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Near East & South Asia

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Paper Criticizes Egyptian Minister's Remarks

NC0807091391 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
29 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Egyptian Minister's Far-Fetched Comparisons"]

[Text] In response to recent remarks by the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, on the inadequacy of the 6+2 security scheme for the Persian Gulf region, the Egyptian minister of foreign affairs condemned the position adopted by Iran and raised certain points which require clarifications.

1. The Egyptian minister countered Besharati's reference to the economic problems Egypt is facing, by stating that the Islamic Republic was also having difficulties in the economic field. But he forgot to mention that the situation in Iran after 8 years of imposed war could not in any conceivable form be compared to conditions in Egypt. The Egyptian minister should also be reminded that in spite of the financial pressures of a lengthy war, Iran is not burdened by foreign debts, and that is an exceptional achievement by the standards of Third World countries. Iran should not be compared with Egypt which is the second largest recipient of U.S. grants—an unbearable humiliation for the Islamic world—besides owing tens of billions of dollars to foreign financial institutions.

2. The Egyptian foreign minister believes Egypt to be a much stronger military power than Iran. This statement too can easily be shown to be an unrealistic evaluation. On August 2, when Iraq invaded and occupied Kuwait, Egypt's military threats supported by several other Arab countries, could not make Iraq withdraw from Kuwait. Whereas Iran was powerful enough to deal devastating blows for 8 years on Iraqi army which could withstand those blows with substantial foreign military and financial aids. The world still remembers how after every shattering offensive by the Iranians army. Husni Mubarak and King Husayn rushed to Baghdad or called Saddam Husayn on the telephone to console him.

3. If the 6+2 security scheme is meant to guarantee the safety of land frontiers in some of the Arab countries, then Iran has nothing against it. It should only be mentioned that there existed a previous pact of common defense among Arab countries; which proved to be ineffectual on August 2. But as a security scheme to guarantee peace and stability in the Persian Gulf, 6+2 should only be considered a joke. Apart from the fact that neither Syria nor Egypt has the military strength for such a mission, it is a significant fact that neither country has access to Persian Gulf. Thus Egypt's anxiety to have a role in the Persian Gulf security arrangement would be like Iran wanting to ensure the security of the Suez Canal.

IRGC Commander on Talks With Pakistan

LD1307162391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1930 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Major General Reza'i, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], who is currently in Pakistan at the head of a military delegation, met

and conferred with the Pakistani Chief of the Joint Staff on Friday. We draw your attention to a report in this connection:

[Correspondent] The Pakistani Chief of Joint Staff and the commanders of that country's forces attended a ceremony given by Maj Gen Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the IRGC, at our country's embassy in Islamabad tonight. In this ceremony, Admiral Ahmed Sirohey, the Pakistani Chief of Joint Staff, in a speech expressed his pleasure at the visit by the high-ranking IRGC delegation to Pakistan. Remarking on the necessity for unity and solidarity amongst Islamic countries toward the achieving holy Islamic goals, he said: Islamic nations and governments must more than ever before employ their utmost efforts in all fields toward achieving self-sufficiency, to which end the friendly and fraternal ties between the Islamic countries of Iran and Pakistan and the rest of the Muslim countries of the region will play a decisive role.

The Pakistani Chief of Joint Staff also referred to the war imposed by Iraq against Iran, and said: All Muslim Pakistani individuals today take pride in the courageous struggle of the Muslim Iranian people in the eight-year war waged by global arrogance against the Islamic revolution, and our nation, like the Muslim people of Iran, are doing their utmost to take on an important share in defending the Islamic community against the enemies of Islam.

Concluding his speech, the Pakistani Chief of Joint Staff called for the further expansion of ties between the two countries of Iran and Pakistan.

Muslims in Kashmir Visited by IRGC Commander

LD1507183391 Tehran IRNA in English 1345 GMT
15 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, July 15, IRNA—Commander-in-chief of Iran's Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) General Mohsen Reza'i arrived in Muzaffarabad, capital of the free Kashmir Monday, and said to welcoming officials that Tehran will continue to support the Muslims of Kashmir.

He said despite the various sorts of oppressive pressures against the Muslims of Kashmir Iran would continue to defend them, and added when pushed to the end to their toleration the world Muslims would fight back as one army against their enemies.

Welcoming him to Muzaffarabad General Ghulam Mohammad commander of Pakistan's Tenth Corps said Iran's sympathetic feelings towards Pakistan is a source of dignity to that country. He added that his government would look forward to learning from the experience of Iran in various areas.

Pakistani commander Brigadier General Zahed of Muzaffarabad presented a report on the latest developments in the struggle of the Muslims of Kashmir, and appreciated Iran's help to them.

The IRGC commander also met with the president of the free Kashmir, Sardar Abdolghayoum Khan [name as

received], Monday, the latter appreciating Iran's position in relation with the current developments in Kashmir.

General Reza'i also visited a refugee camp of Kashmiris and assured the camp's residents of Iran's unmitigated support for the Muslims of Kashmir.

Reza'i has been in Islamabad for a ten-day official visit since last Tuesday.

Editorial Views Situation in Algeria

NC1406121491 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
9 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Caution is the Optimum Word in Algeria"]

[Text] Abdelhamid Mehri, the secretary general of the Algerian National Liberation Front (the governing party) denied that they had reached agreements with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Commenting on the remarks by Abbas Madani, leader and spokesman of the Islamic Salvation Front, Mehri, said that there had not been any kind of accord, but that FIS leaders had met with Sid Ahmed Ghazali, the new Algerian premier, and had expressed their satisfaction with the mission the president had entrusted to Ghazali.

Abbas Madani and (Ali Belhaj) had previously announced at Friday mass prayers that they had reached agreements with the Algerian authorities on ending the general strike, and having parliamentary and presidential elections within 6 months—before the end of the current year.

Algeria at the moment is going through a very critical and complex phase. In the past two years Islamic fundamentalism has had a very rapid growth not only in Algeria but also in other North African countries. The spread of the Islamic movements poses serious threats to the autocratic regimes in North Africa, but the situation in Algeria is of special interest for several reasons.

For one thing the Islamic Salvation Front is a much more organized opposition group than similar movements in other African countries. Another important consideration is the fact that the Algerian government is offering greater scope for free political activities, and that requires much more careful thinking and planning by the opposition groups.

All this puts a great responsibility on the FIS leaders' shoulder, who will have to concentrate on political activities as before and not allow the extremist elements in the front to push them to military confrontation with the government. A military confrontation would benefit neither the Front nor the Algerian people in general.

Western governments do not hide their concern over the spread of Islamic movements in Algeria, and will probably try to persuade the Algerian government to suppress the growth of the movements even if it should involve a bloody crackdown on the Islamic groups.

The FIS leaders should bear in mind that a military confrontation could lead to a civil war in which the Algerian people will be the greatest losers. It is vitally important for both the FIS leaders and the Algerian

government to act with extreme caution and to refrain from rush decision-making. Also the Islamic Salvation Front should be careful not to provide the extremist elements in the government with the pretexts they need to push for military confrontation which would jeopardize the very existence of the Front.

Smoke From Kuwaiti Oil Well Damages Fars Woodland

LD2507091391 Tehran IRNA in English 0723 GMT
25 Jul 91

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., July 25, IRNA—Provincial officials in Shiraz said Wednesday that because of black rain originating from the airborne smoke from burning oil wells in Kuwait, the woodlands and pastures in Fars province had sustained substantial damage.

