed to the resistance by Iran's Muslim and revolutionary people throughout the eight years of war, the economic siege, and other plots and said: During the reconstruction era, the Iranian Muslims will overcome all problems through further efforts and through unity and coordination.

Our correspondent reports that the Friday and congregation imams of Fars Province also met with Karrubi at the province's headquarters last night.

[Begin recorded telephone report by unidentified correspondent] During this meeting—which was also attended by the representative of the supreme jurisconsult and the Shiraz Friday imam, as well as a number of other Friday and congregation imams, the Fars governor-general, and a number of Majles deputies—Karrubi spoke about the examples of anti-spiritual acts during the monarchical despotism, and pointed to the role played by the clergymen under the leadership of the deceased Imam in the people's cultural development and their return to Islam, and described the clergymen's responsibility in preserving the revolution's gains as extremely sensitive and important.

He described the victory of the Islamic revolution as a divine blessing, and called on all the people to obey the esteemed leader and to thus pave the way for further unity against the enemies of the revolution who are armed to their teeth. [end recording]

Aqazadeh Briefs Press on Palestine, Gulf Visit

LD2408105191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Following a visit to six Arab Persian Gulf littoral states, Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, the petroleum minister, today told reporters in Tehran that the main aim of his visit was to submit to the heads of regional countries a message from Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the just rights of the people of Palestine.

He added: The message concentrated on the supreme aspirations of the Palestinian people, the situation in the occupied territories, and particularly the noble Qods [Jerusalem], as well as the present and future condition of the deprived people of Palestine.

He also said: The message of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran calls on the countries to which the message was conveyed to seriously support the supreme aspirations of the people of Palestine, and to make efforts to put an end to actions under way to consolidate the illegitimate Zionist entity in the region. It also calls for the defense of the rights of the people of Palestine both inside and outside the occupied territories.

Mr. Aqazadeh termed the response to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message by the heads of the countries he visited positive, and said: The heads of those countries have agreed, in general, that the issue of Palestine is an Islamic issue, and it is up to Islamic countries to deal with it, and Islamic countries also have no right to compromise over the just rights of the people of Palestine.

He pointed out that the heads of those countries also stressed the significance of the role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region and in Islamic countries, and said the appropriate and timely position adopted by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani would have positive effects on the trend of current issues.

According to our correspondent's report, Mr. Aqazadeh, the petroleum minister, on the sidelines of his one-week visit to the Arab Persian Gulf littoral states, also held separate discussions with those countries' officials on bilateral, regional, and oil-related issues. He said: In those talks, the continuing expansion of regional countries' relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the necessity to make efforts to bring oil prices to the official level of \$21 per barrel was stressed.

Musavi-Tabrizi Supports Return of Specialists

91AS1345A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Jul 91 p 9

[Interview with Prosecutor General Ayatollah Seyyed Abolfazl Musavi-Tabrizi by reporters of IRNA and the Voice and Vision in Tabriz; date not given]

[Text] "The Judicial Branch supports the policy of the return of the Iranian specialists and legitimate capitalists to the country to help speed up the economic reconstruction," announced Ayatollah Seyyed Abolfazl Musavi-Tabrizi, the prosecutor general of the country, at the end of his visit in Tabriz in an interview with the reporters of IRNA and the Voice and Vision. He said: The policy of the return of the specialists and the capital of the country is necessary for the economic reconstruction of the country and providing the country's need for specialists. In this connection, it is obligatory for them to observe the laws of the country.

Referring to the projects of the judicial branch to attract the specialist forces and provide the necessary manpower in the organizations of this branch, he said: In order to eliminate the essential shortages, especially in regards to the shortage of judges, offices for attracting qualified judges have been established in Tehran and Qom and, in accordance with the law ratified in 1365 [21

March 1986-20 March 1987] by the Majles, these offices are ready to attract clerics who have studied law up to the level of a bachelor's degree.

As regards the manner of dealing with the economic saboteurs, the prosecutor general said: The economic saboteurs will be dealt with severely in accordance with the penal laws, and if they cause a serious disruption in economic affairs, the punishment will extend to execution.

He described the work of the judicial units of Eastern Azarbaijan Province as good and said: In order to eliminate the shortages of the judicial branch in that province, it was decided that the number of branches of the Public Prosecutor's Office in Tabriz be increased from 5 to 10.

He also said: Simultaneous with the establishment of nurseries for children in the women's prisons of the country, the necessary instructions have been issued to provide the necessary personnel and needed resources for the creation of nurseries in the women's section of the Tabriz rehabilitation center.

In conclusion, warning the propagators of social corruption and improper veiling, he asked the judicial officials of the province to deal firmly with such corruption.

Basij Forces Urged To Refrain From Political Participation

91AS1345B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Jul 91 p 9

[Boldface words as published]

[Text] **Granting of ranks to the resistance forces throughout the country will begin this year.**

According to a report by IRNA, Mr. Faqihi, the head of the office of the representative of Vali-ye Faqih [supreme jurisconsult] for the resistance Basij forces, announced this in a gathering of the commanders of the Basij regiment in Central Province in the city of Mahallat. He said: In granting the ranks to the Basij resistance forces, their ideological competence will be taken into consideration.

In another part of his speech, referring to the coming elections of the Majles and the Islamic Councils, Hojjat ol-Eslam Faqihi asked all the Basij resistance forces to refrain from political involvement. Also, in the same connection, he emphasized the necessity of promoting the political awareness of the Basij resistance forces and pointed out: In the course of history, Islam and Muslims have suffered fundamental blows due to weaknesses in the political awareness of their forces. In the conclusion of his speech, the representative of Vali-ye Faqih in the Basij resistance forces emphasized the absorption and organizing of the Basij resistance forces, observing order and discipline, and the familiarity of the Basij forces with the human-building instructions of Islam.

This report indicates: In this one-day seminar, in addition to the commanders of the Basij resistance regiments of the Guards Corps of Central Province, the officials of the Guards Corps of the central region, the Friday imam and the governor of Mahallat were also present.

SALAM Reprints Provincial Paper's Editorial

NC2308181991 Tehran SALAM in Persian 19 Aug 91 pp 11, 3

[Reprint of editorial "Factional Disputes and Their Solution" from the Fars Province newspaper SABA; first three paragraphs are SALAM editor's introduction]

[Text] The newspaper SABA [Zephyr], the messenger of the south, has just published its ninth edition, which consisted of eight pages. As we reported earlier, this newspaper is published by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Rasul Montajabnia in Fars Province, but the paper's style and format indicate that it plans to extend its coverage to neighboring provinces as well.

A review of SABA's eight earlier editions shows that the paper has a very clear stance and follows the imam's line in its approach to political, social, and other issues more than any other provincial publication we know of.

We pray to God for the success of SABA, the messenger of the south:

"Factional Disputes and Their Solution"

"If we have any political acumen, we must join hands with one another so that we can move ahead." (Imam Khomeyni)

We are currently witnessing a great commotion over the alleged attempts by some people in the government to push aside those who are said to belong to what is known as the faction of the imam's line; that is, those who suffered beatings, imprisonment, and exile before the revolution and who were on the frontlines during the eight-year war. Those behind these efforts are said to want to replace these people with members of their own faction, who have different political and economic views. They are even prepared, as has happened in some cases, to substitute people whose behavior is unbridled and who lack commitment, have bad records, or were affiliated to the idolatrous regime or to the Western-style enlightened ones which are inclined toward Western and arrogant policies, such as the Hojjatiyeh faction.

Such allegations are being made by large numbers of people, including Majles deputies, clerics, and cultural and academic figures.

On the other hand, the forums of Friday prayers, the Majles, and certain newspapers and pulpits are being used to launch daily countercharges against those who, it is said, call themselves Hezbollahis and supporters of the imam's line, but are really just opposing the government and its policies, and thereby opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran's system. They are said to reject the

velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] and are being described as the new Monafeqin [Hypocrites].

Among those making these charges is a Majles deputy, a Friday imam, and a cleric.

To any impartial observer, this situation is not only confusing but saddening, as the two factions are full of scholars, elders, learned people, and revolutionary forces; in fact, there are very few prominent supporters of the revolution who are not members of either group or who are in some way affected by them.

Meanwhile, the common people have enough to do with trying to make ends meet. They suffer from the pressure of high prices and inflation and are harassed by back-breaking levies and taxes as they grapple with the scarcity of basic goods, the power outages, and the water shortages. They are the ones who are most worried by the situation and who are exclaiming: O God! If what they say is true, if the Hezbollahis and the revolutionaries are to be replaced by opportunists and manipulators, then this means the end of the revolution. God forbid that the pure blood of the martyrs and the auspicious fruits of the imam's labor should be squandered. If, however, what the other faction says is true, if they are really opposed to the president, the government, the system, and the velayat-e faqih and are dealing them hypocritical blows, what must be done to protect ourselves from this danger?

One of the worst aspects of this situation is that our enemies at home and abroad are gloating as they laugh at both sides, claiming that the powers of arrogance and blasphemy will benefit regardless of which side wins. They are using their propaganda loudspeakers to fan this discord and to describe some as radicals, hardliners, extremists, or idealists who do not understand international realities or their country's real interests. They portray the president as Iran's savior and the century's greatest reformer, someone who is accepted by the world

and is in complete accord with the new world order. Very subtly, they cast doubt on the principles and values of the Islamic Revolution and on the actions and thinking of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, may God be pleased with him. They do not say this blatantly, however, and they do not directly attack the imam or the imam's line.

In short, they seek to create the impression that the era of the supremacy of the revolution and the thoughts and aspirations of Imam Khomeyni have come to an end, and Iran has been forced to surrender to the policies of world arrogance. Naturally, the actions of world arrogance, the hypocrites, the monarchists, and all counter-revolutionary elements at home and abroad are in harmony with their mentors' designs, and they seek to aggravate differences between the factions with heated arguments. On the other hand, they drop hints about the downfall of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system and its replacement with a completely Westernized one.

This is the image created by the situation of political factions in the country and these are its dangerous repercussions. The more serious this situation becomes, the worse will be the consequences.

Finally, it should be pointed out that that the United States and all the arrogant powers as well as their domestic agents clearly do not accept either of the two political factions which support the revolution, as these forces and powers are fundamentally opposed to the revolution and Islam and regard them as a great danger to their own existence.

[On page 11, SALAM reproduces the mastheads of the following provincial papers: SABA, BASHIR [Bearer of Glad Tidings], SHAHAB [Meteor], QODS, KHABAR [News], KHORASAN, and NAVID-E ESFAHAN [Glad Tidings From Esfahan].]

Trade Ties to Yemen To Expand

91AS1424B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 10 Aug 91 p 16

[Text] Tehran, Aug 9 (IRNA)—The Iranian Chamber of Commerce and Industries is to send a delegation to Yemen in the next few months to explore ways of promoting mutual trade relations, the chamber's chairman Ali Naqi Khamushi told Yemeni ambassador here Ahmad Mohammad Ali Thursday.

Khamushi also called on Yemeni businessmen to send an inventory of goods they needed, to Iran's Chamber of Commerce and Industries to study.

Ways Being Studied To Improve Trade With Qatar

91AS1424A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 7 Aug 91 p 2

[Text] Tehran (IRNA)—Head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, Alinaqi Khamoushi, and Qatar's ambassador to Tehran, Ali Abdellah Zeid al-Mahmoud, here Monday discussed the ways and means of promoting Iran-Qatar trade relations.

The Iranian official reminded Qatar's ambassador of the high rate of air tariffs in certain Persian Gulf states on Iranian export commodities compelling Iran to distribute those commodities in the region using land borders. He also recommended that Qatar reduce customs duties on Iranian Goods as a means of broadening trade relations with Iran.

Khamoushi said Iran would welcome flights to and from Tehran and Mashad by the Gulf Air of Qatar, and also noted that the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines would be willing to commission delegates to Qatar in order to contact industrialists and trade experts in that country.

The ambassador of Qatar welcomed the idea of developing trade relations between the two countries and added that an exclusive exhibition in Qatar by Iran in January would be an ideal opportunity for personal contacts between traders and executives of the two countries.

He also expressed hope that Iran and Qatar would shortly sign a contract for regular trips between Iran's port city of Bushehr and Doha of Qatar by a 400-ton ferryboat across the Persian Gulf.

Domestically Assembled Cars Exported to Egypt

91AS1434G London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Aug 91
p 4

[Text] The Islamic regime of Tehran has begun its political and economic relations with Egypt by exporting to this country several Peugeot passenger automobiles, assembled at the Iran vehicle plant. Mohammad Hasan Tehrani-Nezhad, executive director of the Peykan

Assembly Plant, recently told reporters about the export of this type of automobile to Egypt. In part of his press conference, which was devoted to discussion of the future plans of the Iran vehicle company's plants to produce the Peykan 1600, he said: In addition to meeting some of the nation's domestic needs for vehicles, the Iran vehicle plant has succeeded in getting a foothold on the international market for its products, so that since the beginning of the current year it has earned more than \$25 million in foreign exchange, and in this regard a number of buses, minibuses, and 400 Peugeot passenger automobiles have been exported to the Soviet Union, China, Romania, Egypt, Syria, and some of the Persian Gulf nations.

Tourists Spend \$300 Million Yearly in Dubayy

91AS1415B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
31 Jul 91 p 11

[Text] First of Mordad-23 July—Every month the Emirate of Dubayy receives more than 30,000 Iranian travelers, most of whom buy electronic and electrical products. They spend about \$300 million annually in this emirate.

