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UNITED COUNCIL OF KHUZESTAN PROVINCE

SECTION I

UNION, OR PARTY, OR BOTH?

A union or council does not come into existence suddenly or spontaneously but rather certain events render it necessary to centralize power. The same agents and factors which operate in favor of this may also lead to its decline.

In Khuzestan small (workers) organizations suddenly became vast. According to the leaders of the Central United Council the rise of the (workers) organizations was clandestine and even unexpected.

A conference (of workers' organizations) opened by Vafa'izadeh, was held on 1 April 1946 at which were elected by a majority vote a board of directors, including Tarbiat, Omid, and Al-Ahmad and secretaries of the conference, Safavi and Faraji.

Al-Ahmad explained the purpose of the conference and said that owing to the present conditions and difficulties of the organizations, it was impossible (sic) to hold a local conference as foreseen in the union charter. It was concluded that since the invited comrades did not possess a legal identity with respect to the regulations of the workers' organization, it was necessary to hold a provisional conference for the establishment of a united council and related committees.

A number of decisions which were adopted at the first session of the conference revealed that from the beginning the leaders of the Khuzestan workers' organizations had another objective besides the original one of forming a union, namely the establishment of a workers' newspaper and procurement of (Tudeh) Party assistance for this purpose, which was adopted as the first session.

Later it will be shown that they not only desired to receive help from the party for the purpose of publishing a workers' newspaper but also to receive directives from the Tudeh Party for all of their activities.

Originally the workers' organizations in Khuzestan were social in character.

As in other sections of Iran, the subject of the exploitation of workers was a strong point with the leaders and decisions numbers 10 and 11 dealt with this problem as follows:

"10. (To make a) through investigation of wage payments and (to) attempt to extend aid to the (workers') organizations in this connection".

"11. (To obtain) requests for ideas from comrade workers on the subject of establishing new sources of revenue".

At the same session it was agreed to place all (union) activities under the control of the Iranian Tudeh Party. This decision was put into writing and at the end of the list of resolutions it was pointed out that "in the future the workers organizations should endeavor to place the course of Abadan's struggle under the leadership of the Tudeh Party in order that the activities neither fail nor reach a stalemate."

This same idea appeared in a different form in a resolution pertaining to the "First Conference of Abadan Workers".

"3. Preparation of a strong cadre to lead the union and if necessary to obtain a political instructor from the headquarters." Furthermore, in the plan (sic) of the committees, pertaining to the activities of the (workers') Organizations Committee, it was written "The (workers') Organizations Committee is charged with the responsibility of preparing the ground for party spheres (of activities?) and persons who show party competence will be appointed to (high) positions in the Union."

At a third session held on 9 April 1946 Mr. Omid suggested that in order to form a strong front against imperialist penetration, it was necessary for Indian workers living in Abadan to become organized.

In a report of a meeting (of the Conference); the date of which is unknown, a certain speaker mentioned that Mr. Omid had been engaged in certain political activities in Khorramshahr and was preparing cadres, and that since money was needed the Council should loan the Khorramshahr Party some money.

The expense account of the United Council of Abadan Workers and Toolers shows that fifty rials had been spent on a rubber stamp for the Khorramshahr Tudeh Party meeting in Khorramshahr. Furthermore 250 rials from the Abadan United Council's coffers were spent on equipment for the Tudeh football team.

In a report of a meeting held on 11 May 1946 it was noted that "debate on the subject of Khorramshahr was resumed after a recess and it was agreed that since the party had grown and the number of union posters had increased the Abadan workers organization should loan the Khorramshahr groups up to 10,000 rials for their expenses." The expense account of the United Council of Workers and Toolers of Abadan, shows that frequently sums of money were turned over to Mr. Meradi for Khorramshahr organizations.

The United Council of Abadan Workers and Toolers is a tool of the Iranian Tudeh Party and is joined to it like a Siamese twin.

Announcement

The Iranian Tudeh Party -- All Khorramshahr lovers of freedom, laborers, and employees are informed that on 21 June 1946 a general meeting and a splendid celebration will be held to welcome the beloved leader Hoseyn Torbiat. The official inaugural ceremony of the Tudeh Party club and the united workers' council as well as the flag and poster presentation ceremony will take place at the Tudeh Clubhouse. All party comrades and other freedom lovers, workers, and toolers are invited to attend.