About 4.5 million hectares of the nearly nine million hectares of woodlands and pastures in the province have sustained about rls.[rials]150 billion due to the premature drying of grass, vegetation and flora.

Joint Effort With Germany To Finish Nuclear Plant

NC1207114091 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 2 Jul 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Bushehr Nuclear Plant"]

[Text] The trip by minister of economics of the Federal Republic of Germany, Juergen Moellmann to Tehran and his talk with President Rafsanjani and Minister of Economics and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh, were viewed by many observers as a turning point in Iran-Germany bilateral relations. Unlike Iran's relations with England or United States, which were characterized by attempts [by] the latter to dominate Iran, Germany has always had excellent political and economic ties with Iran.

Cultural, trade and economic activities have been always the core of the two nations' bilateral relations. In addition to billions of dollars worth of German-made factories, and other productive units now operational in Iran, there are significant number of developments and infrastructural projects carried out or currently under implementation in the country by German companies. The oldest one of such projects is a nationwide railway which connects northern Iran to the Persian Gulf coastal region in the Khuzestan Province, constructed nearly 45 years ago by Germans. Its hallmarks are the Tehran station and the picturesque Veresk Bridge.

For many years Germany has been Iran's ranking trade partner. Just during 1990, Germany's exports and imports to and from Iran marked 4.2 billion and 1.3 billion deutsche marks respectively. In view of all these joint endeavors and exchanges, it seems Germany's negation on its commitment to complete Bushehr nuclear power plant would seriously hamper further progress in bilateral ties between the two countries.

Iran is the most important country in the Persian Gulf region both in terms of geopolitical and economy, as well

as mineral and population resources. The united Germany in the heart of Europe with vast industrial and economic power is gaining more and more importance not only with respect to the European affairs but also in relation to global issues. Having in mind the above facts about the two countries, it will thus become necessary for the officials of the two states to do their best to solve the outstanding differences for the sake of maintaining the past good relations and for the sake of building a brighter future.

The Sunday announcement by Moellemann for setting up of a joint work group to study the issue of the Bushehr nuclear plant is a positive signal which hopefully will benefit the two sides. It will be in the best interest of Iran and Germany, if Bonn helps Tehran to complete the half-built Bushehr nuclear plant which has so far caused Iran some \$10 billion in losses due to refusal of the German contractor to complete the project.

German Refusal To Aid Nuclear Plant Viewed

NC1207112791 *Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL*
in English 3 Jul 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Case of German Apathy"]

[Text] With the periodic power outages in Tehran and other major cities throughout Iran, producing the needed energy for the Iranian industries and citizens has become a major preoccupation of the government.

The Iranian government has been keen on acquiring the needed energy through correct applications of its already existing facilities, one of the most important of which is the incomplete Bushehr nuclear power plant. The project must have been completed and put into operation in 1981 but this goal has not been realized so far partly because it was damaged during the Iraqi-imposed war and mainly because of the German government's refusal to respect its commitments. Financial disputes in this connection have been resolved and the contractor commissioned to build the plant seems willing to go ahead and finish up the project but it is the German government that is obstructing continued work on it.

German Economy Minister Juergen Moellemann's trip to Tehran was intended to convince Iranian authorities to abandon the idea of nuclear power plant and instead accept German technology for conventional ones. This proposal, of course, is easy for the Germans to say because they have nothing at stake and will stand to lose nothing. But for the Iranians which according to Iran's Atomic Energy Organization have paid \$4 billion and incurred something in the neighborhood of \$10 billion in losses as the direct and indirect consequences of the failure to complete the project, it is a different story. The German government seems to be oblivious to the fact that Iran has just come out of a costly war and had to face a host of problems and that it cannot act extravagantly.

The negative response by Germany on rebuilding the plant was kind of unexpected and surprising in view of the long history of trade ties between the two countries and the potential volume of future exchanges. Iran has always

viewed Germany as a reliable trade partner and Germany's indifference toward the Iranian problem is surprising.

Germany argues that the reason underlying its decision not to proceed with the project is because [it is] following a restrictive policy on export of products with both civilian and military applications. That means that Iran would use the facility to produce weapons-grade plutonium. Iran disputes that policy as a situational one. For instance, it was never applied to Iraq which got its hands on some of the most lethal German technology. And second that Iran has been a signatory to nuclear non-proliferation treaty and has kept its facilities open to international inspection.

On the outside, Germany's decision looks very innocent and humanitarian, motivated by the desire to stop the spread of nuclear weapons in the volatile Middle East. But a closer look at the situation, within the greater context of the Iran-U.S. stalemate, would lead to a different conclusion. The German government's decision might have been in response to pressure by Washington to see Iran crumble under the weight of its own economic problems, and a desire to see Iran isolated.

In short, Germany's decision towards Iran is unfair, prejudicial and influenced by irrelevant extraneous factors. The decision is 'one-sided' because only Iran stands to lose from it. Therefore, Iran should not accept this decision.

Paper Views Relations With France

NC1207150491 *Tehran TEHRAN TIMES* in English
8 Jul 91 p 2

[Editorial: "We Should Hope for a Better Future"]

[Text] The French daily LE MONDE has claimed that Irano-French financial negotiations have faced deadlock because Iran has asked for enriched uranium from France.

Meanwhile, the French Foreign Ministry has refused to make any comment on the matter. It is fact that Iran and France have encountered problems once again in solving their financial disputes. But it does not seem plausible that Iran would suddenly ask for enriched uranium in the midst of a financial dispute and while there is a debate raging over past contracts.

Observers here believe that such behavior by the French press will only hinder and damage the prospects for expansion of Irano-French relations in the future. This is especially true because these bilateral relations have begun to improve only recently, and are at present not very strong, and can be easily damaged by such incidents.

Three weeks ago Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, Mahmud Va'ez, went to Paris and reached agreement with his French counterpart Francois Scheer. But in the latest trip of Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Va'ez to Paris, the French raised new problems which can only be considered a retreat from the initial accord reached between the two countries. Dr. Velayati failed to sign an agreement with the French during the visit, and this in itself is considered an insult against him. But still we saw that when he arrived at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport he tried to downplay the importance of the newly-created

problem in order not to damage the newly-established relations. The contradictory and paradoxical attitude of the French can never help in the future expansion of bilateral relations. On the one hand Paris accepts Iran's invitation for its leader to come and visit Tehran, but on the other it creates new problems by retreating on agreements it had reached in bilateral talks.

Now Tehran is hopeful that the problems will be resolved as soon as possible and a final agreement will be signed, so that no one will be looking at the past when President Francois Mitterand comes visiting during October. By that time, hopefully, all eyes would be on a new horizon of future bilateral relations. Experts on relations with France believe that if the accords already reached are not finalized in a signed agreement, new problems will again crop up. A month and a half ago, during Roland Dumas' visit to Tehran agreement was reached on the level of the French debt to Iran. Now if this sum is not immediately paid to Iran fresh problems over the interest of the loan will come up as in the past.

Joint Project With Italy for Offshore Drilling

*LD1707182391 Tehran IRNA in English 1401 GMT
17 Jul 91*

[Text] Rome, July 17 IRNA—An Italian engineering company has started drilling three wells off Iranian coastline in the Persian Gulf to estimate the deposit of a gas field.

The project is being carried out by Saipem and TPL firm under a contract with National Iranian Oil Company, a spokesman for the Italian firm told IRNA by telephone.

The spokesman said the first phase of the Italian liras 50 billion (Dlrs 37 million) project would end within 18 months.

