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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

U.S. Role in Soviet's, Other Nations' Disintegration

92AS0410U Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
11 Dec 91 p 11

[Text] Washington's arrogant and unreasonable approach to changes in the world has brought the world's strategic areas up against danger with uncontrollable crises.

What elements are being used for the direct political intervention in the internal affairs of the Soviet republics without consideration for the economic and social consequences? The dangers arising from the effort to overthrow the political authorities, however weak they may be, who can answer to the elementary needs of the great populations, are not hidden from the political experts, even in a limited way. However it appears that not only does America not hold itself responsible for the consequences of political playing with fire, but it even sees these economic and social crises as effective factors to adjust for the greater economic capability of advanced Europe. The recent warning from Baker to Europe in a CBS interview to embroil it in a crisis, which must be seen as the direct result of Washington's policies, confirms this assessment of America's current policy. In this interview Baker mentioned the danger of a domestic intervention in the Soviet Union—to the point of using nuclear weapons—and called it a serious threat to Europe. On the one hand these remarks illustrate the reality that Washington has no compunction about driving the Soviet Union into the abyss of civil war, and on the other hand there are many indications pointing to Europe's disinclination to be drawn into this crisis.

As long as America continues to try to preserve the logic of military power in the world, it will not lose its competitive edge in the industrial world with its structures. If this system remains in place while newly born countries are being released from the orbit of one power, it bodes darkly for the future of international relations. The arrogant policy of breaking countries up into smaller fragments is not confined to the Soviet Union. Yugoslavia, the Middle East, and even China have faced attacks from the so-called "new world order" policy. Drunk with power in the absence of a rival in the framework of changes in the Soviet Union, America is not even willing to tolerate Gorbachev as a person acceptable to Europe and the world.

Iran's calculated position towards American moves on the Soviet chessboard has faced hasty reactions, resembling those of intermediaries from countries like Turkey, but the future will prove that in the event that the needs of the separated republics are not, we will face great calamities brought on by Europe as it seeks more power on the world scene. The collapse of the existing system in the Soviet Union when the imbalances in industrial, military, and other affairs among the republics are obvious, will itself be another factor in future twists.

Increase in Commercial Exchange With Italy

92AS0410G Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
13 Nov 91 p 10

[Text] Rome—IRNA—13 Aban-4 November—Commercial exchanges between Italy and the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to increase.

The report from the Italy Statistics Center (ISTAT) states: In the first eight months of the current Christian year, the volume of commercial exchanges between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Italy was 2,679,563,000,000 lira (about \$2.143 billion), with increases of 20.1 percent in Italy's imports from the Islamic Republic of Iran and 71.5 percent in Italy's exports to the Islamic Republic of Iran compared to the same period last year.

Based on this report, in the first eight months of the current year, the registered balance of trade between the two nations is weighted to the Italian side by 125.887 billion liras (about \$100 million).

Yet in the same period last year the balance of trade between the two countries was registered weighted to the side of the Islamic Republic of Iran by more than \$195 billion.

Italy's imports from the Islamic Republic of Iran in the first eight months of the current year were valued at 1,276,838,000,000 lira (\$1.21 billion), and Italy's exports to the Islamic Republic of Iran were also announced at 1,402,725,000,000 lira (\$1.122 billion).

Based on these figures, in the first month of the current Christian year the Islamic Republic of Iran was Italy's second trading partner after Saudi Arabia among Middle Eastern and Persian Gulf nations.

Natural Gas To Be Exported to Greece, Italy

92AS0410A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
30 Oct 91 p 10

[Text] 28 Mehr—20 October—Greece and Italy are conducting talks on the construction of a gas pipeline between the two countries along a designated underwater route and to carry Iran's natural gas to these two countries.

Based on a report in the newspaper TANEH printed in Athens, Eskandalis, the chief of the Greek oil company, has gone to Rome to talk with Italian officials. According to this newspaper, Iranian natural gas will be exported to Greece through Turkey.

It is noted that during the visit to Tehran by Suistris Hazikakis, Greek deputy minister of economic affairs, who talked with Iranian officials early in the current Christian calendar month, the two nations reached agreement on the creation of a gas pipeline, as well as the construction of an Iranian refinery and oil storage facilities in Greece.

Electrical Equipment Shipped to Sudan

92AS0410D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
13 Nov 91 p 10

[Text] Tehran—IRNA—13 Aban-4 November—The first shipment of Iran's electrical exports to Sudan, including

125 transformers valued at about \$250,000 from Zanjan's transformer factories, was sent to that country.

In implementation of the provisions of the protocol signed last year on electrical items between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sudan, gradually 1,300 more of these devices, valued at more than \$3 million, will be sent from Iran to Sudan.

Based on a protocol signed during the trip to Tehran in December of last year by Umar Hasan al-Shir, president of the Republic of Sudan, and his delegation, Sudan will buy up to \$10 million in electrical goods from Iran, to include transformers, [dizhangators] (semihydraulic plugs), electrical switches, aerial cables, and some ancillary implements and supplies. According to the same agreement, by the end of the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], Iran will export 313,000 single- and triple-phase electrical switches to Sudan.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Relief Aid Sent to Afghans in Pakistan

*LD3012230791 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT
30 Dec 91*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA—The Islamic Republic started sending relief aids to Afghanistan on humanitarian and Islamic grounds which have been well received by the inhabitants, said head of Iran's Red Crescent Society (RCS) Vahid Dastjerdi here Monday. Dastjerdi said Iran's RCS sent the relief aids to central Afghanistan to help them cope with severe shortage of food and primary needs which has compelled thousands of Afghans to move towards the Iranian borders. He said Iran will also send relief aid to the Afghans settled in the neighboring Pakistan and other areas of Afghanistan.

To this end, Tehran submitted an official request to the Pakistan government [a] few days ago seeking landing permission for the Iranian planes which are to carry the supplies. Once the permission is granted the supplies will be airlifted immediately.

Mediation Between India, Pakistan Offered

*LD3012140191 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT
30 Dec 91*

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 30 (IRNA)—The Iranian Ambassador to New Delhi Ebrahim Rahimpur has offered the good offices of his country to "mediate" between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir question.

Reacting to the proposal, the Jamaet-ul-Mojahedin said that Iran's offer to mediate in the Kashmir issue is an open denial of the impression that Iran treats Kashmir as an integral matter of India.

Iran enjoys good will in both India and Pakistan and by virtue of which it can play a meaningful role in evolving a solution acceptable to all the three parties, said Rahimpur in an interview with the Kashmir based Urdu daily SRI-NAGAR TIMES. He, however, declined to spell out the solution his country has for the Kashmir problem.

Tehran-Damascus Passenger Train To Become Operational

*92AS0417C London KEYHAN in Persian
21 Nov 91 p 4*

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran is seeking to connect Tehran to Damascus by train by enlisting the cooperation of Turkish and Syrian railroad companies.

'Abdel-Rahim Ehtiati, the Islamic Republic's deputy minister of roads and transportation for operations, who had recently gone to Damascus to attend a meeting of Middle Eastern railroads, announced that soon travelers bound for Syria will be able to make the trip to this country by rail. He told correspondents that in the first phase three passenger terminals will be made available to Syrian railroads, so that Iranian travelers going by train to Syria via the Tehran-Turkey rail line could transfer to the city of Aleppo. The deputy minister of roads and transportation for operations for the Islamic Republic added: The necessary talks have been held with the chief of Syrian railroads with regard to preliminary preparations for starting up the Tehran-Damascus rail line, and the preparations for the work have been made.