The IRNA reports that according to a port official in the city of Dubayy, the swarm of Iranians to Dubayy is at a ten-year peak. He added: Most of these travelers stay here for several days to buy electronic equipment and other items that are cheaper in Dubayy than in Iran.

Iranians also buy food products such as sugar, rice, oil, dried milk, and readymade clothing.

In 1990 the Iranian Government authorized its citizens to bring in up to 5,000 dollars and goods every time they return from abroad.

A merchant emphasizes: I estimate that every day more than 1,000 Iranians come into Dubayy. As a rule, they spend up to \$300 million per year. Dubayy profits in another way from this matter, because every Iranian must spend \$27.20 to get an entry visa to Dubayy.

This emirate's economy basically depends on commerce and oil. Dubayy, which produces 430,000 barrels of oil per day, spends its revenues, which are estimated at more than \$3 billion per year, to transform itself into an unrivaled commercial center in the Persian Gulf.

Currently 20 percent of the nonpetroleum trade in the Persian Gulf is done at this emirate, one-fifth of which is exported to the Iranian market. Iran exports carpets, dried fruits, fresh produce, and other food products to Dubayy.

In 1990 the volume of Dubayy's exports reached \$2 billion, 520 million of which went to Iran.

Commercial circles are counting on increased trade with Iran after the Persian Gulf crisis and measures to free the

economy that have been taken by the Iranian Government. Of the 4 million tons of products brought into the port of Dubayy, 341,000 tons were exported to Iran.

The swarming of Iranian passengers into Dubayy has been facilitated on the one hand by the increase in flights by the Iran Air Co. (14 flights per week) to this emirate, and on the other hand flights to Iran by the Dubayy Air Co. and the regional Gulf Air Co. Iran also intends to expand its maritime freight operations, which are now being handled by traditional scows and were unprecedented in the first three months of 1991.

A merchant in the city of Dubayy emphasizes: I am certain that after the end of the Persian Gulf crisis, trade with Iran will see more expansion.

Air Freight Increase Halts Fruit Exports to Europe

91ASI344I London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] Increased air freight rates this year have prevented exporters of produce and fruits to Europe from exporting these goods.

'Alireza Tala'i, deputy minister of agriculture for orchards, announced that the halt in fruit exports was caused by the significant increase in the cost of air freight, and despite the seven million tons in annual fruit production, exports of these agricultural products are quite insignificant. The official told reporters that currently almost one-fourth of the nation's irrigated lands, or 1.2 million hectares, is used for fruit orchards, from which seven million tons of various fruits are obtained annually. He added: Of this amount, some are consumed fresh or kept in cold storage, and some are exported. The Islamic Republic's deputy minister of agriculture noted that fruit exports are insignificant in view of the amount of fruit produced. He said: Currently air freight is one of the problems concerning the export of fruit. Reports received from Tehran and other provinces indicate that despite the abundance of fruit produced and the halt in the export of this product, the prices of most types of fruit have increased unexpectedly and this has deprived many poor and low-income families from obtaining fruit products.

Economic Cooperation Discussed With Austria

91ASI424C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 13 Aug 91 p 8

[Text] Tehran, Aug 12 (IRNA)—Outgoing Austrian Ambassador Herbert Traxi called on the head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Alinaqi Khamushi Sunday, and stressed that the two countries can benefit from expanded technological cooperation.

He said the Tehran-Vienna joint economic commission to be held in Tehran in September, would hopefully increase bilateral cooperation.

Khamushi said a delegation from the Iranian Chamber of Commerce will soon visit Austria and Hungary.

He also said that compared to other countries Iranian goods were cheaper.

Germany To Help Combat Environmental Pollution

91ASI436G Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 25 Aug 91 p 1

[Article: "Germany To Help Iran Curb Environmental Pollution"]

[Text] Bonn, Aug. 24 (IRNA)—Germany will assist Iran in combating environmental pollution caused by the Iraqi chemical bombing of the Iranian cities during the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war and also the burning Kuwaiti oil wells.

This was agreed between head of Iran's Environment Protection Organization (IEPO) Hadi Manafi at the end of his five-day visit to Bonn and Germany's minister for the environment, conservation and reactor safety Klaus Kopfer.

Manafi who returned home Friday night, visited Germany at the invitation of Kopfer to follow up talks held in Tehran in March.

A protocol was signed between Manafi and Kopfer at the end of the visit in which the two sides stressed the need for international efforts to enforce environmental protection measures.

The German side agreed to help Iran in measuring toxic substances polluting the air, water and soil. The details will be spelled out in an agreement to be signed in Tehran next month.

Germany also announced readiness to help Iran remove the pollutions caused by the Persian Gulf war. Furthermore, Bonn is to examine Iran's proposals regarding ways of encounter air pollution in the Iranian capital of Tehran, establishing centers for measuring pollution in five major rivers in Iran and methods for safe disposal of hospital wastes.

The draft of a memorandum on Tehran-Bonn environmental cooperation was prepared during the visit which is to be signed by the two sides in Tehran soon.

Petrochemical Agreement Signed With Germany, Italy

91ASI415D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 21 Aug 91 p 10

[Text] 20 Mordad-11 August—Last week the Iran National Petrochemicals Co. signed contracts to procure credit for several projects with German and Italian banks.

Based on these contracts, this company will obtain 500 million marks from German banks for projects to produce PVC [polyvinyl chloride] at the Bandar Emam Khomeyni Complex, and \$565 million from Italian banks for three projects to produce petrochemical products.

According to the minister of oil, these funds will be repaid based on interbank profits through the sale of products from these projects, and they are not represented in any way in the government's budget.

Gholamreza Aqazadeh told reporters: To produce 150,000 tons of PVC annually at the Bandar Emam Khomeyni Complex, the German banks have provided 500 million marks in credit, and the two companies, Krupp Coppers and Klackner, from Germany will put this project into operation within 32 months.

He added: The credit obtained will be repaid after the project goes into operation through the sale of its products, and all of the credit must be repaid to the creditor within eight years of the signing.

This contract was signed in Bonn for Iran by Ahmad Rahgozar, executive director of the Iran National Petrochemicals Co. He also signed three other contracts in Italy. The first has to do with the ethylene oxide and ethylene glycol projects, which, with a capacity of 110,000 tons per year, are for Phase Two of the Arak Petrochemical Complex.

Aqazadeh said: This project will be put into operation within 38 months by the Technimont Company of Italy, and the \$260 million in necessary capital has also been provided by Italian banks.

He added: The project to produce polyoliphene and propylene at the Arak Petrochemical Complex with an annual capacity of 180,000 tons and a value of \$180 million, was signed with this same company, and it will be put into operation within 24 months.

The third contract is for producing alkaline chlorine at the Bandar Emam Khomeyni Complex; it will be put into production by the Denura Company of Italy within 24 months. The value of this contract is \$125 million.

The minister of oil explained: To repay back the credit it has obtained, the Iran National Petrochemicals Company has signed a contract to sell petrochemical products produced by its projects with Finnish and Swiss companies, under which the revenues from these exports will be deposited in an account and payments on the loans will be made out of that account.

Aqazadeh noted: Sufficient insurance and security have been taken out for all the contracts mentioned, and every unit will have a six-month trial period of operation. Sale prices will also be based on the prices of the day.

Common Market Established With Turkey in Sarv

*91AS1415C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
21 Aug 91 p 11*

[Text] 21 Mordad-12 August—The largest common border market between Iran and Turkey was opened in the Sarv border area in the municipality of Urumia.

This market's inauguration ceremony was attended by Lotfata, governor of Urumia, Shahab ol-Din Harput, governor-general of Hakkari of Turkey, and a group of border officials and officials of market, economic, industrial, and border patrol officials from the two nations. At this ceremony the governor of Urumia discussed border transactions by peddlers of the distant past. He said: Increasing nonpetroleum exports, the economic growth and prosperity of the border areas, preventing smuggling and creating employment for unemployed people in the border areas were among the goals of creating the common market.

The Iran-Turkey common border market at Sarv is composed of 41 shops, and next to them are administrative and service installations and reception and health-care units.

Twenty of the shops constructed were given to peddlers at the Sumay and Baradust border areas, and 20 units were also given to peddlers in the municipality of Urumia.

The governor of Urumia noted: At the Sarv common market, which is the largest common market between Iran and Turkey, 105 kinds of goods are exchanged by authorization and conditional authorization.

He announced: Measures are now being implemented to create a second common border market in the municipality of Urumia. With the conclusion of construction operations on the units and installations, this market will also open in the Zaini region in the district of Silvana.

It is worth mentioning that this common border market is the first common market in the municipality of Urumia and the third Iran-Turkey common market in the province of West Azarbayjan.

Value of Trade With Turkey Down

91AS1438E London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Sep 91 p 4

[Text] Despite the Islamic regime's efforts to expand its economic relations with Turkey, in the last few years the amount of trade between the two countries has gradually declined, and it is expected that when Turkey returns to normal economic and political relations with Iraq and oil exports from this country resume, the value of Iran's crude oil exports to Turkey, which are at a 10-year low, will decline.

Based on reports from Ankara, the Turkish Government's recent protests to the Islamic Republic about the creation of guerilla training bases inside Iran and the

arming of the guerillas by the Islamic regime have brought relations between the two nations to a sensitive stage.

Middle East trade experts believe that this year, in view of the conditions prevailing in Tehran-Ankara political relations, it appears very unlikely that the anticipated trade target of \$2 billion will be reached, and these experts believe that during the current year (1991) the maximum value of the trade between Iran and Turkey will be no more than \$1 billion. From 1979 to the end of last year, Iran and Turkey exchanged goods and services with a total value of \$16 billion. During those years, the Islamic Republic exported about \$9 billion in goods to Turkey, most of which (about 93 percent) was crude oil. Turkish trade sources gave the figure of about \$7 billion as the value of all this country's exports to Iran from 1980 to the end of 1990.

The Turkish ambassador to the Islamic Republic recently announced at a press conference that there are possibilities in numerous areas for economic cooperation between Ankara and Tehran, including the implementation of the project to transfer natural gas from Iran to Europe through Turkey, connecting the two nations' national electrical power networks to each other, and the sale of electricity to Iran. The Turkish ambassador in Tehran described the use of Turkish ports for international freight and the help that this will provide in improving the state commercial exchanges between the Islamic Republic and other countries and in reducing the backlog in Iranian ports as one of the important areas of relations and cooperation between the two nations, and he announced that to facilitate the overland movement of freight, restrictions on passage by Iranian trucks have been removed.

Middle East economic analysts believe that although the political leaders of the Tehran Islamic regime are making extensive efforts to make use of Turkey's economic resources, official statistics and figures published by Turkey show that so far the balance of trade between the two countries—without taking into account Iran's crude oil exports to Turkey—are significantly in Ankara's favor, and that in the last 10 years Iran has not succeeded in exporting goods to Turkey.

Minister: Job Seekers in Japan To Benefit Country

*91AS1343C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
26 Jun 91 p 2*

[Text] Tehran—ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY—26 Khordad (17 June)—Supported by the attendance of Iranian youth at the Japan Labor Market [?Fair], the minister of the construction jihad said: With the employment of youth and compatriots in Japan, huge foreign exchange revenues will be earned and injected into the national economy.

During a public relations radio program, Engineer Foruzesh, the minister of construction jihad, was asked

by a listener why the construction jihad does not create employment for the nation's youth so our youth will not have to humiliate themselves by going to Japan. He answered: Through the Five-Year Development Plan, the government will undertake an extensive infrastructural task that will make the nation prosperous, and efforts have been made to recruit all the nation's active forces.

He said: For the purpose of attending to this issue and until this plan succeeds, we see no difficulty if a number of compatriots and youth eager to find work find their way into the labor markets of other nations.

He added: One way to learn about the technology in the world and establish cultural relations is to live among other societies, and in terms of social customs, Japan is similar to our country.

Following up on this question, Foruzesh noted: If each of the young people of this nation who has found his way into the Japan labor market were to earn about \$10,000 in foreign exchange, and if 100,000 young people were to go to Japan every year, more than \$1 billion in foreign exchange would be transferred, and this in turn would be a great help to the national economy and to the nation's foreign exchange industries.

The minister of the construction jihad noted: We must not view the matter of our youth working in Japan as a humiliation, we must welcome it.

He added: To make it possible for our nation's youth in search of employment to go to Japan and to enter the labor markets of nations seeking manpower, as discussed by the Council of Ministers, arrangements have been made for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to establish offices or organizations in other nations to facilitate their stay.

In conclusion, Foruzesh said: To go to any country, it is necessary to respect that nation's regulations and legal criteria, so as to prevent problems in this area.

Trade Protocol Signed With China

*91AS1436F Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 21 Aug 91 p 2*

[Article: "Iran, China Ink Trade Protocol"]

[Text] Beijing, Aug. 20 (IRNA)—Iran and China inked a trade protocol and a letter of understanding at the end of their 6th joint economic commission meet here Monday.

The documents were signed by Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh and Chinese Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Li Lenchen.

As per the protocol, China will purchase two millions tons of crude oil from Iran in a one year period. The two

sides also agreed to balance their trade exchanges following the expiry of the barter trade exchange between the two countries.

The two sides also expressed their keenness for scientific and technical cooperation as well as data exchange in these areas.

Commercial Cooperation With Seoul To Expand

91AS1345C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Jul 91 p 2

[Boldface words as published]

[Text] **South Korean officials said yesterday that Iran has agreed to consider the request of that country to participate in the large development projects of Iran and engage in negotiations involving the expansion of trade relations and cooperation in the area of the petroleum industry.**

Officials of the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Korea said that such a promise was given in a meeting of the joint Iran-Korea committee in Seoul which ended yesterday.