The second phase of the plan, now being negotiated by the two sides, would include a platform and installation of equipment for liquifying natural gas with an estimated cost of Liras 1,300 bn (Dlrs one bn).

Once operational, 35 million cubic meters of natural gas would be extracted and 50,000 barrels of liquified gas would be produced per day, he said.

Saipem has implemented various industrial projects in Iran for the past 30 years. It is now carrying out several oil and gas projects throughout Iran totally worth Dlrs 185 million.

IRNA Cites Press Commentary on Islamic Movements

*LD1407163191 Tehran IRNA in English 2009 GMT
13 Jul 91*

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—A commentary by Mohammad-Javad Larijani in the Saturday issue of the Persian daily ETTELA'AT said the events in Jordan and Algeria during the past several months have had a lot more implications than statesmen in those countries have anticipated. It said what is going on in those countries is far beyond a coming together of a group of people for political

purposes, but is a development that has taken aim at the root of social and political institutions in the two countries.

Larijani is an advisor to the foreign minister and to the Supreme National Security Council. The commentary said:

"The opening up of the political scene for Muslims in Algeria and Jordan last year was an unexpected development. How those governments and their foreign supporters are going to tolerate such a policy? I think three parameters were instrumental in that important political decision: Firstly because they did not know the dimensions and power of the Islamic movement, secondly because they thought that in the course of its political struggle the Islamic movement would gradually lose its sacredness and its integrity as a result of the politicization of its leading figures and would therefore gradually undergo some sort of transformation. Thirdly, because they believed that the Islamic movement would transform from a universal and uncompromising phenomenon into a simple and easily tolerable local political movement.

"But hardly one year since then it became evident that the real issue is far different from what the governments used to think about it: the Islamic movement is far too broadly-based than it was previously thought.

"In those two countries we have witnessed the conciliation with Islam of a large sector of the people who until a recent past were indifferent to religion, among them especially the youth who have pioneered the movement. In other words it became obvious that the love of Islam rests in the hearts of the people and that the smallest opportunity would offer that love an opportunity to make its existence felt.

"On the other hand the revolutionary color of that Islamic movement and the hallmark of the Islamic revolution of Iran on its face and on its leadership becomes more and more obvious. The Muslim people of the world have learned lessons from the Islamic revolution and have adopted many of the peculiarities of the Islamic revolution as a strategy. For example, the massive presence in the scene, and the adoption of express slogans and their going onto the rooftops which show the status of the Islamic revolution in the world.

"What is going on in Algeria and in other Muslim nations is evidence first and foremost of the shattering of a viewpoint that considers Islam and the Islamic thought solely as just another political power without any significant nucleus of originality in it.

"The Islamic movement, however, is far beyond a partisan grouping. The Islamic movement is first and foremost an intellectual process which initially revolutionizes the person adhering to that belief, and later on the community in which he lives. It is an ideology at which the government and politics enjoy a lofty status.

"To fight Islam is one thing and to counter a political party or a political group is another. The Muslim leaders should appreciate their grave responsibility, and the Muslim umma must realize that to bring an Islamic government to

power would not be an easy and costless task. It would need self-sacrifice and it will take human tolls."

Commentary on Conditions for Export of Revolution

*NC2607115691 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
18 Jul 91 p 2*

[Editorial: "Exporting the Revolution"]

[Excerpts] Addressing a gathering of Iranian diplomats stationed abroad, the president discussed how the revolution can be exported, noting: "The revolution can never be exported by force. I believe that the best way to export the revolution is to create the conditions inside the country that will prompt others to conclude that our path is correct."

This interpretation of how to export the revolution—that is, by perfecting the system in the political, economic, social, and cultural fields, acquainting the world with this system, and explaining the Islamic Revolution's understanding of Islam—was also continuously stressed by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni. [passage omitted]

Our success in exporting the revolution and spreading its message to every corner of the world depends on our success in meeting the following three basic conditions:

1. Perfecting the system on the basis of the theory of the Islamic Revolution;
3. [as received] Taking into account international conditions and relations.

If the affairs of our country and revolution develop in such a way that we are dependent on others in any field, and if we are unable to present a positive image of ourselves in our economy, our industry, our culture, and our politics, then it is certain that anyone we speak to, from any part of the world, will wonder at our own lack of success in a big country that has a favorable geographic position and the necessary human resources for growth. If we cannot provide the answers sought by Muslim nations, and especially by their curious youth, in our efforts to spread Islam and the Islamic Revolution, then no words will reach them. Finally, if we disregard international conditions and resort to half-baked measures, then our achievements will lose any value and credibility.

Biographical Data on New Ground Forces Commander

91AS1067A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 11 May 91 p 3

[Text] News service: Following the appointment of the new ground forces commander of the military of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the grand leader and commander in chief of the armed forces, the biography of Brigadier General Abdullah Najafi was provided to ABRAR by the news unit of the ideological-political office of the military ground forces.

Brig. Gen. 'Abdollah Najafi was born in 1330 [21 March 1951-20 March 1952] in Hamadan and entered the ground forces military academy in 1349 [21 March 1970-20 March 1971].

In 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979], because of struggle against the regime of the tyrant, upon the order of Imam Khomeyni, he left the army and after the magnificent victory of the Islamic revolution served along with martyr Brig. Gen. Namju and martyr Kolahduz in the Imam's military committee of the army.

Brig. Gen. 'Abdollah Najafi, in addition to his involvement in breaking the siege of Abadan, has served as a member of the Imam's military council office, as head of the presidential military affairs group, as acting and deputy for coordination of the ground forces of the army and also as deputy coordinator of the joint headquarters.

More Law Enforcement Deputies Designated

*91AS1067B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian
12 May 91 p 11*

[Text] Provincial division: In the continuation of the plan to combine the law enforcement forces, several commanders and law enforcement officials of various areas of the country were introduced.

According to reports by our correspondents from provincial cities, the names of the commanders and officials as well as the area of their service are as follows:

Major Saleh Farrokh-Heshmat, law enforcement commander, Takab region.

Captain Taqinezhad, law enforcement commander, Abarkuh region.

Zabihollah Akbarzadeh, law enforcement commander, Babolsar region.

Hojjat ol-Islam Mortazavi, in charge of the ideological-political office of the Natanz law enforcement region.

'Alireza 'Adeli, law enforcement commander, Shirval Chardaval region.

Commentary Criticizes Poor Quality of Domestic Products

91AS1219A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 10 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] With all the delegations to and from Iran and the constant talk about fairs and exports, one cannot but sense a strong preoccupation by the Islamic Republic government to establish trade ties with various countries. Underlying all these talks and agreements is the assumption that Iran actually has something besides oil to sell or export to other countries.

On the other hand, to make Iranian industries, specially those in the manufacturing sector, strong and competitive in order to produce products that can serve the nation and be exported, the government has over the years helped them in various ways. These helps take many different shapes and forms. Some come as restrictions on the imports of foreign-made competitive products that can weaken the sale of those produced domestically. Others come in the form of legislations of favorable laws, and still others as foreign exchange at preferential rates and so on.

But these supports were never intended to be a government-issued carte blanche to let Iranian industries to have unrestricted access to the domestic markets with goods at whatever quality they think fit. Experience has shown that a substantial portion of the Iranian manufacturing sector do not exercise quality control and produce products that are at best defective or inferior even before they get to the consumers. Some products are downright dangerous and if they are foodstuffs very hazardous to health. The pronounced disregard for quality has been interpreted as being a sort of disrespect for consumers. In short, manufacturers seem to have taken government's goodwill for granted and taken it for a ride.