The official added: In the future efforts will be made to add a number of passenger cars so that more passengers may be taken to Damascus to visit the chaste shrine of Her Holiness Zaynab.

Tehran-Kuwait Connected by Air After 11 Years

*92AS0410L Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
27 Nov 91 p 10*

[Text] Tehran—28 Aban - 19 November—Flights by Islamic Republic of Iran aircraft to Kuwait have resumed after 11 years.

The public relations office of Islamic Republic of Iran Airlines reports that the air bridge between Tehran and Kuwait began with the first Homa flight on 25 Aban [16 November] from Tehran to Kuwait and back.

These flights will be made every week on Saturday at 15:11 with a 747 aircraft from Tehran to Kuwait and at 14:30 the same day local time from Kuwait to Tehran.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Khamene'i Says Algerian Election 'Panicked' World

*LD0201092892 Tehran IRNA in English 0657 GMT
2 Jan 92*

[Text] Bushehr, Jan. 2, (IRNA)—Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Wednesday urged ulema to upgrade their scientific knowledge and transfer it to the people and also be more attentive to the needs of the deprived.

The leader of the Islamic revolution who arrived here Wednesday morning on an inspection tour of this southern province made the remark in an address to the Friday prayer leaders, theologians and ulema of the province.

He said enemies of Islam cannot tolerate Islam and the Islamic Republic and have attempted to damage Islam wherever its presence is significant.

The Algerians by choosing Islam in the last week parliamentary election have panicked the world, he said.

The leader stressed on further unity and solidarity and closer ties between the people and the officials.

Meanwhile, people of the province chanted Allah-o-akbar (God is great) in all provincial towns and villages Wednesday night in appreciation of the visit of the leader. The Bushehr naval fleet stationed at the Persian Gulf waters sounded their sirens on the occasion.

Besharati on Relations With Gulf States

NC2911120691 *Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English*
19 Nov 91 pp 1, 15

[TEHRAN TIMES City Desk Report]

[Text] Tehran—The Persian Gulf Arab countries welcome security cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, [the] Acting Foreign Minister said yesterday.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES, Ali Mohammad Besharati described the results of his recently-concluded trip to the Persian Gulf countries as fruitful. He said the reason of the trip was cooperation of the Persian Gulf countries in the regional security plan.

“According to the principle of Article 8 of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 the secretary general has given the responsibility of Persian Gulf security to a commission in which all the regional countries would take part and negotiate on,” he said.

The first joint meeting of the Persian Gulf countries and the Islamic Republic was held in New York. [punctuation as published] during the 46th annual session of the U.N. General Assembly where the primary principles for provision of security were drawn up by the regional countries. Besharati said a plan was presented by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and it was decided that to analyze this plan.

Besharati said during the recent trip of the Crown Prince of Qatar Shaykh Bin-Hamad al Thani Iran presented its stances to Qatar and effective steps were taken to bring bilateral relations and viewpoints closer. He said there are plans to exchange high-ranking delegations between the two countries in the future.

Further on his recent trip to the Persian Gulf region, the acting foreign minister said, “We carried a message by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the leaders of these countries. In the trip to Kuwait we met with the amir of Kuwait. He pointed out to the presence of Iranian oil experts in extinguishing oil well fires in Kuwait and also thanked Iran’s positive, and principled stance during the Persian Gulf war. The amir also thanked us because throughout the war we had called for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.”

Besharati said in response Iran declared its readiness to collaborate in the reconstruction of Kuwait and called for greater cooperation of Iranian oil experts in repairing the damage to Kuwaiti oil fields. The amir of Kuwait also declared his country’s readiness to participate in the big project to supply drinking water to Persian Gulf Arab countries through a pipeline.

Outcome of DPK’s Ninth Party Congress

NC2912104991 (*Clandestine*) *Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian* 1730 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Statement issued on 28 Dec 1991 by the Democratic Party of Kordestan (DPK) of Iran at the end of the Ninth Party Congress, the Qasemlu Congress; place not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran [DPK] members and supporters, combatant people of Kordestan, respectable peoples of Iran: The DPK Central Committee proudly announces that the DPK’s ninth congress, the party of [name indistinct] Mohammad and Qasemlu and the party of thousands of honorable martyrs who died for democracy for Iran and autonomy for Kordestan, opened on Saturday 30 Azar 1370 [21 December 1991]. [passage omitted]

After the official opening, combatant brother Party Secretary General Dr. Sa’id submitted a report on the Central Committee. The two-hour report was a careful and comprehensive study of world developments in the past four years and of Iran’s domestic situation after the eighth congress, especially after Khomeyni died. It also discussed the Kurdish people’s and the DPK’s difficult but just struggles, and reported on party policy and its position on changes and developments in Kordestan, Iran, and the world, within the context of our people’s struggle for liberation.

Congress formed several committees to manage and direct some (?activities) and to compile documents. The committees include one on internal planning and the party charter, a [congress] message committee, a committee on resolutions, and one on elections.

The Qasemlu Congress held three days of careful, comprehensive, and useful discussions on the Central Committee’s political report and on party activities in the past four years, unanimously approved after discussion. [passage omitted]

The elections committee submitted a report on its activities, after which free and democratic elections were held to elect the new Central Committee’s main and [word indistinct] members. After six days of continuous, creative, and useful activities, the ninth congress—the Qasemlu Congress—victoriously completed its works.

The Central Committee it elected held its first session, unanimously electing the honorable and combatant comrade Dr. Sa’id as party secretary general. We wish him more success in carrying out his vital and religious duty.

On Friday 6 Dey [27 December], congress representatives, full of faith in the party’s policy and hopeful of victory,

returned to their areas of activity to carry out the duties assigned by the Qasemlu Congress. [passage omitted]

[Signed] The Central Committee of the DPK

[Date] 7 Day 1370 of the Solar year [28 December 1991]

Majles Deputies Tour Radio, TV Studios

LD0101123492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] A group of Majles deputies visited various parts of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Voice and Vision organization today. At the beginning of the visit, Mr. Hashemi, the head of the organization, welcomed the Majles deputies and said: The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a cultural institution, is interested in close cooperation between the Majles and the country's cultural administrators. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hashemi, the head of the Voice and Vision, said the following about the purpose of the visit by the deputies: The main aim is to familiarize deputies with the activities, policies, and problems of the Voice and Vision. He added: Undoubtedly there are shortcomings at the Voice and Vision, but they will be overcome as officials become familiar with the organization's structure and operational mode.

Mr. Hashemi explained: [The] Voice and Vision tries to carry out its duties in the best possible way by avoiding factional tendencies in its news reporting and by its reasonable and principled airing of news about the Majles, which forms the foundation of the system. In connection with the funds allocated to [The] Voice and Vision, he said: In this respect, this organization is the largest, most important, and most sensitive cultural organ of the country, and the familiarity of officials and Majles deputies with the large scale of its activities will give rise to logical decisionmaking and suitable cooperation in connection with the allocation of funds and the resolution of the organization's problems.