The Khorramshahr Tudeh Party Propaganda Committee

Is the United Council of Abadan Workers and Tolders created to fight the AIOC? Is there an Iranian Government agency or representation which controls the operation of the AIOC?

Notice to all Workers

The Abadan Oil Company and its Affiliates

A Manifesto of the United Council of Abadan Workers

For some time now the AIOC has been acting contrary to the Labor Law and has taken measures to execute its vile plans, namely disbanding or dismissing old workers, who have spent years working for the shareholders, and particularly active members of workers' unions. The United Council of Abadan Workers has expressed its opposition and revulsion to this form of violation of the law by the AIOC to the competent authorities, namely the Chief of the Khuzestan Inspection Organization. The latter has announced that the government will earnestly implement the Labor Law. As regards workers who have been dismissed or who have been threatened with dismissal by the AIOC, since 18 May 1946, the day the Labor Law was approved, the Government authorities have promised that their cases will be reviewed by the Factory Council.

Hence it is obvious that the AIOC dismissed workers contrary to Law and the government will compell the company to reinstate the aforementioned workers in their jobs and to pay them their wages in full for the period during which they remained unemployed.

Therefore the United Council of Abadan Workers instructs all of its unions to send to the Council immediately a list of names of the workers who were dismissed from their jobs beginning 18 May 1946 in order that their cases may be investigated by the Factory Council. Other workers who were dismissed from work without any plausible excuse may refer to the Abadan United Council daily and register their names so that their cases may be reviewed. Until the time of the investigation, the unions are especially charged with the duty of submitting names of active workers of organizations and of writing up their private activities against the Company and the Company's personnel. The United Council of Abadan Workers has decided (a) to support all Khuzestan and Iranian laborers, (b) to prevent the AIOC from participating in political activities and in activities directed against workers' organizations and unions and (c) to limit the AIOC to economic and commercial activities.

Long live the power of the Union of Iranian Workers. The United Council of Abadan Workers and Tolders.

A Manifesto of the United Council of
Workers' and Tolders of Abadan

Khuzestan in the clutches of Imperialism.

The United Central Council of Workers and Tolders of Abadan, which is under the single political leadership of a strong and powerful Tudeh Party,

which after several years of self sacrifice and bravery in its underground struggle is now overtly conducting its activities against the plunderers who have kept the people of Iran and especially Khuzestan under the pressure and colonial subjugation, announces the following to the oppressed peasants, workers, craftsmen and freedom-loving intelligentsia.

Foreign imperialists, in an effort to protect their interests and to continue their marauding activities, have been perpetrating heinous crimes during the past years, and our ruling class has been a plaything in their hands. The Iranian people, after a series of sacrifices broke the chain of slavery and, despite the plundering aspirations of a foreign government, selected their own rulers and turned against the nations enemies.

However, the enemies of the Iranian people and the plunderers of Khuzestan fearing these basic activities and the actions of the laborers are taking steps to break up the national foundations of Iran.

False organizations and unions came into being. They deluded the people by abusing the glorious name of the Tudeh Party and the United Council of Workers and Toilers by ascribing real leadership to themselves. They threatened the people with weapons but the Khuzestan inhabitants, who have lived all their lives under oppression, were not duped, and instead of approving their "Army Staff", they turned toward the United Council of Workers and Toilers. The workers, Toilers, peasants, craftsmen, and the intelligentsia have realized that these hirelings who today dupe the people yesterday aided the foreign predatory agencies. Now that the brave beggars of Khuzestan have proclaimed a holy war, these plunderers are undertaking vile measures in order to execute the commands of their overlords. Therefore we declare that no group, party, or organization, which comes into being through such persons to achieve the vile and disgraceful aims in the name of the people, is connected with the United Council of Abadan Workers and Toilers or the Tudeh Party.

Long live the Union of Workers and Peasants. Long live the Union of Toilers and Intelligentsia.....

The United Council of Abadan Workers and Toilers, which operated under the supervision of the Iranian Tudeh Party decided to rescue Khuzestan from the clutches of imperialism and to call Abadan "The filthy center of imperialism".

The Abadan United Council of Workers also issued a manifesto for the soldiers of the Iranian Army who were not permitted to participate in Iranian politics, requesting them to refrain from carrying out the orders of their superiors.

