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NSC BRIEFING

27 August 1953

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR  
"IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS IN IRAN"

Prime Minister Fazlollah Zahedi:

Became prime minister on 19 August 1953, although shah had appointed him by royal decree several days earlier.

Zahedi has been an avowed candidate for the premiership for the past year.

His career is characterized by unflinching loyalty to the monarchy under the present ruler and his father before him. During World War II, Zahedi was charged by the British to be pro-German and subsequently was interned in Palestine. This gives him a rebuttal for possible charges that he is a British stooge.

Zahedi claims to support US objectives in Iran, especially economic development under Point IV.

He is strongly anti-Communist.

Zahedi was born in 1897. He went through military school in Tehran and is a career officer, becoming a brigadier general at the age of 25. He has been commanding general in several difficult tribal areas and successfully suppressed tribal revolts.

He became inspector general of the army after VE Day.

Chief of Staff Razmara retired Zahedi in 1949 because he was a potential rival.

DOCUMENT NO. 21  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.   
 DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE 1-2-80 REVIEWER: 372044

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Zahedi became shah's personal adjutant, later chief of police, and the shah appointed him a senator in 1950.

He became minister of interior in Mossadeq's first cabinet, but resigned after being made the scapegoat for the Tehran riots.

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