Presidential Adviser Hails Women's Role in Society

LD3112135491 Tehran IRNA in English 1441 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA—Presidential advisor on women's affairs Mrs Shahla Habibi said in her interview with IRNA here today that the Iranian women having played a leading role in every arena, should be entitled to all facilities consistent with their status. She said she believes that under the auspices of the leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, and the patronage of President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani the Iranian women are able to march ahead with dynamism. Mrs Habibi noted that Islam is full of women personalities who serve as lofty models of emulation, and each of whom can offer a message of her own for the freeborn women of the world.

Shahla Habibi was born in Bakhtaran, western Iran in 1958, and is a biology graduate from Razi University of

the said city. For sometime she was an active member of the women's council of the former Islamic Republic Party. In 1984 she was appointed evaluation consultant for teacher training colleges. Before her appointment to her new office she was representative of the education minister at the headquarters for glorifying teachers, and director at the women's section of the Islamic propagation organization. She has also been active as publisher of the MESBAH magazine and a frequent writer on women's rights in Iran.

Asked if she is any relation to vice president Hasan Habibi she answered in the negative, adding "I am glad, however, to be serving with such of my seniors as Dr Habibi."

Khomeyni's Picture To Appear on Paper Currency

92AS0410P Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 4 Dec 91 p 3

[Text] Tehran—6 Azar—27 November—100-rial coins will be struck and will gradually replace 100-rial notes. Likewise, early in 1371 [21 March 1992 - 20 March 1993], 5- and 10-thousand-rial notes will be published with the picture of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) and made available to the public.

This was announced by Seyyed Jalal Jalilian, chief of the Currency Note Publication Office and the vault of the Central Bank in a brief interview with a correspondent from the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

He also said: Due to the rapid deterioration and wear of 100-rial notes, the Central Bank proposed minting and publishing 100-rial coins instead of the currency notes, and this was agreed to by the minister of economic and financial affairs. The new 100-rial coin will be an alloy of copper and nickel, and will be the same size as the former 20-rial coin. It will weigh nine grams and will have a diameter of 21 millimeters.

According to him, the design for the face and obverse sides of this coin is under way and it is expected that the 100-rial coins will be made available to the public next year.

The chief of the Currency Note Publication Office and the vault of the Central Bank of Iran also announced: Based on Majles legislation for printing the likeness of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) on gold Springtime of Freedom coins and the nation's circulating currency notes, henceforth the 5- and 10-thousand-rial currency notes will be printed and circulated with the blessed likeness of His Holiness Emam Khomeyni (peace be upon him). In accordance with measures taken, it is expected that these kinds of currency notes will be made available to the public by early next year. The color and size of the new currency notes with the likeness of the Imam (peace be upon him) will be the same as the current 5- and 10-thousand-rial currency notes.

Immigrants Blamed for Spread of Contagious Diseases

92AS0410W Tehran SALAM in Persian 17 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] The chief of the tropical disease section of the World Health Organization described the malaria situation in Iran and the prevention measures being taken in this area as satisfactory.

Dr. Mohammad Cheraghchi, general manager of the Anticontagious Diseases Office, said: After the triumph of the Islamic revolution, because of the government's concern for the need to uproot malaria and in view of the investment that has been made to research the reasons for the spread of this disease, the statistics compiled in the past on the spread of malaria have increased.

He explained: Technical statistics show an increase from the past, and the reason for that is the attention to research and study in this area.

The general manager of the Anticontagious Diseases Office said: Other than the five municipalities mentioned, in the rest of the country there is one malaria case per 10,000 persons. The reason for its spread and transfer is emigrants with foreign citizenship living in Iran.

He added: To prevent and uproot malaria, in the current year about 30 billion rials credit has been allocated.

Concluding his remarks, Dr. Charaghchi said: Dr. Nakhehra, chief of the tropical disease section of the World Health Organization, has also confirmed this.

Petrochemical Complex To Be Built With Foreign Investment

*92AS0410R Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
11 Dec 91 p 11*

[Text] Bonn—IRNA—10 Azar—1 December—A chemical complex is being built in Iran with the cooperation of German, French, and Dutch companies.

Engineer Rahbari, acting director of the Iran Petrochemical Company, signed the contract for this project during talks with German industrial and banking officials.

Four German banks, Deutsche, Darrdatu, Kumarz and Societe General, increased special credits to this project from 500 million marks to 1 billion marks.

Hoseyn Musavian, Iran's ambassador to Bonn, emphasizing this report, said: Some French and Dutch companies will also cooperate in the petrochemical project.

He added: The shares of France and the Netherlands in this project are 150 and 200 million marks [as published], respectively.

According to Musavian, the Krupp Copper, Klugner, Krupp, Tis and ABB companies of Germany will work on the Iranian petrochemical project.

Foreign Exchange Deposits To Draw Interest

*92AS0410C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
30 Oct 91 p 1*

[Text] Aban 1-23 October—The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran's new program to pay interest on foreign exchange deposits domestically and at foreign branches went into effect as of 1 Aban. In this regard the interest rate on foreign exchange deposits will be announced daily by the bank.

This was announced at a press conference by Dr. Kashan, vice president of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Concerning the payment of interest to foreign exchange depositors, Dr. Kashan said: As of the 1st of Aban, all domestic and foreign branches of the nation's banking system are authorized to accept foreign exchange deposits, and deposits of this type will also draw bank interest.

He added: Although international interest rates today are calculated based on the [layber] rate, as of today a new Tehran interbank rate (the [tayber] rate) is being implemented by the Central Bank, and based on this rate, interest will be paid to foreign exchange depositors. This rate is higher than the international [layber] rate, so that today (1 Aban) the rate is 7.2 percent while the [layber] rate is 6.9 percent. Dr. Kashan noted: The Tehran rate will be announced every day by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Likewise, in view of the high interest rate on rial deposits, those with foreign exchange may, by converting foreign exchange to rials, draw rial interest and when closing the account or withdrawing from it, they may convert the rials to foreign exchange.

The vice president of the Central Bank then discussed the implementation of the Central Bank's new policy with regard to opening rial credits in domestic and Persian Gulf nation banks. He said: The new policies pertain only to floating foreign exchange, and therefore government and competitive foreign exchange rules will remain in force as before. He noted: Concerning authorized goods that are imported with floating foreign exchange, the applicant may open the credit account initially with 65 percent of the pro forma amount, the balance to be paid at the time of the document's transaction. Now, under the new method, the opening of a credit account, depending on the applicant's bank credits, will require a deposit varying from zero to 100 percent of the total, and the price will be set in rials and at the time of the document's transaction.

Likewise, importers of goods from Persian Gulf nations may also convert the purchase price to rials. The holders of such rials abroad will enjoy special benefits from the banks of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the conversion of rials to other reputable forms of foreign exchange domestically or abroad, opening foreign exchange or rial deposit accounts domestically or abroad, the purchase of the Islamic Republic of Iran's export goods with rials, or imported goods from a third country to the Islamic Republic of Iran, subject to regulations, with the opening of rial credit accounts.

The vice president for foreign exchange of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran noted in conclusion: Thus the first step has been taken to strengthen the rial and bring it into international markets, and it is expected that merchants and border importers will share in the plan's economic benefits by embracing it, and will be hurt by converting foreign exchange on the black market.