An Address to Army Soldiers

Dear Soldiers: There is no doubt that you soldiers are our dear brothers, brothers of the workers and toilers of Iran, and that the ruling classes have equipped you with arms to defend their supremacy and to keep us, the workers, peasants and artisans under their yoke of slavery.

You, dear soldiers, are cognizant of the treatment you receive in the Army, with respect to food, clothing and lodging, as compared with the treatment accorded to officers. You know that you are oppressed, kept hungry and are deprived of various privileges. We, the workers and toilers receive the same treatment from the employess as you receive in the Army.

We have legal and just claims which we wish to have realized. In order to obtain our rights we formed unions and organizations. We have neither arms nor weapons but only a union, determination and a firm faith.

Dear soldiers, brothers of the working class, be careful and do not be deceived by the enemies of the working class. They wish to lead you to kill your brothers, namely us, the workers and toilers. They have given you arms in order to defend the interests of the British.

Dear soldiers, do not permit them to fulfill their vile purposes and to give you the weapons. Beware of the agitation of officers and reactionaries and do not execute orders which are illegal and illogical. Do not execute the orders of the British overlords which have been transmitted to you through some hired officers. Realize that the entire mass of lovers of their homeland and especially the Iranian working classes are your strong and faithful supporters.

Long live the Army, Long live the freedom-loving soldiers, long live the Union of Abadan Workers and Toilers.....

The United Council instructed the soldiers to disobey their orders. However, no great division occurred among the intrepid and loyal soldiers. This manifesto reveals that the United Council was more concerned with political affairs than with labor questions.

A Manifesto of the Khuzestan United Council to all inhabitants of Khuzestan and freedom-lovers of Iran

Progressive movements and oppressed classes throughout the world which are striving to obtain their deprived rights and freedom are obstructed by conspiracies and agitations of tyrants who try to prevent a union of masses by their inadmissible and cruel acts.

In our country foreign imperialists placed "Reza the Cossack" on the throne and for 20 years he executed his adventurous plans. He transformed our country into a cemetery and perpetrated severe injustices.

When the Allies occupied Iran, fearing vengeance from the people, Reza Khan preferred to flee behind his masters' skirts. During Reza Khan's reign people who fought for the freedom and rights of the people were jailed and cast into the dungeon of the Kajar Palace.

The sentiment of freedom still flickered in the sea of darkness and the Iranian people who thirsted for freedom gathered around this light. The unceasing struggle spread throughout the country, but as already pointed out above, the enemies of the people, the hirelings of imperialists saw their death in the awakening of the masses. They resorted to various types of pressures and machinations, which spread into every section of Iran. The internal reaction

to foreign exploitation unveiled the deceptive covers used by the exploiters. Last year's military occupation of Tehran (sic) by Arfa, chief of staff and noted foreign spy, and the arrests of some important progressivists and union workers failed to break the power of the masses. Consequently, the bereaved masses turned to the workers' organizations with firm faith and clashed with the perpetrators of the tragedy. The Arfa's groups who are the special lackeys and slave rings of the foreign colonizers. The general public terminated the administrations of Sa'ed, Sadr, and Hâkimi, and selected a man who was in accord with the concepts of the freedom-lovers. In order to encourage democratic reforms he relied on the support of freedom-lovers and asked them to participate in his cabinet.

The southern petroleum workers who support the machinery of world conquest and who are rewarded with torture and oppression are being aided by all the guilds in Khuzestan to acquire their union and national rights. However, the oil company which has plundered Iran's wealth, exploited the Iranian masses for years without any obstacles and interfered in all of Iran's affairs, contrary to the articles of the concession and without observing the political integrity and independence of Iran, does not wish to see its power removed from Iran. Therefore, with the assistance of its political employees, such as Col. Underwood and Major Jaycock it armed tribes in the name of an imaginary union and brought about the bloody events of 23 Tir (14 July). Furthermore in order to obtain a legal pretext to reveal their vile aims they came to the aid of ignorant authorities who wore a yoke of foreign domination around their necks and who were successful in bringing about the disintegration of Iran. They have undertaken to carry out various intrigues, conspiracies, and agitations. But the United Council of Khuzestan Workers and Toilers has expressed its objections to the intrigues to the representatives of hundreds of thousands of inhabitants of this Province and has announced that we not only refuse to submit to this kind of trickery and political terrorism, but we have become more resolute, strong and firm in our opposition. We are supported by all the Iranian workers organizations which are affiliated with the World Syndicates and 71 million workers of the world. In conclusion we say to all inhabitants of Khuzestan who took part in the recent struggles against oppression and inequity, "by no means listen to premeditated and venomous rumors of foreign hirelings". We believe that we will certainly succeed and that with firmness and coolness, which is a trait of the oppressed classes, we will thwart the plans of our enemies which are designed to divide Iran.