According to the above-mentioned officials, Iran agreed to give favorable consideration to the South Korean contracting company to implement the Iranian plans to build a copper refining factory, a steel mill, power plants, public transportation facilities and sea-product manufacturing companies.

The above-mentioned officials added: Both sides also decided to study the possibility of joint investments between Iranian and Korean companies to produce tractors, plows, petrochemical equipment, semiconductors and electrical cables in Iran.

(Lee Bong Suh), the minister of trade and industry of Korea, and Qolam Reza Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum of Iran, headed the delegation of the two sides.

A Korean official said that some of the members of the Iranian delegation spoke to the managers of the Korean automobile-manufacturing and television-manufacturing companies about possible joint investments.

He said: Iran is interested in building an automobile-manufacturing factory with a capacity of 25,000 units per year. He did not mention the capacity of the television-manufacturing factory.

Trade sources said that Iranians have contacted "(Da'evu)" automobile-manufacturing factory and Samsung television-manufacturing factory. A Korean official also said: Gholam Hoseyn Karbaschi, the mayor of Tehran, also negotiated with Korean merchants about Tehran's plan to build a subway and a large retail center.

Khamushi Predicts Greater Private-Sector Role

91AS1423C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 17 Aug 91 p 16

[Text] Isfahan, Aug 16 (IRNA)—In the next decade the share of the private sector in the country's economy is to rise to 75-80% from the present 25-30%, head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries Ali-Naqi Khamushi said Thursday.

"The economic policy of the government is based on its 5-year development plan and is designed to encourage the private sector to make more investments than the public sector," he said.

By the end of the 5-year plan in March 1995, private investments in the country's economy are expected to rise by 15%, he told a group of local businessmen and industrialists.

"With the introduction of new economic policies, we witnessed a 10.2% increase in the gross national product in the year 1369 (ended March 1991)," he said.

If Iran wants to have an economic boom, it should entrust the job of investment to the people, said Khamushi.

He, however, added "although an economic balance entails unwanted inflation and a hike in prices, steep rise in prices stems from overcharging and improper distribution".

Regime Obtains Millions of Dollars in Loans

91AS1432D London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] Two Italian and German banks, extending \$856 million in loans to the Islamic Republic, will help that regime create and complete the petrochemical facilities of Arak.

Gholamreza Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum of the Islamic Republic, mentioned Deutsche Bank as the German bank and added that this loan is supposed to be paid off gradually, over the next eight years. Radio Tehran, which recently announced the news of the loan received by the Islamic Republic from the two European Banks, did not reveal the amount of the loan or which agency has guaranteed the repayment of this relatively sizable loan. Sources close to the Ministry of Petroleum had announced recently that the Islamic Republic, under the pretext of building oil facilities in various parts of the country, expanding the petrochemical units, and finally the exploration and operation of oil wells in the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea in the future, will receive huge loans from foreign sources.

While most reliable international sources and the international bank for foreign account settlements ([Bal Swiss]) have placed the Islamic Republic among the debtor nations, Hasan Ebrahim Habibi, vice president of the Islamic Republic, totally denied the foreign debt of the Islamic regime and announced that Iran, except for

money that it owes to other countries as "usance," has no debt. Financial affairs experts have mentioned the total debt of the Islamic Republic to foreign countries and international financial institutions at the present as being between \$6 to 8 billion and have projected that if the IMF and the World Bank agree to extend loans to Iran, the foreign debt of that country will be much higher. These experts added that the Islamic Republic at the present owes large amounts to Japan, France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, South Korea, and several other countries. Moreover, in the past two years, receiving trade funds from industrial countries, it has become indebted to foreign establishments and Western and Japanese production companies to the tune of several billion dollars. Trade sources revealed some time ago that during the past three years, making use of the usance method (360 and 720 days), the Islamic Republic has purchased from foreign countries significant amounts of goods and merchandise on credit. A report received from banking sources in Iran indicates that, since about two years ago, the Islamic Republic has engaged in expansive efforts to obtain loans from foreign sources under the pretext of carrying out developmental projects and repairing the damages inflicted in the eight years of war with Iraq and carrying out oil exploration and extraction projects. This report indicates that the main designers of the policies to get credit and loans from other countries are Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance; and Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, the director of the Central Bank of the regime. The report in question states that in the past two years, the Islamic Republic has received certain amounts in foreign currency as prepayment for Iranian crude oil as well as petrochemical products from Japan and several French, German and British companies. Reliable banking sources have mentioned the amounts received for this kind of pre-sale at \$2.5 to 4 billion. Early this week, responding to the questions of correspondents concerning the debts of Iran to foreign countries, Hasan Ebrahim Habibi said: "If by usance you mean that we buy merchandise from a country this year and pay for it next year, this is true, and it cannot be considered debt, as the foreign media has stated." The first vice president of the Islamic Republic added: "This method is commonly practiced by many countries, and in the budget law, too, the word 'usance,' the procedures for it, and the amount have been mentioned. Accordingly, we have no debts."

Country To Launch Exports Promotion Bank

*91AS1436C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 20 Aug 91 p 6*

[Article: "Iran To Launch Exports Promotion Bank"; quotation marks as published]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19 (IRNA)—Iran will soon launch an 'Exports Promotion Bank' with an initial capital of Rials 50b.

Enjoying hard currency reserves, the bank aims to serve exporters of industrial and traditional goods by meeting their needs for cash and foreign exchange in all stages from import of raw materials, manufacture and export of finished products.

It will also provide exporters with information on the financial status of foreign purchasers.

According to the Ministry of Economy and Financial Affairs, one of the most outstanding roles the bank is designed to play in promoting exports, is to provide facilities for foreign buyers either directly or indirectly in the purchase of Iranian commodities even on installment basis.

In setting up the Exports Promotion Bank, Iran will hire the services of international banking consultants to advise exporters on ways of improving their goods both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Paper Comments on Exports Promotion Bank

*91AS1436D Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 26 Aug 91 p 2*

[Article: "Iran's Export Promotion Bank"]

[Text] An Iran Export Promotion Bank is due to open soon. It will provide financial support and information to exporters in international markets.

At the outset the bank will have to deal with a long list of customers. The government allocation of 50 billion rials as primary investment has been made with a view to provide funds and services to the anticipated applicants as best as possible.

The idea of creating a bank to ensure services or act as a supportive body for exporters is a timely decision taken by the government. Despite several years of delay in setting up such an institution, it is expected that export activities can cross existing barriers and overcome red tape and bureaucracy. Analysts believe the new bank will accelerate the presently slow process of exporting non-oil products.

The basic problem of an exporter, especially in the industrial sector is not merely defined in terms of the need for rial or foreign exchange. There is also the question of laws and regulations which have tied the hands of the exporter. These regulations have woven the goods in a web of barriers which have in turn caused the exporter to lose the international market, timely presence in the market, confidence of importers....

In an overview, the problems of an industrial exporter can be listed as follows:

- 1 - A lower added value of the export commodities.
- 2 - Lack of active and timely presence in international markets.
- 3 - Poor quality of exports.

4 - Lack of rial and foreign exchange in terms of credit.

5 - Price fluctuations in export markets.

Obviously, the "Export Promotion Bank" will have a sensitive and vital role to play at this stage. Psychological confidence of the exporter, a safe path leading to international markets, and the provision of capital to address manufacturing needs should constitute the integral program of the bank. If any of these are hampered, the confidence building of the industrial exporter will crumble. And the bank will only play the role of a "creditor".

Thus it is hoped that the establishment of an "Export Promotion Bank", as the first step by the government to facilitate exports of non-oil goods, will take into account the determined goals and objectives. The bank is expected to display a successful image of itself by utilizing appropriate intellectual capacity, necessary operational regulations and quick decision-making.

Bank To Promote Nonoil Imports

91AS1438D London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Sep 91 p 4

[Text] To expand its nonpetroleum exports and to find new markets for Iran's traditional products, the Islamic Republic is seeking to create a special bank to expand exports. The figure of about 50 million rials has been mentioned as this bank's capital, and based on information from the Islamic regime's Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs, authorization to form this bank has been issued by the General Association of Banks. The Tehran newspaper KEYHAN, which reported the formation of the first export expansion bank in Iran, wrote: Through the use of foreign exchange resources, this bank will be at the service of exporters of industrial and traditional goods, and it can meet the needs of exporters for foreign exchange and rials at the raw materials purchasing, manufacturing, and exporting stages of products, and in addition to this it will give exporters financial and credit information about foreign buyers. In its report, this newspaper wrote: One of this bank's most telling forms of aid to the expansion of export is granting direct and indirect credit facilities to foreign buyers. In this way, foreign buyers will be able, by using these facilities, to buy Iranian export goods with installment payments, while at the same time the domestic exporter will obtain the cash from his exports all at once. Continuing the above report, the newspaper KEYHAN added: In forming the Iran export expansion bank, the intent is to make use of international banking specialists so that exporters will be able to benefit from the consultation of these specialists while they do their banking.

First Quarter Customs Revenues Announced

91AS1388B Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 3 Aug 91 p 2

[Text] In the first three months of the current year [21 March - 21 June] 679,600 tons of goods worth 32.39

billion rials were exported, a decrease of 22.4 percent by weight but an increase of 10.9 percent by value from the same period last year.

Islamic Republic of Iran Customs reports that in the period mentioned, 9,258,711 tons of goods came through the nation's customs, and 8,734,700 tons were loaded as freight, while 6,872,000 tons of goods valued at 505.505 billion rials were released.

Based on this report, the weight of goods imported compared to the same period last year increased 28.3 percent, and the goods released in the period mentioned increased 18.2 percent by weight and 82.9 percent by value.

On the other hand, goods in storage at customs in the first three months of the current year weighed 2,107,108 tons, and the major customs ports involved in the release of goods, ranked in order of greatest weight handled, were Bandar 'Abbas, Bandar Emam Khomeyni and Bandar Bushehr.

This report adds that during the three months under consideration, 321,501 travelers came into the country through the nation's air, land and sea customs offices, of whom 211,549 were Iranian, the rest foreign. Likewise, in this period 372,615 travelers left Iran, of whom 271,417 were Iranian and 101,198 were foreign.

The Iran Customs Office emphasized that in the first three months of the current year, according to the announcement of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, customs revenues were 184,684,768,000,000 rials.

Anti-Inflation Measures Urged

91AS1436A Tehran ABRAR in English 22 Aug 91 p 12

[Article: "Swift Rise in Prices Should be Controlled"]

[Text] Government supervision over production, distribution, exports and imports is necessary. This necessity is not only not contradictory to the system now under consideration for the economy, but in fact under the current sensitive conditions and the movement toward progress and development it is vital for the sake of society.

Recently President Hashemi Rafsanjani met with the Commerce Ministry officials, managers and minister and discussed the problems of the domestic distribution of basic goods. He clearly stated that the current situation of distribution is not desirable, the market situation is not good, and we must try to solve this problem. He said this aim is one of the main programs of the Commerce Ministry. He called on the managers to investigate ways to improve the distribution situation. He called for reform of the pricing system and putting price stickers on goods as one of the ways to reform the market.

This is one of the basic and fundamental problems and issues of the people at present. It is the government's right to do everything in its means to correct the situation. The distorted price system, in which the goods have dual, triple or many different prices, should be utterly removed.

Creation of a correct mechanism for fixing prices and government supervision over its implementation until supply and demand reach a balance and production increases, is the only way to prevent the pressure of increasing prices and inflation on the people.

In the meeting, the president stressed on expansion of the chain department stores and said such stores can supply major basic goods needed by the people at suitable and controlled prices.

Anyway until such an expansion of these stores is achieved, we can at present make better use of the existing stores (city and rural stores) and other cooperative stores for distribution and supply of goods with price stickers on them. The advantage of government supervision is that the chaotic market will be brought under control and a sound competition will be established for bringing prices to reasonable levels.

Paper Advocates Curbing Government Spending

*91AS1436B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 25 Aug 91 p 2*

[Article: "No Gov't Money for Luxury Items"]

[Text] The Majles Speaker (the Islamic Consultative Assembly) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi on Sunday and following the recent address of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i the leader of the Islamic Revolution to the heads of three branches of government and senior officials on Thursday, proposed commissioning of a special team by the leader or President Rafsanjani to see to the implementation of the recent guidelines of the leader in all government organizations and institutions in order to prevent any unnecessary expenses and formalities.

The formation of a special team consisting of pious and committed people will help the government regularly to check and prevent non-essential government fund spending on luxury items.

At the present time due to problems caused by eight years of the Iraqi-imposed war and economic sanctions, a great majority of Iranians, economically are not in favorable condition. The Muslim Iranian people have proved their support and faithfulness to the Islamic revolution and its officials during hard times e.g., during the Iraq-Iran war when the Islamic Revolution and the country had been seriously threatened by both external and internal foes. The people tolerated all those hardships along with their respected state authorities.

One of the factors that bothers the people, and so therefore made the leader to openly discuss it, is seeing a

gap between their lifestyle and those of some of the government authorities. Why should, for example, officials of this or that organization instead of using cheaper and unobtrusive locally assembled sedans spend tens of thousands of dollars to import luxury cars for themselves?

The Majles speaker's call for setting up a special team to curb such unnecessary expenditure and formalities is a right initiative taken at the right time so as to balance the life style of government officials with that of the people.

