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SECURITY INFORMATION

29 July 1953

**POLITICAL PROSPECTS IN IRAN**

**I. Mossadeq decrees nationwide referendum:**

- A. Decree issued on 25 July.
- B. Referendum will decide if present Majlis should be abolished.
- C. May be held as early as 5 August.

**II. Referendum expected to dissolve Majlis:**

- A. Proposed referendum actually illegal; only shah can dissolve Majlis.
- B. Tudeh will support Mossadeq.
- C. Nonsecret ballot makes it possible for Mossadeq's supporters to influence the voters.
- D. Referendum will probably approve dissolution of Majlis.

**III. Mossadeq can rule as dictator until new elections:**

- A. Full powers previously granted Mossadeq are valid until January 1954.
- B. He has previously made the Majlis share responsibilities.
- C. Therefore, new elections are expected.

**IV. Communists will probably gain from new elections:**

- A. Tudeh party will probably run its candidates under front organizations, or even under Mossadeq's banner.
- B. Probably can elect some of its candidates in Tehran.
- C. Other cities, such as Isfahan, might also return Communist deputies.
- D. In districts where Tudeh is weak, it will probably support Mossadeq.

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V. Opposition expected to elect some deputies:

- A. Mossadeq faces considerable moderate and rightist opposition grouped around shah.
- B. A united opposition including tribal chiefs, army officers, landlords and Kashani's religious fanatics might defeat Mossadeq.
- C. At any rate, in rural districts the opposition will probably have some success since only wholesale terrorism could completely defeat them.

VI. New Majlis no solution to Mossadeq's problems:

- A. Mossadeq will rule alone for several months before new elections can be held.
- B. In new Majlis, Mossadeq may control a larger group.
- C. He will still face an opposition bloc.
- D. Tudeh will be urging Mossadeq to more extreme policies while waiting for a chance to take over.
- E. Possibility of Tudeh members in Mossadeq's cabinet.

VII. Mossadeq vacillates:

- A. He is reportedly undecided and extremely nervous.
- B. However, he claims that people will support him.
- C. Mossadeq has an almost miraculous ability to recoup.
- D. Only Tudeh, however, has a sense of purpose and a clear doctrine.

VIII. Mossadeq's statement to New York Times correspondent:

"You cannot crush the will of the people--look at what happened in China."

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