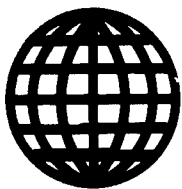


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IRAN

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8 April 1992

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Ahmad Khomeyni on U.S. Ploys, Majles Elections
NC2703134592 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
14 Mar 92 pp 1-2

[Report on Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni's address to commanders, Islamic Revolution Guard Corps commanders and officers, and various sections of the people in Tehran on 11 March]

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ahmad Khomeyni spoke on the composition of the Fourth Majles in the era of socio-economic expansion and construction and stated: One of the most important exhortations of the unforgettable imam is to be vigilant and aware; have faith, belief, and reliance on the boundless power of Almighty God; maintain solidarity and unanimity; and be extensively visible on the scene of the revolution and the system during sensitive and fateful junctures of the Islamic revolution.

In the not too distant future, the system, the revolution, and the dear Hezbollahi people will be on the threshold of a test and the elections to the fourth term of the Majles. All the people of the world are intensively watching the mode of the convocation of the elections. [passage omitted]

He continued: Today the powers of world arrogance have directed a tidal wave of venomous propaganda toward the Fourth Majles elections. The question is: What should we do in the face of this troublesome behavior by the malicious propaganda apparatus of world arrogance?

Khomeyni added: We want the unblemished standards of the Islamic revolution and of the line of the Imam to be maintained in various political, social, economic, and cultural spheres as well as in international balances of power, and to spread pure Islamic values strongly and dauntlessly.

We do not want those values which are opposed to ours. We want the animosity toward the domineering West—which from the onset of the revolution has been one of our values and sources of pride—to continue. We want the defense of the oppressed and deprived to remain as one of our values. We desire our coexistence and joint effort with oppressed and deprived Muslims of the world to remain as one of the durable values of the system, the revolution, and the line of the Imam.

We want the principle of neither East nor West to be the basis of our foreign relations and we desire that, according to the standards and indicators propounded by the Imam's line, Islam should be the guiding ideology of mankind. Now that we are on the eve of the Majles elections, we should view issues deeply and shelve all our differences and let the interests of Islam guide our decisions. We should judge who can defend the indexes of the Islamic revolution and the Imam's line better in the trench of the Majles.

Regarding the character and qualities which should be present in the candidates of the Majles, he said that they should have dedication, piety, and strong social, economic,

and political stances which would have immense impact on the composition of the Fourth Majles. He stressed: Today our society does not wish to tolerate political tensions and we should strive to reduce all political tensions in our society. If some are creating tensions in society on the issue of elections, the people will say that instead of resolving our problems, they are dissipating the energy of society and public opinion. They wish to be Majles deputies and are ready to jeopardize the policies and programs of the reconstruction period for the sake of satisfying their desire for power. [passage omitted]

Regarding the direction of the Fourth Majles in approving programs for construction and economic expansion of the country, Khomeyni said that it needs the formulation of new economic ideas and levels of expertise.

He stressed: We should not think that the deputies must be clerics. Of course, it is good if they are, but merely being a cleric is not the qualification. On the basis of the needs of society, we should seek those who—in addition to having the general characteristics of being followers of the line of the Velayat-e Faqih—are dedicated and devout individuals; have a high level of expertise and modern knowledge; and have strong economic, political, and cultural stances so that they can take effective steps in liberating the economy from its present ailing condition.

Deputies to the Fourth Majles should be endowed with special qualities and should be exceptional in all aspects so that, God willing, they can divert the country from malaise and economic stagnation toward a dynamic and active economic direction. [passage omitted]

Khomeyni added: Those who do not win in the elections should not unjustly pollute the atmosphere with doubts on the elections, and as His Eminence the Imam said, they should not cast aspersions on the votes of the people.

All this would be contrary to our Islamic beliefs. All the officials of the system and the revolution are our brothers and the powers of world arrogance wish to destroy them.

Continuing his remarks, Khomeyni referred to the new field of antagonism between the powers of world arrogance and the Islamic revolution and elaborated: The camp of world arrogance, spearheaded by the United States, is resorting to foolish ways of intimidating freedom-seeking and independent nations with its military strength.

In its current phase of antagonism against the Islamic revolution, the United States is seeking to become the undisputed gendarme of the region. It has also admitted that if it does not take some quick measures, the fundamentalist Islam of Imam Khomeyni (according to them) will be the greatest danger to the U.S. interests.

All the freedom-seeking people of the world, however, are well aware that the strength of the United States is superficial and no military power can stand up to the determination of nations.

In conclusion, Khomeyni said the allegations of human rights violations in Iran were fallacious. He said that it stemmed from the infiltration of the Western camp into all

international organizations and assemblies and added: Why do the false champions of human rights—who from time to time direct their attention to the Islamic revolution and system on the pressure and behest of the camps of false propaganda—not inspect the horrifying dungeons of the Western countries? Amnesty International and the human rights organizations know that we will never succumb to the Western world's malice and we do not attach any importance to their spiteful opinions.

SALAM on Need To Tackle U.S. Tactics in Persian Gulf

NC2403122692 Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Mar 92 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "Winner in the Diplomatic Game!"]

[Text] After four days of one-sided propaganda, the Korean vessel Dae Hung Ho docked at Bandar-e 'Abbas. The U.S. Defense Department said the vessel was hidden from view, but 22 U.S. frigates and warships had it under surveillance and it reached the Iranian port.

Since Sunday, 8 March, when the Korean vessel, sometimes said to be two vessels, became a media issue, the outcome has been quite predictable. If the United States wished to halt the vessel and stop it from taking its cargo to Iran, why did it let it hide from its warships' viewing range? If there was no such intention, why did it assume a stance that made it look like there was? Under the circumstances, the United States could not halt and inspect the vessel with Iranian cargo bound for Iran without legal cause.

Such an attitude highlights the difference between countries such as Turkey, which intercepted and impounded an Iranian vessel, and the United States, even though Turkey acted at its behest.

U.S. political and propaganda motives had three specific objectives:

1. To project Iran as dangerous:

In its policy of trying to influence and dominate the region, to intimidate the countries in the south Persian Gulf with an unreal danger, the United States wants them to depend on it. It wants to sell them large quantities of arms to justify the existence of U.S. ordnance industries—which are facing recession and the threat of being dismantled—by portraying Iran and Iraq as dangerous. Iraq is not a decisive factor in the Persian Gulf therefore this policy's main political objective is Iran and stopping littoral countries getting close to it.

2. Assignment with Iran: [as published]

With these measures, the United States is effectively carrying out a diplomatic assignment with Iran, prompting its views by issuing warnings. In this way it declares the doctrine of undisputed world supremacy or its new world order while finding out where Iranian officials stand.

When this incident came out into the open the Iranian Foreign Ministry contacted the United States and the U.S. assistant secretary of state officially announced that it

would give Iran the necessary response, which will obviously refer to disarming the region in the interest of U.S. policies.

3. Ultimately a dossier will be opened stating that arming Iran with missiles can jeopardize peace in the region—to which reference will be made in certain circumstances—and a propaganda war will be initiated to put international pressure on Iran.

The United States is successfully pursuing these three policies and it is up to Iran to assess such ploys and not to let anything harm its national sovereignty.

The Foreign Ministry should tell the people, without any media bias, that they understand the quantitative and qualitative aspects of this diplomatic game.

It is not right that the news about this incident, which concerns Iran, should get into the press from foreign media and sources.

Press Warns of U.S. Destabilization Attempts in CIS

LD1903194492 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA—An English daily today warned of American attempts to destabilize the newly independent republics of Central Asia and the Transcaucasus by fanning ethnic and sectarian strifes.

In its editorial titled "America's ulterior motives in Karabakh" KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said: "to get its dirty job done, Washington is using Ankara's good offices to perpetuate ethnic and sectarian passions... The almost nonstop fighting over Karabakh is a clear indication that the Turkish-American conspiracy is working and Iran will have to make the right moves at the right time to forge an understanding between the warring parties."

The United States and its allies, it said, want to keep the region in a state of perpetual backwardness, "if necessary through ethnic and social conflagration, if not total war and self-destruction."

However, the daily felt confident that the conspiracy in the Caucasus will eventually come to nought, given Iran's traditionally strong influence in the region in stark contrast to the deep mistrust for Turkey.

"The Turkish Government might well be wasting its time and energy by coordinating its actions over the issue under Washington's supervision. The former Ottoman Empire's massacre of Armenians in 1916 will not help Ankara's bid to build bridges with those who read history in Armenia. The Armenians are as opposed to Turkish gestures in the search for peace as are the Azeris and other Muslim republics, who desist Turkey's officially secular identity and its unquestionable loyalty to the White House," it noted.

"Inevitably Iran will be an important player in the neighbouring republics after 70 years of artificial separation from its ethnic and religious brethren," remarked the daily.

The Iranian Government, it said, is "doing its best to enforce a cease-fire in Karabakh and save precious human lives."

The editorial also took note of the Tehran memorandum signed by Azeri and Armenian representatives last Monday as the "most recent manifestation of Iran's determination to [word indistinct] truce and work closely with the Central Asian Muslims and Armenia in the interest of peace and prosperity for the people of the region."

Encouraged by the result of the trilateral talks this week, Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezzi has flown to the two republics to work out the details of the Tehran memorandum which calls for cease-fire, exchange of POWs and bodies of the war victims.

"To begin with Azerbaijan and Armenia should stop the bloodbath, find a comprehensive solution to their differences, close ranks with their friends to rebuild and frustrate the plots of their hidden enemies," KAYHAN concluded.

Western Loans Algeria's 'Reward' for 'Crushing Muslims'

*NC2303131192 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 11 Mar 92 p 3*

[Unattributed commentary: "The West's Reward for Crushing Algerian Muslims"]

[Text] The serious internal situation in Algeria and the pressure by the ruling party on the Muslim people of that country on the one hand and Western financial and political support to the coupist regime on the other manifests the depth of the malice that the West feels toward Islam.

The Algerian people entered the fray with the objective of achieving Islamic supremacy in their country and in the elections, which were held in a manner favored by the West. They did not vote for the Algerian National Liberation Front so that they could take charge of their destiny and by voting for the Islamic groups they closed the doors to the ruling party. But the West, despite its own ear-splitting cries for democracy, rose up against the victory of the people and annulled everything by staging a white coup.

The Western trend of overtly and covertly combating the Algerian people, especially by the United States and France, gradually transpired and continued until the dissolution of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]. Following its dissolution, the West swiftly rallied to the assistance of the ruling party and is striving to strengthen it with massive loans. France is to give Algeria a loan of \$1.46 billion and European, Japanese, and U.S. banks will give Algeria \$1.45 billion in credit over the next two years to ease the heavy burden of its debts. The EC is also preparing to give Algeria a \$1-billion loan.

In other words, all these loans are rewards to the coupist regime for crushing Muslims and dissolving the FIS. Thus the West, including the United States, is wreaking additional oppression on Algerian Muslims. By bringing the

present ruling party to power, they have already committed a historical and unforgettable act of tyranny. With their unceasing political and financial assistance to this regime, they have perpetrated another atrocity and have subjected the people to further repression.

The Algerian ruling party is also hopeful that the loans will allow them to bring about some changes in society by mitigating financial problems, thus giving them greater control over the situation. The Algerian people want an Islamic government and consider the maneuvers and economic policies of the ruling party an attempt to cover their acts of brutality.

At present, the number of martyrs, wounded and arrested Algerians in the recent events, is appalling. There is immense hostility between the people and the ruling party and the fissure, which cannot be mended by Western loans, continues to widen. Besides, the people know that loans will not resolve the economic problems but will only increase the burden of debt. This will entail long-term losses, which will be even worse than the promises of the ruling party.

Most important of all is that the differences between the ruling party and the people has ideological rather than economic roots. During the time of Chadli Bendjedid as well this policy was adopted but the people rejected it so it did not make much headway. This is something Westerners are unaware of, however, so their loans will not achieve anything either.

The passage of time and the shape events take will play a direct part in awarding these loans. If they can help in strengthening the ruling party and in ultimately crushing the people, they will definitely continue. Things will change, however, and this is something the Algerian people are well aware of. This is why they continue their opposition and protests against the ruling party and they are seeking to forge their destiny in the labyrinth of this complex and difficult battle.

Tehran To Be Connected to Khartoum by Air

92AS0770C Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] In accordance with an air treaty between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sudan, in the future round-trip flights between Tehran and Khartoum will be established by the airlines of both countries.

This agreement was signed on Thursday afternoon by Engineer 'Ali Mohammad Nurian, from Iran, and Hashem Hoseyn Hasem, from Sudan.

According to a report by the correspondent of the IRNA economic division, in the last round of talks between Engineer 'Ali Mohammad Nurian, the deputy minister of transportation, and the head of the national airline agency, Dr. Yasin 'Abedin, the general manager of the airlines of that country, was also present. Also, a letter of intent covering various areas, including the exchange of experts and the sharing of air travel experiences, was signed between the two countries.

This letter of intent states: The airline company of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in its division of expert manpower training as well as repair and upkeep of airplanes, will assist the Sudan air company. According to the letter of intent, in the area of the training of expert manpower, in the first phase, 30 Sudanese students will study at the center for air travel training and techniques.

Also, 15 Sudan air company experts will get on-the-job training in various divisions of Iran Air.

According to the report by the IRNA correspondent, the Sudanese airline delegation left Tehran on Thursday afternoon following the signing of the agreement and the letter of intent with Iran.

Japanese Natural-Gas Cars To Replace Old Taxis *92AS0770E Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Mar 92 p 2*

[Text] In addition to 2,000 new domestically produced taxis, Tehran City Hall received a permit to purchase 10,000 natural-gas-burning cars manufactured by the Japanese Mitsubishi factory to replace existing taxis.

Dr. Hadi Manafi, the vice president and head of the environmental protection agency, speaking to reporters on ways to eliminate air pollution in Tehran, added: Of the air pollution in Tehran, 65 percent is created by gasoline-burning motor vehicles.

According to a report by the IRNA correspondent, he mentioned the strengths of public transportation as one of the most important factors and the use of lead-free gasoline as another factor in reducing air pollution in Tehran and said: The new taxis use two types of fuel, natural gas or gasoline.

The head of the environmental protection agency referred to the permit to purchase new taxis by the City Hall and said: Soon, the ground will be prepared to specify natural gas station locations for taxis in Tehran, and their construction will start soon. Efforts will be made to require new engines to use lead-free gasoline.

He said: In addition to air pollution due to gasoline-burning engines, industries, and service establishments contribute 24 percent to pollution, and domestic heating appliances, 11 percent.

Dr. Manafi said: The environmental protection agency will not issue permits for agreements in principle for industries that do not conform to the regulations. It has also asked old factories and industries to install filters, sewage and sewage filtration systems to avoid likely pollution.

The head of the environmental protection agency said: So far, many troublesome and polluting industries have been shut down, and the closing of other industries whose products are vitally needed by the society or the closing of which would create much unemployment will be postponed until suitable industrial townships can be built around the city.

Agreement Signed With China on Cement Factory Construction

92AS0758B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] Yazd. KEYHAN correspondent—An agreement to build a 700-ton cement factory in Yazd was signed between the Ministry of Mines and Metals and a Chinese company.

According to a report by our correspondent, with the allocation of \$9.6 million in foreign currency funds and 8 billion rials from the funds of the Ministry of Mines and Metals, the agreement for the building of a cement factory with a daily capacity of 700 tons in Yazd was signed between the Ministry of Mines and Metals and the "N.F.C." company of China.

The official in charge of this project told our reporter: This factory, which will reach operation within 22 months from the date of credit opening, will be built on a 100-hectare plot of land off Bafeq Road.

He pointed out: In this factory, 200 people will be employed. A committee has traveled to Yazd to study the environmental issues in regard to the building of this factory.