Joint Turkmen Agreement Secures Oil Purchases

*LD3112105591 Tehran IRNA in English 1243 GMT
30 Dec 91*

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), Dec. 30, IRNA—Turkmen oil will be shipped to other parts of the world by way of the Persian Gulf, a member of an Iranian delegation which recently visited Ashkhabad, capital of newly independent Republic of Turkmenistan said here today.

According to an agreement signed with Turkmenistan earlier this week, Iran will buy oil from that republic for consumption in Khorasan and some other provinces of the country. Situated on Iran's northeastern borders on the eastern side of the landlocked Caspian Sea, Muslim Turkmenistan, like several other Central Asian countries, has no outlet to the open seas. The official described his visit to Turkmenistan earlier this week as "successful", and noted that following recognition of that republic, Iran has opened its Embassy in Ashkhabad. According to another agreement the nationals of Iran and Turkmen living near the border are also entitled to cross the border to either country without usual formalities and travel within a radius of 45 kilometers from the common frontier.

Adeli: Inflation Rate To Double by End of Year
92AS0410K Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
27 Nov 91 p 10

[Text] London—IRNA—28 Aban - 18 November—Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, chief of the Central Bank of Iran, predicted that by the end of the current year [20 March 1992] the rate of inflation in the country will double.

The BBC reports that Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli gave an interview to the economic journal MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST of London. In discussing this, he said: The rate of inflation last year (1369 [21 March 1990 -20 March 1991]) was 9 percent. It has increased so far to 15 percent, and it is possible that by the end of this year it will increase to 18 percent.

The chief of the Central Bank of Iran said the most important factor increasing inflation this year has been the reconstruction of the war-afflicted areas. He added: Increased demand for construction materials, raw materials and manpower caused by reconstruction of installations damaged by the war and increased demand for raw materials and machinery for major investments in the course of the Five-Year Development Plan are among the other factors in increased inflation.

He added: In view of the factors mentioned, the 15-percent rate of inflation is not worrisome.

Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli discussed the gradual decline in the value of the rial. He personally believes in a rapid and one-time drop in the value of the rial, but in view of the political and social factors, public opinion is opposed to a one-time drop and favors a gradual decline in the value of the rial.

He also discussed the independence of the Central Bank and its departure from government control. He said: The bank's leaving government control will guarantee stable and long-term economic growth.

The chief of the Central Bank of Iran noted: The Central Bank is not a political organization. It is a professional and technical organization that looks long term at the economy, without regard for the short-term effects.

He added: Only when it is left alone can the Central Bank make decisions to protect the value of the rial and supply, and the observation of required regulations is what restricts the activity of this bank. It is therefore necessary to reduce government pressure on the Central Bank.

The chief of the Central Bank of Iran discussed this bank's independent policies. He said: The work of the Central Bank of Iran will be done in the framework of the changing independent policies of the American Federal Reserve and the Central Bank of Germany in the framework of the government's long-term policies.

Pasdaran Begins Construction of Kahrkheh Dam
92AS0410T Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
11 Dec 91 p 11

[Text] Ahvaz—KEYHAN Correspondent—10 Azar [1 December]—The Revolutionary Guard will soon begin building the Karkheh Dam, 3 km in length and 150 meters high.

This was announced by Major General Guard Commander Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Revolutionary Guard, attending a gathering of mobilization members commemorating Mobilization Week at the big Ahvaz prayer site. He added: Using this dam, 300,000 hectares of Khuzestan Province agricultural land will be irrigated.

He discussed cooperation by the Revolutionary Guard in economic areas. He said: The gas delivery projects to the west of the country from Hamadan over a distance of 162 km were carried out by this force, and the project was completed 11 months before the time specified by the gas company contract, and yet some parts of the pipeline route were quite difficult and the area was difficult to cross. Likewise, the pipeline project from Nehavand to Bakhteran, over a distance of 90 km, was also completed.

Elsewhere in his talk, he discussed the role of the Mobilization [members] during the eight years of sacred defense, and he praised and thanked them for their bravery.

Maj. Gen. Guard Commander Reza'i then added: America's biggest problem is the Islamic Republic. Their goal is to eliminate the triangle formed by Jerusalem, Mecca, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said: These days the the mobilization must be involved in political, cultural, and cultural affairs with greater force, and they should be active.

The commander in chief of the Revolutionary Guard added: You Mobilization members listen carefully to the commands of the leader of the Islamic revolution, and obey the commands of the commander in chief of the armed forces. The mobilization has formed the center of the Islamic revolution, and the political line of the Mobilization is the line of the clergy.

The commander in chief of the Revolutionary Guard said: Hundreds of 'Ashura battalions have been organized throughout the country and they are also helping the government in economic areas.

Aluminum Plant To Be Constructed in Bandar 'Abbas

92AS04100 Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
4 Dec 91 p 11

[Text] Dubayy—IRNA—4 Azar—25 November—A contract has been signed between Iran and Dubayy to build an aluminum foundry in Bandar 'Abbas.

This contract was signed by Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujchi, Iran's minister of mines and metals and Mohammad Mehdi al-Taja, chief of the Dubayy International Development Company.

Those who will carry out the al-Mehdi aluminum plant project are three Swiss, English, and German companies.

Under this contract, while the plant for the al-Mehdi aluminum complex is under construction at Bandar 'Abbas, the Dubayy International Development Company will procure the technology and will train and provide installations for the specialist cadre needed for the plant.

The cost of building the plant for the al-Mehdi aluminum complex at Bandar 'Abbas has been estimated at \$1.5 billion, and after its completion 60 percent of its production will be made available to the Dubayy International Development Company, and 40 percent to Iran's Ministry of Mines and Metals.

The aluminum foundry at Bandar 'Abbas will be built 20 km from the city of Bandar 'Abbas near the Strait of Hormuz. The al-Mehdi plant's initial production capacity is estimated at 220,000 tons annually, and if subsequent phases are developed, it will increase to 330,000 tons per year.

Engineer Mahlujchi, minister of mines and metals, said: Iran has signed economic and industrial contracts with European and Asian nations who have advanced technology.

He discussed the contract signed between the Japanese Kubistal Company and the Ministry of Mines and Metals. He said: In this contract, which has been estimated at more than \$400 million, the Kubistal Company will extract 5 million tons of ore annually from the Chadorlu iron mines of Yazd.

Mahluji added: Iron will be produced at this level to procure the iron needs of the industries of Qeshm Free Trade Island.

The minister of mines and metals discussed the raw materials needed by the aluminum foundry. He said: Iran has signed contracts with the African nation of Guinea to procure aluminum powder.

He discussed Iran's current aluminum production capacity. He said: Currently at the Arak aluminum plant 120,000 tons of aluminum ingot are produced annually, and with the development project for this plant, its annual production capacity will increase to 200,000 tons.

International Airport To Be Constructed in Qeshm *92AS0417B London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Dec 91 p 2*

[Text] By the year 1997, Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf will have an international airport, and aircraft from the airlines of other countries will be able to use this airport to haul freight and passengers, as well as to take on fuel.

According to a report published in an Arabic newspaper printed in the United Arab Emirates, the creation of an international airport at Qeshm Island will gradually permit this area to acquire special commercial status, and it will be able to act as a free port for industrial and other kinds of commercial capital for other countries. A report from Bandar 'Abbas states that the main reason for creating an international airport at Qeshm Island is to make military

use of the flight facilities at this airport. The air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran will operate and administer the flight installations at this newly-constructed base.