United Provincial Council of Unions of Khuzestan-Abadan Workers and Toilers.

Sunday, 18 August 1946

The problem of Khuzestan and its workers' organizations is under the supervision of the Tudeh Party and as an example of this we will quote a passage from a meeting dated 11 August 1946 of area 80 which was under the supervision of Nasr Vosugi.

"Committee of (Workers) Organizations of Tehran Province--
A Copy of the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran.

"The proposals which were propounded and adopted on 11 August 1946 are submitted for the information of this committee.

"Today's political and social conditions, especially in Khuzestan, and the glorious struggles, which generally speaking is carried out by the masses in the southern provinces, are clear and obvious to the committee. Khuzestan is the first stronghold of Iran's struggle against foreign imperialism, and the working masses of the southern villages, who constitute the best soldiers, must safeguard Iran's freedom and independence in this vital conflict by shedding their blood....."

"There is no doubt that the leadership of this movement has been developed upon the (Tudeh) Party. Proposals in this connection follow.

"1. As far as it is financially possible and within the capability of Tudeh organizations, efforts will be made to form many cadres to fight in the south and to conduct activities in party and union organizations of Fars and Khuzestan provinces.

"2. As far as possible efforts will be made to utilize party cadres in the south from among the employees of the Ministries of Education, Health, and Arts and Science and to assign workers from among freedom-lovers or party men to southern areas of Iran.

From the intelligentsia area 80, Nasr Vosugi, in charge."

A'zazi, chief of the Committee of Tehran Province Workers' Organizations, sent the essential proposals to the Main (workers') Organization Committee. The consent of the Main (workers') Organization Committee to the head of section 80 is given in the following letter addressed to Vosugi, head of section 80:

"The reply to the letter dated 11 August states that the main (workers') Organization Committee has given instructions to departmental committees, in-so-far as possible to appoint southern cadres from among party members.

(Workers') Organization of Tehran Province

(signed) 'Azazi

SECTION TWO:

INTIMIDATING AND THREATENING

THE PUBLIC

Few people have been undisturbed by the illegal activities and encroachments of those supporting the (Khuzestan) Provincial United Council. The United Council intentionally intimidated people; utilizing various means to threaten and torture the people. On the agenda of a session held 11 May 1946 was noted discussion of the case of Ali the Champion of the Heroes' Club. Steps were taken to suppress the Black Hands (the popular name for those who opposed the United Council of Khuzistan Province).

The name of Ali the Champion was repeatedly mentioned in various sessions. Ali the Champion used to plunder and exact tribute from people and was an unmitigated extortionist and robber. Obviously, the United Council of Tollers and Laborers of Abadan took great pains to secure the cooperation of Ali the Champion in carrying on its unprincipled schemes, for he was valuable, and uniquely suited to them.

Ali the Champion had an Athletic Club the Heroes' Club. There, instead of hearing the ordinary sounds of an athletic club, passersby would hear groans of agony and anguish of victims who strongly opposed the hellish intrigues of the United Council and who refused to contribute money into it. Ali the Champion and his associate used to bind people to a palm tree and whip them, thus encouraging them to embrace the so-called "freedom" of Ali's cause. (Those who had suffered at Ali's hands signed and sent in a deposition regarding his activities.)

Strangely enough, Ali the Champion occasionally wretched, and as recorded in the report given 21 May 1946, refused to relinquish the already-collected sum. Concerning the money collected by the Tudeh Heroes' Club, Mr. Faraji stated that Ali the Champion had not approved turning it over to the treasury of the United Council. Following Faraji's statement Comrade Moradi said that the Tudeh Heroes' Club planned to have a new building and to have several unions join it.

