

State Morning Summary  
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 BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH - ANALYSIS: August 28, 1980

1. IRAN: PURGES DECIMATE BUREAUCRACIES AND MILITARY UNITS

Recent purges have left the government bureaucracies and military establishments with few, if any, competent administrators. The prognosis is for administrative chaos for at least months to come. In this atmosphere, the decentralized revolutionary institutions (i.e., the komitehs) provide the only functioning organizations capable of meeting minimal social needs.

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The original purge after the Shah's fall sought to rid the ministries of senior-level holdovers from the former regime and to provide the revolutionary faithful with jobs. This was accomplished rather quickly.

The second wave of purges began last month after a series of Khomeini speeches. Lower-level individuals who had been part of the Shah's bureaucracy, those with Western training, or those who were deemed to lack full Revolutionary fervor have been retired or fired on an increasingly large scale since then.

The repercussions in the Foreign Ministry have received the most attention, but the same pattern has been repeated throughout the government. In a statement to the Majlis, Foreign Minister Ghoztzadeh reported that 68 percent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' 2,010 employees were purged in approximately a month, [REDACTED] leaves an average of three diplomats to man each of Iran's overseas embassies.

There is some evidence that a few of the fundamentalists are becoming uncomfortable with the depth of the purges. Ayatollah Montazeri recently warned that the country needed medical specialists and that they should not be purged just because they possessed a "memento from the past." The sheer momentum of the purges, however, will make it difficult to bring them under control. Moreover, the extremists can always slander any opposition with the charge of deviating from the Imam's path.

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