Those statesmen who want to serve the oppressed people must feel and understand the pains and problems the commoners are suffering from, in their day to day life; therefore they will maximize their efforts in order to solve the community's social and economic difficulties, in every way possible. Meanwhile, when the Iranian people realize that their statesmen live like the commoners, they will sum up courage to tolerate the existing economic pressure until the government is fully capable of implementing its economic reforms and fulfilling its commitments to give its citizens a life of comforts.

Policy on Production, Vehicle Assembly Announced

*91AS1415A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
31 Jul 91 p 11*

[Text] 29 Tir-2 July—If existing defects are corrected, such as reducing fuel consumption, solving technical problems, reducing air pollution and other things, the Peykan will be produced and marketed domestically as the national automobile.

In an interview with the newspaper KEYHAN, Minister of Heavy Industries Dr. Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian discussed the above topic. He discussed the government's policies in the Five-Year Plan to produce various vehicles and attract Iranian capitalists from abroad to invest in the country.

Concerning the government's policy on the production of vehicles during the Five-Year Plan, he said:

If a type of vehicle is to be completely produced in the country, an assessment must first be made concerning which type of vehicle is to receive production priority. Now, among the various types of passenger automobiles that are produced within the country, there is a better possibility of building the Peykan completely (of course with the exception of standard parts that can be purchased from various countries) than other domestically produced vehicles. On this basis the Ministry of Heavy Industries gave a program to the Iran Vehicle Factory to produce 50,000 Peykan passenger automobiles, with the national Peykan motor (as opposed to the Peugeot motor). The reason for this order is that most of the machinery on the Peykan parts production line has been purchased from the Talbot factory, are being installed, and will go into operation by the end of the current year. When these lines go into operation, they will both meet

the nation's needs for Peykan spare parts and provide the opportunity to produce the Peykan automobile and present it as the national automobile, correcting this vehicle's defects by reducing fuel consumption and solving technical problems in terms of security. Therefore, if these defects are not corrected, production of the Peykan automobile will be stopped. The reason for this is that the automobile's initial price is not the economic criterion. It is possible that the Peykan is now being built for \$4,000 (the Renault 21 and the Peugeot cost about \$9,000 in foreign exchange), but according to calculations, this automobile's fuel consumption is high compared to the Renault and the Peugeot, and this very difference will cost about \$5,000 over a four- to five-year period. It is true that the Peykan costs \$5,000 less in foreign exchange at the outset, but the fact that it consumes 12 to 13 litres of gasoline every 100 km (the Renault and the Peugeot consume about eight litres per 100 km) will cover this difference, meaning that instead of exporting the gasoline to the world market and earning foreign exchange, we send it for consumption in this automobile, which has no effect, and at the same time increases air pollution. Therefore, continued production of the Peykan is contingent on correcting its defects, and the Ministry of Heavy Industries is not the only one responsible for correcting the Peykan's defects. The universities and in general all those working in the nation's industry are obligated to work in this area, and to assist with industrial growth using technical knowledge and new technology.

I must explain that there are now about 800 different factories in the country producing various vehicle parts. If the nation's vehicle manufacturing industry grows, naturally these factories will grow, and this depends on all of these factories having today's technology, because if parts are not desirable in any respect it causes damage and loss, and more importantly, the buyer's confidence in the factory building the automobile is reduced.

Measures have already been taken by the Ministry of Heavy Industries to increase the quality of production of these kinds of factories, so that this problem of raising the quality of domestically-produced vehicles will also be solved.

Issuing Agreements in Principle To Build Vehicles

In this interview, the minister of heavy industries discussed the issuance of agreements in principle to assemble and build vehicles. He said:

Agreements in principle are being issued for the assembly of passenger automobiles. At the same time, the assembly of two new models, one at the Iran Vehicle Factory (the Peugeot 405) and the other at the Saipa Factory (the Renault 21), has begun. The assembly of these two types of vehicles in Iran is almost a certainty. At the same time, a great many people have expressed a willingness to invest in passenger automobile manufacture, and more than 60 written requests have reached the Ministry of Heavy Industries. The answer from the

Ministry of Heavy Industries to all the applicants is positive, provided the Ministry of Heavy Industries' conditions in the area of passenger automobiles are observed. The conditions for the production of passenger automobiles are that the applicant must reach an understanding with the manufacturing plant that some of its products, in whatever way possible, will be exported. In this regard, so far three applicants have successfully reached an understanding with the automobile factories, and one of them has already gotten a conditional agreement in principle from the Ministry of Heavy Industries. Of course it is possible that in the future two or three passenger automobile assembly lines will be started in the country. Let it not go unsaid that the assembly of passenger automobiles does not mean that we simply put parts together in the country. We are now able to build 40 percent of the automobile's parts, and in this area we are not in need of investment. All assembly plants have a timetable, meaning that when production begins they completely produce about 1,000 to 2,000 units, so that the worker becomes familiar with the tools and the adjoining parts. Then familiarity with the internal construction of the parts gradually begins, and the import of foreign parts is stopped when domestic production begins. Unfortunately, I must add that the factories making automobile parts are behind technologically. We have made plans to rebuild these plants so they will be able to make good quality parts that meet international standards.

Attracting Investors From Abroad

Nezhad-Hoseynian discussed attracting investors from abroad and the rumor that Khayami and Lajevardi have been invited. He said:

The report on the return of capitalists whose assets have been impounded, or whose assets have been nationalized under Paragraph B of the Preservation Law, is absolutely untrue, and the report that Khayami is returning to Iran to manage the Iran Vehicle Factory is an absolute lie. Of course there are some capitalists whose factories have been nationalized under the Preservation Law, because of the type of industry and because of the political and financial problems, meaning that their assets have not been impounded, it has only been said that this industry must be at the disposal of the government. These kinds of capitalists have been authorized, up to a ceiling set by the government, to produce a maximum of 20,000 passenger automobiles or 25,000 vanettes in the formerly nationalized sector that is no longer nationalized.

Concerning the attraction of investment, the Ministry of Heavy Industries follows the government's policy, and we have announced that we will authorize investment. Groups have come forward and we welcome them.

Continuing, the minister of heavy industries listed the backwardness of Iran's vehicle manufacturing compared to today's technology, the shortage of specialist and trained personnel, the uncertain state of the nation's economy, and the shortage of foreign exchange as some

of the problems causing the failure to expand the nation's vehicle manufacturing industry and heavy industry.

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that in the future the price of the various passenger automobiles will drop with increased production. He noted that when the Peugeot first came on the market, it cost up to 3.3 million tomans, but with increased production, the price of this transportation device has dropped to 1.9 million tomans.

He added: One way to reduce prices is to create competition among automobile producers. For example, when the Peugeot plant sees that Toyotas are being sold for \$8,000, the Peugeot plant will certainly decrease its price, because if it does not do so it will lose its market.

He added: In view of the increased production of automobiles, the market price of the Peykan has reached now 1.35 million tomans. Likewise, the production of Renaults is now at 90 units per day, and this has had an effect on the drop in the price of the Peykan.

All Vehicles, Machinery Exempted From Duty

91ASI344G London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] Imports of vehicles and machinery are authorized where reputable representatives and authorized repair facilities exist in the country for this equipment. In a published statement, the Ministry of Heavy Industries of the Islamic Republic warned merchants and insiders of the importation of various kinds of vehicles, including passenger vehicles, road building, construction, and agricultural equipment, that the import of any kind of vehicle requires that reputable representatives and authorized repair facilities are in place for these types of vehicles and machinery.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries noted in the statement that merchants and importers of vehicles and machinery must provide the ministry with documentation on the nature of their activities. It announced that, according to recent Majles legislation, the importation of any kind of vehicle, whether passenger cars, vans, trucks, buses, minibuses or road-building, agricultural and construction equipment, is subject to the presence of local, reputable dealers and authorized repair facilities. It is therefore requested of all companies who have valid contracts to procure spare parts and services after the purchase, and those who are active representatives of foreign manufacturers of various kinds of vehicles and road-building, agricultural and construction equipment, are to submit information and full documentation to the deputy minister of heavy industries for industry and implementation on the contract and the number of dealerships and authorized repair facilities throughout the country.

The Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Heavy Industries noted that after receiving and studying the necessary information, it will make available to them a

list of the authorized types of vehicles and machinery. The ministry emphasized that the import of any kind of vehicles and machinery not found on this list will be prohibited.

Number of Approved Industrial Projects Up

91ASI344H London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] In the first three months of the current year (1370 [21 March 1991-20 June 1992]), the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Heavy Industries has issued 250 agreements in principle to establish industrial units and to carry out production projects. Hadi Nejd-Hoseinian, the Islamic regime of Tehran's minister of heavy industries said the total capitalization of the 250 industrial projects is about 183 billion rials. He also announced that this figure is 4.8 times more than the same period last year in numbers and about 9.6 times more in volume of capitalization. The official, who was speaking at a joint meeting of industrialists and industrial leaders, said that from the beginning of the current year to the end of the month of Mordad [21 March-22 July 1991], 12 agreements in principle have been issued to establish design and assembly units with capitalization of 6.8 billion rials, and 40 such agreements have been issued since the year 1362 [21 March 1983].

Nejad-Hoseynian discussed the other types of agreements in principle issued in the first three months of the current year. He said: During the period under discussion 31 licenses were issued with fixed capital of 4.4 billion rials for machinery and equipment manufacture, and eight were issued to build vehicles and motors with fixed capital of 2.1 billion rials. He added: In the year 1370, the number of licenses to operate and identification cards were 27 with capital investment of 2.7 billion rials.

Esfahan Steel Mill Production To Increase

91ASI285V London KEYHAN in Persian 25 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] With the signing of a contract with the Esfahan steel mill, Japan will help that company to increase its production and use of technology to achieve this goal. According to this agreement made between the large steel company of "Nipon Steel" of Japan and the Islamic Republic, Nipon Steel will from now on provide the necessary specialized manpower, advanced technological tools, and equipment and technical assistance to help the Esfahan steel mill complex raise its production capacity. The text of the contract stipulates that the Esfahan steel mill complex will make a 2.2 billion-yen payment to the Japan steel production industries, to benefit from the Japanese technical cooperation and increase its production level. Steel production experts point out that if the agreement is fully implemented by the Japanese, the nominal production of Esfahan steel mill will increase to 4-5 million tons by 1996. These experts point out that the nominal capacity of Esfahan steel mill at the present is 1.9 million tons per year and emphasized that the advanced technical assistance of the

Japanese steel production industries will greatly help the rapid expansion of this industry in Iran and increase the steel production capacity of the Esfahan steel mill complex. The officials of the steel production industries of Nippon steel of Japan announced some time ago that because it is not making use of the technical innovations and modern technology in various areas of the Esfahan steel mill industries, the actual level of production of this complex has dropped to less than half its nominal capacity.

About \$200 Million of Mineral Products Exported
91AS1438F London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] Last year (1369 [21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991]) the Islamic Republic earned about \$200 million for the national treasury by exporting various mineral products.

The Islamic regime's minister of mines and metals predicted that this year, with expanding mining operations in Iran and extended utilization of underground resources, the amount of mineral products exported to international markets will be increased. Engineer Mahluji, minister of mines and metals, told a reporter from the Tehran newspaper KEYHAN that his ministry is seeking to increase mineral production to the level of nominal capacity, carry out projects being implemented and studies, and to plan for new projects and programs to rebuild and activate abandoned mines and to increase exports. He added: This year, 25 factories for mineral products will be put into operation under the mantle of the private sector.

Construction of Electrical Power Plant Along Kuhrang

91AS1434D London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] With the construction of a hydroelectric power plant in Kuhrang, the Ministry of Power intends to produce 120,000 megawatts [MW] of electrical power per year.

In addition to procuring the electrical power needed by Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari, it will be possible with the construction and utilization of this plant to send electrical power to other parts of the nation through the national network. The newspaper KEYHAN of Tehran, which printed the report on the construction of the Kuhrang power plant, wrote: The geographic and executive details of the Kuhrang hydroelectric power plant project were given by Esfahan regional water experts at two meetings attended by province executive officials and Esfahan regional water officials, and a number of foreign contractors from Austria, France, Switzerland, Germany, Japan, Sweden, and Canada.

The newspaper added: The study on the Kuhrang hydroelectric power plant done by the Esfahan Regional Water Office took six years, and 10 foreign companies have

been invited to bid on its implementation, of which seven have prepared bidding documents.

Reports from Tehran state that the Ministry of Power is installing the Kuhrang hydroelectric power plant on Tunnel Two at Kuhrang. Currently 48 cubic meters of water per second come out of the mouths of Tunnel One and Tunnel Two, which are about 70 meters apart in elevation, and this produces 28 [MW] of electricity through the three installed turbines.

Country's Ports Capacity Increases

91AS1436E Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 20 Aug 91 p 6

[Article: "Ports Capacity Rises to 19m Tons"]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19 (IRNA)—The capacity of the country's ports rose from 18m tons in 1368 (1988-89) to some 19m tons in 1369 (1989-90), managing director of the ports and shipping organization, Mohammad Madad said here Aug. 18.

He said the figure shows a growth of 32.5%, which is in line with the objectives predicted in the first five-year development plan.

Some facilities including a 75% decrease in the port duties have been predicted and if the ships carrying cargo to Iran, re-load Iranian export articles on their way back, transport and export expenses would also reduce, he added.

Madad said for the commodities such as heat and corn which are carried in bulk, granaries should be set up at the ports in order to facilitate the discharge of the bulk carriers.

