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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY **Iran - East and South**
SUBJECT **Geography/Climate/Roads/Travel**

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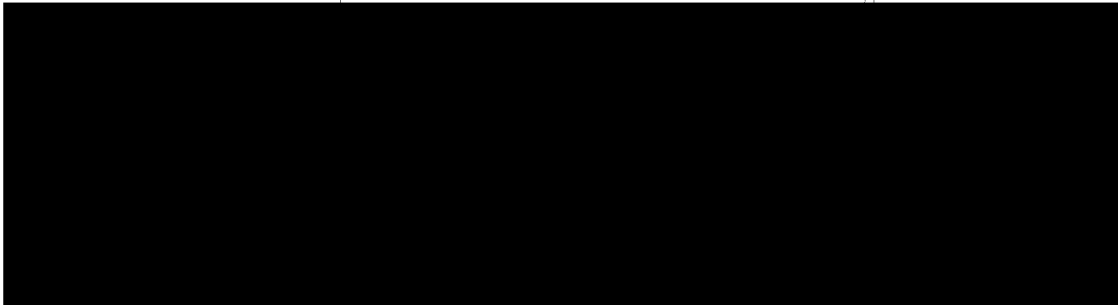
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2. North Eastern Iran

- (a) Climate and Weather
The area east of Teheran has a typical, temperate, desert climate. In December there was snow on the high mountains.
- (b) Topography
This eastern area is all folded, rugged, steep, bare mountains with absolutely no vegetation. The valleys are small and alluvial. The stream beds are used as roads when dry. The streams are ordinarily dry beds except in spring. They are subject to flash floods. The rainfall is about 10 to 15 inches per year and is confined to the winter months.
- (c) Farming
There are a few farms in this area, in the small valleys. The main crops are cotton and tobacco.
- (d) Transportation
 - (1) There is only one main road to the east. It is graveled with shoulders and is wide enough for three cars to pass.
 - (2) The railroad from Teheran to Shahroud is single track, 4'8 1/2" gauge. The roadbed

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is in excellent condition. There are several tunnels. All bridges are steel. Fuel is coal. The equipment is in fair condition. Between Shahroud and Mashad a roadbed has been graded. Negotiations are being carried on at the present time between Iran and the Germans to provide rails and complete this railroad as well as the line Teheran to Yazd which is also all ready for track laying. I understand that a loan is being or has been negotiated with Krupps of Germany for \$200,000,000 to complete these two lines.

- (3) There is a considerable movement of oil from Teheran to Mashad which is handled by trucks beyond Damghan.

3. Iran - Teheran to Bandar-Abbass on south coast

(a) Climate

(1)

South of Teheran

The temperature during the summer was hot in the daytime but cold at night; 55-60° at Kerman. The temperature within 150 kilometers of Bandar-Abbass is about as hot as any inhabited place on the globe, from June to October, 120-130° F in the shade and 160-180° in the sun. The day I was there in [REDACTED] it was 138° F. The night temperature drops about 60°. The humidity is high and oppressive.

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- (2) As far as I know there are no fogs and no clouds. It is impossible to drive a car against the glare of the sun in the summer.
- (3) In the summer there is a fairly constant wind from the East. I do not know the direction during the winter.

(b) Topography

- (1) The country south of Teheran is a plateau at an elevation of about 4000 feet. It is cut on the south by rivers which are seasonal, dry for most of the year. Approaching Bandar-Abbass, the road is very winding. There are no bridges and in crossing one stream bed we were stuck for several hours in the loose sand.
- (2) There are several large marshes which are shown on the map of Teheran.
- (3) There is no vegetation nor any buildings on the hills which could afford shelter or hiding for observers.

(c) Farming

- (1) Cotton, tobacco and rice are grown in the same areas, notably north of Yazd. The fields are not fenced.
- (2) The country is irrigated from deep wells, a program which has been aided by Point 4 to a large extent. The water is distributed by irrigation canals. Mounds of earth marking the wells can frequently be seen.

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(d) Population
The people live in small villages and travel back and forth to their farms. Kerman has a population of about 160,000 and Yazd 75,000.

(e) Transportation
There is only one main road southeast of Teheran to Kerman. From Kerman there is a road south to Bandar-Abbass and another southeast to Afghanistan and south to the port of Guatar. These roads are graveled with shoulders for three cars. The road between Kerman and Bandar-Abbass is a rough, winding mountain road. It is located in passes between the hills.

(f) Bandar-Abbass Harbor

- (1) At Bandar-Abbass there is a small jetty that is not strong enough to support a truck. There are some rails and one ton cars on hand but they had not been installed. The ore that is shipped is brought down from the mine by truck, dumped at the jetty, loaded into cans which men and women carry to a lighter. The lighter is towed by a launch to the steamer which, on account of the shallow shore, must anchor about seven or eight kilometers off shore. 25X1X
- (2) The loading rate for ore was about 300 tons per day in the great heap, 1380. Since then they have loaded 500 tons a day.
- (3) There is an electric light plant and telegraph facilities.
- (4) Health, I am told, has been very much improved by a water system and other improvements carried out with Point 4 help. There is no malaric.
- (5) There are three shipping agents who handle all shipping details: Gray, Mackenzie, Mountain Express and one other whose name I don't recall.

4. General

(a) I had marvelous treatment from all government officials and businessmen whom I met. I dealt with the [redacted] as

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(b) Teheran was full of anti-American posters but in the villages I encountered nothing but pleasant treatment. At Subsibar I fell and cracked three ribs. When I got to the village, they brought all the doctors in the village and I was not left alone night or day.

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- (c) I knew that I needed a permit to travel in Iran, but, on account of lack of time, I did not secure one. I was stopped once or twice by policemen but when I explained what I was doing, they pleasantly waved me on.
- (d) The only knowledge of US assistance that I found outside of Teheran was that the deep irrigation wells throughout the country and water supply in Kerman, Bander-Abbass and Teheran were due to US aid. There is a definite appreciation for all the Americans have done.
- (e) Dr. Mussagar (?) has done a marvellous job as head of the health program. He is about 40 years old, a Cornell graduate and is a brilliant scientist. He is largely responsible for the success of the irrigation, water supply and lowering of malaria incidence. He is interested in the company that operates coal mines.
- (f) Labor
Labor is abundant but not very efficient. They need technical assistance on how to do things. They would take advice providing it was tactfully given.
- (g) Customs
Customs examinations are not strict. Currency control is very strict. They do not want people dealing in the black market and I was fined double the difference between the small amount of US currency I brought in and the amount I took out.

Available on loan from CIA Map Library are:

1. Photostat and white print of Road Map of Iran by the government of Iran, the Ministry of Health, Public Health Cooperative Organization, Sanitary Engineering Services Division Central Office, scale 1:2,000,000 showing chrome areas.
2. Photostat and white print area 2 Abbassabad Area Map of Iran, Jajarm Sheet, J-40-U, scale 1:253,440.
3. Photostat and white print of Area 3, Abbassabad Area Map of Iran, Sabzawar sheet, J-40-V, scale 1:253,440.

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