German Banks Extend Long-Term Credit

92AS0779J London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] In 1991 the Islamic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany traded a total of eight billion marks in goods and materials. Most of this was made up of Germany's exports to the Islamic Republic. Based on statistics published by the German Ministry of Commerce, the commercial exchanges between the two countries last year compared to 1990 increased significantly. Experts in economic affairs believe that in view of the stagnation now prevailing in most of the economies of European nations, this country is making great effort to obtain consumer markets in Third World nations. In order to reach this goal, it has made available to these countries more than before such resources as loans, credit, and credit sales. The weekly economic publication MEED of London reports that currently the export loan guarantee organization of the Federal Republic of Germany (Hermes) has significantly increased this country's insurance coverage on exports to Iran. In part of its report on the expanded commercial relations between Iran and the Federal Republic of Germany, this publication wrote that the German banks are trying hard to increase long-term credit for this country's industrial exports to the Islamic Republic.

The publication MEED wrote: Recently nine reputable German banks agreed that collectively they would provide \$765 million (1.2 billion marks) in credit to five Iranian banks. This money will be spent to buy various German industrial and semi-industrial products and export them to Iran. The aforementioned weekly noted that the time allotted to repay the aforementioned credits has been set at between seven and ten years. Concurrent with the announcement of the above, a spokesman for the Public Relations Office of the Central Bank of the Islamic regime

announced that the reputable German bank (Berlinz Handelz) agreed to increase the limit on its long-term commercial credits to the Islamic Republic to \$1.4 billion. Currently the Federal Republic of Germany is the largest exporter of goods and materials to the Islamic Republic, and commercial experts from this country predict that for the next few years the Islamic Republic will continue to be the main market for German products in the Middle East.

Nation Third-Largest Provider of Crude Oil to Italy

92AS0779G London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] In 1991 Italy, by importing significant quantities of crude oil from Iran, made this country the third-largest supplier of the fuel it needs.

Based on a report published by statistical sources in Rome, in the last eleven months the government of Italy has purchased 9.2 million tons of Iran's crude oil. These sources also announced that currently Libya, Saudi Arabia, and the Islamic Republic are the main suppliers of Italy's needed crude oil. In the past few years Italy has expanded its commercial relations with the Islamic Republic to a great extent, and based on statistical reports by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Trade, this country is considered Iran's largest trading partner in the world after Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany.

According to the economic weekly MEED published in London, in the first nine months of last year Italy exported about \$1.2 billion in various goods and materials to the Islamic Republic, and a comparison of this figure with the value of Italy's exports to Iran in the same period in 1990 shows a 70 percent increase. In its latest issue, the aforementioned weekly wrote that currently a significant number of Italian contractors are now actively carrying out major projects in various industrial areas, including oil, gas, petrochemical industries, steel, and other similar activities.

Trade Relations With Spain To Expand

92AS0779F London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] The Spanish Government is willing, in order to increase its exports to the Islamic Republic of Iran and to take advantage of the extensive consumer markets in that country, to provide the Islamic regime with up to \$300 million in short-term and long-term credits. Miguel Vito, Spain's minister of commerce, who visited Tehran recently, announced as he was returning to his country that talks held with economic officials of the Islamic Republic will pave the way for the expansion of commercial exchanges and economic cooperation between Tehran and Madrid.

The economic weekly MEED of London reports that currently Spanish companies are helping implement numerous projects in construction, fishing and fisheries in the Islamic Republic. Quoting officials in Spain, the aforementioned weekly wrote that Spanish companies have recently concluded a large contract for \$75 million with the

Islamic Republic. These companies are set to deliver industrial machinery and construction implements to Iran.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Paper Says Plans To Dismember Iraq 'Doomed'

NC2803172292 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
9 Mar 92 pp 1, 4

[Commentary by M. Mollazadeh: "The Dangerous Scenario for Dismembering Iraq"]

[Excerpts] Dubious circles are conducting a dangerous discussion about the possible dismemberment of Iraq. From time to time such conspiratorial discussions are initiated and we would be very naive to attribute them to a psychological war on Saddam's regime.

The topic of Iraq's dismemberment is more than a nebulous fear. Whether Iraq is worth dismembering depends on the neocolonialist plan, the repercussions of which, for Iraq or the region, cannot now be assessed. [passage omitted]

Murmurings of Iraq's dismemberment have infiltrated the region from abroad, ostensibly initiated by the United States and its European allies to eliminate Saddam. The Iraqi nation should be put in a position where it will rise up and topple Saddam so that a pro-U.S. puppet government can come to power or accept Iraq's dismemberment into two or three smaller, weaker countries embroiled in internecine war. The Iraqi people have neither the inclination nor the ability to do so.

One should be realistic. Are the people strong enough to conduct an uprising against Saddam Husayn's regime? Opinions differ. The Iraqi armed forces and the country's brutal security organization are the two levers at Saddam's disposal which can crush all kinds of rebellion.

And what plausible reason could there be for the Iraqi nation to remove the current government and replace it with a more dependent one? If it could, the best opportunity would have been during the Persian Gulf oil war when the world witnessed the treachery of the powers of world arrogance spearheaded by the United States.

Can the Iraqi nation be considered so weak that it can easily forget the past? The same international forces which are now working on Iraq's dismemberment prevented Saddam's downfall then and made the defenseless people the targets of their artillery fire. How can they have planned a new equilibrium, dismembering Iraq and toppling Saddam, again expecting the people to become the sacrificial victims?

Regardless of their ethnic or religious affiliations, the Iraqi people consider themselves part of foreigners' calculated plans and it is hard to imagine that they can be coerced accordingly. Despite the conflict or the enmity of the Iraqi people for the current regime, they will never agree to dismember Iraq, replacing that regime with another puppet rule.

The region's situation should be considered. Iraq's national vulnerability does not affect only Iraq; the neighboring countries also see their security linked with Iraq's national unity and, naturally, they cannot remain indifferent.

Any scenario for dismembering Iraq is doomed to defeat and can only advance if other groups follow the colonialist objectives of the United States and its allies and get involved in dividing power in Iraq. Such measures will be temporary and will change along with changes in Western calculations on Iraq. [passage omitted]

Even more dangerous than dismembering Iraq are the proposals by the UN investigative team, according to which the boundaries between Iraq and Kuwait should be redrawn, giving part of the Umm al-Qasr base, along with the Al-Rumaylah oil wells, to Kuwait. These proposals are illogical and unrealistic because the dangers they pose Iraq-Kuwait relations are clear. They leave no doubt that such proposals are partial and certainly not governed by a desire to resolve Iraqi-Kuwaiti border disputes.

Suspicion of the motives behind such proposals comes from their being products of the imagination of an individual or investigative team affiliated to the United Nations. The connection with the United States can be clearly perceived.

Regardless of the current regime, how can Iraq be deprived of access to the Persian Gulf? Kuwait's occupation of Umm al-Qasr will only heighten differences, and no regime in Iraq will ever accept that it should be cut off from the Persian Gulf, the only narrow outlet for Iraq's imports and exports.

Iraq initiated two wars with its neighbors, both aiming to expand its outlets to the waterways. How will it agree to being deprived of its last prospect of access to the sea? What regime will accept such conditions?

If foreign indictment deceives the Kuwaiti Government on this it will have overlooked the dangers. The experiences of two aggressive wars by the Saddam regime, despite the hardships they inflicted on the region's people, clarified that dismembering internationally recognized borders is not possible. One should learn from these experiences.

In any case, murmurings of Iraq's dismemberment and the handing over of part of its territory to Kuwait should be taken seriously and viewed apart from Saddam. He and Bush have fought a war and fate may entangle them again. If Saddam can link his government's fate with the U.S. presidential poll then Bush will face an impasse. But is the destiny of two sick, power-hungry individuals so important that it should doom Iraq to dismemberment?

Iranian Ambassador, UN Envoy Discuss Afghanistan

*LD1003181992 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT
10 Mar 92*

[Text] Islamabad, March 10, IRNA—The United Nations special envoy for Afghan affairs, Benon Sevan, said here

Tuesday that he was finalizing the list of participants for a broad-based meeting on Afghanistan involving all parties concerned.

Sevan, talking with the Iranian ambassador here, Javad Mansuri, lauded the Islamic Republic's efforts to find a solution to the Afghan crisis.

The U.N. envoy, who recently held talks with various Afghan mujahideen leaders, said he was trying to convene a broad-based meeting on Afghanistan in Geneva sometime next April.

Some 150 Afghan figures are to be invited to the meeting, he added.

According to Sevan, some mujahideen leaders are still opposed to the U.N. plan on Afghanistan, although the majority of Afghans support it.

Mansuri expressed hope that U.N. efforts to restore peace in Afghanistan would produce desirable results enabling the Afghan people to realize their cherished goal of an Islamic government.

Sevan, who has conferred with some Peshawar-based Afghan leaders and Pakistani officials, is to travel to Kabul soon to follow up his peace efforts.

Velayati Letter to Turkish Counterpart Over Cypriot Ship

*LD1803122792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT
18 Mar 92*

[Text] The Turkish ambassador to Tehran was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning to receive the letter of Mr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, to Mr. Hikmet Cetin, foreign minister of Turkey. I draw your attention to the full text of the said letter:

In His exalted name. His Excellency, Mr. Hikmet Cetin, the honorable minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Turkey: On 23 October 1991, the Cypriot vessel Cape Maleas, which was chartered by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines, was impounded at the entrance to the Bosphorus Strait by the coast guard officials of the Government of Turkey as she entered the said strait on a transit passage. The vessel's cargo, which belongs to the Islamic Republic of Iran, was being transported from the port of Burgaz in Bulgaria to Bandar-e 'Abbas according to a signed agreement.

The news of the impounding of the said vessel and its cargo came as a surprise to the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as international circles, because, according to the Montreux Convention, passage through the Bosphorus Strait is fully free. The special regimen which the said convention has prescribed for transit through the said strait is so explicit that it leaves no ambiguity about the implementation and exercise of the aforementioned right.

Following their declaration that the investigation of the issue of the said vessel and its cargo had been referred to the judiciary, the officials of the Government of Turkey have, in a surprise move, announced recently that the

courts of that country have confiscated the Cypriot vessel and the cargo belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran. That is an act contrary to the previous official and explicit statements made by the high-ranking authorities of Turkey and as such it is contrary to the promises that were made to the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the lifting of impounding order on the vessel.

The reason for such unprincipled action is not clear to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Hostile propaganda, coming simultaneously with the said recent move, strengthens the belief that enemies and those harboring ill will against the two nations are at work to disrupt the trend of comprehensive and growing cooperation between the two countries.

Enemies who consider peace and security in the region as contrary to their interests see their survival in disrupting friendly ties between Muslim nations. This comes to mind since not only this action of the Turkish Government in no way conforms to the spirit of good-neighborly relations between two Muslim countries, but also contravenes the principles prevailing over normal relations between countries, in addition to violating accepted international principles and recognized norms between governments.

While attempting to safeguard its national interests and believing in the necessity for the continuation of ties and good-neighborly relations with the Turkish Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran stresses that such actions will not only have unfavorable consequences for the relations between two neighboring countries, but will no doubt seriously undermine the credibility and reputation of the Turkish Government and its adherence to its international commitments throughout the world.

Considering the historical ties between the two countries and good-neighborly relations, since the beginning of the incident, despite pressure from public opinion, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has adopted a policy of patience and restraint, and, considering the above-mentioned points, expects the Turkish Government to take steps to release the ship and its cargo and safeguard the property of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Your Excellency, while expressing its strong dissatisfaction about this unexpected action, which has been committed without consideration for its sensitivity, significance, and adverse consequences on the relations between the two countries, while regarding all its legal rights as intact, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran demands a speedy solution to the problem, the release of the ship and its cargo, prevention of the occurrence of further damage, and compensation for the damages incurred so far.

[Signed] Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Judiciary Chief Praises Mediation, Criticizes Ship Hold

LD1703082692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Referring to the declaration of Friday, 27 March by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as International Jerusalem Day, at today's meeting of judiciary officials Judiciary Chief Yazdi expressed the hope that the world's

Muslims will follow the instructions of the imam. The latter stressed that International Jerusalem Day rituals should be held as gloriously as possible and mark that day with greatness and glory. By participating in International Jerusalem Day marches people will demonstrate their continued presence on the scene.

The judiciary chief praised Iran for its mediation efforts between the Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan. He expressed the hope that the agreement signed in Tehran between the warring sides about the Nagorno-Karabakh issue will lead to lasting peace between the two countries.

He also condemned the action taken by Turkish judicial authorities in confiscating a ship carrying Iranian cargo. He called on the Turkish Government to try to find a diplomatic solution to the matter, so as to avoid legal action.

Paper Urges Reevaluation of Ties To Turkey

*NC2903101592 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
14 Mar 92 p 2*

[Unattributed commentary: "Leniency Till When?"]

[Text] Despite the promises of Turkish officials, the ship "Cape Maleas," which was carrying a consignment of goods for Iran, was impounded by order of the court in Istanbul after the ship had been detained illegally for five months.

The constraints and tension which mar relations between Iran and Turkey following the Islamic revolution indicate insincerity—from a country which ostensibly professes to be a friend—in fostering firm and strong relations with Iran, and in learning from its earlier errors of inattention to the beliefs and values of the people and the Islamic revolution. Thus, Turkey has sought to create tensions and instability in mutual relations.

The screening of the film "The Naked Weapon," the expulsion of the Friday imam of the Iranian mosque, clashes with Muslim students, and other incidents indicate the malaise which ails this neighboring, and allegedly friendly, country.

One of these unwise and thoughtless actions on the part of Turkish officials was the illegal confiscation and impounding of the Cypriot-registered vessel carrying freight for Iran. This took place at a time when most of the Islamic countries had congregated in the cradle of Islam to decide on the greatest problem before the world of Islam, which is how to combat the cancerous tumor of Israel and extend support and solidarity to Palestine. In order to divert public opinion and to justify this unlawful action, the Turkish Government claimed that the vessel carried arms for Kurdish guerrillas, who are locked in clashes with the Turkish Armed Forces.

In view of the Montreux convention, the Turkish Government has no right to inspect vessels passing through the Strait of Bosphorus, and the question arises: Why did Turkey resort to this unlawful action and, despite the fact that during these five months leading officials of Turkey

made various statements on the impending release of the vessel, why did the court issue such a verdict?

This action by Turkey raises doubts about who the ultimate decision-makers in that country are. On his recent visit to Iran, Turgut Ozal stated that he will try to resolve the issue, but the verdict issued by the Istanbul court indicates that the president was not able to prevent an illegal action against a country with which it professes to desire better bilateral relations (that is, with Iran).

Even though it appears that there are hidden hands behind the incident concerning the vessel, what has motivated Turkey to act this way is aimed at attaining the same objectives which the enemies of the Islamic revolution—spearheaded by the United States—are seeking.

Has Turkey sacrificed all its regional and national interests merely for membership in the EC?

The Turkish Government should clarify how long it intends to remain the regional lever of the United States and NATO and occasionally disrupt the stability of the region for this purpose by creating crises in mutual relations? Who is to reap benefits from the straining of relations between Turkey and Iran?

Iran has frequently expressed its desire for healthy relations with neighboring countries based on reciprocal benefits, but unfortunately, each time contradictory actions by a neighboring country have been encountered, they are condoned by Iranian officials.

The final word is that the Turkish Government's impounding of the vessel carrying goods for Iran indicates the absence of any serious desire among Turkish leaders for improving durable ties with Iran.