It was also mentioned that the Heroes' Club wished to incorporate POD (POD may refer to a friendly group which sympathizes with the Heroism Club), but according to Mr. Moradi's report, POD did not approve of being incorporated. In the course of the discussion, Mr. Kaveh proposed that the Berim (sic) syndicates be separated. In the meantime Comrade Nataqi suggested that the function of the Heroes' Club be made purely athletic and that the headquarters of the Driver's Union be removed to another place.

The Heroes' Club was quite well known and had certain privileges which the United Council wished to utilize. No doubt they wanted to control this athletic club and use it as a political center. Mr. Najafi gave a report on Ali the Champion and explained the usefulness of his club. It was voted that Ali's club, formerly known as the Heroes' Club, be called the Tudeh Heroes' Club of Abadan and that all the money collected from the workers be sent to the treasury of the United Council. It was also voted that for its upkeep and expenses the Tudeh Heroes' Club might request money from the United Council's treasury.

A number of leaders of the United Council and Tudeh Party, namely Abd-al-Hoseyn Afsus, Karim Chalbi, Hasuni, Sefi Bushahri, Hasan Lorch, 'Abud Arab, Kial Shirazi, Mohsen Arab, Jasem Mas'ud, Brother Jasem, Jasem Siah and Gholar Reza had become a nuisance to the public. Every night after their meeting they used to drink at the Jalsh Restaurant and then go around molesting the public. These men were determined to agitate and upset the public. They tried many schemes to advance their cause. For example, they used to ask a tenant how much he paid his landlord or proprietor a month. The tenant might say "500 Rials". Then these men would say (or rather order him) not to pay more than 200 Rials henceforth. The tenant would show his lease proving that he could not lawfully do this. But they would tell him that if the proprietor or a government official should object, he should beat them. "We will support you," said the men to the tenant.

Such incursions and public molestations were developing all over Khuzistan. These illegal activities and encroachments were repeatedly reported to the Police.

Another illustration of the illegal activities of this group is shown in a petition written by a merchant of Abadan to the Military Governor of Abadan Province:

"Respectfully I bring to your kind attention the fact that the day before yesterday at 6 o'clock in the afternoon Hoseyn, the son of Haj Ibrahim Behbehani, boldly entered my office and started insulting me. I had a number of visitors in my office who witnessed this incident. I reported the occurrence to the police, and an investigation revealed that Hoseyn and his associates were from the Tudeh Party. On Friday the 3th of Ordibehesht (28 April 1946), I was the object of their talk.

"Yesterday morning a number of men from the Tudeh Party encircled my house and office and it was obvious that they intended to harm me and subvert my business. Sarcastic and threatening remarks were hurled at me. These remarks made me feverish and increased my apprehension. The fact that Hoseyn daringly entered my office, affronting me and grabbing me by the neck, indicates that he has the support of others. These men had definite schemes to disturb the public peace.

"We, the people, and our families are living under the present government's sovereign rule, and it is the responsibility of the present authorities to regulate and adjust our affairs. Why, then, is the Tudeh Party allowed to interfere in our affairs? Great numbers of them are threatening the public. If the Tudeh Party is recognized by the government, why should the citizens not be informed of the fact? It is unthinkable that we should recognize this group, whose activities have brought unrest and anxiety to the people. We, the helpless citizens, respectfully call to the attention of the authorities the activities of these terrorists. We want protection and an immediate stop to this turmoil and mob rule."

We beg to remain

Very respectfully,

Abd-al-Nabi, Iran

(The certified copy is identical with the original)

Note: This petition has also been sent to the Police 14 June 1946."

Besides this, a secret letter dated 11 June 1946, revealing the illegal activities of the Tudeh Party was sent to the Municipal Council. This letter stated that the Tudeh Party had stopped the city's flour supply and was thus threatening its inhabitants with starvation.

The following letter is from the Governor of Abadan City to the Governor of Abadan Province:

"Your Excellency, the Governor of Abadan Province:

Respectfully I bring to your kind attention the fact that yesterday at 2 P.M. I was informed by the bakers that they would not bake the following day. They complained that the price of bread had not been fixed as they wished. I tried my best, and persuaded them to return to work and thus prevented the city

from being without bread. Later in the day I found that the bakers had baked only once that day and that they, together with all other tradesmen, had gone on strike. A thorough investigation indicates that the bakers as well as all other tradesmen had been ordered by the United Council to go on strike.