On the effect of the Caspian encroachment on the northern ports, he said Noshahr Port has no problem in this regard due to its suitable height from the sea level, however, some loading and unloading installations will be set up at the Anzali Port.

More on the Iraqi-war-devastated Khorramshahr Port in Khuzestan Province, he said the port will be reconstructed in two phases. In the first phase 1,500 meters of jetty will be established to enable the port to receive 4000-ton ships, up to an annual capacity of 30,000 tons.

According to the comprehensive project for the reconstruction of Khorramshahr, Madad said the second phase has been planned to have an annual capacity of one million tons.

Railway Official Provides Annual Haulage Figures

LD2508035191 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—The Tehran-Istanbul railway service is to shortly resume operations, while

arrangements have also been made for the Tehran-Moscow twice a week return trips on Saturdays and Thursdays, according to an Iranian state railways official today.

On the eastern borders, said Hamid Sadeqpur, for the time being there is a regular weekly train service on Sundays between Zahedan (Sistan-Baluchestan) and Quetta in Pakistan, which, he said, is especially helpful to Pakistanis wishing to pay pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza, in Mashhad.

Meanwhile, he said every day about 4,500 tons of cargo is hauled by truck from Bandar 'Abbas port on the Persian Gulf to the railway terminal in Sirjan in Kerman Province (over 1,000 km south of Tehran) and thence to other parts of the country by train.

However, he added, the completion of the 560 km long Bafq-Bandar 'Abbas railway track in 1993, will make it possible to transport about 20 million tons of trade cargo and minerals to steel mills and other factories in Iran.

The 260 km long Bafq-Sirjan railway track was put into operation in June 1990, noted the official.

Sadeqpur said that because of the increasing number of daily passengers from Tehran to the holy city of Mashhad a fast turbo-train service started operation between the two points in early 1991.

He said locomotive maintenance and overhaul factory which is being built in Karaj, west of Tehran, will overhaul 50 diesel electric locomotives every year. The factory whose construction started in September last year is to become ready for operation in another three years. The capital investment for the project is about rials 10 billion.

For the first five-year development plan the government is to purchase 450 railroad passenger cars, 3,860 railroad cargo cars, and another 80 locomotives to improve the capacity of railway service.

By the end of the five-year plan in 1994, added the official, the capacity of the Iranian railway will have improved to 25 million tons of cargo and 10 million passengers annually.

At present the railway service in Iran transports 14 million tons of cargo and seven million passengers annually, he said.

Caspian Waters Continue To Advance Inland

91AS1285U London KEYHAN in Persian 25 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] The waters of the Caspian Sea continue to advance inland, and, according to reports received from various coastal areas in the Provinces of Mazandaran and Gilan, the Caspian Sea waters have advanced inland more than 10 meters in some cities. One report from Chaboksar indicates that the rapid advancement of the

sea waters inland has caused the water to back up into the two large rivers of this city, the Chirud and the Miandehrud.

This report indicates that as a result of the rising water of these two rivers near the city limits, a number of houses and residential areas located in "Chehel Dastgah" were flooded. The Tehran issue of KEYHAN recently reported details on the advancing Caspian Sea waters: "The Caspian Sea has advanced in recent days and in some areas of the City of Anzali the waters have risen more than in previous days." This newspaper added: "In various areas of Anzali, including the Beheshti and Taleqani Islands, Shanbeh Bazaar and Mian Poshteh, the water continues to advance more than ever before." Tehran KEYHAN's report continues: "In the City of Astara, the unprecedented advancing river waters have terrified the people of Astara, especially those dwelling on the coastal areas. This fear is due to the swelling of the river and the possibility of water surrounding the city."

The above-mentioned newspaper added: "Early last week, as a result of the water continuing to advance inland, 500 residential homes and dozens of shops on the outskirts of the City of Astara (Mehdi Shahr Township) were covered by water. Also, in Londvil of Astara, more than 50 hectares of agricultural land are under water, and dozens of other hectares are in danger of being submersed. Moreover, as a result of the rising sea level, some of the fishery facilities reached water levels of up to one meter."

Caspian's Inland Advance Wastes Astara Port

91AS1344J London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] The waters of the Caspian Sea continue to rise after a two-day respite, and its waters engulfed a large area of coastal installations, homes, and agricultural lands. The damages suffered by residents of the Caspian littoral in Mazandaran were such that officials of the Urban Lands Organization in Gilan Province decided to give more than ten hectares of urban lands in Enzali to those who suffered damages due to the rising water. The Central Public Relations Office of the Gilan Province Urban Lands Organization announced that in view of the rising waters of the sea, especially in the port of Enzali area, this central office has agreed to give about 10 hectares of land in Enzali to those who have suffered losses. When the renewed rise of the waters of the Caspian was announced, Mohammad Farzpur, Astara deputy, said in the Majles: These days the news about the sharp rise in the waters of the Caspian Sea leads many news items and reports. The deputy added: In recent years I have been an eyewitness to the rise of the waters of the Caspian Sea, and this advance has endangered many cities, districts, and villages. The first coastal city to be threatened by the tides of the Caspian was the beautiful City of Astara. This goes back to the years 1359 and 1360 [21 March 1980-20 March 1982]. At that time, as a representative of the people of Astara, I warned the concerned officials about this matter. Unfortunately,

when the sea subsided temporarily, the seawall construction that had begun did not proceed rapidly, and even stopped at times. In the last month or two the sea has become restless again, and even more terrifying waves are engulfing the unprotected shores of Astara.

Mohammad Farzpur also noted: The water penetrated the part of the city that had no seawall and most of the people's homes were submerged, basic installations were damaged, sewers overflowed, and it became impossible to use the alleys leading to the streets ending at the shore because of the flooding.

Sefid Rud Dam No Longer Productive

91AS1432B London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Aug 91 p 2

[Text] The director general of agriculture of the province of Gilan announced that the life of Sefid Rud Dam is ending, and that this dam will not be productive for longer than 10 more years. This person, who was speaking in a seminar on "olive production" in Rasht, warned that a shortage of water for agricultural uses is being felt at the moment in the province of Gilan and will soon reach an alarming level. He added: From now, we must think of some basic ideas for providing the agricultural water of the region, that is, the irrigation of about 400,000 hectares of land under cultivation in Gilan.

The director general of the agricultural bank in Gilan said: "We have rationed the share of farm water, but the amount of existing water is not even enough for the rice farms." He revealed that in the past year, earthquakes in the northern areas of the country destroyed 25,000 olive trees.

In the years since the revolution, the Sefid Rud Dam has suffered much damage as a result of neglect and inattention to proper methods of upkeep and dredging, and its productive life has decreased significantly. This dam was cracked during the earthquake in the north, but some time ago government officials announced that the crack in the dam had been repaired, and the filling of the reservoirs had begun.

Erosion Destroys Thousands of Hectares Yearly

91AS1285W London KEYHAN in Persian 25 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] The erosion of agricultural land in the aquifers and the resulting filling of the useful national dams with sediments inflict annual damages of up to one billion tomans on the basic life of Iranian agriculture. Agricultural experts have mentioned the annual erosion of agricultural and arable soil in various areas of the country of up to some 2 billion tons and announced that as a result of this controllable event, every year more than 800,000 hectares of agricultural and arable land are destroyed and added to the Iranian deserts. These experts also revealed that at the present time every year more than 100 million cubic meters of dams are filled with various sediments. The agricultural preservation

officials believe that the budget that is spent at the present time on preventing soil erosion and the preservation of water resources is insufficient and, considering the rapid destruction of soil, in order to prevent this phenomenon, vast investments must be made. The deputy of the Ministry of Construction Jihad of the Islamic Republic believes that, based on the available statistics and data, of the 100 million hectares of aquiferous land throughout the country, the erosion of more than 70 million hectares is higher than the acceptable level of soil erosion. According to this official, the erosion of soil in European countries is about 1.5 tons per hectare, whereas in Iran it exceeds more than 10 tons per hectare. Simultaneous with the announcement of the rapid expansion of the desert and the destruction of agricultural land on the central desert perimeters, the press in Tehran announced that as a result of the shifting sand rushing to the villages of the Bampur areas of Iranshahr, one village has been completely destroyed and four other villages are in danger of being destroyed. The Tehran press reported early this week that the shifting sands have destroyed parts of the villages of Ja'farabad, Qasemabad, Shamsabad, Sa'idabad, and Jamalabad of the Province of Sistan and Baluchestan, with a population of more than 100,000 families, and that it is likely that these villages will be buried in sand forever.

Country's Pastures Decrease to 80 Million Hectares

91AS1438H London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Sep 91 p 4

[Text] What kind of support for livestock is this, when every day thousands of liters of milk spoil in remote parts of the country and more pastures are destroyed, so that since the revolution, the nation's pastures have declined from 126 million hectares to 80 million hectares? If one sheep grazes on each hectare of land, this means that each year [sic] we have taken 46 million head of livestock away from the livestock grower and destroyed them. If each sheep has 10 kg of meat, we have consequently lost 260,000 tons of red meat each year, and if we consider each kg of meat to be worth 200 tomans, we have taken more than 90 billion tomans in financial losses.

Asadollah Tabe', Majles deputy from Miyan-e Do Ab va Nakab, recently made the above statement at a Majles meeting. Severely criticizing the regime's agricultural officials for incompetence and poor management, he said: Instead of converting unused land to agricultural use, every year desirable land is taken out of agricultural use and used for nonagricultural purposes, so that since the triumph of the revolution more than 400,000 hectares of land have been destroyed, and if we assume that 2.5 tons of wheat could be grown on each hectare, in destroying these lands we have lost a million tons of wheat each year and we must import consumer wheat from abroad to replace it.

During his talk, the deputy said: What kind of support is this for agricultural products when every day we throw away more than 20 percent of our consumer bread because it is not acceptable? If annual urban consumption is 5.5 million tons, 20 percent of that will be more than 1 million tons, and if we consider seven tons of baked bread to be worth \$200, every year we lose more than \$200 million from the public treasury. The deputy discussed the problems of farmers and their regrettable living conditions. Addressing the other deputies, he said: If agriculture is central, then we must invest in industry, roads, water, electricity, and petroleum products to make agriculture grow and flourish. He added: When a farmer waits months for fuel, pesticides, chemical fertilizer, tires, a solution to the problem of taking water from the rivers with canals, qanats and deep wells, parts and agricultural machinery, and when he pays several times the price for agricultural supplies on the free market, this is nothing more than fatigue for him.

No New Jobs in Central Province Agriculture Sector

*91ASI388D Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
4 Aug 91 p 2*

[Text] Because of the severe shortage of agricultural water, despite the existing capacities to expand and increase productivity within the next 20 years, the agricultural sector of Central Province is not able to create new jobs in this area, yet to create a social balance in Central Province 320,000 new jobs must be created by the end of the year 1388 [20 March 2010].

This was announced yesterday by Engineer Shabaq, research official for the Hamun Studies Project and executive director of the Comprehensive Studies Project of Central Province, in a report to the Central Province Planning Committee.

In his report he said: Because of weak planning in the last 20 years, only about 20,000 jobs have been created in Central Province.

At the same time, many other jobs have been lost. A prominent example of that is the removal of 25,000 people from the carpet-weaving business in the province.

Eng. Shabaq announced: The preliminary stages of the Hamun Studies Project, with the participation of 100 social science, economic, and statistical experts in the province, which began four years ago, are complete in 25 different areas. He emphasized the necessity for cooperation and active participation by all the province's executive organizations to plan and design the province 20-year plan based on the Hamun Studies Project.

Rising Prices Worry Gilan Residents

*91ASI388C Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
4 Aug 91 p 5*

[Text] The high prices of goods, especially general food-stuffs in the province of Gilan, are escalating in an

alarming manner, and are also putting heavy pressure on low-income classes. The sudden jump in price increases last month was such that price increases affected most goods.

The prices of fresh fruits have seen rash increases this year, so that various kinds of apricots, cherries, and grapes are being sold for 700 to 1,000 rials per kg. Also, the prices of watermelons and musk melons have not been below 200 rials per kg since the beginning of summer.

It is worth mentioning that the prices of various fruits this year have been 30 to 40 percent higher than they were last year. Even the prices of tomatoes and cucumbers, unlike in previous years, have seen striking increases.

On the other hand, the malfunctioning bread distribution situation in the province of Gilan, the gradual increase of its price in some parts of the province, as well as the long lines at the bakers, have all intensified public dissatisfaction.

To the increased price of household liquid natural gas, the price of packaged dried tea, urban freight services, and the daily increasing prices of most basic goods on the open market, such as walnut meats, dates, cooking oil, cheese and grains, which have all increased in the last month, so that a 45-kg can of Crisco has increased to 9,000 rials and the price of walnut meats has gone up to 5,800 rials per kg, must be added, in addition to the costs of technical services such as unbridled wage increases for various repairs, as well as the costs of telephone service, water and electricity, which have increased astronomically in the last two months.

In the midst of this, also increasing are the costs of health-care services, medicine, postage, fees and customs tariffs, municipal services, as well as the prices of various construction materials, Iranian-made cigarettes, fuel and products from all the factories in this province.

The wave of dissatisfaction with the uncontrolled high prices continues, and it is said that the major markets exercise complete control over supply, demand, and prices.

It is worth mentioning that one of the main reasons for high prices in Gilan in the last month is the extensive presence in this green belt of guests and compatriots from remote parts of the country.