It would be appropriate for Iran to terminate its policy of leniency and broadmindedness, and let Turkey understand that it will have to choose between the two paths of unconditional obedience to the policies of the U.S. and NATO, or continued relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Commentary Warns of Repercussions of Cape Maleas Incident

NC1903122192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Unattributed commentary: "Iran's Protest Note to Turkey"]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Ankara handed a protest note to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs two days ago in line with Iran's view that Turkey's search and seizure of the Cape Maleas violates international law and international relations. The protest note described a Turkish court's decision to detain the vessel's cargo, which belonged to Iran, as unlawful and called for the cargo to be released and for moral and material compensation to be paid to Iran.

Iranian-Turkish political and economic relations have gone through many ups and downs since Iran's Islamic Revolution. In spite of the Islamic Republic of Iran's

desire to have favorable relations with all Islamic countries, particularly with neighboring Turkey, that country has maintained a very unusual policy in bilateral relations. Several political observers believe that the fluctuating relations between Tehran and Ankara is mostly due to Turkey's inclination toward the Western world. Turkey's wish to establish a place for itself in the West and its efforts to join the EC, not to mention its close relations with Washington, has compelled Ankara to safeguard Western interests in order to achieve Turkish national objectives. Ankara's approach to the issue has had a bearing on the structure of Turkey's relations with the countries in the region. Washington believes that U.S. interests can only be promoted by confronting the countries opposed to the United States. Attempts by Turkey, which has friendly ties to the United States and supports Washington, to serve U.S. interests in the region should, therefore, not be unexpected. Confirmation of this can be seen in Prime Minister Demirel's call, made during his recent visit to the United States, for a coordinated Ankara-Washington effort to carry out a pro-U.S. new world order.

At this point, we want to note that during his meeting with Mo'ayeri, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's special envoy, on 31 October, Turkish President Ozal admitted that the detention of the Cape Maleas could not be legally justified. He also noted that the court's ruling to detain the vessel might have been prompted by conditions in Turkey, clashes between the Kurds and the Turkish Armed Forces, and the situation in the Caucasus. Ozal said that he would try to get the vessel released as quickly as possible.

In short, the Istanbul court's decision once again indicates the inconsistency in Turkish diplomacy and the absence of a decisionmaking mechanism in Ankara to maintain stability in its relations with Tehran. Turkish statesmen must bear in mind that this approach will have irreparable effects on the friendly relations between Tehran and Ankara.

Satellite Communications Established With Kuwait

92AS0770B Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] For the first time since the liberation of Kuwait, direct satellite communications were established between Iran and Kuwait, with a primary capacity of 30 circuits, and became operational.

Qazi Torbati, the deputy director of operations and upkeep for Iranian satellite affairs, made this announcement and added: Following talks between the Iranian communications officials and Kuwait, direct communications have been established between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kuwait since last Monday.

This report, quoted from the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait, also indicates that direct communications, with a capacity of 30 circuits, have become operational and can be increased up to 100 circuits. The two countries have now the capability to establish direct communications with each other.

Schools Operated in Kuwait Reopen After Liberation

92AS0770D Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Following the reopening of the schools of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kuwait last Wednesday night, the first parent-teacher association was established in the presence of the clerics, the charge d'affaires, the employees of the embassy and various people, and the issues and problems concerning the Iranian schools in Kuwait after the liberation were examined.

The schools of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kuwait were reopened last month for the first time since the liberation of that country, with 230 students in elementary and middle school levels.

The schools of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kuwait comprised one of the largest school districts in the Persian Gulf region prior to the occupation of that country, with 6,000 male and female students in elementary and middle school levels.

Central Republics Seek Air Connection With Tehran

92AS0709F Tehran KEYHAN-I HAVA'I in Persian 19 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Tehran-KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service, 26 Bahman—15 February—Several Central Asian republics have requested [Iran] to establish air connections between Tehran and their capitals. Air Armenian flights to Tehran have already begun and the Tehran-Baku flight will start in the near future.

In a conversation with reporters, Sayyed Hasan Shafti, the Executive Director of Islamic Republic Airline [IRA], announced the news and added: Officials in Eshqabad and Doshanbah also have requested Iran to establish air connections. However, since the Mehrabad airport is not currently ready to provide services for international flights, no decision has been as yet.

Referring to the scheduled expansion of IRA flights to the farthest places of the world, he stated that beginning in Id-e Fet 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] IRA flights will start to Nairobi, Kenya.

Citing the fact that 13 out of 20 municipal airports are not usable at night, the IRA executive director said that: during the past year and also this year, 65 percent of IRA aircraft have undergone major repairs. Considering the old age of these aircrafts, most of them will be obsolete by the end of the present century.

Comparing the number of passengers carried by HOMA (National Iranian Airline) last year and ten years ago, Shafti said that while the seating capacity of aircrafts has increased only 10 percent, the available statistics reflect an increase of 150 percent in the number of passengers.

Pointing to IRA's long-term plans, he stated that within the next 20 years necessary estimates have been made for

20 million passengers, and this impressive goal will not be possible without investments of foreign and domestic currencies in this field.

Railroad Network Link With Pakistan Discussed

92AS0776B Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Tehran (IRNA)—Pakistani Deputy Minister of Railways Nasir Ahmad conferred with Minister of Roads and Transport Mohammad Sa'idi-Kya here yesterday.

The two sides reviewed grounds for mutual cooperation particularly connecting Kerman by rail to the two countries' railway network which operates between Zahedan and Quetta.

Kerman which lies some 700 kms south of Zahedan is connected by railroad to other major Iranian urban centers, while the Pakistani city of Quetta has links to all major cities in that country.

The two ministers also called for the setting up of a joint committee for railway affairs.

Persian Handwriting Book Published in Tajikistan

92AS0768B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Feb 92 p 5

[Text] Tehran. IRNA. The Republic of Tajikistan has recently published an instructional book on Persian handwriting with a view to replacing the Russian alphabet with the Persian alphabet.

According to a report by Radio Doshanbeh, this book includes 12 lessons explaining Persian dictation rules for students.

Illegal Immigrants Source of Malaria Spread

92AS0758E Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Feb 92 p 19

[Text] The minister of health, treatment and medical education considers the illegal Afghan and Pakistan immigrants as partly responsible for the spread of malaria. He made this statement in the national conference on malaria which began yesterday in Zahedan.

He said: Malaria in recent years has spread in many parts of the world, and it is feared that it will become epidemic once again. Criticizing the lack of action by the industrial countries of the world in fighting malaria, he pointed out that it is necessary for the countries suffering from malaria to cooperate to eliminate this dangerous disease. He added that malaria is still one of the gravest health problems of Third World countries, and that in some parts of Iran, as well, malaria is considered a health problem.

The minister of health, treatment and medical education then added:

One of the factors that has greatly affected the spread of malaria in our country is the illegal immigration of the Afghans and Pakistanis to our country. Also, climatic conditions and the cultural and social conditions of some of the regions contribute to the spread of malaria.

Dr. Seyfi, the secretary of the national conference on malaria, said to our correspondent: For five days, nearly 400 Iranian and foreign experts from 13 countries involved in world organizations will discuss malaria, from parasitology to ecology and the biology of malaria transmitters to organizations to fight malaria. Also, eight sessions to retrain physicians to deal with malaria as well as discussion sessions will be held.

In the first session of the conference, Dr. Sadrizadeh, the health deputy of the Ministry of Health, Treatment [and Medical Education], explained the strike force plan for fighting malaria in three southeast provinces of the country.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

List of Majles Candidates Announced

KEYHAN Lists Candidates

92AS0783A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] KEYHAN Political Service—In contacts our reporter made with their offices, the Tehran Society of Combative Clergy [original group] and the Tehran Society of Combative Clergy [breakaway group] announced their preliminary lists of proposed candidates as deputies for the Fourth Majles.

The following is the list of candidates from the Tehran Society of Combative Clergy [original group]:

- Seyyed 'Ali Ghoyuri
- Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Hoseyni
- 'Abbas Shibani
- 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri
- Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Abutorabi
- Mahmud Do'a'i
- Hasan Rohani
- 'Amid Zanjani
- Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani
- Mohammad Reza Bahonar
- 'Ali 'Abbaspur
- Mohammad 'Ali Movahedi-Kermani
- Engineer Yahyavi
- Movahedi-Saveji
- Dr. Sadr
- Morteza Alviri
- Mohsen Mojtahed-Shabastari
- Seyyed Reza Taqav
- Saber
- 'Asgar-Owladi
- 'Ali Taqi-Khamushi
- Mohammad Hashem Rahbari
- Dr. Larijani
- Dari Najafabadi
- Mohammad Kazem Sayfian
- Ms. Maryam Behruzi
- Ms. Dr. Dastbordir
- Ms. Fayazbakhsh
- Ms. Labafnezhad
- Ms. Nowbakht

While announcing this, an informed official in the Tehran Society of Combative Clergy [original group] said that the names of the list are likely to change. He added: The announced list is not final and there is the possibility that it will change. The society's official list will be published in an official statement.

List for the Tehran Society of Combative Clergy [breakaway group]

In an interview with our correspondent, a member of the Tehran Society of Combative Clergy [breakaway group] announced that the following names as of today have received the most votes in voting that has been done in the society. The final and definitive list of candidates for the Tehran Society of Combative Clergy [breakaway group] will probably be announced tonight:

- Mehdi Karrubi
- Musavi Khu'iniha
- Mohammad Reza Tavasoli
- Mahmud Do'a'i
- 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi
- Morteza Alviri
- Sa'id Taslimi
- 'Abbas Duzduzani
- 'Abdol-Vahed Musavi-Lari
- Morteza Katira'i
- 'Esa Vela'i
- Mohammad Farhadi
- Shams Vahabi
- Sa'id Hejjarian
- Mohammad 'Ali Sawti
- Fakhroldin Hejazi
- Mohammad Salamati
- Abolqasem Sarhadizadeh
- Behzad Nabavi
- 'Alireza Mahjub
- 'Ali Akbar Abutorabi
- Engineer Yahyavi
- Seyyed Mohammad Asghari
- Najafqoli Habibi
- Hoseyn Mozafarinezhad
- 'Atefeh Sadiqi (Raja'i)
- Fatemeh Karrubi
- Gorji
- Marziyeh Hadidchi (Dabbagh)
- Gowhar ol-Sharir'eh Dastgheyb

SALAM Denies Authenticity

92AS0783B Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] News Service—Following the announcement of the incorrect list of candidates for the Tehran Society of Combative Clergy [breakaway group] in the newspaper KEYHAN, an informed official in this society denied the list and did not deny the possibility that there would be changes in the names of the announced candidates.

This informed official added: Yesterday morning in the contact that the newspaper KEYHAN made with the society's public relations office, it was noted that the released list was not final and that there was the possibility

of many changes. It was also emphasized that if the list were published, the entire list would be denied. He then continued: In view of this, it is not clear why KEYHAN published an untrue list?!

In conclusion he said: For example, Engineer Mohammad Ebrahim Asgharzadeh is one of the final candidates of the Tehran Society of Combative Clergy [breakaway group], and so far Ms. Gorji has not declared her willingness to be a candidate. Likewise, there is the possibility that some of the people now on the list will be eliminated, because some of them have not been presented so far.

He added: As in previous Majles terms, the Tehran Society of Combative Clergy [breakaway group] tries to coordinate and work in coalition with other genuine groups and forces following the Imam's line, and God willing it will participate with full strength in the elections.

Latest Count of Registered Candidates

92AS0781A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] KEYHAN Political Service—Based on the latest statistics announced by the National Election Staff, as of 20:00 hours 1,349 people had registered throughout the country as candidates for the Fourth Majles.

Based on the report from the Public Relations and Media Unit of the National Election Staff, the above statistic is divided by province as follows:

- East Azarbaijan, 107
- West Azarbaijan, 140
- Esfahan, 42
- Ilam, 20
- Bakhteran, 61
- Bushehr, 13
- Tehran, 104
- Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari, 19
- Khorasan, 107
- Khuzestan, 109
- Zanjan, 67
- Semnan, 21
- Sistan va Baluchestan, 33
- Fars, 112
- Kordestan, 37
- Kohgiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, 4
- Kerman, 19
- Gilan, 83
- Lorestan, 34
- Mazandaran, 116
- Central Province, 51
- Hormozegan, 11
- Hamadan, 24
- Yazd, 17

Likewise, five people volunteered as candidates for religious minorities, including one for the Zoroastrians, two for the Jews, two for southern Iran's Armenian Christians, and one for northern Iran's Armenian Christians.

The Public Relations and Media Unit of the National Election Staff reports that the executive councils in the election precincts throughout the country met on Thursday

and Friday of last week, and will continue their main activities conducting the elections for three more days, until Tuesday 12/27/1370 [18 March].

People of Ilam Welcome Elections

During the first three days of candidate registration in the province of Ilam, 20 people registered, and this is ten times the number of people needed to represent this province in the Majles, and it shows the public welcome for the elections and their importance.

The age of those volunteering in Ilam Province is about 35 years of age and their level of education is between a B.A. and a master's degree.

Registration Situation in Tuyserkhan

Six people registered in the Tuyserkhan precinct as candidates for the Fourth Majles.

Among those registering, most were holders of master's degrees to Ph.ds, and there were more than six of them, but there is a very high likelihood that this number will increase.

Names of 196 Voting Locations Identified

92AS0809B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Mar 92 p 15

[Text] In a public statement the Ministry of the Interior announced the names of 196 of the nation's election precincts for electing 270 deputies to the Fourth Majles.

Those intending to register as candidates for the Majles have seven days after today to report to their governor or district electoral precinct center to register.

The following are the names of the electoral precincts:

Tehran-Ray-Shamiranat, Karaj, Savejbalagh and Taleqan, Shahriyar and Rabat-e Karim, Damavand, Varamin, Qom, Arak, Sarband, Saveh, Tafresh and Ashtian, Mahallat and Delijan, Khomeyn, Mashhad, Fariman, Tor-oqbeh and Chenaran, Birjand, Qa'emat, Sabzevar, Gonabad, Torbat-e Haydariyeh, Khawaf and Rashtkhar, Nishapur, Bojnurd, Torbat-e Jam and Taybad, Kashmer, Quchan, Asfarayin, Dargez, Shirvan, Ferdows and Tabas, Esfahan, Barkhar and Mimeh, Ardestan, Nayin, Khomeynishahr, Shahreza, Samirom, Lanjan, Kashan, Golpaygan and Khunsar, Tanz, Najafabad, Faridun and Faridun Shahr, Flavarjan, Tabriz, Shabestar, Bostanabad, Ahar, Kelibar, Varzeqan, Ardebil, Moragheh, Bonab and Malekan, Sarab, Miyaneh, Khalkhal, Meshkinshahr, Marand, Moghan, Hashtrud, Ahvaz, Abadan, Khorramshahr, Shadegan, Dezful, Andimshak, Masjed-e Soleyman, Ram-hormoz, Izeh, Bandar Mahshahr, Dasht-e Azadegan, Shushtar, Behbahan, Sari, Amol, Babol, Babolsar, Kordkuy, Torkeman, Qa'emshahr and Savadkuh, Gonbad-e Kavus, Minudasht, Ramian, Gorgan, 'Aliabad, Behshahr, Tonokabon and Ramsar, Nur, Nowshahr, Shiraz, Sarvestan, Karbal, Sarvdasht, Mamasani, Abadeh, Eqbid, Fasa, Darab, Kazerun, Jaharrom, Firuzabad, Sepidan, Lar, Estebal and Nayriz, Lamard, Rasht, Bandar Enzeli, Talesh,

Astara, Sowme'eh Sara, Fuman, Astaneh Ashrafiyeh, Langrud, Rudsar, Rudbar, Lahijan, Urmia, Mehabad, Bukan, Miyan do Ab, Salmas, Piranshahr and Sardasht, Maku, Naqdeh, Kho'ei, Kerman, Zarand, Rafsanjan, Bam, Baft, Sirjan, Bardsir, Jiroft, Kohnuj, Shahr-e Babak, Bakhteran, Paluh, Qasr-e Shirin, Sarpol-e Zahab and Gilangharb, Eslamabad-e Gharb, Sanqar, Kangavar and Sahneh and Harasin, Bandar 'Abbas, Qeshm and Abumusa, Minab, Bandar Langaneh, Zahedan, Khash, Saravan, Zabol, Iranshahr, Chahbahar, Sanandaj, Saqz and Baneh, Marivan, Bijar, Qarueh, Hamadan, Bahar, Asadabad, Razan, Nehavand, Tuyserkan, Molayer, Khorramabad, Delfan and al-Shotor, Molavi, Kuhdasht and Dowreh Chagini, Borujerd, Dorud and Japalaq, Aligudarz, Zanjan and Tarom-e 'Olia, Qazvin, Bu'in-e Zahra and Owj, Takestan, Abhar, Khodabandeh, Mahneshan, Yazd, Naft and Bafq and Mehriz, Ardekan, Dashtestan, Dashti and Tangestan and Dir and Kangan, Bushehr and Gonaveh, Shahr-e Kord, Borujen and Lordegan, Ardel and Farsan and Kiya, Ilam and Shirvan and Chardavol, Dehloran and Mehran and Darrehshahr, Semnan, Damghan, Shahrud, Garmsar, Boyer Ahmad and Kohgiluyeh and Gachsaran, Zoroastrians, Jews, north Iran Armenian Christians, south Iran Armenian Christians.