All through the post-Revolution era, the government has been very vocal about counterrevolutionaries, hoarders and profiteers. To this list should be added manufacturing concerns that produce shabby products. Since the damage that they inflict on the Islamic Republic is just as great.

The public who come daily several times across shabby products whose manufacturer's have not observed basic criteria in production might become contemptuous of the government and its plans that project to export Iranian products in the billions of the dollars in the coming years.

Just the other day there was a report in the Persian daily KAYHAN that said buyers had found "a scorpion" in a bottle of soft drink. The report also made reference to a previous finding in which there was "a small mouse" in a carbonated soda bottle. The producers of these drinks seem to be oblivious to and underestimate the immense hazard they can cause to the public health.

The government must pay renewed and serious attention to the question of shoddy workmanship and regard work to correct it as a moral equivalent of war. The whole philosophy underlying the support for the Iranian industries were intended to reduce Iran's dependence on foreign sources. Producing with inferior quality has the exact

opposite result. It increases dependence on foreign countries and wastes scarce resources that can be used better in another place. The worst consequence might be the emerging of a feeling among the public that the nation is not capable of producing anything of quality.

Government's Work Force Problems Detailed

91AS1163A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Jul 91 p 5

[Text] Our administrative system is faced with a burgeoning surplus of unspecialized and support manpower and a shortage of specialist and expert manpower. For this reason, the average worker works two hours and 25 minutes during office hours. In other words, our staff members in the support sector could deliver up to three times as much effective service as they currently do. This personnel system is a disaster. Ways must be thought of to balance the work force employed in the offices and to free the existing potential for maximum efficiency.

Government expenses must be reduced by bringing about public participation in various educational and production areas. An administrative revolution must be achieved in the manpower sector. The manifestations of failure and weakness of the last few years must be eliminated from the administrative system, and the flow of work must be properly channeled by releasing the administrative system from the heavy and destructive burden of unnecessary and crippling duties. The government's reform program aimed at economic and social expansion must be expedited.

Engineer Razavi, deputy president of the republic and general secretary of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization, is quite disturbed by the manpower situation in government offices. Concerning the employment situation under the former regime, he said: Because of its essentially nonpopulist essence, the former regime had no thought of serving the general public in various parts of the country. Even with regard to personnel, they implemented a plan based on hiring as many staff as possible to solve some social problems and the employment problem. Now, in today's management, this plan has been eliminated and the employment of government personnel must be done solely with the objective of performing tasks that are the responsibility of the government, and the employment problem must be solved by nongovernment sectors, either the cooperative sector or the private sector. Ten years ago the easiest thing for the government sector to do when it wanted to get its work done (because the cooperative and private systems had not yet been formed) was to hire new employees. We reject this, and we believe that while this may have been the easiest thing to do, it was not the most appropriate thing. Actually our administrative system, in the past and even under present conditions, is not so efficient that its problems can be solved by eliminating the problem of the personnel shortage. Actually, the problem in our administrative system is not simply one of manpower and a personnel shortage to be resolved by hiring new personnel. The former regime did not deal properly with the problem of the personnel system, and up until the year 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979] the makeup of the work force was as follows:

First of all, in terms of quality the manpower makeup was quite inappropriate, and about seven percent of the people employed were specialists. Concerning the suitable arrangement of manpower in the various sectors, we were poorer in the cultural and educational sectors than in the production and industrial sectors. Regarding the improper matching of educational background of employees with their jobs, the unfortunate fact was that people were in jobs for which they were not educated, and therefore they were inefficient in the performance of their duties.

Eng. Razavi added: Another problem was that in view of the fact that managers were political appointees, they did not have the necessary ability and specialties, and the personnel system lacked committed managers. Even if there were managers who were relatively experienced, since they were not intellectually competent and they lacked public support because of their political position, they were not suitable for work in a public system, and naturally they were removed from the system. We are therefore heirs to a nonspecialist and disfunctional personnel system from the past. Right after the triumph of the revolution, fortunately the effort was made to gradually eliminate this problem over a three-year period. At the management level it was eliminated to some extent and interested, qualified managers were gradually selected and appointed, but a problem that remains as strong as ever is that the makeup of personnel has not been reformed as it ought to be. So far we have only succeeded in increasing the level of specialist personnel to something like 22 percent of the journeyman, expert, and skilled work force. In our view, this figure must be raised to 75 percent, meaning that our ideal administrative system is one in which 75 percent of our work force is specialist and working in the main sector of the government and a maximum of 25 percent is employed in the support sectors, and of course we hope to decrease the support personnel to a maximum of 10 percent of the entire government by equipping the organizations with technology, computers, and advanced administrative systems.

Manpower Hiring

Eng. Razavi said: In 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984], as one of the ways of controlling manpower levels, we put a freeze on hiring in Note 60 of the Budget Law. That same year the government established a minimum legal educational requirement of a masters degree for employment in all positions other than those in the Ministry of Education and Training and the Ministry of Health Care and Treatment, and at that point we were able to prevent manpower inflation. Of course I must state clearly that at the specialist level of bachelor's degree and higher not only do we not have an inflation problem, we are also in need. We must adjust the makeup of the government's personnel. Therefore, there are no restrictions of any kind on hiring people with bachelors degrees and higher, and we are always inviting educated personnel to come into the government system.

Current Status of Employees

The general manager of the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization also said: We now have 2.4 million employees, of whom 1.25 million, or 53 percent, are paid from the general government budget, and 1.1 million, or about 47 percent, are paid from the budget allocated to organizations. About 750,000 people, or 60 percent of these employees, work for the Ministry of Education and Training, and 220 thousand (18 percent) work for the Ministry of Health Care and Treatment. About 24 percent of the employees work for the other 20 ministries. In other words, 80 percent of the government's personnel work for two ministries, while the remaining 20 percent work for the other 20 ministries. This is where public participation, especially in the Ministry of Education and Training and in the Ministry of Health Care and Treatment, is very sensitive. Another noteworthy point is that in 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980] 850,000 government employees were paid out of the general budget. In the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] this figure rose to 1.25 million, meaning we had a personnel increase of about 47 percent. At the same time, the number of our employees working in institutions which use special budget is 1.1 million.

Concerning the organizations established since the revolution and the inflation of manpower, Eng. Razavi said: One point must not be forgotten with regard to the makeup of personnel, and that is that the revolutionary organizations were created out of necessity without the necessary controls, began hiring, and were faced with personnel inflation. Of course their service and labor are not concealed from the government and the public, but they also must have systems of hiring control and they must not cause excessive manpower inflation.

Manpower Makeup

Studies show that of the 1.25 million employees paid from the public budget, 45 percent have high school diplomas, 31 percent have less than a high school diploma, 14 percent have associate degrees, and about 10 percent have a bachelors degree or higher. This personnel system is a disaster. Measures must be taken to invert this curve so that 90 percent of the employees will have bachelors degrees and higher. Of course the Manpower Adjustment Law has been a successful one, which is being implemented even now and is gradually moving our organizations toward our goals. Under the Manpower Adjustment Law, for every 100 people hired, all ministries and government organizations must hire 75 people for primary work and 25 people for support work, and this law has been implemented for about two years.

The sexual distribution of manpower among government employees is as follows: 66 percent men and 34 percent women. Of course the percentage of women in the Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Health Care and Treatment, and the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education is much greater than that of the other ministries, meaning they are 40 percent of the employees in the Ministry of Education and Training and in the Ministry of Health Care and Treatment and 17 percent of those in the

Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, while in the other ministries eight percent of the employees are women.