Price of Chicken Quadrupled in Less Than Month

91ASI434F London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] Recent measures taken by the Islamic regime of Tehran's economic officials to eliminate ration coupons on poultry and eggs and to turn the marketing of these two goods over to the free market have caused the price of this basic food commodity to increase at an unprecedented rate, and has caused chaos, monopoly, and shortages to prevail over the free market for these goods more

than at any other time. The unfortunate situation dominating the marketing of poultry and eggs has become so unworkable and difficult that even the newspaper KEYHAN of Tehran could not find the courage to defend these measures of the regime, and this publication, which usually has no choice but to support the policies and measures of the regime's leaders, ventured to criticize the measures officials took to eliminate poultry and egg ration coupons and create the present unfortunate situation. In an article last week under the heading "Free Distribution of Poultry and the Problems of the People," the newspaper bitterly criticized the decision to eliminate subsidies on poultry and eggs. It wrote: These days the matter of poultry and its procurement has left families with nowhere to turn. Last month various reports were published in the newspapers on how to distribute and price poultry, and this caused the price of poultry on the free market to jump to 160 tomans per kg.

Elsewhere in this article, KEYHAN of Tehran wrote: When we look at the low-income classes and the oppressed people, most of whom unfortunately are large families, we see that the matter of obtaining food is one of the largest basic problems for families of this kind, and it is clear that one of the reasons for announcing rationing was to help this class of people in society, and with regard to this all officials must not forget this

suffering class, whose faces they have slapped. Unfortunately, one issue that has not been considered up to now is hasty decisions, and if such decisions were weighed and taken and announced with a view to the general conditions in society, they would not have consequences such as this.

In conclusion, the author of the article in KEYHAN of Tehran advised the regime's officials to reconsider their decisions. He wrote: Ultimately, the basic solution now to procure fully the needs of the low-income classes is to distribute vital and basic goods and materials with ration coupons. Moreover, while paying attention to the daily-increasing high prices and the high cost of living, before announcing any decision officials must seek the consultation of the people.

Reports from Tehran state that despite the regime's extensive propaganda about reducing the price of poultry, the extent and method of marketing this basic foodstuff still leaves the people with nowhere to turn, and moreover, the ultimate price of this food product, like other goods and materials, continues to rise. Based on a telephone report from Tehran, early this week on the free market a kg of poultry meat was trading between 190 and 220 tomans. Thus the hasty and unwise measures taken by the Tehran Islamic regime's economic officials have caused the price of poultry to jump from 45 tomans per kog to more than four times that amount in less than three weeks.

Daily Interviews Khatami on Social, Cultural Issues

PM2308132091 Tehran SALAM in Persian 9 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] Political Section—To give answers to questions raised in society is a necessity that cannot be ignored. It is possible that many questions left unanswered would lead to disappointment and perhaps even misconceptions in the minds of the people, even though they could have been resolved with logical and honest answers. Unfortunately one of the criticisms leveled at some officials is their failure to answer people's questions promptly. This is the same thing that was stressed by our late Imam, and its first result is more presence by the people on the scenes. [sentence as received]

The text below is an interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr. Khatami, the respected minister of guidance, by one of the newspapers. We express our thanks for this responsible attitude, with the hope that the exchange between officials and people will be followed with more sensitivity. We draw our readers' attention to parts of this interview:

We have yet to take culture in society as seriously as we should, despite the fact that the officials of this regime are all prominent cultural figures. The most outstanding feature of their personalities is their cultural identity. But the vital political, economic, military, and social issues of the revolution, plus the onslaught and plots by foreigners against the new revolution, caused the officials to pay more attention to those priorities. There was no opportunity for the issue of culture to be considered as it deserved, even though the top officials in the country have always stressed cultural matters.

Unfortunately we must admit that we have yet to discuss this issue correctly. If we are on the path to progress, what is the role of culture in this progress? At the same time, in cultural issues there has been an effort to make matters a lot clearer.

A Void in the Thinking Process of Young People

I want to say that our biggest problem is the fundamental contradiction between the ideal regime that we have in mind and what exists in the rest of the world. That is, in terms of the thought, philosophy, and goals that this regime has with regard to the direction that the regime must follow. Then there are several issues that make this matter more important and those are the things that we must pay attention to.

Today's world offers something. At the first level, it attracts people, especially young people. Today there is talk of freedom in the world. You see, freedom itself is one of the greatest goals of humanity. Today the world claims that its basis for action is freedom, freedom of human beings and individual freedom. The meaning of freedom, it is said, is that we must create a situation whereby a person can do whatever he wants. The limit to this freedom is other people's freedom. In theory, it is wonderful to think that everyone can do what they want. Then what is it that people want? This goes back to the

Western way of thought that considers only earthly values for humans. Then it is natural that the wishes that they consider valid are those earthly wishes of today—pride, sleep, anger, sexual desire, whatever you want to eat or wear or whatever you want to do. There should be no spiritual or financial limitations at all. The limit to this open freedom is someone else's liberty. This means that this open door to a green garden tells people, especially young people, that they can do whatever they want. Have a great time and be comfortable. Facilities have to be provided for you. If you do all this, your greatest goal, which is freedom, will be yours.

The prime desires of humans are their creature comforts. They rely on human instincts and the desires created in people. This means that there are certain desires in people. Humans should not train themselves to have sexual desire or to want to cavort. All humans have this. In our regime, however, while these aspects of life must exist in moderation, there is the other aspect of the personality that has to be achieved through a crusade and effort. There must be character building, controlling these same bodily desires, promoting spiritual and religious values, and the creation of balance between these two kinds of desire. Today's world says that mankind moves toward the first set of desires, and they say this is the realization of freedom.

What we must do here as a first step is to convince our young generation in a logical way. Then we have to convince the thinking generation in the world that as far as logic is concerned, we are stronger than them. Second, now that we have an Islamic regime, we really must show solutions. In the face of the solutions that the West presents for life, we must prove in a logical way that we are better and stronger than they are. In practice, we must prove that we have solutions to solve problems in life that are more successful than their solutions. Now the question arises, what are our logic and our solutions? We say that they are based on Islam whose logic is stronger. It is Islam that can present clear solutions that are better and more proper than those put forward by the West today.

Now, this Islam that we are talking about, the ideology in this Islam, what is it based on? I believe that it is obvious that in terms of both ideology and evolution we have to accept the logic that what our society has accepted is the same viewpoint that the Imam had of Islam. We have a lot of people who claim to be Islamic and they are good people. But this is not the Islam that the Imam wanted. As a first step, we must get to know the Imam's viewpoints as the Islamic basis that brought about this revolution, which we want to present to humanity. We must make these viewpoints the basis of all our programs in society, and we must do what is necessary to provide food for thought for our own young people as well as those in the rest of the world. I believe that much work has been done in this regard. The Imam had different judgments from those common elsewhere, and he used to discuss viewpoints that were very basic. I believe that

no religious figure had ever done this at that level, to such a peak of wisdom and justice and with so much courage.

Our theological centers really must make an effort in this regard. With all the respect that we have for our theological centers, we believe that they safeguard Islam. But we must ask this serious question as to why they do not make an effort in the field of recognizing the Imam's thoughts and ideology so as to feed the minds of the curious among us in a world that needs Islam. Why is it that the break in traditions that the Imam undertook with such courage is not becoming more prominent in our society? We have had people such as the martyrs Mottahari, Beheshti, and Sadr. We had thinkers who looked at the world, society, and Islam in a new way. I have often spoken about our lacumae and I want to know what basic problems we have with young people and society.

It was expected that after the revolution, what Mottahari did, based on personal feeling and personal responsibility—in reality one person doing the work of all the ummah—would become like a movement. We see that this issue was not pursued seriously in the theological centers. The Imam issued a decree right at the end, which was different from all the other decrees. The Imam clearly said that qualification for religious leadership was not enough to run the country. Or in that statement that he made on the formation of the Expediency Discernment Council he said: "While you must pay attention that nothing is done against Islam—which, God willing, will be the case—you must also be aware that Islam must have answers to questions. In the chaotic world of today, which is full of problems, if Islam cannot give answers, this Islam will be defeated."

As a first step, the theological centers must recognize the times. Of course, when they recognize the times, they will also get to know the issues that exist for the youth of today and for society as a whole. These issues are presented to the sources where Islamic religious questions are proven. The appropriate answers, suitable for the time, will be given. We are sure that these answers have the strongest logic of all ideologies today. These answers will also be more successful in trying to solve mankind's problems today. At the same time, we know ourselves that the main principles in Islam are freedom and justice, but you must provide freedom and justice based on a spirituality, whereby Islam tells us that it will provide a moderate life for mankind. So in the first stage, if there is a vacuum, it must be filled by our thinkers and our Islamic experts. Knowing only the terminology is not enough. It is our ullemma that must undertake this task. I think one of the important issues is that the young people in our theological centers should get to know more of what is going on in the world, of the other thoughts and ideologies, to know the times. Islamic affairs, whose roots have, thank God, been laid in the theological centers, must be prepared so that we can present them to the world as the Imam intended.

As long as we do not know what Islam is and how it can solve issues and what Islamic solutions are, we will be unable to safeguard our revolution with organization, laws, and decrees. The Islam that we recognize to be the basis of the revolution is the same Islam that the Imam talked about, especially during the last three or four years of his glorious life, when he clarified all sorts of matters.

Announcing Support for All Dedicated Forces

You have certain regulations in an Islamic society. In accordance with the Constitution and the regulations that exist in the country and that the regime has recognized, there are certain people who have the right to be active. If they have the right to be active and to use facilities, then we have the duty to place such facilities at their disposal. But we must do something so that our own forces—the forces that adhere to the revolution and the forces who understand the suffering of our society— increase in number and use the facilities more. This brings us back to educating manpower and preparing the groundwork for the growth of dedicated forces within society. Because when we say that anyone is free to use the facilities, all the people allowed to use the facilities are not necessarily dedicated people. There are also some who have the legal right to use the facilities. This means they must not do anything against religion and against security, and so far there has been an effort to ensure this. But those who have worked for this revolution, who produce for this generation, should be dedicated people. At the first level, you see organizations and bodies whose entire budget and facilities are used for Islamic tasks and work with dedicated forces. They are the ones that should be more attractive for our religious people. In our society facilities must be created whereby dedicated people become more involved with society. I want to criticize the press and the mass media. If we do not do something to portray activity in cinema and the arts as holy, the dedicated and religious forces will not be attracted toward these things. I am telling you that we do not have too many dedicated people involved with this sort of activity. There is a misunderstanding in our society regarding the arts and culture, and this situation must be ended first of all by the mass media. In our society there are still people who consider music bad. It is not that they regard bad music as bad. This is the same Islam where the Imam said that there must be music, that there cannot be a void in the arts, because if you create a void in the arts, people's need for the arts will not go away; rather, young people will be attracted toward deviant activity. Keeping in mind the speed of mass communications, others will come and fill this void. You must have music, theater, cinema, and art. If we reach a stage when a religious and good person who has worked in music never takes to the stage because of the atmosphere that exists, there will be a vacuum. The dedicated youth will not enter this field, so the way is open to undedicated elements. Then everyone will shout that the field has been handed over to improper people.

Unfortunately we have some incorrect views and traditions with regard to the arts and culture in society that

must be removed. Of course we must try to bring music, culture, cinema and the arts into line with Islamic values, so that society will be gradually drawn in this direction. The existing atmosphere must be destroyed.

We announce that we will give dedicated people all the facilities at our disposal. The basis of our work is to support such groups. Along the same lines, I believe that most of the presentation of artistic work is completely in the hands of dedicated forces, and among them we have some good Hezbollah people.

In accordance with the law, we have a duty to provide facilities for anyone who has the right to be active in the Islamic Republic. If according to certain regulations I give a certain publication the right to publish, then the regime of the Islamic Republic must provide the paper for this publication. This kind of move is truly a matter of pride for Islam, that it gives permission in a wide field of action to the people who want to be active. Now, to see how successful we have been in our actions is another matter worthy of analysis.

Providing Government Facilities for Various Magazines

The policy of the Islamic Republic, from the time of the Imam until the present, has not been that only favorable views should be heard in Iran, that people in opposition should not be allowed to speak. We have heard this many times from the Imam himself, and we have considered the same thing ourselves many times. We have heard it many times from Ayatollah Khamene'i, and it has been the topic of discussion in government and the supreme council of the cultural revolution. Of course opposition can only be tolerated to a certain extent. The question of an overthrow is a another matter. I announce the main policy in this regard. Opposition is when someone announces their opposition to a certain policy. If you allow someone to talk who is against your regime, in reality you have given him permission to speak in opposition to the regime itself. The important thing is to see how far this opposition can be tolerated.

At this time I would like to say that we have no intention of not allowing those who oppose our regime to voice their views. We had this issue in Islam before. You have heard about Imam 'Ali—peace be unto him and his family—and how groups used to gather at the mosque in [Kufeh] and how they swore at and insulted Imam 'Ali. The Muslims who supported Imam 'Ali used to get upset and wanted to confront this group, but Imam 'Ali used to say that until they used their swords, they would not be confronted.

Of course, there are standards. I believe that all such things are worthy of discussion within the framework of society. For example, the term "banned books"—which books should receive this label? Or "sex"—how far should it be allowed and when would it become damaging?

Of course, criticism about issuing permits for the publication of some magazines, which you and some others oppose, does not involve the Ministry of Guidance. In

reality your criticism is aimed against a supervisory body, because even if that supervisory body now decides that those magazines should stop publication, we would go along and stop their publication. The members of this supervisory body include a representative of the Majles, a representative of the judiciary, one person from the management of the mass media, and another from the Ministry of Guidance.