Security Forces To Arrest Fasting Violators

92AS0770A Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] The security forces will arrest those not observing fasting during the month of Ramezan and send them before the judicial authorities.

The public relations office of the security forces pointed out in a communique issued for this purpose: Places that engage in selling food are not allowed to operate during the daytime hours, from dawn to dusk.

This communique, which emphasizes observance of Islamic behavior during the blessed month of Ramezan, states: Hotels, motels, and places of service on the roads are allowed to serve passengers inside the buildings and the dining halls in accordance with the regulations, but must do so in such a way that it cannot be seen from the outside.

The law enforcement also, while announcing a prohibition on any kind of celebration during the days and nights of Qadr, reminded drivers and passengers of buses and other vehicles to observe Islamic standards in every respect.

Majles Deputies Seen as Representatives of the People

92AS0770G Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Mar 92 p 11

[Interview with Hamadan Governor Teymuri by SALAM; place and date not given]

[Text] Hamadan. SALAM correspondent—Teymuri, the governor of Hamadan, explained to our correspondent the characteristics and distinguishing features of this round of Majles elections compared to previous ones and noted: The importance and position of the Majles in the Islamic regime, considering the sensitive temporal and regional

conditions, have made these elections even more significant. Under these conditions, the Majles has a very important and sensitive role, and, according to the late Imam, the Majles is the center of all powers. The Majles supervises all the current affairs and makes domestic and foreign policies for the regime and also supervises the work of all the three branches. The good work of the Majles in the past three rounds and its ability to solve problems and address vital and significant issues have not gone unnoticed to the people of the noble nation of Iran.

Teymuri added: The conformity of the Majles in the global arena, its good policymaking, its decisiveness in international affairs, and most important its obedience to the grand leader require the people's expansive presence in these elections as they have in the past, and with their timely and million-size participation, while strengthening the foundations of the regime, make the victorious soul of the Imam happy.

He continued: On the whole, the destiny of the country and the elimination of the people's problems takes place in the Majles. We have witnessed that any time there is the necessary coordination in a region between the Majles deputies and the regional officials, the existing problems are eliminated easily, and many of the fundamental projects are carried out successfully, followed by the contentment of the people. He considered the characteristics of a deputy as belief in and practical obligation to Islam and the Islamic regime, belief in religious guardianship and the Constitution; the deputy must be of the people, from among the masses of the people. In the scenes of the revolution and hardships, he must be by the side of the people and not be among those tied to the local tyrants and oppressors. He must serve only the oppressed masses of society and not special interest groups or persons. A deputy must have opinions and most important must be an emulator of Imam Khomeyni, realize and accept the ideas and instructions of the Imam, and follow his line and be a true follower of him. He asked the people of Hamadan to take utmost care and research to identify the candidates and not to pass over the issue indifferently, to vote with utmost understanding and not be influenced by extensive propaganda.

He added: Often, a particular group or even the capitalists and unethical and corrupt people, in order to gain power and to support their own interests and plans, might invest in some individual, to send him to the Majles and make use of him in the future for their own objectives.

He continued: The propagators of individuals and their propaganda methods reveal their personality, psychology, and beliefs. Those who do not observe piety and do not recognize limits or boundaries in terms of laws and regulations, also those who have a bad political, moral, financial, or social history, cannot represent these people and serve the barefooted and the oppressed and their interests. In conclusion, he said: Nevertheless, the committee in charge of the elections will in time investigate the competency of all the individuals and the related issues and if necessary will rule against their competency.

Council on Mandatory Presence of Defense Attorney

92AS0723F London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] After the approval by the Majles of a single-article measure requiring the presence of a defense attorney at all courts and trials (at the 9 Dey 1369 [30 December 1990] session, more than one year ago) and its approval by the Council of Guardians, now the "Expediency Discernment Council" has issued a "measure" to the public prosecutor. According to this measure, "plaintiffs in the special clerical courts have the right to choose an attorney. Any time a court deprives a defendant of the right to choose an attorney, the verdict will have no legal validity," although in the one-article measure approved by the Majles a year and some months ago and in the confirmations given by the chief of the judiciary, the special clerical court was not exempted from the requirement that a defense attorney be present; the special clerical court did not accept this and made the acceptance of an attorney subject to an order from the "leader."

Thus the Expediency Discernment Council, which was established by Khomeyni to resolve differences between the Majles and the Council of Guardians, once again sat down to the business of lawmaking and required the special clerical court to accept defense attorneys at its trials. However, the court will accept only those lawyers who are regarded as "sound" by the clergy.

Discord Between Tehran Municipality, Central Bank

92AS0723K London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Last week Karbaschi, mayor of Tehran, charged the Central Bank with criminal behavior because it closed the municipality's bank account.

This is the second time that the quarrel between the municipality and the Central Bank has gone to court. Recently the Municipality of Tehran complained to the public prosecutor that the Central Bank was running ads soliciting deposits from the public and promising to pay 24 percent annual interest. That case was heard first in the Islamic Revolutionary Court, after the republication of an announcement by the Municipality of Tehran in the newspapers stating: "Buy in advance, receive and unprecedented discount, and eliminate your need to get housing units." The municipality had an annual discount of 25 percent in mind for these "advance purchases." This was seen as "profit" instead of a "discount" by the Central Bank and several Majles deputies.

The Central Bank closed the municipality's accounts after this incident. The municipality complained about the Central Bank at the Tehran public prosecutor's office, and announced that the bank's action was illegal. After this complaint a representative of the Central Bank went to the Tehran public prosecutor's office and answered questions from the interrogator in this matter. The Municipality of Tehran ran an advertisement: The monies that the people make available to that municipality for one year will be used to carry out the 4,500-unit administrative and trade

complex project in the north of Tehran, the large Tehran fruit and vegetable square, and to build the trade complexes on Hafez, Vali 'Asr, and Bulevar Keshavarzi streets. The Municipality of Tehran promised investors at the same time that at the end of every three month period six percent of the invested money would be paid on the account of the investor as profit.

After the publication of this advertisement, the minister of the interior said that the municipality's action was void because it did not have the required authorizations. Despite the statement from the Ministry of the Interior, however, the Municipality of Tehran continued to run ads asking for loans from the public and promising to pay the special profits with even more determination. At this time the Municipality of Tehran was also facing protests from 19 Majles deputies. In other advertisements, the municipality informed citizens that this action was without objection in terms of the sacred shari'ah and that before taking such a decision the municipality had consulted with competent religious authorities. Now Karbaschi's Municipality of Tehran is trying to take the Central Bank to court for closing the municipality's accounts.

Ceremonial Speech Given at Guard Corps Headquarters

92AS0758F Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Feb 92 p 19

[Text] Farewell and introduction ceremonies for the former and present representatives of the religious guardian in the Guard Corps and also honoring the sixth anniversary of the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahalati and Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi were held yesterday morning in the 'Asheqan-e Sarallah religious center at the central headquarters of the Guard Corps.

According to a report by our correspondent, present in these ceremonies were Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Golpayegani, the representative of the leader; Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahhedi-Kermani, the representative of the religious guardian in the Guard Corps; Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Eraqi; General Reza'i, the commander general of the Guard Corps; Dr. Firuzabadi, the head of the command headquarters of the armed forces; the commanders of the five forces of the Guard Corps; the clerics in charge of the representative office of the religious guardian of the Guard Corps throughout the country; and a large number of clerics, military and civilian officials, and guards. After the anthem of the Islamic Republic was played, Hojjat ol-Eslam Golpayegani read the appointment letter of Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahhedi by the grand leader and said: The Guard Corps is an institution made up of the self-sacrificing faces of those who have sincerely offered their entire being and interests for the sacred Islamic regime and have left behind a bright legacy. Due to the importance of protecting this sacred institution and avoiding any sort of digression, the office of the representative was established, which has boasted distinguished figures who, alongside the Guard brothers, feed them intellectually and in the battlefields as well fight shoulder-to-shoulder with them.

The representative of the grand leader then pointed out the efforts of Martyr Mahallati and said: He placed all his time at the service of advancing the sacred institutions. Even before the revolution, tolerating suffering and prison, he made many strides to send the messages of the Imam to everyone. Such a personality deserves nothing less than martyrdom.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Golpayegani expressed sorrow about the martyrdom of grand scholar Seyyed 'Abbas Musavi and added: This martyr was born of this revolution and felt so obliged to obey the leader that he had placed himself at his disposal as a soldier. Now, with his martyrdom, new blood has been pumped into the veins of the Islamic revolution.

In the continuation of these ceremonies, General Mohsen Reza'i, honoring the anniversary of the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahallati, referring to the effects of the Islamic revolution in the world, said: The effects of the Islamic revolution today have been felt, with the crumbling of communism and the cultural trembling of the West, and this shows that our nation, inspired by the directives of the clerics, has been able to shake the world.

The general commander of the Guard Corps in conclusion praised the efforts of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Eraqi during his services as the representative of the religious guardian to the Guard Corps and said: The secret of the victory of our nation is (presuming) the power and dignity of the clerics.

According to this report, then Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Eraqi congratulated Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahhedi-Kermani, the representative of the religious guardian in

the Guard Corps, and in a speech referred to the statements of the late Imam and said: He was the revitalization of pure Mohammadan Islam. Because of the blessings of his deep knowledge and divine spirit and the blessing of the self-sacrifice of the combatants of Islam and the blessed blood of the martyrs of Islam, thank God, today we live in a time when the delightful scent of revolutionary Islam has wafted throughout the world. We thank God for this and ask Him not to take away from us the honor of guarding this divine ideology until the moment of death.

In conclusion, he thanked the officials of the representative circle, the clerics and the guards who worked during the time that the representative office of the religious guardian has been in charge in the Guard Corps.

In the conclusion of these ceremonies, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Movahhedi-Kermani first praised Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Eraqi for his work and, referring to the anniversary of the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahallati and the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi, said:

The secretary general of the Hezbollah of Lebanon was a thorn in the side of Israel and the United States and wanted martyrdom.

The representative of the religious guardian to the Guard Corps then referred to the decree of the Commander of the Faithful to Malek Ashtar and enumerated the characteristics that must exist in an Islamic combatant.

In conclusion, he emphasized that the Guard Corps brothers must fully preserve their impartiality in the elections and at the same time raise their political awareness as much as possible in order not to be deceived by the enemies of Islam.

New Income Tax Rates Approved by Majles

92AS0723J London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] During one of its recent sessions the Majles discussed increases to the Direct Taxation Law enacted in Esfand 1366 [21 February-20 March 1987] and approved some of its articles. According to the new Majles legislation, income tax rates will be determined as follows:

- Up to one million rials taxable income, 12 percent annually
- Up to 2.5 million rials taxable income, 18 percent annually for income in excess of one million rials
- Up to 4 million rials taxable income, 25 percent annually for income in excess of 2.5 million rials
- Up to 9 million rials taxable income, 35 percent annually for income in excess of 4 million rials
- Up to 25 million rials taxable income, 45 percent annually for income in excess of 9 million rials
- Up to 100 million rials taxable income, 50 percent annually for income in excess of 25 million rials
- Up to 300 million rials taxable income, 52 percent annually for income in excess of 100 million rials
- For income in excess of 300 million rials, 54 percent annually

Imam Khomeyni Airport Construction Detailed

92AS0768A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Feb 92 p 18

[Interview with Engineer Mohammad 'Ali Nurian, head of the national air transportation, and Engineer Mirkhani, head of the office in charge of the Imam Khomeyni International Airport project, by reporters; place and date not given]

[Text] Social Section. With the operation of the first phase of the Imam Khomeyni International Airport (between 1376 [21 March 1997-20 March 1998] and 1380 [21 March 2001-20 March 2002]), 12 million passengers and 200,000 tons of cargo will be transported annually.

Engineer Mohammad 'Ali Nurian, the head of the national air transportation, along with Engineer Mirkhani, the head of the office in charge of the Imam Khomeyni International Airport project, spoke to reporters about the construction of the airport and said: The first phase of the Imam Khomeyni International Airport will be completed in 1375 [1996-97] and will become operational between 1376 [1997-98] and 1380 [2001-2002]. The second phase, depending on the conditions of the time, will be carried out between 1381 [21 March 2002-20 March 2003] and 1390 [21 March 2011-20 March 2012] for the transportation of 18 million passengers and an average maximum cargo of 300,000 tons annually.

According to Engineer Nurian, with the third phase in operation (from 1391 [21 March 2002-20 March 2003] on), 30 million passengers will be transported annually.

Referring to the fundamental changes in the plans for the Imam Khomeyni Airport, he said: Based on the latest international operational standards and regulations, fundamental changes were made by the domestic experts and the managers of the national airline industries in the model

of the previous plan so as to incorporate the very latest in the building of passenger terminals.

He announced the next year's budget of the airport to be 2.6 billion tomans. The head of the national airline agency said: The cost of the first phase has been estimated at 400 billion rials, which involves two parallel airstrips, an international terminal, a domestic terminal, a hajj pilgrimage terminal, a government pavilion, a control tower and secondary buildings. The roads, bridges, and flight control systems come under the other facilities of the first phase.

Referring to the strategic position of Tehran, Engineer Nurian said: Tehran is the country's main gateway and it has an unparalleled geographical location between the East and the West, and, for this reason, has the potential for attracting transit flights and offering services to international flights.

Then, Engineer Mirkhani, the head of the office in charge of the Imam Khomeyni International Airport, referred to the geographical position of this airport and said: This airport, with 15,000 hectares (about 150 million square meters), is located 35 km southwest of Tehran, between the Qom expressway and the Tehran-Saveh road, and is 20 km southeast of the sacred shrine of Imam Khomeyni.

He said: The connecting roads and the main access to the airport from Tehran are the Tehran-Qom highway and the Tehran-Saveh highway (under construction). In addition, included in the airport's comprehensive plan are plans for a rapid transportation system (metro) and the Tehran-Esfahan railroad.

He said: The facilities that will be operational at the end of the first phase, and in fact complete the project, include two main north-south runways, two passenger and foreign terminals, a Hajj pilgrimage terminal, and a government terminal.

Referring to the airport township, Engineer Mirkhani said: In order to house the employees who are required to live near their work, a township will be built in the northwest section of the airport, which will have 200 housing units built in the early stages. This township could contain up to 5,000 residential units within the airport boundaries.