The report states that the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran will take on the job of building the installations and investing to create the Qeshm Island international airport, and that in carrying out this project, the Air Force will use the special technical and specialist services of several large European companies. Experts said the time required to carry out the construction operations to build the Qeshm Island international airport will be three to five years, and they predicted that by 1997 this airport will be operational. In reporting on the construction of the international airport at Qeshm Island, the newspaper ETTELA'AT, printed in Tehran, wrote that this airport's groundbreaking ceremonies were also attended by several Air Force commanders from the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Construction of First Molecular Biological Laboratory Planned

92AS0410V Tehran SALAM in Persian 18 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Soon the first molecular biological laboratory will be established with the help of professors in this field and guidance from Dr. Parviz Minu, molecular biologist and professor at the American University of Texas.

Dr. Jamal al-Din Sajadi, president of the Iran Medical Sciences University, gave an interview to a correspondent from the IRNA announcing this. Noting that there are few specialists in the molecular biology field in Iran, he said: The field of molecular biology, due to the study of the layers of molecules, will in the future play a basic role in treatment and in the diagnosis of disease.

He added: Because of the importance of this field in all parts of the field of medicine, with the cooperation of the Iran Medical Sciences University, we are currently seeking to procure the resources to create a molecular biology laboratory.

He added: In the area of genetics and the new knowledge in this regard, we will make use of the guidance of Dr. Parviz Minu, an internationally prominent researcher in this field.

He said: Because the creation of such a laboratory on a broad scale is very expensive, one must proceed step by step, and within the next year a limited laboratory will be opened.

He noted that the laboratory is not associated with one university and all experts in this field are invited to cooperate.

In conclusion, Dr. Sajadi, in view of the small number of specialists and the theoretical nature of this field in Iran, expressed the hope that such a laboratory will pave the way for more extensive research.

Mazandaran Province To Be Partitioned

92AS0417A London KEYHAN in Persian 28 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] The province of Mazandaran will soon be changed into two independent provinces, the province of Mazandaran and the province of Tabarestan. According to a report received from Tehran, the subject of dividing the present province of Mazandaran into two independent eastern and western provinces was raised recently at a meeting of the joint seminar for the governor general and general managers of Mazandaran's executive organizations, and during one of the meetings of this seminar, Damadi, Majles Sari deputy, addressing the participants, said that the proposal to divide the province of Mazandaran into two independent provinces, Mazandaran and Tabarestan, was submitted to the Ministry of the Interior by a group of deputies from the province and governorate of Mazandaran and was agreed to by Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri, minister of the interior. The deputy mentioned that the province of Tabarestan will consist of Gorgan and the Gonbad area, and told those participating in the seminar: It will only be possible to reduce the deprivation in the Gonbad area, which has six deprived districts out of its existing eight, by separating this province. He announced that the Council of Ministers will soon begin investigating the proposal to change the province of Mazandaran into two independent provinces. He said that the Gorgan and Gonbad area has a population of more than 1.5 million, and it is appropriate that it acquire more extensive development resources by becoming a separate province.

Construction of 9 Large Dams Begins

92AS0410N Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 4 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] Tehran—7 Azar—27 November—The role of reservoir dams in procuring water to develop agricultural activity, drinking water, and industry, as well as producing electricity and controlling floods in the first Five-Year Plan has been given special attention, and in the framework of this plan, even now construction operations are under way to build nine large dams and buildings, 23 new dams, and studies are under way for 40 dams by consulting engineers [as published].

KEYHAN's correspondent reports that this statement was made by Engineer Bizhan Zanganeh, minister of power, at the opening ceremonies of the Second Iran Dam-Building Seminar.

This seminar was held yesterday and was attended by experts, engineers, and members of the Iran National Large Dams Committee at Tehran Technical University. In his talk, the minister of power discussed the role of Iranian engineers and experts in building the nation's dams. He said: Before the triumph of the Islamic revolution, Iranian consultants did not in practice have an important and basic role in carrying out dam construction studies, but after the triumph of the Islamic revolution, steps were taken to strengthen dam construction consultants, and currently, among the 30 consultants in the water field, at least four second-degree consultants and three

consultants at lower levels were able to be accredited on consultant affairs by the Plan and Budget Organization.

Continuing, he added: Due to the nation's climatic conditions and the time of the rainy season, our rivers generally have changing and flooding behavior, and their water levels during the growing season and times of maximum need is the lowest possible. Therefore, it is with the building of reservoir dams that we will be able to capture the waters of winter and the spring floods for agricultural, industrial, and electrical production use, and make them available for consumption.

The minister of power also said: Today the construction of reservoir dams has an important role in the production of electricity and especially to respond to demand in peak hours of consumption, and in the future more dams will also be studied and built to produce hydroelectric power in the country.

Engineer Zanganeh discussed the dams under construction. He added: Construction operations are under way on nine large dams including the Marun Dam, 165-meters high with a capacity of 12,000 million cubic meters and seven small dams, and construction has begun on 23 new dams, including the Ostur dams and the large Karkheh dam. Consultants of the Shahab-e Qods Company are conducting studies of 25 dam sites, and about 15 dams are being studied by private consulting engineers.

Continuing, he said: It is expected that in the future our country will become an important supplier of dam construction services and a center for the advancement of dam construction knowledge and experience, and along with that the role and importance of the Iran National Large Dams Committee will increase greatly among the national committees of the Middle East nations and even Asia and Africa.

Import of Many Goods Facilitated

92AS0410S Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 11 Dec 91 p 11

[Text] Tehran—KEYHAN newspaper—13 Azar—4 November—Every Iranian may import thousands of basic items, with payment of customs duties at the official 68-rial rate, without authorization from the Ministry of Commerce, without a commercial card, and without transferring foreign exchange.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Public Relations Office listed the conditions and special facilities for importing goods without the transfer of foreign exchange as follows:

1. Customs duties and fees on the imported goods will be calculated based on the official 68-rial rate.
2. The import of goods without the transfer of foreign exchange requires no authorization, except where certificates of health and adherence to standards are required.
3. The import of goods without the transfer of foreign exchange does not require authorization from the Ministry

of Commerce or registration of the order, and with the payment of a 10-percent additional commercial levy, the items may be released.

4. Importers of goods without the transfer of foreign exchange do not need a commercial card.

5. All goods, such as raw materials for factories and machinery parts, which require competitive foreign exchange for import, may be released without authorization from the industry unit may be released by everyone without the transfer of foreign exchange.

Likewise, based on remarks by officials and Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Public Relations Office, in addition to the announced list of authorized goods, the authorization to import other kinds of goods without the transfer of foreign exchange is being studied, and this will be announced after final approval.

On the list announced by Iran Customs, thousands of kinds of necessary goods are seen, including construction metals, foodstuffs, tools, textiles, electrical and electronic items, machinery and parts, chemical substances, paper and wood.

It is expected that with this announcement the cost of import goods will decrease sharply on the market.

The most important items on the list announced by Iran Customs are the following:

Foodstuffs

Rice, sugar, butter, cheese, garbanzo beans, lentils, split peas, beans, coffee, tea, various kinds of dried milk, cigarettes, vegetable shortening, macaroni, cocoa.