The chief of the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization discussed the distribution of employees by province. He said: We employ one person for every 40 people in society, or in other words every employee serves 40 people in society. In Tehran this figure is 29, in Yazd Province it is 20, in Kerman it is 26, in Semnan it is 34, in Hamadan it is 53, in Khorasan it is 52, and in Azarbayjan it is 52, and this bespeaks the manpower shortage in the government sector in the deprived arease.

Worker Productivity

Concerning the return on labor in the offices, Mr. Razavi said: The average worker works two hours and 45 minutes during office hours. In other words, our staff members in the support sector could deliver up to three times as much effective service as they currently do. In this regard, greater attention must be given to the management of human resources and the management of organizational behavior.

Another focal point is the ratio of support personnel to primary personnel in current circumstances. In this regard we must make it known that studies show that those employed as primary government cadre make up 60 percent of all manpower, meaning that for every 100 government personnel, more than 40 people are working in service and support positions, and under the Manpower Adjustment Law this makeup must be changed to 75 percent primary personnel and 25 percent support personnel.

Reforming Manpower Makeup

The deputy president of the republic also said: The most basic work must be done to make the nation's administrative system work properly and to implement personnel reform in the government sector, and actually to reduce the volume of the government's missions and responsibilities, and that includes public participation and transferring government responsibilities to the people. Of course the work of governing will be reserved for the government, and we think the best way to see to the needs of workers from the lower and middle classes is for us to reduce the government's burden so that economically it will be able to see more to the needs of its own employees. The text of a measure enacted by the Supreme Administrative Council is as follows:

At its sixth session dated 10/19/1369 [9 January 1981], on the recommendation of the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization, the Supreme Administrative Council enacted the following measure:

To achieve the goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Five-Year Economic, Social and Cultural Expansion Plan, to attract public participation in all affairs, to increase efficiency in government organizations, to reduce the existing manpower inflation in the government sector, and also because of the necessity to reduce costs and to guide government organizations towards fulfilling the responsibilities of governing and to limit their organizations, the

ministries, the organizations, and institutions and the government organizations, in the interest of transferring their affairs and duties to the nongovernment sector, must assign the necessary research and studies and within three months must produce a list of cases and activities that can be transferred and information about how this can be accomplished, and deliver it to the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization. This transfer can include all or part of an organization's responsibilities.

In implementing this measure, the organization will form a staff group to set a course of action and present the necessary guidance to the organizations, and after studying the recommendations made, it will issue a final report to the Supreme Administrative Council for a final decision.

Therefore, the most basic task in reforming the personnel makeup in the government is to reduce the government's responsibilities, which will lead to the government giving greater attention to the needs of its employees. This attention will motivate the employee and strengthen the motivation for greater organizational efficiency in the ministries and government organizations.

The secretary-general of the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization gave his recommendations for reforming the personnel mix as follows:

"To reform the personnel mix, first the organizational positions in the government offices which cause the hiring of individuals must gradually be reformed. That is, we must change the organizational positions. The next step is to facilitate conditions for hiring educated personnel. Even now, there is no problem for any organization in the hiring of educated personnel. The third step is a legal freeze on the hiring of people with less than a bachelors degree and nonspecialists. The basis for this is already established under a note in the 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] Budget Law. The fourth step is strengthening the system for training government employees. With authorization we will give for long-term training, current workers who do the essential work but lack higher education will go through the necessary educational cycles under contracts with the universities, gaining knowledge and experience together, and they will reform this mix.

The next step is to strengthen the motivation to properly preserve specialist manpower, for which measures will be taken to the extent of the government's financial ability. Bills will also be submitted to the Majles, and God willing we will get desirable results, and recent laws have also indicated relatively good financial attention to the needs of the workers. These are among the measures we have taken in this regard and we hope that this mix will be balanced."

Eng. Razavi discussed the reform of the mix of personnel working in the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization. He said: "The number of employees in the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization has not grown in the past ten or 12 years, and one group of employees has even left the body of the organization. Of course we reformed the personnel mix, and in place of those personnel who have left, we have hired better qualified people. A more important step that

we took was reforming the personnel mix, meaning that now the organization can serve as a model for the other organizations in such a way that more than 70 percent of the employees are performing essential tasks.

Export Revenues Increase 94 Percent

*91AS1219B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 13 Jul 91 p 16*

[Text] Tehran, 12 Jul (IRNA)—Revenues from exports increased by 94 percent during the first two months of the current Iranian year (started 21 March 1991), said minister of commerce, 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji, in cabinet ministers session chaired by the first vice-president Hassan Habibi here Wednesday night.

Briefing the ministers on Iran's exports during the said period, Vahaji added that the exports amounted to 30,570 tons, worth Rls[rials]17,417 million.

Among the items exported, agricultural produce rose by 42 percent, handwoven carpets and handicraft by 312 percent and minerals and construction material by 25 percent, Vahaji added.

Compared to exports of the same period last year, the minister continued, they showed a decline of 59 percent in terms of weight but an increase of 94 percent in terms of value.

Vice-president for executive affairs and especial representative of the president in reconstruction of the war-damaged areas, Hamid Mirzadeh also reported on the progress of the reconstruction works and development projects in war-stricken areas of Abadan. He also briefed the ministers on reconstruction of the villages east and west of the Khuzestan provincial city of Bahmanshir which he had recently visited.

Emphasizing the maintaining of the current speed of the reconstruction works, Mirzadeh said that during the current Iranian year 8,613 homes in Abadan, 275 in Arvand Kenar, and 4,518 in the port city of Khoramshahr are under reconstruction.

Reconstruction of Oil Complexes Almost Complete

*LD0507180791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT
5 Jul 91*

[Text] Continuing the process of the reconstruction of oil installations in Bakhtaran Province, especially in Naft-shahr region, the drilling of new oil wells in that region has been started by the National Iranian Drilling Company. According to a report by the Central News Unit, with the commissioning of these oil wells 25,000 barrels of crude oil will be piped daily to the Bakhtaran refinery by means of two pumping stations. It should be added that the work on the reconstruction and repair of the pumping stations in Naft-e Shah and Pataq, and the oil pipelines with a length of 236 km, and the reconstruction of telecommunication stations between Naft-e Shah and Bakhtaran which had been destroyed or heavily damaged during the imposed

war are nearing completion. Naft-e Shah, which is situated 72 km from the town of Qasr-e Shirin and 2.5 km from the Iraqi border, is one of the oil centers whose wells and oil installations were totally destroyed by Iraqi forces during the imposed war.

Price of Oil Increased 150 Percent

91AS1086E London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jun 91 p 2

[Text] According to a decision by the Supreme Economic Council, the price of diesel fuel in Iran has increased from four rials to ten rials. The National Iranian Oil Company Public Relations Office announced several days ago:

To equalize the price of diesel fuel, the Supreme Economic Council has set the new price for this petroleum product to 10 rials as of midnight 20 Khordad [10 June].

Diesel fuel was formerly sold at two rates, four rials for diesel fuel vehicles and industrial machinery and ten rials for those with central heating systems.

Price of Housing Doubled in Less Than 2 Years

91AS1086C London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jun 91 p 4

[Text] The increase in prices of most construction materials and the unprecedented activity in the black market for cement, bricks, plaster and other necessary building materials, and finally the continued rise in land prices have brought a striking increase in the prices of apartments and housing units in Tehran and the nation's other cities, and these price increases have had a negative effect on rental and leasing rates for housing units and indirectly on the prices of other consumer goods and foods.