In conclusion, the head of the office in charge of the Imam Khomeyni International Airport announced the progress of the design and engineering operations as follows: An agreement for ground traffic studies for the airport to Tehran and the vicinity is about to be completed. The agreement for studies on flight contingencies for the second runway, the connecting taxiing strips, the station, and the secondary facilities of the cargo terminal have made a 50 percent progress. The studies on the total green, protected public areas of the project are under way and have made 20 percent progress. The agreement to provide electricity and change the 100 km high pressure towers has been signed and has made about 10 percent progress. The agreement to provide natural gas for the whole project has been signed, and studies on the transfer of natural gas for the project have begun. The first phase of the agreement on

studies for the provision of water to the project and the irrigation for the green areas has been completed. Studies on the transport of airplane fuel to the area have begun. The agreement on studies regarding the employees' township has been signed, and the adviser has begun his work. The agreement on studies for rapid access from Tehran through the railroad is about to be signed, and the studies on the first new stage of the comprehensive plan are being made by expert groups. Studies on the model of the terminals and the important areas around them are being undertaken by the expert groups of the project.

Some Firms To Sell 67 Percent of Shares

92AS0777C Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Mar 92 p 18

[Text] Sixty-seven percent of the shares of the Iran Vehicle, Iran Kaveh, Saipa, Pars Vehicle, Iran Vanette, Vehicle Manufacturers, Moratab, Shahab Vehicle, Ahvaz Pipe and Pole, Poles and Metal Parts Production, Arak Aluminum Pole, Iran Maritime Industries and Zamian companies will be sold.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries, in a statement explaining the above, announced the procedure for payment of compensation to qualified former shareholders from these companies.

Based on this statement, 67 percent of the shares of the aforementioned companies, gradually and after amending the financial structure, will be issued as new shares for sale on the market to applicants by the Denominational Paper Market Organization of Tehran, and the remaining 33 percent of the shares will be turned over in accordance with regulations established in a measure enacted by the Council of Ministers to workers in production units with priority to workers in those same companies.

The Iran Industries Development and Construction Organization is also prepared via the stock market to transfer to a single buyer or a group buyer 34 percent of the shares of each of the aforementioned companies. Those interested may submit their proposal in writing to the Economic Deputy of the Development Organization.

Likewise, the procedure for paying compensation later in accordance with the regulations as cash payments or in the form of new shares was announced.

First Phase of Beheshti Complex Becomes Operational

92AS0709C Tehran SALAM in Persian 6 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Hamadan, Salam Reporter: During a ceremony in the presence of the city's Friday prayer leader, the Minister of Roads and Transportation, the Director of National Health, the Governor General, and a number of martyred families and government officials, the Beheshti Rehabilitation Complex in Hamadan was opened and its first phase began operating. This huge complex is a nine-story building and was built on a 400,000-square-meter piece of land on the slopes of Alvand, has usable space of about 20,000 square meters, and cost about 3 billion rials. There are several advanced departments in this center including

physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, artificial leg and arm production, hearing tests, speech therapy, a specialized clinic with 50 beds, and the capacity to serve 150 disabled patients in need of daily rehabilitation. Moreover, with the opening of this complex, from now on advanced rehabilitation services will be available to the blind, the deaf, and physically and mentally handicapped individuals. Its modern centers for producing artificial arms and legs will be able to meet the needs of the disabled. During this ceremony, Dr. Mohammadi, the head of National Health Organization, who traveled to Hamadan for the opening of this complex, highlighted its importance and stated that a rehabilitation and paramedical college will be opened in this center and will accept students. He expressed the hope that professional cadre needed for different departments of this complex will be trained in this college to serve its needs. At the end of this occasion, he thanked and acknowledged all officials who had worked and contributed in one way or the other to the completion of this complex.

Arak Refinery To Become Operational in 2003

92AS0709H Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 6 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Noshahr-KEYHAN reporter—21 Bahman—10 February. According to a contract signed between Iran and two Japanese and Italian companies, by 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], the main producing units for oil products of the Arak refinery will be completed and operational. Discussing this issue in the city of Noor, the reporter of the Oil Commission of the Islamic Majles estimated its cost at 1 billion and 100 million dollars plus 22 million rials. He added that according to this contract, the Japanese and Italian companies will be required to provide the Arak refinery's main units with the necessary machinery and equipment and deliver them to Iranian authorities by 1372.

He said that currently 71 units of Arak refinery's tanks with capacities ranging from 3,000 to 500,000 barrels and approximate weights of 24,000 tonnes have been purchased by the National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC] and more than 69 percent of their installation has been completed by domestic contractors under the supervision of the engineering office of refineries.

Regarding the structural design of the Arak refinery, he stated that: generally speaking, the site construction and equipment of the refinery have been completed by the NIOC and the operation of water, electricity, and steam units will start in 1371 [21 Mrch 1992-20 March 1993]. He also brought to mind that the crude oil for the Arak refinery is supplied from the Asmari oil wells near Ahvaz.

Five Petrochemical Factories To Be Constructed

92AS0709E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 19 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Tehran—21 Bahman—10 February—Dr. Noorbakhsh, Minister of Economy and Finance, announced that five petrochemical factories will be opened next year.

Regarding the production of steel he said: Currently production is about 2 million tonnes, which will increase to over 4 million tonnes next year.

On achieving self-sufficiency in agriculture, he said that the import of wheat declined by 800 thousand tonnes this year, and this figure will reach \$1 million tonnes in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993].

Citing the problems emanating from the imposed war and plots by the enemy to disappoint the people, the Minister of Economy and Finance appealed to the people to stay unified and persist at this sensitive stage more than any other time.

Reconstruction Projects on Persian Gulf Islands

92AS0758A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] Kish Island. Emphasizing the implementation of developmental projects similar to those on Kish on other islands of our country, the president expressed hope that in the future, Kish will become a large warehouse enabling merchants to speedily procure what they need without excessive bureaucracy.

The president, speaking in a gathering of officials of the Kish development organization as he continued his visit to the Iranian islands of the Persian Gulf, deemed the progress in the affairs of Kish satisfactory and said: On the whole, the order, the climate created, the development of various sectors, and the independence of the people of the island are good.

The president expressed hope that in the future, Kish will become a large warehouse enabling merchants to speedily procure what they need without excessive bureaucracy. Preparations for this eventuality are under way.

The president also emphasized the increase in the capacities on Kish to attract passengers and provide resources for recreation and comfort on this island.

He said: Programs such as those carried out on Kish must be carried out in other ways on other islands of our country, because the Persian Gulf, possessing rich resources, oil and natural gas and being in a strategic location, is of particular importance.

He emphasized the necessity of providing security on this island and said: If programs suitable to technical and industrial needs are carried out here, this island will become a valuable region.

Continuing his visit to Kish Island, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani opened the new natural gas power plant on the island yesterday morning and it was set into operation. The president also visited several development and commercial projects under way as well as the water desalination facilities of Kish Island and became familiar with the progress of these projects first hand.

A Slaughterhouse and an Industrial Fishing Fleet To Be Created on Abu Musa

The same report indicates that the president last Thursday afternoon also visited the strategic island of Abu Musa. In

the course of this visit, he issued instructions for the creation of an industrial slaughterhouse and an industrial fishing fleet and the expansion of the commercial activities on that island.

The president also opened the operations for the building of 100 residential units in the township of Morvarid on Abu Musa Island.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani then spoke at a gathering of the people of the island and said:

Abu Musa Island, because of its particular location, is very important to us, and, from our perspective, the people here are the border patrols and protectors of one of the sensitive parts of the country.

He added: This island, given its situation, can become one of the great economic centers of the Persian Gulf. Hence, you people must consider this place a vast wealth and a valuable jewel.

The president referred to the gradual provision of health and treatment, education and comfort resources on the island and said: With the implementation of several large development and economic projects here, the grounds for employment will also be provided. He added: An arrangement must be made to have the birth certificates of the next generation issued in the name of this island in order to secure the future and encourage the revolutionary children reared by their mothers to guard this island.

Visit to "Siri" and "Farur"

According to a report, the president, visiting the island of Siri on Thursday morning, opened the reconstruction sections of the oil platform of this island, which were damaged in the attack of the aggressive American forces in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989].

The president and his companions then visited the island of "Farur." On visiting this island, the president issued the necessary instructions to expedite the implementation of the development projects of the island. This village, which is 268 sq km, is located at the deepest part of the Persian Gulf waters and is one of a group of islands on which projects such as natural wildlife parks and suitable centers for raising flowers and creating reservoir dams will be implemented.

Over \$2 Billion Worth of Goods Exported

92AS0709A Tehran SALAM in Persian 6 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] The Iran Customs Office announced that according to statistics received from various customs offices throughout the country, during the first 10 months of the current year, 2,123 tonnes of merchandise valued at 142 billion rials equivalent to 2,039 billion dollars has been exported to other countries of the world. Compared with the statistics for a similar period last year, this figure reflects an increase of 11.6 percent in weight and 102 percent in value. During this period, exports have continued to grow.

The most important export item has been 18,000 tonnes of hand-made carpets, valued at 62 billion rials. This figure is

44 percent of all exports and reflects an increase of 125.5 percent in weight and 18 percent in value compared with a similar period last year. Also, 75,000 tonnes of pistachios, valued at 18 billion rials, which is about 12.5 percent of all exports, have been exported and show an increase of 44 percent in weight and 31 percent in value since last year.

In addition, during this period other kinds of merchandise, such as copper and aluminium utensils, animal skins, clothings, copper, raisins, salambor, saffron, gira, wool, shrimp, herbs, leather, stone, dried fruits, machine-made rugs, dye-stuff and glue have been exported through Bandar Abbas, Imam Khomeini, Bushehr, and Urumiyeh ports.

Nonoil Exports Exceed \$2 Billion

92AS0767C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Feb 92 p 19

[Text] From the start of this year [21 March 1991] to the end of Dey [20 January], \$885 million worth of carpets, \$257 million worth of pistachios, \$52 million worth of hides, \$43 million worth of ready-made clothes, \$35 million worth of raisins, \$29 million worth of copper, and \$20 million worth of caraway seeds have been exported.

Economic Section. The public relations office of the Customs of the Islamic Republic of Iran contacted RESALAT and announced:

According to the statistics received from the various customs offices of the country, in the first 10 months of this year, 2,123 tons of goods at a value of 142 billion rials, equivalent to \$2,039,000,000, have been exported through customs to other countries of the world, which compared with the statistics of a similar period [last year] it indicates an increase of 11.6 percent in weight and 102 percent in value, and this upward trend continues.

According to the report, the main exported goods are as follows, in order of importance:

1. Handwoven carpets, weighing 18,000 tons and valued at 62 billion rials (\$885 million), were exported, which makes up 44 percent of the total value of exports during this period. In terms of weight, this is 125.5 percent, and in terms of value, compared to a similar period last year, marks an increase of 18 percent.
2. Pistachios, weighing 75,000 tons and valued at 18 billion rials (\$257 million), the value of which is 12.5 percent of the total exports during this period. Compared to a similar period last year, this shows an increase of 44 percent in terms of weight and 31 percent in terms of value.
3. Copper and aluminum containers (both new and scrap), weighing 20,000 tons, are among the major export items that have thrived this year.
4. Hides and various kinds of (salambur) and (keraget), weighing 15,000 tons and valued at 3,700 million rials (\$52 million), which is 2.57 percent of the total value of exports and, compared to a similar period last year, marks an increase of 48 percent in weight and 27 percent in value.
5. Ready-made clothes, weighing 1,600 tons and valued at 3,062 million rials (\$43 million), have been exported, which is 2.16 percent of the total exports during this period and, compared to a similar period last year, indicates an increase of 68.6 percent in weight and 126 percent in value.
6. Copper (and) and (kate), weighing 14,000 tons and valued at 2,035 million rials (\$29 million), which is 1.43 percent of the total value of exports and, compared to a similar period last year, marks a decrease of 62 percent in weight and 61 percent in value.
7. Various kinds of raisins, weighing 54,000 tons and valued at 2,503 million rials (\$35 million), which is 1.76 percent of the total value of the exports and in terms of weight shows an increase of 57.6 percent and in terms of value 62.6 percent.
8. Saffron, weighing 21 tons and valued at 521 million rials (\$7.4 million), which is among the export items that has a good market and in terms of weight has increased by 220 percent and in terms of value 290 percent.
9. Various kinds of caraway seeds, weighing 20,000 tons and valued at 1,438 million rials (\$20 million), which compared to a similar period last year increased by 27 percent in weight and 25 percent in value.
10. Wool, processed wool and hair, weighing 163 tons and valued at 500 million rials (\$7 million), which compared to a similar period last year has increased significantly.
11. Ores and lead, weighing 32,000 tons and valued at 353 million rials (\$5 million), have been exported, which indicates a change of 93 percent in weight and 54 percent in value.
12. Chromite ore, weighing 115,000 tons and valued at 820 million rials (\$11 million).
13. Machine-made carpets, weighing 312 tons and valued at 102 million rials (\$1.4 million).
14. Other equipment and electrical appliances, weighing 413 tons and valued at 131 million rials (\$1.8 million), which compared to a similar period last year has increased by 286 percent in weight and 511 percent in value and indicates economic growth in this area.
15. Cast iron, weighing 146,000 tons and valued at 1,079 million rials (\$15 million), which, compared to a similar period last year, increased 166 percent in weight and 123 percent in value.
16. Pharmaceutical and industrial plants, weighing 1,261 tons and valued at 281 million rials (\$4 million), which in terms of weight shows a decrease of 39 percent and in terms of value 69 percent.
17. Dried peaches and apricots, weighing 2,735 tons and valued at 209 million rials (\$2.9 million), which indicates a decrease of 24 percent in weight and 20 percent in value.
18. Fresh salted shrimp, weighing 2,000 tons and valued at 207 million rials (\$2.9 million), which, compared to a

similar period last year, indicates a decrease of 6 percent in weight and 63 percent in value.

19. Gums and resins, weighing 1,032 tons and valued at 171 million rials (\$2.4 million), which, compared to a similar period last year, indicates a decrease of 2 percent in weight and 7 percent in value.

The most important exports through customs are as follows, in order of priority of value of the exported goods:

The Customs of West Tehran, goods valued at 65 billion rials; the Customs of Bandar 'Abbas, goods valued at 15 billion rials; the Customs of Urmia, goods valued at 14 billion rials; and the Customs of Kerman, goods valued at 11 billion rials.

The most important exporting customs, with priority given to the weight of the exported goods, are:

The Customs of Bandar 'Abbas, with 702,000 tons in weight; the Customs of Bandar Imam Khomeyni, with goods weighing 467,000 tons; the Customs of Bushehr, with goods weighing 254,000 tons; and the Customs of Urmia, with goods weighing 150,000 tons.

Carpets Make Up 45 Percent of Exports

92AS0779I London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] In the first 11 months of the current year (1370) [20 March 1991-19 February 1992] the Islamic Republic exported 2.285 million tons of nonpetroleum goods valued at 155 million rials. At the same time statistical sources at Islamic Republic Customs reported that by the end of the last month of Dey [20 January], 21,076,449 tons of goods came through the nation's customs offices.

In a public statement, the Public Relations Office of Islamic Republic Customs announced that in the first 11 months of the current year there was a 99.2 percent increase in the value of the nation's exported nonpetroleum goods. The Islamic Republic Customs wrote in its report that by the end of the month of Bahman this year [19 February], merchants exported about 20,000 tons of handwoven silk and wool carpets valued at 68 billion rials. Most of these exported carpets were bound for the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, England, Austria, Sweden, and some Arab countries on the shores of the Persian Gulf.