Paper and Wood

Raw wood, raw pulpwood (various kinds of wood), wood powder, plywood, barrel staves, shoe forms, bobbins, pulley spindles, natural cotton wood, paper pulp, paper and cardboard, cement sacks, books and pamphlets, newspapers and illustrated or nonillustrated periodicals with printed designs of any kind of construction metals.

Cast iron, ferrous alloys, iron or steel girders, iron and steel, iron or steel sheets, iron or steel spikes, iron or steel profiles, iron beams, iron angles, shielding, iron or steel pipes, pipe fitting supplies, metal framing and parts, barrels, tins and tin cans, cable, rope, nails and screws.

Tools

Gas hose; umbrellas; asbestos; glass flasks; glass implements and laboratory vessels; automobile glass; various kinds of empty cylinders for gas, scissors, hole-punching presses, adhesive tape; handsaws; saw blades; fingernail clippers; barber equipment; pliers and other gripping devices; wrenches and parts.

Textiles

Various kinds of yarn, thread, cloth, jute, gunny sacks, and quilted cloth.

Electrical and Electronic Items

Orthopedic appliances; various kinds of mixers, radios, receivers, tape recorders, cassette tapes, fans, cameras, microscopes and televisions; electrical windmills; meat grinders; and fruit juicers.

Machinery and Spare Parts

All motor parts, fire extinguishers, light vans, trucks, buses, minibuses, light trucks, elevators, and compressors.

Chemical Substances

Various kinds of drugs, sulphur, compounds, automobile paint, soap, antifreeze, brake fluid, and tires.

Arak Petrochemical Complex Mostly Completed

*92AS0410F Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
13 Nov 91 p 10*

[Text] Arak—13 Aban-4 November—With the completion of nearly 70 percent of the executive and physical operations on the Arak Petrochemical Complex, this great national industrial unit will go into production as of 22 Bahman next year [11 February 1992].

When Phase One of this project is operational, for the first time in the country, 250,000 tons of raw materials for the manufacture of plastic and rubber items will be produced and sent to the market for the nation's consumption.

The executive director of the Arak Petrochemical Complex announced this in an interview with the correspondent from the Central News Unit. He added: Since executive operations on this complex began, 215 billion rials, of which 1.3 billion dollars was foreign exchange credit, has been spent, and by the end of this year [20 March 1992] this figure will reach 250 billion rials.

This official noted that 310 billion rials credit has been set aside to put this complex into full operation with annual production of 550,000 tons of chemical products. He said: When Phase One of this complex is operational, products such as premium gasoline, light and heavy polyethylene, polypropylene, polybutadine, vinyl, and acid will be produced, to be used in packaging, automobile, rubber, synthetic rubber, paint, glue, pipe for transporting materials, film components, cable shielding, and aspirin and other affiliated materials industries, and \$350 billion in foreign exchange will be prevented from leaving the country annually [as published].

He said that the products produced by the Arak Petrochemical Complex will provide 40 percent of the raw materials needed by production units related to chemical materials. He said: Executive operations of Phase Two of this complex, which will produce products like oxide ethylene, ethylene glycol, biethylene hexatol, and ethanolamine, will begin by the end of the current year, with the opening of foreign exchange credit to purchase the relevant machinery abroad, and will go into operation after 38 months.

In conclusion, the executive director of the Arak Petrochemical Complex discussed the nation's existing bottlenecks. He said: Executive operations on this complex are now 10 percent behind the program in the first Five-Year Plan, and the removal of existing bottlenecks, especially in the matter of shipping machinery, spare parts and raw materials from the nation's ports to Arak, will have a good effect advancing the physical operations of this complex.

Sugar-Production Plant To Be Constructed in Turkmanistan

92AS0410Q Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
11 Dec 91 p 11

[Text] Mashhad—Central News Unit—13 Azar—3 December—At the end of the three-day trip by the Agricultural Council of the Republic of Turkmanistan to the Province of Khorasan, four cooperation contracts were signed at Mashhad concerning the exchange of technical, expert, technological, and agricultural information by the Khorasan general manager of agricultural affairs and a consultant to the president of the republic of the Soviet Republic of Turkmanistan.

The Khorasan general manager of agricultural affairs gave a press conference on this subject. He said: In view of the visits by agricultural delegations from the two sides to the various areas in the Soviet Republic of Turkmanistan and the province of Khorasan and the progress made by the two sides in the cultivation of cotton and sugar beets, it has been agreed that agricultural experts from Turkmanistan will grow cotton on 1,000 acres of land in the province of Khorasan, and in turn Khorasan's agricultural experts will grow sugar beets on 1,000 acres of land in Soviet Turkmanistan.

He added: Likewise, based on these contracts, three sugar cube factories will be built in three phases in the Soviet Republic of Turkmanistan by the Khorasan Province Sugar Cube Industry Study Research and Training Company.

Production of Vehicles Multiplies 6.5-Fold

92AS0410J Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
27 Nov 91 p 10

[Text] Tehran—IRNA—27 Aban-18 November—The production of buses, minibuses, trucks, and passenger automobiles in the first seven months of the current year [21 March - 22 October 1991] has increased 6.5-fold over the same period last year. In this regard it is expected that by the end of the current year [20 March 1992] bus production will reach 4,000 units.

This was announced by Engineer Nezhad-Hoseynian, minister of heavy industries, at a meeting of managers in the Mines and Industries Organization of the Foundation for the Oppressed and War Veterans.

At this meeting, held at the Defense Industries Club, ways to increase production and exports from industrial units in the Foundation for the Oppressed and War Veterans and the problems and difficulties of these units were discussed.

At this two-day meeting, with the formation of commissions, development projects, planning and education, administrative and financial affairs, commercial affairs, international affairs and province and industrial unit affairs in the foundation were discussed.

At the opening ceremonies for this meeting, attended by a number of officials as well as managers of industrial units in the Foundation for the Oppressed and War Veterans, Zare', chief of the foundation's Mines and Industries Organization, explained the goals for holding this meeting.

Then Rafiqdust, chief of the Foundation for the Oppressed and War Veterans, gave a talk discussing the importance of rebuilding industry. He said: Participation in reconstruction is like participation at the fronts. Therefore, in all areas, using the abundant resources God has given us and the divine spirituality, we must reduce the existing gaps in society.

The chief of the Foundation for the Oppressed and War Veterans added: We have no way to overcome our economic problems other than expanding production, and we are happy that part of this activity is the responsibility of the foundation.

Addressing the managers of the foundation's industrial units, he said: We must increase our production in the various sectors of the foundation, especially in industries, which last year had the most expenditures for war veterans.

Rafiqdust, discussing the importance of production with superior quality, said: In the industrial sector we must make the most rapid moves for production with the best quality.

He added: We must also adopt new policies in packaging and promoting our products.

At this meeting, the ministers of industry and heavy industries explained the government's policies in the expansion of industrial units, the removal of obstacles and problems, the creation of the necessary facilities for the growth of production, and the export of products.

In his talk, Ne'matzadeh, minister of industries, discussed the role of managers in the advancement of industrial goals. He said: Our nation needs worthy managers and the survival of the nation's industries depends on the existence of these managers.

He discussed the government policy of turning some industry over to the private sector. He said: Government managers must not imagine that if their units are turned over to the private sector they will be unemployed, for this idea will damage the nation's industry, and industry must be preserved.