The newspapers in Tehran report that in the last few weeks the prices of most construction materials have gone up 50 to 150 percent. The pressing public need for shelter has meant that the existing demand in the nation's urban society for housing has exceeded supply, and this in itself has aided in the astonishing increase in housing costs. A traveler who recently came to London from Tehran told KEYHAN's correspondent that the price of a square meter of land in north Tehran is now about 150,000 tomans. He added that as of a few weeks ago it cost about 15 to 18 million tomans to buy a two-room efficiency apartment with about 100 square meters of space on Fereshteh Street. Compared to the price of an apartment in this area in 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990], this figure shows an increase of about 100 percent. In part of his interview with KEYHAN's correspondent, this traveler said that spiraling housing and apartment prices are not limited to the northern, northeastern, and northwestern parts of Tehran. Currently the prices of shelter and homes are increasing proportionately in all parts of Tehran as well in most of the nation's municipalities.

He added: A two-room apartment with about 75 to 100 square meters of space costs at least 10 to 12 million tomans from Vanak Square to Takht-e Jamshid Street and about 8 to 10 million tomans from around Kakh Square to Baharestan Square. Elsewhere in the city it is between 3 and 5 million tomans, and on the southern, western, and eastern fringes of Tehran it is at least 1.5 to 2.5 million

tomans. Concerning construction activity in Tehran, the traveler said: For the sake of the enormous revenues from the taxes and building permits, the municipality of Tehran has eliminated the restrictions on the building of housing, which were obligatory in some of the capital's residential areas. Therefore, anyone can now pay a huge sum of money and obtain permission from the mayor's office to build multilevel structures. This has meant that in the northern parts of Tehran such as Za'fariyeh, Kam-raniyeh, Valanjak, National University, Ku-ye Sa'adat Abad, and the northeastern Alborz foothills and Shemiranat areas, builders and brokers have bought up the villas, and, with permits from the mayor's office, have converted them to multilevel apartment buildings with numerous apartments.

He added: The regime's lack of a home construction program, the daily, increasing pressure by the population to obtain shelter, limited production of construction materials, the enormous cost of land, the lack of public-sector investment in home construction activities, the spread of brokering, bribery, and financial abuses in the housing cooperatives, and other negative social factors have meant that now in Tehran and other municipalities the matter of housing leads the list of acute social and economic problems facing families. The traveler from Tehran said that rent increases, the conditions and procedures for leasing housing, and the high prices of apartments and housing have naturally followed the rise in rents and the increasingly difficult conditions for renting housing units. Currently, someone intending to rent an apartment or house must pay out significant amounts of cash and other financial guarantees to the owner or landlord of the apartment, in addition to enormous rent. He added: Studies by the Iran Statistics Center show that currently most of the public's income is spent on renting homes and shelter. In some cases, the people must pay more than two-thirds of their monthly income as rent for a housing unit.

Elsewhere in his interview with KEYHAN's correspondent, the traveler from Tehran said that owners and landlords give their own special justifications and reasons for rent increases and for collecting various financial guarantees. These owners cite the high prices of houses, increases in land prices, high municipal taxes and new construction costs, the shortage and high cost of construction materials, the costs of building repair and maintenance, the huge costs of water, gas, and telephone service, and finally the ubiquitous inflation in the nation's economy as their reasons for demanding huge rents and in this way they continually increase rents.

A report from Tehran says that in the last three months the cost of rentals in Tehran and some other large municipalities such as Esfahan, Mashhad, and Shiraz, whether apartments, homes or villas, has increased from 50 to 120 percent. Housing experts believe that in the coming years there will continue to be rapid increases in the costs of housing and rentals. Based on a study done in Tehran, currently rents on two- to three-room apartments in the capital are running 15,000 to 20,000 tomans per month. Rents on some homes, villas and three- to four-room

apartments (200 square meters and more) on the northern fringes of Tehran are more than 50,000 tomans a month.

Concerning the problems the people have finding housing, the traveler said: "Currently the problem of finding housing is the greatest public social and economic problem. Many people intending to start a family or who are seeking housing for various reasons or are in need of housing because they have returned to the country to live, are faced with the choice of paying an enormous price to buy a housing unit or paying enormous rents as well as a substantial amount of cash as a deposit. Thus a university professor for example, if he lacks housing befitting his position, must pay at least 20,000 to 30,000 tomans a month out of his salary to rent a three-room apartment in the vicinity of the university. Now if we assume the maximum monthly salary of a university professor is 40,000 to 50,000 tomans including money for extra tutoring and collecting tuition fees from other universities, we see that this professor must pay about two-thirds of his entire monthly salary for rent."

Rising Caspian Sea Threatens Coastline

91AS1153B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 15 Jun 91 p 1

[Text] Bandar Anzali (Gilan) (Irna)—Water level of the Caspian Sea is on the rise, and according to the governor-general's office here Thursday the level had risen by 40 centimeters over the past two months, posing serious threat to coastal farmlands and residential areas.

In the past two days alone, the world's largest inland sea whose elongated shape stretches north to south for almost 1,200 km covering an area of 371,000 sq km, swelled by five centimeters, it added.

At the present, it said, 450 hectares of lush green paddy-fields around this northern Iranian port city and another 100 hectares in the coastal towns of Roudsar, Langroud, Astaneh Ashrafiyeh and Astara on the slopes of the majestic Alburz mountains are threatened by the rising water level.

Some 350 families living near the Bandar Anzali coastline are exposed to immediate danger.

The rise in the Caspian water level whose surface lies some 30 meters below ocean level, is possibly the result of more inflow from rivers emptying into the basin particularly the Volga, Ural and Terek on the northern Soviet side.

Rivers feeding the Caspian from its southern or Iranian side such as the Aras, Atrak and Talish are small and account for a mere 3 to 4 percent intake of the total fresh water supply.

Based on statistical information gathered by the Soviet Union on the fluctuation of Caspian waters since 1840, the sea level rose or dropped by 140 centimeters every 10 years between 1840-1920.

Since 1920 the average 10-year fluctuation of the sea level rose by 2 meters inundating part of the fine sandy beaches.

However, since 1977 the waters have been steadily on the rise with no sign of stopping or receding, sounding alarm to surrounding settlements.

Iran has taken measures to evacuate people from areas threatened by encroaching water and save quality rice fields from being submerged in salty waters.

Port Facilities Threatened by Caspian Sea

*91AS1219C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 10 Jul 91 p 1*

[Text] Bandar Anzali, Gilan Prov. (IRNA)—The rising Caspian Sea waters have so far washed away an Islamic Republic Navy jetty here, putting fishing jetties and other port facilities on the verge of inundation.

The Caspian Sea said to be advancing by five to seven centimeters per day, has inundated parts of Port Taleqani near here, sending its residents wandering outside their homes for fear of being attacked by poisonous snakes.

Interviewed by IRNA, some workers complained that their homes have been attacked by snakes and frogs and their family lives disrupted as a result of the encroaching waters. They also demanded the government to help them immediately.

Since the Caspian Sea, the world's largest lake which separates Iran and the Soviet Union, began to encroach upon the land on its Iranian side, it has covered with 15,000 cubic meters of sand houses, streets and lanes in Port Taleqani and Port Shahid Beheshti.

There are other reports on the inundation of coastal line, houses and farmlands in Astara and Chaboksar, both in Gilan Province.