An analysis of Iran's foreign trade statistics (nonpetroleum exports) shows that currently about 45 percent of the total value of Iran's nonpetroleum exports consists of various kinds of handwoven carpets. The statistical report on Iran's nonpetroleum exports for the first eleven months of the current year states that next on the list of Iran's nonpetroleum exports after handwoven carpets is pistachios and pistachio meats. Iran Customs reported that the weight of pistachios exported from Iran in the period under discussion was 85,000 tons at a value of 20 billion rials. A comparison of the quantity and value of the pistachios exported in the first 11 months of the current year with the same period last shows increases of 50.5 percent and 38.8 percent respectively.

Elsewhere in its report, Islamic Republic Customs noted that until the month of Bahman this year Iranian merchants exported about 16.5 thousand tons of hides valued at 4.2 billion rials, an increase of 48 percent by weight and 32 percent by value over the same period last year. In its report on the nation's nonpetroleum exports until the end of the month of Bahman this year, the Public Relations Office of Islamic Republic Customs announced that there was a significant jump in saffron exports over the same period last year. This report states that in the first 11 months of the current year saffron exporters sent 612 million rials worth of this product to the world's markets, which is triple the amount sent for the same period in 1369.

Five Hundred Projects Become Operational

92AS0709B Tehran SALAM in Persian 9 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Khorramabad, Salam Reporter: Concomitant with blessed Fajr decade and the beginning of the 14th spring of freedom, 500 projects in the construction, service, health, education, and development sectors became operational in Lorestan.

The Construction Crusade Director announced this news and added that: these projects include 94 electrical projects with 200-meter-lengths of low- and high-pressure network, 12 sanitary public baths with a total usable space of 2,950 square meters, 16 health-center units, 29 school buildings with 176 classrooms, 39 underground drinking water pipelines 131-km long, construction of 39 water reservoirs, 18 road construction projects totalling 169 km, construction of six bridges, eight rural crafts centers employing 77 people, reconstruction and renovation of animal shelters with a capacity for 6,668 head of animals, establishment of 24 centers for raising and producing dairy cows with a capacity for 3,245 head of cattle, construction of seven silos and seven dams, construction of nine water transfer projects with coverage, construction of four buildings for the Construction Crusade, a soil dam, completion of electrical works of 59 water wells for agricultural use with a capacity of 29- km medium-pressure electricity and construction of a rural education center, which has cost 6 billion rials.

In conclusion and regarding the achievements of the Construction Crusade, the director stated that: since the victory of the Islamic revolution 1,007 villages in this province have received electricity, whereas before the revolution, only 47 villages had electricity. He also added that before the revolution only 184 villages in Lorestan province had access to drinking water while at the present time, the number of these villages is about 1,307.

Sale of Repossessed Real Estate Under Way

92AS0779H London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] Following the rising tide of sales of real estate and residential homes belonging to the people by the Islamic regime's Foundation for the Oppressed, another organization affiliated with the regime also ran its first advertisement concerning the auctioning of property and real estate confiscated from the people in the desirable and expensive

Shemiran and north Tehran areas. The aforementioned organization, which calls itself the Imam's Commands Implementation Staff, announced in its statement that it would sell the property and real estate it controls through public auction.

In the text of the statement in question, in addition to the list of confiscated houses and residential villas in north Tehran, the type of property, the size of the lot and the structures, the exact address, property specifications, and finally the base price for each residential unit being sold were given. The confiscated homes to be sold by the aforementioned organization are located in very desirable areas such as Shemiran, Baghe-e Ferdows, and north Tehran and they include properties on Farmaniyeh, Vali'ahd, Vali'asr, Tavanir, Maydan-e Fatemi, Bistun, Pas-daran, Motahari, Darya-ye Nur, Qaytariyeh, Bozorg Rah-e Sadr, Afriqa, Dr. Shari'ati and Nayavaran streets. The base price established for each home ranges between 12 and 66 million tomans.

Part of Government Revenue Allocated to Education

92AS0758C Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Feb 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] Mashhad. KEYHAN correspondent.—Of the annual revenues of the institutions under the control of the government, 2 percent will be allocated to educational space. This statement was announced by Jannati, the governor general of Khorasan, who added: Based on the projected plans in the budget of next year, the institutions under the control of the government shall be responsible to allocate 2 percent of the annual budget to provide educational space.

The governor general of Khorasan added: With the implementation of this plan, which is made a responsibility of all those involved in housing construction, part of the problems and shortages of educational space will be eliminated. The governor general of Khorasan, who was explaining the details of the 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] national budget in a gathering of the executive officials of this province, announced: The funds for cultural and tourism projects and providing facilities for those who create nonprofit schools have increased, according to next year's budget.

He added: Also, in order to expand and develop athletics in the country, 4 billion rials of next year's budget will be placed at the disposal of the province to strengthen athletic programs.

He also pointed out the allocation of 500 million rials in funds for studying developmental projects for the oppressed areas in the 1371 [1992-93] budget and said: Next year, in addition to rial allocations, the government will spend \$600 in foreign currency for the development and revitalization of oppressed areas. In another part of his speech, the governor general of Khuzestan referred to the allocation of projected funds in next year's budget and, speaking about the law on coordinating systems payment to government employees, said: With the allocation of 11 billion tomans in special funds in next year's budget, only

40 percent of the law on coordinating systems will be implemented, and it is anticipated that some of the extra pay for jobs will stop in 1371 [1992-93].

In conclusion, with regard to the foreign currency situation of our country next year, he said: Due to the foreign currency shortages, it is projected in the 1371 [1992-93] budget that those whose activities are somehow dependent on foreign currency will have foreign currency problems next year.

Various Reconstruction Projects Implemented

92AS0777A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Mar 92 p 18

[Text] Political Service—The Infantry of the Islamic Republic Army, by signing contracts and implementing more than 20 large development programs and projects valued at tens of billions of rials in the nation's deprived war-stricken areas, has participated actively in the task of reconstruction.

General Abdollah Najafi, commander of the Infantry of the Islamic Republic Army, announced the above at a press conference yesterday. He added: In peacetime, according to our own law, we are obligated to play a major and basic role in the nation's reconstruction. For this same reason, based on a new set of guidelines, all army infantry engineering units have been mobilized to take part extensively in the task of reconstruction.

He discussed the extensive and sometimes unique resources of the Infantry of the Islamic Republic Army. He said: The engineering units in all of our major units are fully prepared to take part in the nation's big reconstruction projects.

The commander of the Infantry of the Islamic Republic Army named some of the most important tasks now being carried out by this force, including the construction of a 100-km water delivery canal on the Bahukalat plain of Chabahar, the digging of a canal, leveling the ground and the construction of a road in Bakhteran, heavy debris removal operations in Mehran, the dam construction and canal digging project in Kordestan and West Azarbayjan, the construction of a dirt dam in Zahedan and Zabol, the dredging of the Zabol river, the urban construction projects in Urmia and Tabriz, the cable-laying project at Zanganeh Plain in Maku, the reconstruction of the Kumehku road in the west part of the country, digging the pipeline channel from Tonokab to Naftshahr and Qasr-e Shirin, the reconstruction of the sugar cane factory at Salamabad, and the construction of the 100-km road in the vicinity of Kerman.

Among other reconstruction activities being carried out within the Army of the Islamic Republic, he mentioned the construction and completion of the semicompleted organizational houses in Tehran and Parandak, the reconstruction of warehouses, computer facilities and bases, and also the reconstruction of bases and tens of schools and mosques. He said: In carrying out the nation's reconstruction, the Infantry of the Islamic Republic Army is fully prepared to sign contracts with ministries and government and nongovernment organizations.

He also said: In the last two years the Infantry of the Islamic Republic Army has cleared hundreds of kilometers of Iraqi mine fields and found and neutralized millions of mines and unexploded shells planted throughout the war by the Iraqi regime in the occupied areas in the south and west parts of the country, and in so doing it has also presented martyrs and disabled veterans to the Islamic revolution.

The commander of the Infantry of the Islamic Republic Army discussed the fact that the army has presented exhibitions of various types of mines in the south, west, and northwest parts of the country. He added: Special wages and benefits have been provided for personnel who participate in reconstruction as well as in gathering and neutralizing mines.

The commander of the Infantry of the Islamic Republic Army discussed the reconstruction and the implements and equipment needed by the army. He said: We have taken positive steps in the matters of reconstruction and modernization of new implements and equipment, and in general we are satisfied. Of course we have obtained some equipment and implements from friendly countries, but our main effort has been focused on domestic resources and we have no problem.

In conclusion, he said: With the agreement of the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution it has been arranged that 29 Farvardin [18 April], which is the anniversary of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will also be called Infantry Day.

Seventy Dams To Be Built in Next 3 Years

92AS0776A Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Mar 92
p 3

[Text] Arak, Central Province (IRNA)—A total of 70 dams are to be built by the Energy Ministry throughout the country by the end of the current five year plan in 1995, the energy minister said here Sunday.

Work is under way on 30 dam projects at present, and construction of ten more dams will start next calendar year (March 21), Minister Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh said.

The government, he said, attaches more importance to development projects to provide electricity and irrigation water for the industrial and agricultural sectors than to the import of consumer goods.

Building a dam requires at least five years and huge capital investments, said Zanganeh, pointing to the benefits of a dam for growing crops, and meeting the country's drinking water and electricity needs.

Housing Sale Project To Cause Price Fall

92AS0758D Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Feb 92 p 18

[Text] Political service of KEYHAN—Mehdi Jamali-Bahri, the director general of public and international relations of Tehran City Hall, in a letter to KEYHAN responded to the protests of 19 deputies of the Majles regarding the pre-sale of housing by City Hall.

Tehran City Hall has announced in this letter that this action will result in the reduction of the price of housing in Tehran. The text of the response is as follows:

1. Considering the existing regulations and the banking interest in the services sector and the price of housing and other related standards and based on economic science, the content of the announcement of Tehran City Hall will result in a decrease in the price of housing and not an increase.

2. If the announcement were to cause the price of housing to increase, the high price of housing would not usually be considered an attraction for migration. Hence, one of these two conclusions must be revised.

3. The proposal offered attempts to prepare the grounds for the national use of the existing resources in the construction sector, establish direct communication with housing applicants, and hence contribute to the relative elimination of inflation in the construction sector.

4. If every economic action and reaction were to be considered banking merely because there is a transfer of money involved, naturally, the activities of all government and private economic agencies would be categorized as banking. Therefore, the granting of discounts or pre-sales, which are among the various current methods and activities of the country, must necessarily be understood in terms of its actual meaning.

5. Considering that every plan that attempts to achieve such goals is supported by the necessary studies, obviously, applicants should also be certain and consider the possession of the needed residential unit as definite. In this case, the numerous projects and plans of City Hall are ready or are being implemented.

6. With reference to the laws, bylaws, and ratifications concerning City Hall (the engineering and development agency of the city of Tehran, the new building of 'Abbasabad, and the improvement and development of South Tehran), the content of the City Hall announcement is related to the activities of Tehran City Hall, and in this connection, briefly, the text of Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 3 of the South Tehran improvement and development agency and also Article 3-3 of the bylaws of the engineering and development agency are pointed out.

Employers To Provide Housing for Workers

92AS0770F Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Mar 92 p 2

[Interview with 'Ajayebi, the deputy for social affairs of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, by the media on 2 March 1992; place not given]

[Text] According to a ratification by the Cabinet, 33 percent of the government shares in workshops will be transferred to workers.

Also, large workshops shall be responsible to build housing for 30 percent of the employees who have no housing.

'Ajayebi, the deputy for social affairs of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, who spoke to the media yesterday morning, made the above announcement and

explained the details for the transferring of shares and solving the housing problems of the workers.

Concerning the transfer of shares to workers, he said: The price of the shares offered to the workers will be based on an average of the official price and the day's price.

He added: Workers can receive the share in two ways. They can receive cash and buy up to one million rials in shares. Or, eligible workers can receive the shares by paying 30 percent in cash and having the remaining 70 percent paid by the financial development agency; the worker can pay off his debt in installments within seven years.

He emphasized that the workers should not sell their shares, because the goal of offering shares to workers is for the workers to feel that they are the owners.

Concerning the recent ratification by the Cabinet in regards to workers' housing, 'Ajayebi said: In addition to the employers being responsible for building institutional housing for 30 percent of the workers who have no housing, they must give priority to building workers' housing on land set aside for their workshops and assist them in building housing.

The social deputy of the Ministry of Labor said: The social security agency must also allocate 50 billion rials annually to the mass production of workers' housing.

He added: It has been decided that the rate of interest on the loans granted by banks to workers must be estimated the same as for employees.

Continuing this interview, the deputy for social affairs of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs spoke about the conditions for choosing outstanding workers and said that, as in the past years, 10 male workers will be chosen and announced on Labor Day.

Part of Fisheries Transferred to Private Sector

*92AS0709D Tehran KEYHAN-I HAVA'I in Persian
19 Feb 92 p 3*

[Text] Tehran—21 Bahman—10 February—In a conversation with reporters, the Executive Director of the Iran Fisheries Company announced the value of Irna's sea food exportation during the first 10 months of the current year had reached \$49.5 million and added that: According to the agreement of the Economic Council, the tuna fish factory of Bandar Abbas will be turned over to the private sector.

Rasoul Lahijanian, the Executive Director of Iran Fisheries Company stated that: from a \$49.5 total value of sea food exported during the current year, some \$41.5 came from the export of caviar, about \$5 million from shrimp, and the remainder from the export of other sea food products.

As to the manner of allocating revenue from the export of sea food, he said that the foreign currency earned will be spent to purchase equipment for the fishing industry.

Pointing out the government guarantee policy to buy sea food products from fishermen, he announced that according to government policies all fishermen can sell their products for any price they set. Otherwise, the Fisheries Company will purchase their products for a guaranteed price.

In another part of this interview, he cited the government decision to hand over portions of the activities and equipment of the Fisheries Company to the private sector and cooperative companies and said that: According to the agreement reached at the Economic Council, the tuna fish factory of Bandar Abbas will be handed over to private sector.

Shipping Company's Activities Detailed

92AS0767D Tehran RESALAT in Persian 9 Feb 92 p 19

[Interview with Porgan, the director general of the public relations office of the shipping company of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by RESALAT; place and date not given]

[Text]

In Azar This Year [22 November-21 December 1991], More Than 62 Percent of the National Imports Were Transported to Iran by the Islamic Republic's Shipping Company

Economic Section. In Azar this year [22 November-21 December 1991], 27 tours were completed, on the basis of unloaded ships, and 697,328 tons of unloaded cargo went through the ports.

In an interview with our correspondent, Porgan, the director general of the public relations office for shipping of the Islamic Republic of Iran, announced the above statement and added: Of the total number of completed tours, 15, carrying 429,832 tons, were completed by the company's ships and 12, carrying 267,469 tons, by leased ships. Stating that in Azar [22 November-21 December] also, 220 vehicles were unloaded, he said: In the months in question, the Iranian ship Basir, received for two trips \$164,173 in rental fees, carrying a total of 14,082 tons of cargo.

Also, a total amount of imported goods in the nine months of this year, without calculating fuel, amounted to 16.8 million tons, of which 13.2 million tons entered the country through the various ports and the remainder through land routes. The share of shipping of the Islamic Republic and the affiliated companies in sea transportation is 8.3 million tons.

In conclusion, Porgan said in regards to container operations: Of the total number of containers, 9,758 units belong to the company and the remainder are leased by the shipping company.

Sugar Production Volume Increases

92AS0709G Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
19 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] 20 Esfand—9 February: With the establishment of seven agro-industrial units in Khuzestan Province, 1 million tonnes of sugarcane will be harvested annually, which after processing will produce 100,000 tonnes of refined sugar.

According to KEYHAN newspaper, Hasna Tabataba'i, deputy minister of agriculture in charge of agro-industries, announced this in a meeting with reporters.