He added: To raise the growth of production, the level of education must be increased and costs must be cut.

The minister of industries noted: Production will grow with the creation of a field of competition, and managers must take note of this issue.

The minister of industries added: Propaganda and the organization of expositions will cause industry to come out of its lethargy and join the competitive market.

Nezhad-Hoseynian, minister of heavy industries, said the way to reform industry is to reform executive policies. With reference to the growth in production in the Ministry of Heavy Industries, he said: In the first seven months of the current year [21 March - 22 October 1991] bus, minibus, truck and vehicle production has increased 6.5-fold over the same period last year.

The minister of heavy industries said: During this period 1,933 buses, 3,924 minibuses and 5,920 trucks have been produced, and by the end of the current year [20 March 1992] bus production will reach 4,000 units

The minister of heavy industries said the chief problem of the nation's industry is in the area of raising standards. He said: We have no problem with regard to machinery, and we must take steps to solve the problem of improving standards, which includes the teaching of skills and management.

At this meeting, Mo'zenzadeh, chief of the Majles Industries Commission, cited the importance of investment in the industrial sector.

Noting that the current industry is a foreign exchange user, he said: We must invest in the industrial sectors where the private sector has not been inclined to invest.

Custom Duty Rates for Various Cars Announced

*92AS0410I Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
27 Nov 91 p 10*

[Text] Tehran—IRNA—22 Aban - 18 November—As of the first of the month of Azar [22 November], customs duties and fees on various types of automobiles will be announced monthly in newspapers. Importers may release their automobiles on the basis of the announced rates.

This was announced by Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, minister of economic and financial affairs, in an interview with a correspondent from IRNA, during a visit to the South Tehran Customs Office. He added: Customs fees and duties on imported goods will be fixed for one month, and will be collected based on the official foreign exchange rate by the Central Bank.

The minister of economic and financial affairs explained: In view of the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers to facilitate the export of production goods, if exporters complete their documents, their customs affairs will be completed in less than one day. He emphasized: Since the nation's customs offices have been equipped with a computer system, the speed of work has been significantly increased.

Based on this report, Engineer Mohammad Hoseyn Bagh-'Enayat, chief of the South Tehran Customs Office, discussed the accessories in Japanese and Asian automobiles. He said: The accessories in these automobiles are standard equipment and are exempt from extra customs duties.

He added: The accessories and parts in Mercedes-Benz passenger automobiles from the model 300 BMW up to model 528 are standard and only 15 percent is added to their value.

Continuing, Eng. 'Enayat said: Nonstandard accessories, which are not of a general nature, will be assessed based on the designated value for the additional accessories.

He noted: Customs duties and fees on Brazilian automobiles are being reduced.

Eng. 'Enayat said that since the beginning of the current year [21 March 1991] the revenues at South Tehran Customs total 62.5 billion rials. He said: This is one-fifth of the nation's total customs revenues.

He cited shortening former newsletters and converting them to new newsletters as an effective step in expediting customs services. He added: Currently 50 percent of customs administrative formalities have been reduced, and the use of computers has expedited customs work.

He noted that South Tehran Customs releases 50 to 60 vehicles daily. He said: There are now 1,400 vehicles of various kinds in customs, and most of the importers of these kinds of vehicles did not know about customs duties and fees.

In conclusion, Eng. 'Enayat discussed export activities in the first six months of 1370 [21 March - 23 September 1991] at South Tehran Customs. He said: A total of 16,321 tons of goods valued at 3,642,790,922 rials was exported.

It is worth mentioning that goods such as skins, hides, gut, fruit, dried fruit, and fish products were exported through South Tehran Customs.

Country's Electric Power To Increase

*92AS0410E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
13 Nov 91 p 10*

[Text] Tehran—IRNA-12 Aban-3 November—The Tavanir Company has invested more than 1,200 billion rials to build and develop power plants, and in this way 13,500 more megawatts [MW] will be added to the nation's electrical power production. Of this amount, by the end of the first Five-Year Plan about 6,000 MW will be added to the national electrical power network.

Safa'i Farahani, executive director of the Tavanir Company, gave a press conference announcing the above. He said: These new power plants include the Gilan plant, with 1,350 MW, the Fars plant with 1,000 MW, and Phase Three of the Martyr Raja'i plant, with 1,000 MW.

The Tavanir Company's plans also include the expansion of the Tabriz and Bandar 'Abbas plants, each with 800 MW, and the Arak plant, with 1,200 MW.

He noted that the Tavanir Company produces and provides about 80 percent of the nation's electrical power. He said: Of the 50 billion kilowatt [kw] hours of electricity produced in the national network during the year 1369 [21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991], more than 41.5 billion kw hours were produced by the Tavanir Company.

He continued: In the first six months of the year 1369 [21 March-22 September 1990], the Tavanir Company produced 20.5 billion kw hours, and in the first six months of the current year this figure reached 23.5 billion kw hours, showing growth of 13.5 percent compared to last year. In this way, blackouts have been reduced by about 34.5 percent.

The executive director of the Tavanir Company expressed the hope that with the planning that has been done and with the use of the new power plants, there will be fewer blackouts next summer.

He noted that all of the power plants that went out of service during the war are now back in operation. He added: The 420-MW power plant at Taka, which was damaged throughout the war, was put back into operation in the month of Tir this year [22 June-22 July] solely with the assistance of specialists from the Tavanir Company. Likewise, in Mordad this year [23 July-22 August] the Ramin plant in Khuzestan with a capacity of 315 MW, which was damaged in the war, was put back into operation.

Continuing, Engineer Safa'i Farahani said: Of the two power plants in Lushan, which were put out of operation by the Gilan earthquake of 1369, one 120-MW unit was put back into operation in the month of Tir this year, and the other 120-MW unit will also go back into operation in the month of Azar this year [22 November - 21 December 1991].

He discussed the Tavanir Company's future plans. He said: In the year 1371 [21 March 1992 - 20 March 1993] this company's total production will reach 54 billion kw hours, and this year's production is expected to be 45 billion kw hours.

He added: In view of the country's great need for the electrical industry, the decision has been taken to begin construction this year on Phase Three of the 3,000-MW Martyr Raja'i plant, and we hope that by the end of the Five-Year Plan 1,000 MWs of it will be added to the network. One of the 250,000-MW units from this power plant will be added to the circuit in the month of Esfand this year [21 February - 20 March 1992].

According to him, by the end of the year 1371 the total electrical power that will have been added to the national electrical power network by the Tavanir Company will be more than 3,600 MWs, and before the end of this year a minimum of 500 MWs of electrical power produced by these power stations will be added to the network.

Engineer Safa'e Farahani said: In the first six months of this year there have been no blackouts in the nation's industrial units and factories, and efforts have been made to avoid blackouts in these kinds of units in view of the nation's reconstruction and the need to increase production.

In conclusion he discussed blackouts this winter. He said: Planning has been done to repair all the power plants, and there is no problem with regard to existing power stations.

If we do not have problems with transportation and fuel delivery, there will be fewer blackouts this year than last year.

Largest Aluminum Plant Construction Plans Under Way

*92AS0410H Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
20 Nov 91 p 10*

[Text] Bonn—IRNA—20 Aban - 11 November—The contract to build Iran's great al-Mahdi aluminum construction plant at Bandar 'Abbas was signed in Bonn on Friday 8 November by foreign contractor companies and Iranian supervisor and officials.