Telephone Center Inaugurated in Haris

*91AS1067C Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian
9 May 91 p 4*

[Text] Haris—JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI: With ceremonies in the presence of the minister of post, telegraph and telephone, the Majles representatives of Haris, the Friday imam, the governor, and local officials, the 1,000-line telephone center of that city was inaugurated and began operation.

In these ceremonies, the minister of post, telegraph and telephone spoke about the developments in the Persian Gulf this year.

He referred to the operations of the communications department and added: Before the victory of the revolution, there were only 70 cities in the country with automatic telephones, and now more than 500 cities enjoy automatic telephones.

According to our reporter, this center was built on a plot of land which is 5,000 square meters in area at a cost of 3 billion rials and can be expanded to 10,000 telephones.

Communications Center To Begin Operations in Hamadan

91AS1067D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 9 May 91 p 9

[Text]

**The Director Manager of Provincial Communications
Said: Second "S.T.D." Digital Communications Center**

in the Country To Begin Operations in Hamadan This Year

In order to improve long distance communications, the second "S.T.D." [Subscriber Toll Dialing] digital communications center in the country will begin operation in Hamadan this year.

The director general of communications of Hamadan Province announced in a press conference: With the operation of this large project, the long-distance communications will improve by 50 percent in this province.

According to IRNA, he mentioned that the final capacity of this digital center is 3,360 channels and said: A center similar to this is at the present only in operation in Tehran.

Speaking about the coming World Communications Day (22 Ordibehesht [12 May]), he added: The most important task of this center is to facilitate coding.

In continuation, the director general of communications in Hamadan described the programs of this office in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] and said: This year, with estimated funds of 10 billion rials, a total of 103 construction projects for creating communication centers in rural and urban areas will be carried out.

He mentioned the total number of telephones operating in Hamadan Province at the present time to be 46,680 and projected that with the operation of the new center, by 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], more than 20,000 other telephones will be added to the existing number.

He pointed out: Last year, a total of 5 billion rials from the national funds were spent on communications projects throughout Hamadan Province.

In conclusion, this official pointed out: Also, in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], 7,730 telephones were given to applicants who met the requirements in the cities and villages of this province.

New Telephone Numbers Installed in Mazandaran

*91AS1067E Tehran RESALAT in Persian 9 Jun 91
p 12*

[Interview with Engineer Yusofi, director general of communications of Mazandaran Province, by reporters; date and place not given]

[Text] During the first government plan in Mazandaran, 250,000 telephone numbers will be distributed.

Babol—RESALAT Correspondent: This year, more than 70,000 telephones will be distributed throughout Mazandaran Province, and so far thousands of telephone approval papers have been given to applicants.

Engineer Yusofi, the director general of communications of Mazandaran Province, on the occasion of World Communications Day, announced this statement in an interview with reporters and added: This step will be taken in connection with the distribution of 250,000 telephones throughout Mazandaran Province in the first government plan.

In regards to the role of communications in transmitting information, Mr. Yusofi said: Communications, as the most important method of transmitting information, is one of the most effective factors in industrial, agricultural, educational, economic, social and political development and progress.

He added: In order to achieve the communications goals of the general policies, the long-term development of communications is being planned for the province, which can be divided into four areas of development—long distance communications, urban communications, rural communications and personnel policies in coordination with development and upkeep in operational policies. The director general of communications of Mazandaran said in regards to the steps taken to develop urban communications in the short term: In this regard, an important project that would be a relative improvement on the present traffic in the future is under way in the northern direction, which begins with Ramsar and continues to Gonbad and Kalaleh, with consideration for the developmental projects and distribution of urban telephones. About 90 percent of the work has been completed. In the near future we will see the operation of the entire project.

Concerning the long-term intercity communications projects, he said: The implementation of the digital microwave project and the fiber optics project are among those scheduled to begin from Tehran and continue to Mashhad and Zahedan and return again to Tehran.

He added: In the area of S.T.D. [Subscriber Toll Dialing], considering that Mazandaran Province has been designated as a communications area in the country, with the construction of AC and PC centers in the cities of Babol, Chalus, Sari, Gorgan, and Gonbad and the installation of advanced digital equipment in these centers, the communications codes in the province will change and the possibility of direct contact with other provinces and cities in Mazandaran Province as well as better connections between cities and villages will increase dramatically.

In the area of rural communications, he said: In this regard, steps are being taken to create the position of deputy director for rural projects, who will carry out his duties self-sufficiently in the province in terms of purchasing communications equipment as well as design, installation and operations. Considering the large number of villages throughout Mazandaran Province, in the first phase, steps have been taken to establish communications between villages of more than 500 people. He added: There are 1,400 villages in Mazandaran according to the 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] national census, of which about 350 villages have communications. The rest will have communications offices in the future, with the cooperation of the people with the communications office of the province.

He pointed out: In 1369 [1990-91], about 4,000 telephones numbers were distributed among applicants; 4 centers with 100 telephones each at a cost of 800 million rials, 25 communications offices at a cost of 125 million rials, and 3 centers of over 1,000 telephones numbers at a cost of 3.5

billion rials have been opened; and 88 of the freed prisoners of war have been employed by the communications office.

Among the other activities of this office last year, Mr. Yusofi mentioned the building of the administrative office of the central communications office of Mazandaran in Babol.

In conclusion, concerning the procedure to use cordless and mobile telephones, he said: The communications company plans to procure a number of these mobile telephones as needed by the offices.

He emphasized that at present, 52 large and small centers are being built throughout Mazandaran.

Quetta-Mashhad Air Service Inaugurated

*91AS1153A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 10 Jun 91 p 8*

[Text] Tehran, 9 June—Pakistan's Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Shamsahd Ahmad in a message to the organizers of Quetta-Mashhad inaugural flight said that the fraternal ties between Pakistan and Iran which were embedded in the indissoluble bonds of religion, history, culture and common traditions would be further strengthened through expansion of travel facilities between Iran and Pakistan and would help the people of the two countries in enhancing their social exchanges. Ahmad in his message said:

"It gives me great pleasure to welcome the inauguration of weekly PIA flights between Quetta and Mashhad. On this auspicious occasion I would like to extend my sincere felicitations to all our brothers and sisters, both in Pakistan and Iran, who have been associated with this momentous development.

"I would also like to avail myself of this occasion to extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guests from Pakistan who have journeyed all the way to Mashhad, a testimony to the abiding and time-tested links between our two peoples which they seek to reinforce in times to come.

Nationwide Construction of Hospitals Planned

91WE0416D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 2 May 91 p 4

[Text] News Service—Ninety-eight hospitals and 120 health care and treatment centers are to be put into service by the end of the decade of the 1370s [20 March 2001] by the Iran Home Construction Company, with a 500-billion-rials allocation from the capital fund of the Iran Social Security Organization.

Engineer Nasrollah Tahbaz, the executive director of the Iran Home Construction Company, gave a press conference yesterday morning. While announcing the above and noting that half of these hospitals and treatment centers are already under construction, he said: The construction of 42 hospitals with 8,000 beds and 50 health care and treatment centers has been started throughout the country by the Iran Home Construction Company. By the end of next year [20 March 1993], 12 hospitals will go into service.

He said that of the 50 health care and treatment centers on which construction has begun, 20 units have gone into service, and by the end of the current year [20 March 1992] 20 more centers will be completed. He said: When 98 hospitals are put into service under the first and second economic and social expansion plans, 16,000 hospital beds will be added to the existing hospital bed capacity.