According to him these projects include units in Shoaibiyah, Danyal, Amir Kabir, Dekhoda, Mirza Kuchak Khan, Da'abal Khazai'e, Ghazali, and Farabi. The foundations for the Danyal and Amir Kabir units will be constructed in the near future. Tabataba'i'e stated that between 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] and 1376 [21 March 1997-20 March 1998], the construction of seven sugarcane factories will be started in the country. He estimated the necessary investment in foreign exchange for construction of these units to be \$1.5 billion and will be provided by foreign sources. He announced that the sum of 900 to 1,000 billion rials [as published] have been estimated for the construction of these projects.

Tabataba'i'e added that industries related to sugarcane will also be created. These will include the production of paper and paper dough out of sugarcane extracts, animal food, solid neopan, and an animal protein factory with an annual production capability of 20,000 tonnes.

Price of Chicken, Fish Doubles

92AS0779E London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] In the last few weeks the price of meat doubled in Iran, and last week the prices of chicken and fish also rose by the same amount. A telephone report by KEYHAN of London's Tehran correspondent states that due to the unchecked increases in beef, lamb, poultry, and fish prices,

there are long lines every day in front of the government sales outlets, and since sufficient quantities of meat and fish are not distributed in the cities, a large number of the people who wait for hours in line return home empty-handed.

Many middle-class individuals and workers who had waited in line for government meat at the petrochemical materials sales outlets told news reporters that they do not have the ability to purchase what their families need on the free market during the New Year's holidays, and thus they resort to the government sales outlets. This week the newspaper KEYHAN of Tehran also wrote: Almost all Iranians are weighed down by the burden of debt and high prices due to the backbreaking pressure of trying to balance the high cost of living with their limited income. After hours of waiting in long food lines, they return to their homes greatly dissatisfied with the meat containing large amounts of fat and bone purchased from the government stores. Insiders say the reason for the shortages of chicken and fish are the result of the smuggling of livestock out of the country or its being exported by the government on the one hand, and on the other hand, the decline in imports and low quality of imported meat, or the poor quality and distribution of rationed meat and the increased price of meat on the free market. KEYHAN of Tehran's reporters wrote: At the famous Molla Sadra store, where until two months ago fresh meat was sold for 1,950 rials per kg, now frozen imported meat, also of poor quality, sells for 2,000 rials per kg of blended meat and 2,600 rials for one kg of cut meat with bones.

Mas'ud Mokhtari, official at the Molla Sadra store, said concerning the meat problem: Butchers of unauthorized meat purchase domestic livestock at prices higher than those paid by the Meat Organization, and then sell it at a higher price. Consequently, livestock dealers refuse to sell their beef and lamb to the Meat Organization. The Meat Organization now pays about 1,000 rials in subsidies for each kg of frozen meat.

Rate of Population Growth Drops to 2.9 Percent

92AS0779D London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] Dr. Asadpur, general manager of population and family planning affairs in the Ministry of Health, announced that the population growth rate in Iran has dropped from 4.3 percent per year to 2.9 percent. Several months ago the Iran Statistics Center announced that the population growth rate in Iran was 3.9 percent, which is one of the highest in the world.

Asadpur said that the family planning budget has increased 100 percent and already the "tubes of men and women" have been tied in 400 of the nation's hospitals. He said: So far 200,000 men and women have voluntarily had their "tubes" tied, and if the technical resources were available there would be even more volunteers.

He noted that volunteers must report to health centers and fill out a questionnaire, and await their turn.

Morphine, 5,000 Kg of Heroin Seized

92AS0723E London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] A total of 3,500 kg of morphine which was stashed in a truck was confiscated on the road between Yazd and Tehran. The aforementioned truck, after loading 16 tons of pistachio meats, set out toward the Tabas Desert road where smugglers stashed 3.5 tons of refined morphine in pistachio boxes, but the smuggled load was found while being transported to Tehran.

Police forces announced that this load was to have been sent to Europe through Turkey. On the other hand, a Turkish truck carrying 1,300 kg of heroin was found and seized at the Bazargan border.

This has been the largest seizure of narcotics during the past month. The various types of narcotics seized throughout the country during this period total 7,500 kg. It is said that more than 100 weapons and 65 light and heavy vehicles were also seized from the narcotics smuggler networks.

Passenger Sets His Baggage on Fire in Airport

92AS0723M London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] A passenger who arrived at Mehrabad Airport last week from Syria set all the baggage he had with him on fire with a match because of harrassment by customs agents. This passenger was asked by the customs agents for 100,000 tomans in customs fees for the gifts he had brought. He told them he did not have that much money and then in his severe distress he set on fire the contents of his luggage, which had been emptied out by the customs agents. A passenger who saw this scene said to KEYHAN of London: After several minutes of arguing with the customs agents, the passenger pulled a bottle of whiskey out of his vest pocket, poured it over the clothing that had been taken out of his suitcase and set a match to them. Police agents called the airport fire department for help and after a time put the fire out. This event was not reported in any of the publications of the Islamic Republic until the unfortunate passenger, who had been arrested after the incident and then released from prison after a week, last Thursday morning called the program "Hello, good morning," which is broadcast from 0700 to 0800. While relating what had happened to him, he expressed surprise that it had not been reported anywhere.

In Tehran it is said that after this incident the limit on the value of luggage brought with passengers returning from abroad was increased from \$80 to \$200.

Thousands of Gas Extension Lines Given to Applicants

92AS0765A Tehran SALAM in Persian 9 Mar 92 p 11

[Text] Gilan—SALAM Correspondent—Mr. Aqazadeh, minister of oil, who had gone to the Province of Gilan to turn on the gas delivery service, gave an interview in which he announced the above and discussed the programs of the Ministry of Oil in the area of extending gas delivery service. He said: Concerning the gas delivery service to the Municipality of Rudbar, and in view of the fact that the reconstruction of this city is well under way, we hope to have installed next year a gas extension line to the city of Rudbar's line on a priority basis, and work will begin immediately.

The minister of oil discussed the installation of the extension line and its extension lines in Bandar Enzeli. He said: Gas service will be provided to this municipality early next year.

He noted: Currently we are working on gas delivery service to the Province of Gilan and in the next year gas delivery is planned for the cities of Astaneh, Sharifeh, Rudsar, Kumeleh, Kolachay, Chaboksar, Amlashi, Siyahkal, and Bazar-e Jom'eh.

The minister of oil then discussed gas investment in the country. He said: We are committed under the Five-Year Plan to installing about 2 million gas extension lines throughout the country. Gas delivery operations have now been completed or are being installed and put into operation in more than 135 cities.

He added: In the years 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] and 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] this total will increase to more than 200 cities. The total of the limited resources that we now have for the year 1371 is expected to be 31 billion tomans. We have had to obtain this mostly through bank loans, and about \$600 million in foreign exchange has also been set aside.

This year we have also had about \$600 million and 26 or 27 million tomans invested in gas delivery, and 260,000 promised gas extension lines will also be delivered to applicants.

The minister of oil said: Concerning kerosene, we will keep our commitments for rationed kerosene and along with that we will have available a large supply of kerosene at 15 rials per liter. Of course we will have an abundant supply in the open market, so that we will make it possible for the people to store enough for the first six months of next year to the extent possible.

Seminar for Educational Experts Held in Gorgan

92AS0765C Tehran SALAM in Persian 9 Mar 92 p 11

[Text] Gorgan—SALAM Correspondent—The two-day seminar for experts on educational aid to the provinces throughout the country, attended by Engineer Biazar, the respected deputy minister for education at the Ministry of Education and Training, the Mazandaran Province general manager of education and training, experts on educational aid affairs for the central offices of education and training,

and Gorgan education and training officials, began its work at the Naharkhoran Tourist Hotel. The Gilan general manager of education and training opened the meeting by welcoming those present and said: In the new year, thanks to Dr. Najafi who procured audio-visual materials in connection with the establishment of a television unit in the central office, all the elementary schools and rahnema'i schools have access to video devices so that we can use educational films. So far about 500 video devices have been obtained and we are waiting to obtain televisions. He added: The construction of computer sites in our elementary schools for mathematical and physical fields is among the good activities begun by our equipment staff since last year, and we expect that by the end of the year 1371 [20 March 1992] this work will be completed and will be ready for use by students.

Then Engineer Biazar spoke on the purpose of this seminar. He said: One of the main problems with education and training in the past was the lack of familiarity on the part of students with experimentation, practical work and experience. When a student graduated, he was not in any way ready to meet the needs of society, but under the new educational system the decision has been made that graduates must be able to meet society's needs. It is therefore our duty to have suitable programs for the years ahead. Our correspondent reports that on the second day of the seminar, Adyani, president of the Gorgan Department of Education and Training, discussed education and training issues. He said: We hope that the nation's educational system will be driven in the direction of teaching theory and practice, and that we will be able to lead the minds of students in a direction where the demands of Islam and our sacred Islamic government are met.

According to this report, after the speech was over the participants continued to study the status of educational aid facilities in the various commissions.

Khorasan Residents Buy Investment Company's Stocks

92AS0765B Tehran SALAM in Persian 9 Mar 92 p 11

[Text] Mashhad—IRNA—More than 570,000 shares in the National Bank Investment Company are being sold to the public through the branches of this bank.

Ekhtiari, acting director of the Khorasan Area National Bank, was interviewed yesterday by IRNA's correspondent. While announcing the above, he added: The National Investment Company, is established in Sharf with about 20 billion rials in capital from this bank, and 60 percent of its shares are being sold to the public.

He said: Since the 12th of the current month of Bahman [1 February] the people of Khorasan have invested 572 million rials in this company through subscriptions for 572,000 shares.

He said that the public deposits in current accounts and interest-free loans from the National Bank's branches total 96 billion rials, and he noted that this figure has grown at the rate of about 51 percent.

He added: From the beginning of the current year until the last month of Dey [20 March 1991-19 February 1992], 420.253 billion rials in credits from this bank has been spent for the agriculture, industry, mining, commerce and building services sectors in the Province of Khorasan, representing 40 percent growth over the same period last year.

In conclusion, he said: During the current year 5.3 billion rials in credit facilities from this bank has been given in the form of interest-free loans to needy individuals and couples from this province.

Basijis To Take Part in Maintaining Resources

92AS0765D Tehran SALAM in Persian 5 Mar 92 p 15

[Text] Sanandaj—SALAM Correspondent—Brigadier General Guard Commander Afshar, commander of the revolutionary guard mobilization resistance forces, who had gone to Sanandaj to form a mobilization resistance precinct, participated in a news conference after taking part in a general Kordestan Precinct revolutionary guard seminar.

He first introduced brother Ahmad Towfiqi as commander of the Kordestan Precinct revolutionary guards. He then discussed the responsibilities of the mobilization resistance forces, and said: Maintaining defense preparedness, organization, providing the necessary education to the people, cooperating with the police and the judiciary, and cultural, arts and sports activities are some of the missions assigned to the revolutionary guard mobilization forces, who have been quite successful in this undertaking. He characterized the Kordestan mobilization resistance force as one of the most successful in the nation. He noted: Public participation in revolutionary guard activities has brought about political, social, and development security, and efforts must be made to keep this process moving. Preparing the public to provide security in the area is the secret of the success of the revolutionary guard in Kordestan.

He also said that the Kordestan and the West Azarbaijan mobilization resistance force will remain in control of the operations at the Hamzeh Seyyed al-Shuhada' Base, adding that this measure will certainly bring about closer ties to the armed forces, and ultimately it will lead to the strengthening of the armed forces in the area.

He discussed the development activities of the revolutionary guard and said that based on the agreement of the Reconstruction Crusade, the national mobilization resistance force, taking advantage of the Reconstruction Crusade's resources, will participate in preserving the natural resources and forests. He emphasized the necessity for cultural, arts and sports activities for the sake of public defense readiness.

He said: In our view, spiritual and physical preparedness are basic requirements for public defense preparedness, and for this purpose, special projects in the areas of activities by the mobilization forces in cultural, arts and sports activities have been prepared.

In the same regard he added: With public participation and in view of the needs of the nations' youth, especially in Kordestan, the mobilization resistance force will undertake the building of sports, cultural, and arts clubs. In this regard a cultural and sports complex is being built in the Municipality of Sanandaj at a cost of 800 million rials, which will be inaugurated at the end of the year 1371 [20 March 1992].

Exhibition Offers Goods to Public Directly

92AS0765E Tehran SALAM in Persian 5 Mar 92 p 15

[Text] Bakhteran—SALAM Correspondent—The second exposition directly marketing products from Bakhteran, attended by the governor-general and a number of officials from this province, opened at the site of the Bakhteran day bazaar.

At this exposition 82 production units are participating, and various kinds of goods such as clothing, household implements, and foodstuffs are being offered to consumers at 20 to 50 percent discounts.

Our correspondent reports that while announcing his satisfaction with the holding of this exposition, buyers asked that officials exercise greater supervision over this exposition.

According to the same report, 30 production units participating in the seminar are from the Province of Bakhteran and the rest of the production units are from other provinces in the nation.

One of the booth holders said in an interview with our correspondent: Production units from the Province of Bakhteran have relatively better booths than the other provinces, and the exhibition's resources naturally do not answer the needs of the booth holders, so that a number of units, in view of the cold weather, are selling their goods under tents, and if more resources are provided to the participating units at the exhibition, in the future our exhibitions will certainly be more extensive and varied.

Needed Oil Products Manufacture Begins in Kashan

92AS0765F Tehran SALAM in Persian 5 Mar 92 p 15

[Text] Kashan—SALAM Correspondent—The production line for (micronized) charcoal powder and bentonite powder, which are used in casting, tire manufacturing and oil well drilling, opened at the Dorrin Factory of Kashan. This production line will produce every month 20,000 tons of (micronized) charcoal powder and bentonite powder. All the installation, construction and machinery startup operations for this production unit were accomplished thanks to the efforts and concern of Iranian specialists and experts—no foreign machinery was involved. This factory, which belongs to the Social Security Organization Investment Company, currently has four production lines manufacturing products such as (barite) powder, (hydrated) lime, iron oxide, industrial iron, (micronized) sulphur, (micronized) charcoal and bentonite powder which are used in the nation's important industries such as the

Tavanir Company, the Oil Company, battery manufacturing and tire manufacturing. These products were formerly imported, but currently, because they are being produced at the Kashan Dorrin Factory, and because they meet the needs of domestic industries, they are exported to countries such as India, Pakistan, and the nations of the Persian Gulf.

Seminar on Thyroid-Related Diseases Held in Hamedan

92AS0765G Tehran SALAM in Persian 4 Mar 92 p 11

[Text] Hamadan—SALAM Correspondent—The Office for Research of the Hamadan Medical Sciences University held a two-day seminar on thyroid diseases attended by professors from the Tehran and Hamadan Medical Sciences Universities for the purpose of presenting new medical information for the prevention and treatment of diseases and to train physicians at the home for teachers in Hamadan. Engineer Mani, secretary of the seminar and deputy for research at the university, spoke on this subject in a short interview with our correspondent: The occasion for holding this seminar was research done in the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] concerning the disorders produced by the shortage of iodine in Hamadan. On the basis of this research, it became clear that of the number of people studied, which was a group between the ages of six and 16, 24.2 percent was afflicted with various degrees of goiter, as follows:

A total of 11.1 percent was afflicted with A.1 goiter, 7.4 percent was afflicted with B.1 Goiter, 5.3 percent was afflicted with B.2 goiter, and four percent was afflicted with B.3 goiter. He added: The disorders caused by the shortage of iodine are a serious problem, and in the public health sector, a large portion of the populations of the nations in the region, including Iran, play a very important and vital role. The effects of this shortage will lead to numerous disorders, which seriously endanger the health and well-being of human beings from the womb to adulthood. Engineer Mani added: Endemic goiter, the congenital shortage of thyroid hormones in an infant, still births, miscarriages, various degrees of mental retardation, and delayed signs of growth activity are among the prominent symptoms of this illness, and it is necessary to take basic measures to confront it.