This factory, with a capacity 230,000 tons, will go into operation early in 1994 (New Year's, 1373). It is Iran's largest industrial project, being built jointly by Iranian and foreign companies.

The total cost of building this factory is more than \$1.25 billion, of which \$250 million is being paid by the Iranian side for urban and construction development at the factory site.

Engineer Kolahduz, deputy minister of mines and metals for nonferrous metals and chief of the al-Mahdi board of directors, said in Bonn on Friday at the time the contract was signed with the contractor companies: The \$1 billion cost of building this great plant was procured entirely through international bank credits, and was insured by export insurance companies from Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, and Austria. He added: 40 percent of the investment costs were assumed by foreigners, and according to agreements that have been made, these credits will be repaid through production and export of the factory's aluminum, and thus this imposes no financial load of any kind on the national budget in the first Five-year Plan.

Eng. Hashemi, executive director of the al-Mahdi Company, also said in this regard: 65 percent of the foreign investment in this project was assumed by German companies, and this in itself illustrates the international economy's confidence in Iran's economy.

He emphasized that no country in the world has been able in its investment projects to make use to this extent of the seller's credit. He added: After its establishment, the al-Mahdi Company began construction and development operations for the factory, and also provided for the factory's water, electrical, and gas needs.

He said: This is the first project to be carried out under Note 29 of the Islamic Republic of Iran's first Five-year Plan, on the basis of which foreign investment may be used for creating industrial projects.

Concerning the repayment of the factory's commitments, the executive director of the al-Mahdi Company said: Within eight and one-half years after the factory goes into production (spring of 1373 [1994]), all the costs of the project will be repaid, and after that all the factory installations will belong to Iran and the al-Mahdi Company.

He added: Three contracts on the factory's initial installations worth about 250 million marks were signed Friday in Bonn, and the three completion contracts will be signed within the next two weeks.

He noted: All of the contractor companies building the factory are regarded as among the world's most experienced and well-known companies in the construction of aluminum manufacturing installations, and along with this, the English Wimby Company has taken responsibility for supervising the entire project.

Eng. Kolahduz discussed Iran's favorable situation for the construction of an aluminum manufacturing plant for export. He said: The relative advantages of Iran's economy in this regard include the availability of energy and cheap labor in the country, and with the use of Iran's natural gas at Qeshm and consequently procuring the factory's electricity, the most important factor for the construction of such a complex in Iran has been created.

He added: Generally 25 to 30 percent of the cost of producing aluminum is the cost of electricity, and in this regard Iran is in a most favorable situation for the procurement of cheap electricity.

In conclusion Kolahduz said: To put the factory into operation and keep it going with a maximum capacity of 230,000 tons per year, contracts have been signed with foreign companies to carry out training and manpower procurement programs, and about 400 Iranian specialists will be sent abroad to procure the necessary information.

Food Products Displayed at Dubayy Fair

*92AS0410M Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
27 Nov 91 p 10*

[Text] Dubayy—IRNA—27 Aban - 18 November—The third International Al-Khalij Food Expo was opened by Shaykh Ahmad bin Maktum, chief of Dubayy Airlines, in the presence of a group of domestic and foreign food company owners at this country's international commerce center.

This exposition covered with more than 150 large commercial food companies participating from 30 countries including the Islamic Republic of Iran, Australia, Denmark, America, England, Singapore, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Malaysia, Germany, Hungary, India, New Zealand, Austria, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Yemen, and will continue until 30 Aban [21 November].

Various kinds of food products are being displayed at this exposition, including jellies, jams, dairy products, meat products, spices, refrigerated vegetables, mineral water, vegetable shortening, various kinds of cookies, canned fish, as well as a number of implements including machines to produce ice cream and a food-packaging plant.

Food products companies affiliated with Iran's Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade participated independently and extensively for the first time in the exposition, including the Iran Fisheries Company, the National Meat Organization, and the Iran Milk Industries Organization.

The Iran Fisheries Commercial Company and its affiliated installations displayed caviar, shrimp, [tuna], sturgeon and various types of Persian Gulf fish to find markets and new exports.

The Iran Animal Husbandry Organization, represented by the National Beekeepers Company, displayed the various kinds of desirable honey from the cities of Iran.

The Milk Industries Corporation of Iran displayed various kinds of dairy products including milk, cream, butter, dried milk, chocolate milk, and sterilized milk.

The National Meat Corporation also displayed the main meat products including sheep gut and skin to cover sausages and kielbasa.

The Layen Babol Kenar Poultry Center also took part in the exposition displaying this center's products, such as the capability to process in one day chickens and hens intended for meat products.

The Iran Caviar Products Chamber has the most important booth at the third International Al-Khalij Food Expo.

The Iran Caviar Products Chamber received an unprecedented response from those attending the exposition from its earliest hours, including officials from the United Arab Emirates, merchants from the region, and foreign commercial institutions taking part in the exposition.

The executive director of the Iran Fisheries Commercial Company, who was in Dubayy, gave an interview to the IRNA. He said the goal of his participation in the exposition was to make Iran's caviar products more familiar to the world, especially the nations of the Middle East.

He said: The Iran Fisheries Company plans to auction its caviar for a five-year period to a single representative for all the nations of the Middle East.

Military Agreement To Be Signed With Pakistan, China

92AS0410B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
30 Oct 91 p 6

[Text] First of Aban - 23 October—The deputy foreign minister of China announced: The president of the republic of China will conduct talks in Eslamabad and Tehran focusing on cooperation between China, Pakistan, and Iran.

According to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, he added: This official meeting is being held to advance mutual understanding, to expand cooperation between these two nations, and to strengthen unity among Third World nations.

From 27 to 30 October, Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China, is visiting Pakistan, and he will visit Iran from 30 October to 2 November. He is the first president of the Chinese republic to visit Iran since the Islamic revolution.

On the other hand, a Pakistani newspaper wrote: Iran, China, and Pakistan have reached essential agreement on the signing of a joint pact.

The IRNA reports from Islamabad that the newspaper JONG, published in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, citing informed sources in an editorial entitled "Pakistan, China and Iran Defense Cooperation," wrote: These three nations will not sign a treaty officially, but in the event of

foreign aggression against one of these nations, the other two will treat the aggression as aggression against itself and will rise to its defense.

In the editorial, the newspaper JONG discussed the military agreement between India, the Soviet Union as well as India's nuclear programs, and America and India's naval cooperation. It wrote: Recent events in the world and especially the changes in the Soviet Union show the need for the establishment of a new balance in the area. According to this newspaper, on the other hand, recent events in India and America indicate a severe threat to the nations of the region, especially China, Iran, and Pakistan. Therefore, these three nations must take serious steps to confront India's dangerous plot and expand their defense cooperation.

Iranian-Chinese Nuclear Cooperation Denied

The Iranian Embassy in India published a statement denying a report published in the English-Language newspaper HINDU concerning nuclear cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and China.

The statement from our country's embassy, also published by the Indian news agency PTA, says: To protect its interests, America insists on nuclear disarmament in the South Asia area.

The IRNA reports that in its latest issue the newspaper HINDU announced in an article that the Islamic Republic of Iran is building a nuclear reactor with Chinese cooperation.

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