The executive director of the Iran Home Construction Company discussed work under way in this company. He said: Construction has begun on a hospital in Tehran with 800 to 1,000 beds and a foundation size of 100,000 square meters. It will go into service within four years.

He noted that this hospital is one of the largest in the nation. He said: The government has allocated to the Social Security Organization the credits needed to buy equipment for hospitals, and in this regard extensive preparations have been made.

Continuing, he discussed the activities of the Iran Home Construction Company. He said: This company began its work in 1347 [21 March 1968-20 March 1969] using investment credit from the Social Security Organization. It is now continuing its work designing and creating health care and treatment centers and residential units, utilizing 150 specialists.

Eng. Tahbaz discussed the construction of housing units by the Iran Home Construction Company. He said: Until the splendid triumph of the Islamic revolution, the Iran Home Construction Company had major activity in residential construction, but after the triumph of the Islamic revolution and in view of the nation's need for health care and treatment centers, the company began taking extensive measures in connection with the construction of hospitals.

According to him, the Iran Home Construction Company carries out 70 percent of the nation's hospital construction projects.

He added: Before the triumph of the Islamic revolution, there were 12,000 residential housing starts in various parts of the country, which were gradually transferred to those insured with social security.

The executive director of the Iran Home Construction Company noted that the Social Security Organization is turning 1,000 residential units over to workers in the municipality of Shushtar. He said: The Iran Home Construction Company is carrying out extensive programs to build low-cost residential units for those with social security insurance, and these programs will be announced soon.

Rheumatism Afflicts 23 Percent of Population*91WE0416C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 13 May 91 p 9*

[Text] Twenty-three percent of the people of Iran suffer from some form of rheumatism, whose most prevalent form is arthritis.

This was announced in Mashhad by Dr. Mohammad Reza Hafez, member of the Iran Rheumatology Society, in an interview with a correspondent from IRNA.

He said: One in six of the people who refer to the nation's health care clinics is suffering from some form of rheumatism, whose symptoms appear with increasing age.

He noted: One of the most common kinds of joint and bone pains is arthritis, which afflicts about 90 percent of those over 60 years of age.

He said: When arthritis strikes, no treatment can return the worn-away cartilage to its original state, and the recommended treatments are symptomatic.

He said: The only treatment when the illness has been diagnosed is teaching the patient not to exert excessive pressure on the afflicted joint.

He added: In treating another type of rheumatism known as rheumatoid arthritis, long-term use of drugs to prevent destruction of the joints is necessary, and in this regard irregular use of the drugs will intensify the symptoms and damage the joints.

Study To Determine Causes of Heart Attacks*91WE0416B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 4 May 91 p 4*

[Text] After completing the preliminary blood pressure project in Tehran, the Center for Heart and Circulatory Studies at the Tehran College of Medical Sciences began the research project to study the causes of heart attacks and strokes.

The public relations office of the Tehran College of Medical Sciences reports that this project, which is actually considered the first and largest study in the Third World on the risk factors for heart attacks and strokes, will be conducted in Iran to identify and control the danger factors for heart and circulatory diseases in Iran.

The project will be carried out by a research team at the Tehran College of Medical Sciences composed of 200 professors, assistants, interns, and fourth- and fifth-year medical students.

According to this report, at the beginning of this project 12,000 subjects above the age of 15 from 40 different districts in Tehran would be placed under continuous observation at the Center for Heart and Circulatory Studies at the Tehran College of Medical Sciences after undergoing the most advanced cardiac and circulatory examinations. Researchers at this center also plan to carry out nationally on a wide scale the project to monitor and prevent heart and circulatory disease by precisely identifying the extent of danger of each of the danger factors associated with heart and circulatory diseases, which are considered the most important and deadly killers of human beings.

The main programs in this project, including design, implementation and forming the relevant computer networks, are being carried out by medical students interested in research under the direct supervision of the chief of the Tehran College of Medical Sciences.

Declining Trend Shown in Birth Rate*91AS1153C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 15 Jun 91 p 2*

[Text] Tehran (IRNA)—The number of births in Iran from the year 1366 (1987-88) to 1369 (1990-91) show a declining trend except for 1367 (1988-89) when the figure increased as compared with the year preceding a report published by the daily ETTELA'AT said on Thursday.

Released by the Civil Status Registration Organization, the report said "18.9 percent less babies were born in 1366 compared to the preceding year. After an increase in the number of births in 1367 the figure again dropped in 1368 and 1369 by 8.15 and 3.17 percent respectively.

In 1365 the report said 2,259,155 babies were born and 199,511 people died, while in 1369, the number of births fell to 1,728,959 against 217,597 deaths.

During 1369, of the 1,728,959 births in 1369 936,398 took place in urban areas and the rest in rural areas.

The rate of marriages registered in 1369 dropped by .082 percent while that of divorce rose by 11.4, as compared with the previous year, the report said.

Marriages registered between 1366 to 1369 stood respectively at 346,674, 361,945, 458,708 and 454,963, while divorce figures for the said four years were 33,433, 33,114, 33,943 and 37,827, it said.

Of 454,963 marriages throughout the country during the aforesaid period, 309,438 cases registered in urban areas and the others in villages.

In 1369, it said, 30,656 couples in urban areas and 7,171 in rural areas got divorced, it said.

The figures indicate that although the number of marriages in rural areas was half of that in urban areas during 1369, the cases of divorce for the rural areas were one-fifth of the urban places.

In the same year, it said, 217,597 people died all over the country. Iran's population increased by 1,511,362 during the same period.

Population Increase to 58 Million Deplored*91AS1086D London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jun 91 p 1*

[Text] Based on official statistics published in Tehran, the nation's population has again increased rapidly, reaching 58.5 million. At the beginning of the Islamic revolution the nation's population was 33.5 million. Thus, from then until now, the number of Iranians has increased 75 percent. This population growth is unprecedented in the world, and even now economic and social experts are calling it the greatest threat to the nation's future. Iran's population growth rate is now 3.5 percent annually, and if

this does not decrease rapidly, it will be almost impossible to do any sort of planning to expand and improve the future quality of life in Iran.

After coming to power, the Islamic Republic regime stopped all the family planning and population control measures taken in the period before the revolution as "idolatrous" programs. After the public census during his time in office, Prime Minister Mir Hosein Musavi expressed happiness that the population was increasing rapidly and helping "the power of Islam."

The Islamic regime, which has recently understood the danger of illogical population growth, has resumed the same family planning measures taken in the past but with shortcomings.

Favism Outbreak Reported in Gilan

91WE0416A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 2 May 91 p 9

[Text] As more Mazandarani broad beans are being marketed, favism has spread through various parts of the Province of Gilan.

The IRNA correspondent reports that in the last few days about 150 children in the municipality of Rasht have been hospitalized with favism in 17-Shahrivar Pediatric Hospital in Rasht alone.

In an interview with the IRNA correspondent, the chief of this hospital discussed the ways this illness spreads. He said: The extreme sensitivity to this type of bean, which is marketed in the spring, is such that even touching and smelling the broad bean and its plant will induce favism in those who are susceptible to it. Its symptoms are dizziness, nausea and vomiting, as well as fever and anemia.

He called upon families throughout the country to contact the medical centers immediately upon observing the symptoms of the disease.

He said: The only cure for this disease is a blood transfusion and if treatment of favism is delayed death could result. It is worth noting that individuals may contract favism by eating Mazandarani broad beans raw or cooked. In conclusion, he said: Last year also more than 1,000 children were hospitalized and treated at this hospital with favism.

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