He added: At the seminar's closing ceremonies Dr. Zali, deputy minister of health care, treatment and medical education, will speak. It is worth noting that this is the fifth of the educational seminars held this year in Hamadan to raise the level of research and present the latest medical knowledge.

Galugah Taxi Rates Within City Limits Up

92AS0765H Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Mar 92 p 11

[Text] Galugah—SALAM Correspondent—The Municipality of Galugah, citing a letter from the governor of Behshahr, announced that the taxi rate within the city is 25 rials, and it also emphasized in a statement that those failing to observe the rate would be dealt with severely.

A number of citizens of Galugah came to this representative to express unhappiness with the delayed action by officials who suddenly raised the taxi rate to twice the previous level, and they also complained about the failure to observe the percentage of growth and inflation in increasing the rate. They said that officials did not take into the account the growth in inflation, and if they had done so, they would not have increased the rate more than five rials. Since officials themselves use office automobiles and have never had any need for taxis, this might have been why they made such a decision, or they may have been thinking that the money would be paid out of the poor and helpless people's pockets again!! Either way, it would have had no effect on them. Despite the official rate announcement, taxi drivers paid no attention to the municipality's statement and were collecting 30 rials from passengers.

Operations To Provide Gas to Damavand Begins

92AS0765I Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Mar 92 p 11

[Text] Rudahan—SALAM Correspondent—The minister of oil, who had come to this city with Morteza Alviri, chief of the Majles Plan and Budget Commission and deputy for Firuzkuh and Damavand, took part in ceremonies at this city's congregational mosque attended by officials and administrative chiefs, revolutionary groups, police and military commanders, various classes of people, families of martyrs, and war veterans.

At this seminar, the governor of Damavand reported on geographical conditions in the area. Then the minister of oil delivered a speech. He said: More than 95 percent of the nation's income is procured by the Ministry of Oil, and likewise 94 percent of the nation's energy is also procured by this ministry.

He added: Our country is second in the world in terms of gas reserves, and with the discovery of new reserves, the nation's volume of gas reached 20 trillion cubic meters.

The minister of oil discussed gas delivery to the city of Damavand. He said: The transfer of the gas pipeline to this city is an important step, because this energy is recognized as the best fuel in the world, and in terms of the environment it is much cleaner and is also a very cheap fuel which can lay the groundwork for investment in other economic sectors in every area.

As the ceremonies continued, the minister of oil said: The gas delivery project to the city of Damavand and the surrounding area was not part of the First Five-Year Plan, but persistent effort by the Damavand and Firuzkuh Majles deputy got this project started, and gas delivery service to the cities of Damavand, Rudahan, Firuzkuh, Absard, and Gilan will be completed four years ahead of the program approved by the Ministry of Oil.

Aqazadeh added: In the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] the Oil Company will invest 90 billion tomans, 30 billion tomans of which will be invested and spent on gas delivery projects.

At the end of these ceremonies, the ground was broken for the Municipality of Damavand's gas delivery activities by the minister of oil.

Digital Telephone Centers Inaugurated in Shiraz

92WT0137Z Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
16 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] Social Service—Two digital telephone centers with a capacity of 40,000 telephone numbers were put into service yesterday on the occasion of the anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution in the presence of Engineer Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph, and telephone.

The 20,000-number digital telephone center with 125 incoming channels and 65 outgoing channels was put into service. This center was built on a 5,000-square-meter site with a foundation of 2,000 square meters at a construction cost of 250 million rials and at a cost of 1,200 million rials for the center.

The 20,000-number Vali 'Asr (may God hasten his joyful advent) center, with 10,000 numbers, was placed into service yesterday. It has the same number of incoming and outgoing lines as the Shahid Fayaz Bakhsh center, and the cost of building the center was 1,200 million rials.

Direct Communications Link Khorasan to Outside World

92AS0765K Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Feb 92 p 5

[Text] Tehran—IRNA Correspondent—With the addition of six international telephone channels to the existing Khorasan Province communications channels, henceforth the people of this province will be able to make direct telephone connections from the city of Mashhad to foreign countries.

The Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone announced: Before these channels were added to the international telephone channels, these connections were made through Tehran.

These channels were designed and implemented by engineers and communications specialists in Khorasan Province. The rates for foreign telephone calls for the people of this province have decreased and the sound quality and speed of connections have improved.

Minister Inaugurates Gas Connection to Takestan

92AS0765J Tehran SALAM in Persian 4 Mar 92 p 11

[Text] Qazvin—SALAM Correspondent—The gas delivery network for the Municipality of Takestan was opened and put into operation in the presence of Mr. Aqazadeh, minister of oil. Our correspondent reports that this pipeline has 104 km of installed pipe and 5,200 connections, and more than 2.2 billion rials in credits has been spent to carry it out.

In ceremonies opening this gas delivery network, which began by lighting the gas light at the main square in the city of Takestan, Mr. Aqazadeh, minister of oil, announced: During the current year gas delivery operations have been

carried in 135 of our nation's cities, and it is hoped that by next year this figure will increase to 200 cities.

The ceremonies opening the gas delivery network for the Municipality of Takestan were attended by Mr. Purbaydari, governor of this municipality, a group of local officials and a large group of the people of this city.

Korasegan Digital Telephone Center Inaugurated

92AS0709I Tehran SALAM in Persian 6 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Isfahan-SALAM reporter: The first digital telephone center of Korasegan in Isfahan was inaugurated and started operating.

On the fifth day of the Ayyam Allah (days of God) or Fajr Decade, and in the presence of the Minister of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Engineer Gharazi, Ayatullah Moqtada'i, the Attorney General, and the general manager of the Isfahan communications agency, the telephone center was inaugurated and started operating.

This center is the first high-volume digital center in Isfahan Province and can be expanded to meet the needs of this region. The Korasegan building was constructed on a 3,000-square-meter piece of land with a 2,700-square-meter of usable space, an estimated cost of 15 billion rials that was paid from the budget of the Isfahan Province's communication company, for which all phases of the installation of equipment and operation of this center were carried out. According to this report, yesterday the telephone center of Dastgard Borkhar with a capacity of 2,000 lines, as well as the center of Habib Abad, a vicinity of Isfahan, with 400 lines were inaugurated in the presence of Engineer Gharazi and started operating. Available reports indicate that with the inauguration of this center people (compatriots) can contact Dastgard Borkhar by dialing access code 03245, and Habibabad by dialing 03249.

Thousands of Parcels of Land To Be Handed Over

92AS0765L Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Mar 92 p 11

[Text] Semnan—SALAM Correspondent—The ground was broken yesterday morning in the Semnan suburb of Golestan for 1,100 housing units, attended by the executive director of the National Urban Lands Organization. Our correspondent reports that these housing units were built by the Housing Investment Company under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction on a 15-hectare site with foundations of 70, 80, and 100 square meters in four levels. Construction activities for this housing complex took four years, and cost 14 billion rials.

Tabataba'i, deputy minister of housing and urban construction and executive director of the National Urban Lands Organization, who had come to Semnan, announced at a press conference that 100,000 housing units and plots of land will be transferred to applicants across the country this year. He added: This year 650 million square meters of land have been acquired by this organization. The deputy minister of housing and urban

construction added: The policy of this ministry is directed more toward building housing units on small foundations than to hand over land.

Bus Cooperative To Provide Student Transportation

92AS0765M Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Mar 92 p 11

[Text] Rudahan—SALAM Correspondent—To facilitate transportation for school girls, a meeting at the Rudahan Municipality headquarters building was called by Amini, mayor of Rudahan, attended by a representative of the Office of Education and Training and members of the Tehran-Rudahan Minibus Cooperative.

At this meeting, the mayor of Rudahan discussed the problems and events caused by the lack of availability of an organized school transportation system. He said: The closure of the schools and the excessive disruption and crowding of the students at the bus stops have caused concern for parents and the students themselves. With the help of those present and with the cooperation of parents and students, it would be a good thing if we solve the problem of student transportation.

Then Tolu'i, representative of the Ministry of Education and Training in Rudahan, said: the Ministry of Education and Training knows about this subject and it welcomes the good things being done here.

As the meeting continued, members of the Tehran-Rudahan Minibus Cooperative enumerated the existing problems and difficulties and declared their willingness to cooperate in providing an organized service.

In conclusion, arrangements were made by the Ministry of Education and Training to cooperate and work with school principals and a number of students in need of the service by becoming familiar with the neighborhood and identifying residential areas, to coordinate with the parents, and announce the results to the municipality for a final decision and for establishing a service and a bus stop site. A maximum round-trip fare of 10 tomans for each student was proposed.

Reconstruction Projects in Khuzestan Begin

92AS0718D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 4 Mar 92 p 10

[Text] Tehran—KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service—8 Esfand-27 February—The operations for building the national reservoir dam in Karkheh, the water outreach project in Abadan and Khorramshahr, and seven units of sugar cane agricultural projects in Ahvaz began in the presence of the president, who visited Khuzestan to examine the situation of the reconstruction of that province.

In the course of the opening of the Karkheh reservoir dam, as the largest reservoir dam in the country, Engineer Zangeneh, the minister of energy, said in a speech: Until prior to the victory of the revolution, only 14 dams were active in the country. Today the country has 20 dams, and by the end of next year, this number will reach 30, which is twice the number existing before the revolution.

He added: To build this dam, 400 billion rials were allocated, and with the start of the operations, 180,000 hectares of land in Dasht-e 'Abbas, in the Province of Ilam, and the neighboring lands in the Province of Khuzestan, to Dasht-e Azadegan, will be covered.

During the ceremonies, President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, stated that the implementation of this project in addition to offering service to the people of these regions, will bring an annual income of 400 billion rials to the province, and added: We are proud of the fact that the building operations of this dam began through the efforts of Iranian experts.

He noted: Considering the geographical situation of the region, this project has high vital and security value in a way that it will prevent the waste of Karkheh water, making the region a marshland.

Water Outreach to Abadan and Khorramshahr

The operations of the second phase of the irrigation and water outreach project of Abadan and Khorramshahr began in the presence of the president. This project is designed to provide fresh water for about 15,400 hectares of land under cultivation in the palm groves of the region. The first part, now being implemented, includes the transfer of fresh water from the Karun River to the Bahmanshir River through a pumping station with a capacity of 120 cubic meters per second and a water transfer canal which is 80 meters wide and the building of a box dam by the Water and Electricity Agency of Khuzestan. The second part, which has now begun, includes a pumping station with a capacity of 75 cubic meters per second, 67 km of main canals, and 22 secondary pumping stations with a capacity of 1.5 cubic meters per second. The implementation of this project will cost about \$7.05 billion, which will be obtained from the funds for national projects of the Ministry of Energy and will have a time-frame of 65 montns.

Development of Mechanized Sugar Cane Agricultural Units

The president also attended the ceremonies starting the operations of 7 mechanized sugar cane agricultural units on 84,000 hectares of land in Ahvaz.

With the implementation of this project, 700,000 tons of sugar, 700,000 tons of fodder, 35,000 tons of printing paper and 100,000 tons of pressed wood will be produced.

In these ceremonies, the president said: The implementation of this project will create 7,000 jobs, and the funds for the project will come from the sale of sugar. The foreign currency funds will be come from the savings on the purchase of foreign currency for the products of the project. This project will reach full production capacity in 1376 [21 March 1997-20 March 1998]. The employees of the project will be housed in the projected 14,000 residential units in 3 townships.

He added: Delays and shortcomings seen in reconstruction are, first, the result of the special situation at the border and to the lack of complete confidence in investments

during the imposed war. Second, government resources during the sacred defense have diminished.

The president hoped that with the improvement in the economic situation of the country after the imposed war, in the future large steps will be taken to make up for the backwardness of the country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also visited Bandar Cho'badeh and the villages in the east of Bahmanshir and spoke to the people of these villages.

The president also visited various parts of the city of Abadan and saw the construction of this city first hand.

Over 200 Cities Qualify for Gas Connection

92AS0718F Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
4 Mar 92 p 18

[Interview with Salehifar, the deputy minister of petroleum and general manager of the National Iranian Natural Gas Company, by reporters in Arak; date not given]

[Text] Arak—KEYHAN correspondent—5 Esfand-24 February—Two hundred fifteen Iranian cities qualify for natural gas outreach plan.

Visiting the construction of the pressure reservoirs of the Kargan natural gas project in the Azarab factory of Arak, in an interview with reporters, Salehifar, the deputy minister of petroleum and general manager of the National Iranian Natural Gas Company, said: In this connection, \$20 million worth of pipes and connectors that will provide service to 23,000 customers were purchased and distributed. This year too, \$100 million in foreign currency has been allocated, and will be used as soon as it is announced. He added: In addition, the Ministry of Commerce also imports connectors, and the domestic industries also are responsible for manufacturing and offering such equipment.

Stating that nearly 70,000 families have received pipes and connectors in the past three or four months and the number of cities included in the natural gas outreach plan has reached 215 cities from 100 cities, he noted: In this case, priority is given to cities in cold regions and to the capitals of provinces.

Marand Ranks Third With 70.9-Percent Literacy

92AS0665A Tehran SALAM in Persian 1 Jan 92 p 11

[Text] Marand—SALAM correspondent—'Abadi, governor of the Municipality of Marand, gave a press conference attended by newspaper correspondents during which he reported on educational and training activities carried out or being carried out. He said: The Literacy Crusade is actively working in the rural areas and in the city of Marand to make individuals literate, so that Marand, with a 70.9 percent literacy rate, ranks third in the province.

He said: On the other hand, the Marand unit of the Free Islamic University has 1,200 students in various degree programs and Payam-e Nur University has begun its activities with three degree programs. Along with that, the teacher training units and seminaries have played a major role in this municipality's educational growth.

'Abadi added: In terms of industrial resources, the Municipality of Marand has 1,245 small industrial units and 20 large industrial units. The largest factory in this municipality is the kaolin factory, and in this regard Marand is considered the number three industrial city in the province. Currently the small industrial units are on the increase, and in the near future when the other industries go into operation, there will be striking progress.

The governor said: With regard to health care resources, the Municipality of Marand has one 160-bed hospital and 90 health care and treatment units in Marand and its villages, 41 health clinics and one teaching hospital and physical therapy unit, but the treatment resources are inappropriate for the population of this municipality, and this is why the groundbreaking for a 126-bed hospital was necessary.

With respect to exercise facilities and telephone communications, he said:

Construction operations on a 3,000-person gym for Marand have begun, and a 2,000-person gym will also be built in the city of Hadi so that, God willing, some of the exercise problems of young people and athletes will be solved. With regard to telephone communications, the Municipality of Marand has a 5,500-number telephone circuit, and 1,000 numbers were recently assigned. For the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] 2,500 more telephone numbers are planned for this municipality. Fifty-two villages near the Municipality of Marand have telephone service and 400 numbers are planned in the district of Keshkasray, along with 250 numbers each for the villages of Yekan, Kahriz, Bonab, (Hujqan), Dizaj Hoseyn Beyg, Shuja', Dowlatabad, Livarjan, Galin Qayeh and Margid.

In conclusion, the Marand governor discussed relations with the Soviet Republic of Azarbayjan. He said: In the last 20 months or so almost 20,000 Iranians have traveled to Soviet Azarbayjan, and in turn every week 300 residents of Soviet Azarbayjan have come into Iran.

It is necessary to mention that the recent trip by the governor of Marand to Soviet Azarbayjan led to the signing of several protocols providing for the purchase of tractors from Soviet Nakhjavan, the exchange of scientific and university groups, sports relationships and the creation of a common market in Iran's Jalfa and in Soviet Nakhjavan, and arrangements were made for 15 students of religious sciences in Marand to go to the Soviet Union each year to study religious sciences. In turn, 15 seminary students from Soviet Nakhjavan will come to Iran.

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