"You are aware of the fact that the City of Abadan is an industrial city whose numerous workers cannot carry on unless the food supply is regular. An hour's delay in the food supply causes confusion which in turn creates distrust among the people. This situation has caused great tension and has impaired the welfare of the people of this city. The activities of the United Council have upset the whole balance of the city. Kindly inform me of any decision you make relative to solving this problem.

City Governor of Abadan,

'Amali

P.S. As the hot season neared, the United Council took over the ice factory. Those who opposed them had to go thirsty. Such activities are characteristic of the so-called freedom which these blackguards claim to champion."

A secret letter dated 1 June 1946 was sent by the owner of the ice factory to the Government Investigation Bureau No. 2. The following is the letter:

"Respectfully, I report that the Tudeh Party has taken over control of the Abadan Ice Factory. Ice is distributed only to those who have registered in the Labor Union of the Tudeh Party. Those who have refused to register with them are deprived of ice. The public is in a state of great unrest and strong feelings prevail. The Tudeh Party has posted its men all along the streets leading to the ice factory. They stop anyone going toward the factory. The people are greatly distressed and members of the Tudeh Party have become a menace to the public peace. People are complaining of this lynch-law. This tension may even grow worse and bring about anarchy when the weather becomes hotter."

The following are abstracts of an investigation by the authorities dated 30 June 1946. Testimony is by the owners of the ice factory, namely Messrs. Ismaiel Al-Safar, Kazeruni, and Abd-Allah Jemali.

Question 1: State your identity.

Answer: My name is Esmail, son of Hasan, family name Al-Safar. I am a merchant and a partner in the Abadan ice factory. I am married, have children, am a Moslem by faith and am a citizen of Iran.

Question 2: Why have you gone to the Governor of Abadan and complained that the Tudeh Party has seized your factory and that the ice is now dispensed only to those who possess special cards from the United Council?

Answer: We have gone to the Governor because we were deprived of both physical and mental security. Our ice factory was under the control of the Tudeh Party and their members were distributing ice to the people. They had invited us to a Union meeting and ordered us not to give ice to those not having special cards issued by the Tudeh Party. We felt that with the presence of the police, the City Governor and the Municipal Council, these people have no right to interfere in our affairs.

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Another partner of the ice factory was questioned:

Question 3: What do you have to say about the members of the Tudeh Party; what was their attitude?

Answer: These men could not have interfered in our affairs had they not been given orders by their Party. I am in complete agreement with Mr. Al-Safari's statement. I might also add that if the police do not stop these encroachments we shall close our factory. Kazeruni.

Another partner is questioned:

Question 4: What do you say about this matter?

Answer: I repeat all my partners have said. These people are bothering us, and if the police do not stop them we shall close our factory. Jamali.

SECTION THREE:

STRIKE

GENERAL CONDITIONS BEFORE THE STRIKE

After the seizure and expropriation of twenty-six buildings in Abadan and Ahmadabad, the United Council started controlling various syndicates, openly intimidating the public, and opposing the government officials. The United Council's members were active at their assigned posts all over the city. Anyone opposing them became a target. Traders were threatened with death and robbed. The report of the Abadan City Police dated 14 June 1946 indicates that money was expected from every tradesman according to his monthly income without giving him any receipt.

These extortions and abuse were frequently directed against the Arabic-speaking people of Khuzistan. Being conservative, the Ashair tribe of Iran hold their leaders in high esteem. The disgraceful activities of the Tudeh Party and the United Council had a great effect on the Ashair tribe. To prevent these illegal appropriations and to protect themselves they laid plans for constituting a tribal union. Their request for agricultural, educational and economic help was met with favor by the central government. This encouragement from the authorities caused them to legally form the Tribal Union of Ashair of Khuzistan. On 17 June 1946 the Arabic-speaking people of Khuzistan formally sent notification to the Governor of Khorramshahr and other government centers of the formation of their Tribal Union. Three days later 25 of their tribal leaders sent a telegram to the Prime Minister in Tehran, officially announcing to the central government the formation of the Union of Arabic-speaking Peoples of Khuzistan and asking for the central government's approval.

During this time several strikes took place in Agajari and in Abadan. On 2 July 1946 a general strike broke out and continued for 2 hours. This 2-hour strike was no doubt an experiment prearranged by the Tudeh Party and the United Council.