Of course I will not deny that recommendations from the Ministry of Guidance's expert to the supervisory body may have an effect, but in reality the center of decision making is the supervisory body.

These magazines that have come under your criticism have from the first day of publication kept the same approach. They were also acting during the Imam's lifetime and also during the war. It is normal under present conditions for them to decide to promote the intellectual thoughts of our times, which are not acceptable to us, using this method. All in all, I believe that intellectualism has nothing to say in this regard.

We see no harm in tolerating intellectualism. It is important for us to organize a strong atmosphere of Islamic intellectualism with correct and precise planning.

Our task is to set up an Islamic intellectual process in the face of an intellectualism that is bankrupt.

In any case, talk of this bankrupt intellectualism will come up in society. Until the time where there is no talk of wanting to overthrow the regime, we will give them permission to carry on their activity. I say clearly that we tolerate opposing thoughts but not subversion.

I repeat once again that the regime of the Islamic Republic has no intention of not tolerating opposition to its directions, thoughts, or politics. But it will guarantee to confront plots and attempts to overthrow the regime.

Anyone thinking of plotting or trying to overthrow the regime of the Islamic Republic will not have permission to undertake their activity. Then again, they would not be allowed to do that under any regime in the world. We accept that there are many plots against us, but the Islamic Republic of Iran does not believe in giving permission only to friendly forces to present their ideas. That would be useless.

I believe that friendly forces should enjoy more growth and should find solutions to their own problems. We must listen to the views of our opponents and tolerate them.

Within the framework of the press laws, the Constitution, and the laws governing the publication of books, we give permission to our opponents to remain active. In other words, they are allowed to oppose us, and we consider this a source of pride for the regime.

Under such conditions, if we try to stop this group and if do not allow them to speak, our young people will think that they have many logical things to say.

The "Makhmal-Baf" [Velvet-Makers] Films

I have seen both films. Of course there is a lot that one can say regarding the films, as to the purpose and intention of the filmmaker. Keeping in mind what I know about the producer and the director of this film, I say that the production of this film has been a source of blessing for our Hezbollah forces. I personally do not like the films at all, but at the same time I respect the maker. I believe that the producer and maker of the film has not chosen the proper way to say what he intended to say. This is why the film "Nowbat-e 'Asheqi" [Time for Love] did not pass the first screening and was withdrawn following an appeal. With regard to the second film, there was no request for a second viewing, and this is why it does not have permission to be screened. These two films offer nothing in terms of general viewing and will not be given permission to be shown. They have been shown in three to five sequences during the Fajr Festival to about 1,500 to 2,000 people, 70 percent of whom were involved with cinema, publishing, or the press. This film does not have permission to be screened in the Islamic Republic, but a maximum of 2,000 people have seen it. To bring this up as a general topic and to even make an effort to give it an international flavor, is in extremely bad taste. One of the best ways that this has been handled, I believe, was in the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper. We welcome this issue so that it can be an example for both officials and artists. There should be an effort to ensure that people's security of mind and dignity are not damaged by this type of story.

Freedom and Security

To give a general overview of this issue is very difficult. The basis of the confrontations that have occurred, especially during this period, I feel has a real purpose that is very holy. This is concern for the revolution. By the way, this concern is something shared by all the forces sympathetic to the revolution. This worry exists on two accounts. One is the morality front, which is one of the areas where we are vulnerable. This is especially true because our society is young and because the values presented by our revolution are completely different from the moral values favored and presented by today's world. The basics of the former regime still exist everywhere in the minds and in organizations. If they inflame issues of morality, who knows, perhaps they might even succeed.

Another aspect is the political one. Politics has overshadowed the revolution, the regime, and the whole world. It stood up to the United States, achieved all that has been achieved, and brought about Islam and presented it as a living force. This is threatened by plots and is being hit by political blows. These blows are dealt by bringing about various Islamic thoughts and making our young people bitter about Islamic rule, the revolution, and the Imam. I feel that the source of this purpose is very holy and very important in its own place. I consider your statement and that of other writers valuable. I appreciate the fact that things have been said, even if some of them have been sharp and against us. But I believe that there

is also something else in this regard that we must watch. Some of them I have mentioned before, but I will add a few notes here.

While we must be worried about immoral behavior in our society, we must recognize the source. For us to think that this issue is created by one or even 10 books among several thousand, with limited readership, this is an exaggeration. There are many ways to achieve immoral behavior, and there are plenty of elements that have nothing to do with culture that can spread immoral behavior in society. Speakers are not being asked to look at this issue in general terms.

The other point is that there is a dangerous border that exists between Islam and personal choice. In the field of culture, to have differing choice is quite obvious, and this has been the case throughout history. This is why the principle of indulgence in cultural matters is accepted by logic, history, and also by Islamic culture. Yet this has boundaries that must not be broken, which Islam prevents. But within these boundaries it suggests indulgences, and at any time when there were no indulgences, it meant disaster for society. Throughout history you can see many differences of opinion in Islamic history. This has existed not only between the various sects of Islam, but also among Shi'ite thinkers. This has existed not only among the general Shi'ite thinkers but also among the leaders in this sect. Among our religious leaders there are those who have condemned other leaders. Among the philosophers we witnessed an issue where one philosopher considered the other as corrupt. But to think that just because a film or a book has complained about a sexual matter, it means spreading corruption, is something that we have to be careful about. Throughout Islamic history they condemned Mowlavi's book. The book of Masnavi was condemned as corrupt by some of the great men of religion—and not because of some of the sexual themes that were included in the Masnavi. If a sick person with nothing better to do were to come along and string together all the sexual bits, anyone reading the book would think that the author was indeed sick and irresponsible, but when it is spread through the Masnavi, it has a whole other meaning and nobody thinks of it in terms of sex. No wise man or religious leader has condemned Mowlavi because of sexual inuendos in his work; rather, they condemned him on philosophical grounds. This behavior in cultural work is natural. We have to pay attention to see where Islam is and what it is. What views are trying to make a place for themselves in society at any price, to take advantage of the situation in the name of Islam. I believe that in some of these confrontations, while a lot of them were simple concern for the fate of the revolution, there were some superficial ideas and views that confronted the issue. Or because they did not approve of others and in order to throw them out of the arena, they created an atmosphere whereby those who did not agree with their views would leave the scenes.

I think that some of the concern is not over the damage that may be caused to Islam, but rather a fear of freedom.

If we look at the issue purely in terms of security and if we disapprove of any opposing view, we could reach a stage where anything that we do not like, we think of as opposition and a plot and try to prevent it. In that case we will destroy legitimate freedom that is the precondition for mental growth, on the pretext of safeguarding security in society. Unfortunately this point of view exists among other people, even though they may be perfectly good people.

On the other hand, to grant absolute freedom is not correct either. If we only consider freedom and if we say that society has to be free, it is quite possible that under present conditions, when our revolution is under threat, many plots would be hatched in our society in the name of freedom. Then after a while we will wake up to find that there is no revolutionary thought left, nor any firm revolutionary foundation.

While we must be concerned about our society's security, one must also be concerned about freedom. Many of the issues that have come under attack, are the thoughts and ideas of dedicated and Muslim forces. The reason why I have used this sentence is to separate the issue from exploitation.

It is the right of every magazine and every newspaper to capitalize on someone else's idea. But because it cannot do this properly, because it does not believe in this issue and because it is shortsighted, it recognizes every differing view as a plot. It therefore gives labels to religious people who have made comments on ideological issues, calling them supporters of secularism and humanism, conveying issues in a very confused way. This is dangerous.

While I am concerned about security in society and believe that freedom should not be abused, I am also seriously worried about the fact that with an eye to security, the legitimate freedom in society is destroyed, which means the entire fabric of society and its roots will be destroyed. This is the case today. If we do not answer the questions that have arisen for our society and for our young people or in the world of Islam, and if we do not prove that our logic is better than the logic of others, if we do not prove ourselves in action compared to other doctrines, secularism will be created, despite all the swear words and all the chaos.

While I am concerned that in the name of freedom, security will be damaged, I am also concerned that a certain faction, in the name of defending security, would make it so difficult for those thinkers, friendly and otherwise, who are permitted to have their say in the Islamic Republic, that after a while there will be nothing left of our regime.

While we have to be concerned about the morals of society and security in society, we must also be concerned lest—God forbid—there be shortsightedness and a particular viewpoint be imposed on us in the name of Islam. We should beware lest a single viewpoint and shortsightedness is imposed on society in the name of

absolute Islam. Rather, if anyone has a different view, it is his right to speak freely and he should not be attacked as anti-Islamic.

We believe in a certain amount of freedom. We do not believe in a liberal freedom. When we say liberal freedom is bad we should also say whether or not we believe in the principle of freedom. I believe that one of the basic principles of Islam is freedom. There are many dear people who attack our line of thought and that of other groups. Of course we have faults and we declare that we have faults. We have discovered and solved some of them and some of them we have not yet discovered and hopefully you will tell us about them. We will then humbly solve them. I believe that some of the attacks that are made are attacks by one viewpoint against another. The boundaries between the two have to be clarified. You see there is no question of good and bad. The Islamic Republic tolerates everything and that is the issue.

Freedom means to tolerate something that is not to your taste. Otherwise if everything was to your taste, freedom and choice would have no meaning.

Does the Islamic regime tolerate anything other than itself? There are some limits that it will not tolerate—which no regime will tolerate, which no revolution will tolerate. Since we are Islamic and have Islamic values, if someone comes along and starts to promote sex, he has to be confronted. Because Islam has placed the family at the center of society and because it takes moral values seriously. Or if someone comes along and openly admits that he wants to promote atheism, he will be prevented from doing so.

Our basis is piety and Islamic behavior. If something goes beyond these boundaries, we must act carefully and delicately. I look at the issue with an Islamic eye, and he sees things with an un-Islamic eye. He is willing to give in to logic. It could be said that in some cases we have a difference in taste.

I want to say that the limits are delicate. The boundary between imposing a certain view in the name of Islamic difference, and the start of corruption is very slippery and has to be watched with care.

The boundary between safeguarding the regime's security and also the legitimate freedom of the regime, is very delicate. I accept the fact that the type of issue criticized by those who do criticize, comes from their holy concern over the fate of the revolution. I announce that I agree with the fair and religious people who criticize and I am also worried about this issue. But joy has to see where the dangers are coming from and what are the means to fight them. We cannot safeguard our regime and our revolution with the attitude that anything that is not to our taste should not be printed.

I believe that we all feel for the Islamic Republic and for Islam and all want this regime to hold its head up high in the world. We all want a better economic situation; we want there to be comfort, pleasant comfort, not one that

encourages more consumer spending. When we have these things in common, if we have different tastes, it does not matter.

If we can tolerate one another, in truth, no power can break us.

We are against Western culture, which is in deep trouble anyway, in a basic and fundamental way. We have some serious things to say. Those people who want to talk about the West are far too insignificant to be considered a serious threat.

The only thing that can be dangerous is if we do not rally together and if we do not have clear views on Islam and on ways to find solutions to problems. In this regard the Imam's thoughts must be analyzed and must be the basis of our work.

An important effort that I think the media and cultural circles should make is to tolerate one another. They should not condemn one another simply because of a difference of opinion. They should not try in this way to get rid of one another. They should be able to work in a calm atmosphere, based on joint concerns. On the cultural scene we need more participation by the Islamic intellectual people. Their potential is great and their manpower also exists. These people must rally together.

The main source of criticism is that friendly forces are not very tolerant of one another, let alone of someone who is not from their side.

Daily on 'Bounds and Limits' of Freedom

NC2308104091 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 14 Aug 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Freedom!"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Iranian nation was "freed" from the despotic monarchy and from the rule of superpowers and foreigners. That great freedom for the country was coupled with guarantees of freedom for individuals and society, and it upset all equations and introduced a new system in the country.

The great pain felt by all freedom-loving people in this country was that they were under the yoke of monarchical despotism, while a handful of shallow-minded people who had broken loose from the rest of the nation were free to resort to anything to serve foreigners, to plunge the culture and the society into corruption, and to plunder the wealths of the nation and the country.

Thus, even during the monarchical despotism there was freedom, but for the enemies of the nation and their mercenaries. But all this was swept aside by the tempestuous rage of the nation and the grandeur of that miraculous movement that was registered in the name of our combatant Imam, the dear Khomeyni, in the pages of history forever.

We have not attained this kind of freedom for free, only to give it away cheaply or to allow its abuse. Our freedom today is the fruit of the unjustly shed blood of hundreds

of thousands of martyrs and the fruit of the blood of the heart of a brave nation throughout many decades of exhausting struggle with the enemies of humanity. Freedom is the blood money of our martyrs. Freedom is the fruit of the resistance of our nation both past and present.

This is the fruit reaped by a nation, and naturally the people have the right—and even more than that—the duty to safeguard it in every way.

Freedom belongs to the nation and no one can criticize the people for safeguarding the fruits of their exemplary resistance. It is not at all acceptable for people to want to make a decision or to take a step which, in one way or another, will give a free hand to people who have broken loose from the nation, to people who lack a culture or who are against culture, and to people who are corrupt and have corrupt thoughts, even if these people use freedom and the need to preserve freedom in society and in culture as a pretext to justify their transgressions.

To see that the people—that is, the owners of the revolution and creators of this freedom—suddenly labelled as "irresponsible" and to see that certain people think they can do anything according to their own strange tastes without anyone being entitled to protest is unacceptable. It is possible people may sometimes be carried away by their overflowing pure feelings and resort to unintended reactions which would better be avoided, nevertheless the concern of the people and the feeling of responsibility by the various strata of society for defending principles, aspirations, and freedom is a strong point which should be protected and even lauded and valued so that it may be further strengthened.

Respecting the people's feelings is a value. Respecting the people's opinions, even if these opinions do not fully conform with those of an official, is a value. Respecting the pure feelings of the people further enhances the factors that guarantee a society's healthiness and the continuation, legality, and righteousness of the revolution and the system.

If a movement is started to negate values or to turn values into anti-values and vice versa, then it should be halted in its very first steps. [passage omitted]

Freedom to resort to corruption, freedom to commit acts of loose morality, and freedom for desecrating sacred things are obviously brands of freedom. But this is not the brand of freedom that is acceptable by the nation, the revolution, and Islam. This is the reason for our protest and for the protest of all those who are crying out that freedom has bounds and limits that are set by the laws of Islam, by social customs, and by the country's laws.

Qom Seminarians Call for Shunning Discord

NC2508111991 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 18 Aug 91 p 4

["Text" of statement by the Qom seminarians' Association in Qom; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

May the divine greetings and salutations of the denizens of the firmament of the compassionate Almighty be upon the lofty spirit of the highest jurisconsult with his immense gnosis [Khomeyni] who with his Messiah-like breath, brought the luminous injunctions of the manifest religion of Islam and its various aspects from the theological seminaries for the administration of society. He nurtured his ummah in such a manner that, like tempered steel, it sacrificed its life and property in the path of the attainment of the lofty objectives of pure Islam and conveyed [the concept of] sacrifice to its quintessential heights.

Greetings and salutations to the Missing Imam, the Lord of Truth [the 12th Shiite Imam] and the Great Lord of the Pious [Ali] on His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the worthy disciple and spiritual progeny of the late Imam, the Guardian of the Muslims' cause, whose very presence is a source of consolation in the absence of the Imam (may God be pleased with him) and whose eloquent tongue conveys the words of that guest of the denizens of the empyrean.

While declaring its allegiance and complete obeisance to the remarks his eminence the great leader at his meeting with the executive employees and the country's personalities, the Qom Seminarians' Association considers it necessary to state the following:

1. The victory of the Islamic revolution and the safe passage of the vessel of the revolution through the fearsome waves of ordeals and tribulations has been possible solely due to the allegiance to the exhortations of the leader, adherence to piety and God-seeking on the part of all the sections of the nation with its unity and solidarity. In this regard, abstinence from discord, especially at sensitive and fateful junctures becomes doubly important for the protection of the interests of the system.

A point which had always been stressed by the late Imam and on which the Great Leader relies upon is to refrain from dissension and fanning of the same, otherwise the Muslim people will become dispirited regarding both sides involved and this will harm the position of Islam and the revolution. Our Imam (may God be pleased with him) had said: Today we must remove all that we have in our minds, all the imaginary grudges and unite for the sake of God.

2. The adherence to divine piety in all our actions and moves and to feel and comprehend our presence before God and with adequate attention to abstaining from carnal temptations and pride, ambition and egocentricity stemming from one's position, which is one of the greatest scourges for the human personality.

For all the sections of the nation, especially those individuals who are in positions of responsibility in this hallowed system and are the administrators of the system, it is mandatory that they observe that piety,

which has been the cause of the victory of the Islamic revolution and has instilled this strength in Islamic Iran to stand up before all manifestations of apostasy and infidelity.

It is attained with abiding by the divine laws, giving priority to divine injunctions over individual and collective inclinations and we should know that any shortcoming in doing so will harm the system and is an unforgivable crime.

3. The executive officials should be absolutely vigilant that the facilities and possibilities at their disposal should not, God forbid, take them toward, ease-loving, ostentation, and attention to material gains in their personal lives and in the environment of their social activities. This in itself will result in their forgetting the oppressed, who are the real masters of the revolution and will sever their support of the officials.

What is essential for the employees is to utilize the possibilities to the extent that they need, and to abstain from imposing extra expenditures on the government and the people.

4. A point which is of special concern to the great leader is trust in the people, presenting them with facts, and eliciting their affection, which should be considered the fundamental obligation of the system's officials. The experts should bring about conditions which help eliminate the people's problems.

All the officials should pay attention to this point and they should do whatever they can for the Islamic government. If their actions are not geared toward eliciting the affection of the masters of the revolution, they will have dealt a blow to Islam.

5. The great leader of the revolution has expressed his deep apprehension at the multilateral and organized cultural onslaught in the guise of artistic and enlightened cultural activities, against the true values of Islam and the revolution, by the heartless and opportunistic individuals who had no part in taking the revolution to its fruition. They were the ones who had retreated into their shells until now and were biding their time for such an onslaught.

[We issue] a warning to the propaganda apparatus of the country, including radio, television, publications, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, orators, and preachers, who in turn should take serious steps to neutralize this plot.

We hope that the requests and exhortations of the great leader will be the *modus operandi* and course of action for all the servants of Islam and all efforts will be made to put these guidelines into practice.

Blood Plasma Separation Lab To Be Inaugurated

91AS1343D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
7 Aug 91 p 10

[Text] Tehran—6 Mordad (28 July)—To date 150 hemophiliacs in the country have been diagnosed with the AIDS virus, 17 of whom have died.

Likewise, 25 other nonhemophiliacs have been reported with the AIDS virus, eight of whom have died. Thus, 25 people in Iran have died of AIDS.

This was announced by Dr. Ahmad Milani-Niya, the executive director of the Iran Blood Transfusion Organization, while giving a radio and television press conference marking the beginning of Blood Transfusion Week (7-12 Mordad [29 July-4 August]).

He began by explaining that hemophiliacs continuously require blood and blood products to stay alive, and, as the population increases, figures on the consumption of blood and blood products increase day by day. He said: Last year 749,099 bags of blood were collected from donors, all of which was consumed, and this is the largest amount of blood donated and consumed since the Iran Blood Transfusion Organization was founded.

Dr. Milani-Niya explained that the largest plasma refinery, with an annual capacity of 80,000 liters of plasma, will be opened next year in Tehran. He said: When this refinery is opened, in addition to the procurement of blood products domestically, \$10 million in blood products will be exported annually.

He then discussed the reappearance of the practice of phlebotomy in some areas, and the negative consequences. He said: Blood that is let through this practice is capital that could be used to keep some people alive, and the lives of some people needing blood could be saved with it. This is the worst sort of waste.

He added: Phlebotomy can be harmful. For example, if implements infected with chlorosis are used for the bleeding and antiseptic conditions are not strictly maintained, and if these infected implements are used to bleed a healthy individual, there is the chance that he will be infected with chlorosis.

He then called upon charitable people to make donations to Account 944 at the Central Bank, and to cooperate with this organization in the construction of centers and blood transfusion clinics, and to donate resources such as land and buildings.

Continuing the press conference, Dr. Salmiyanlu, deputy director of the Iran Blood Transfusion Organization for technology, research, and education, said: "Currently all the blood donated at all this organization's clinics has been tested for AIDS, and the results have been reported to the National Anti-AIDS Committee."

Officers Seize 481 Kg of Narcotics

91AS1436H Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 26 Aug 91 p 2

[Article: "481 Kg of Narcotics Seized in One Week"]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25 (IRNA)—Law enforcement officers of the Islamic republic of Iran seized 481 kg of different types of drugs in Sistan and Baluchistan, Tehran, Mazandaran, Kerman, Khorasan and East Azarbaijan provinces last week and arrested 102 smugglers.

The headquarters in charge of the anti-drug campaign of the Islamic Republic also said 350 drug addicts had been arrested during the said period.

In Khorasan Province as a result of operations carried out in Mashhad, Qaen and Taibad, law enforcement officers also confiscated Rls. four million of cash, alcoholic drinks and three automobiles.

Paper Urges Action Against 'Cultural Offensive'

NC1708112491 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 12 Aug 91 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Enough of 'Procrastination!'"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The fact that the revolution is facing a cultural offensive is hardly something new. In fact, at the outset of the revolution all those who wished to protect Islam's grandeur, who "sympathized" with it, and who valued the nation's independence, freedom, and pride warned that the cultural offensive launched by Islam's enemies had to be taken seriously. The real question today is why certain sensitivities have suddenly flared up and why warnings are taking the form of "protests" when expressing the serious concern felt by the revolutionary forces.

The reason is clear. Those who "sympathize" and "understand" have seen signs of an insidious and impudent movement to "cut the revolution off at its roots," but they have not seen any signs of the countermoves necessary to confront a danger of this magnitude. [passage omitted]

The threat is serious, so serious that the silence and the procrastination that is being displayed cannot be ignored. A handful of opportunists spent the 1360's [1980's], the years of the zenith of the nation's resistance, hiding out in the holes into which they had crawled and acting with more spinelessness than anyone could have imagined. Had they been able, they would have sunk their fangs into the people and stabbed them in the back. Now that the people's resistance has borne fruit and the revolution and the country's system have been saved from the serious threat they faced in those days, they have crawled out of their holes and impudently emerged on the scene!

These people are neither able nor willing to understand the secret of the people's resistance or the suffering they endured. They are not from the masses and do not want to be; they are not "sympathizers" and do not want to be. They are not even human beings, and they do not want to act in the way that makes us human.

What, then, is the point of leniency and procrastination toward these spineless ones? What does society and the country gain from such an approach? Our cultural officials and decisionmaking centers must pay serious attention to this matter and review their behavior, decisions, and stances if they wish to serve the country and the revolution.

It is the fruits harvested with the innocent blood of hundreds of thousands of martyrs and the suffering of a zealous nation that these uncultured people want to trample on. What we have today was not acquired so easily that we can afford to give it away so cheaply. It seems that our country's cultural officials need to be more alert and sensitive on certain points and not excuse their behavior by claiming to be following rules.

There is clear evidence that while certain newspaper owners may appear to satisfy the rules, nevertheless a corrupt network, whose real nature is well known and whose enmity toward the beliefs of the nation is well established, have used them to launch a war against the beliefs of the people.

The people's protests and rage these days is a serious warning that should not be underestimated. This has shown once again that if some officials are unwilling or afraid to confront issues, the people will spare no effort to preserve principles and ideals and will be quite clear about the need to act in accordance with the imam's will in doing so.

Population Growth Decreasing Educational Quality

*91AS1423A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 8 Aug 91 p 1*

[Text] Tehran, Aug 7 (IRNA)—Education Minister Mohammad Ali Najafi here Tuesday called for a nationwide efforts to attain a 'promising' future in the field of education.

Speaking in a session attended by a group of deputies of ministries and First Vice-President Hassan Habibi, Najafi called for a campaign to control population growth.

Stressing the need for vigorous implementation of population control programs, Najafi said, Iran is presently experiencing an annual growth of 8.5% in the number of its schoolgoers.

Referring to the growth rate of Iran's population, Najafi said that the country will have an additional one million school-age children at the end of 2001. This will require an additional 32,000 classrooms, 60,000 teachers and 12 million textbooks.

Since only 23.5% of the current budget of the country is allocated to the education Ministry which only covers 88% of the school-age children, Najafi said, the growth in number of the schoolgoing children will result in decline in the quality of education.

Status of AIDS Detailed

*91AS1388A Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
3 Aug 91 p 2*

[Text] The world of advanced science is still incapable of curing AIDS.

As the advanced Western nations strive for greater scientific success in various areas, AIDS is still the most deadly and painful disease, seriously threatening the health of the people of America and Europe. Every day it takes many victims, to the point that the very word AIDS signifies a painful death to those afflicted.

One of the primary factors in the transfer of the AIDS virus is sexual contact between a healthy person and a person afflicted with this disease. For this reason, countries having no ethical or sexual standards are acutely confronted with this problem.

In any case, the spread of this disease in the Islamic nations, who are better protected against the AIDS problem because of their religious culture, is worrisome. In Iran at first there was only one AIDS victim in 1366 [31 March 1987 - 20 March 1988], then two in 1367 [31 March 1988 - 20 March 1989], seven in 1368 [31 March 1989 - 20 March 1990], then 16 in 1369 [31 March 1990 - 20 March 1991], and in the first three months of 1370 alone [21 March - 21 June 1991] the number of AIDS victims has reached 851, and these figures in themselves show more than ever the necessity of taking the necessary measures to prevent the spread of AIDS in Iran.

Last Tuesday at a press conference Dr. Bizhan Sadrizadeh discussed the current status of AIDS in Iran. He said: The Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education has prepared a program for preventing the spread of AIDS in Iran and presented it to the Council of Ministers. If it is approved, foreign citizens afflicted with AIDS will be prevented from entering Iran.

Based on this program, foreign citizens who plan to stay in Iran more than three months must undergo a medical examination, and if they are certified free of the disease they may stay in Iran, otherwise they will be prevented from coming into the country.

It is hoped, with favor from the Council of Ministers and the approval of this plan, that an effective step will be taken to prevent the spread of AIDS in the country.

Dr. Sadrizadeh noted that the AIDS virus has a long period of dormancy, and sometimes the AIDS symptoms do not appear for up to ten years. He warned those travelling outside the country that AIDS is waiting for them and that only the observation of health care and security precautions can be effective in preventing contracting the AIDS virus.

In the same regard, the media will try to inform society more than before about the dangers of AIDS, and it is necessary that the insiders in the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education create the necessary protection in society by publishing information about this dangerous disease.

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