The confusion and insecurity caused directly by the illegal activities of the United Council altered the normal course of the city of Abadan. In the absence of the City Governor of Abadan, who had gone to Tehran, the United Council and the Tudeh Party became bolder in their encroachments against the Ashair tribal leaders. The minutes of a meeting held by the United Council show that the case of the Tribal Union was vigorously discussed. The report does not make clear why the Labor Union opposed the formation of the Ashair Tribal Union.

MEETINGS OF THE LABOR UNION OF THE UNITED COUNCIL

The meeting of the Labor Union of the United Council of Abadan opened on 29 June 1946 at 3:30 in the afternoon and lasted until 5:45 in the afternoon. The following were present: Messrs. Torbiat, Vafa'i-Zadeh Dashtipur, Moradi, Nataqi, Safavi, Kaveh and Faraji.

In this meeting Gholam 'Ali Moradi gave a report. Mr. Torbiat gave a lengthy report regarding the rise of the Arabic-speaking people of Kherramshahr. He also told the United Council members about the plans of imperialists in Kherramshahr. Following him, Gholam 'Ali Moradi gave a report on the Arabs living in Ahwaz. He specifically pointed out the danger of Arab encroachment in Baveh and Jangieh. He stated that the Arabs of Ahwaz are geoded on and controlled by a Mr. Chikak.

Gholam 'Ali Moradi told the Council of the treacherous schemes of Mr. Mesbah Fatemi. His report went on to tell the Council that the Arabs have taken dangerous steps and that with the support of the Provincial Council of Ahwaz they might start a revolution. He suggested that the forces of the United Council be stronger in Ahwaz to prevent an Arab uprising. He declared that the Labor Union of the United Council accuses the Ashair Tribal Union of being a political union. He said that if this were so necessary steps should be taken against the Arab union. "Why have the activities of this tribal union not come to our attention?" he asked the Council.

The Labor Union meeting of 11 April 1946 indicates that one of the reasons for the strike was the Ashair Union. The Union of Toilers and Laborers of Abadan claim that the Tribal Union of Ashair and its activities are directed toward absolute independence from the central government. The Ashair tribe is said to be indifferent and insubordinate to instructions given by the United Central Council.

Meeting No. 390 of the United Council took place on 2 July 1946. All members were present. Mr. Torbiat gave a resume of his talk. He said that he met one of the tribal leaders of the Arabs and found that they wanted independence in Khuzestan Province. He also explained the situation in Khuzistan and stressed the importance of a general strike and the dispatch of an ultimatum to the central government and the United Central Council.

Mr. Safavi gave a report on the food supply and he, too, emphasized the importance of a general strike which was unanimously approved after he gave a thorough picture of the activities of the Ashair Union.

Mr. Nataqi's suggestion that a United Council member go to Tehran was voted on after a long debate among the members. It was agreed that Mr. Vafa'i-Zadeh go to Tehran and return to Abadan on 15 July 1946. Then Mr. Nategi proposed that their envoy, namely Mr. Vafa'i-Zadeh, should only deliver the United Council's message and in no way make any decisions or take any actions except those specified in his instructions. In case the central government should not see fit to comply with the United Council's request Vafa'i-Zadeh should return and report the reaction of the central government to the United Council before a general strike should begin.

An abstract of the meeting of 2 July 1946 shows that it was definitely agreed to call a general strike. But the minutes of preceding meetings do not state the reason for the strike.

A special meeting took place on 2 July 1946 which last until 1:20 a.m. the next morning. All members of the Executive Board (of the United Council of Abadan) were present. Mr. Nataqi reported that there was a plane going to Tehran from Ahwaz and suggested that Mr. Vafa'i-Zadeh take that plane on Thursday. His proposal was rejected because if Mr. Vafa'i-Zadeh had gone to Tehran on Thursday, he could not have returned the next day. It was agreed that Mr. Vafa'i-Zadeh should go to Tehran and that his delaying his departure even for one or two days would not matter. But it was unanimously agreed that the starting of the general strike be on Saturday 14 July. It was also voted that regardless of whether Mr. Vafa'i-Zadeh were successful in his mission he should try his best to bring along five or six members of the United Central Council. Torbiat proposed that the Executive Committee draw up plans and submit them to the Labor Union but his proposal was rejected. It was voted and unanimously agreed that the plans for the general strike should be drawn up by the Labor Union itself.

Mr. Safavi suggested that in case something required a member of the Executive Committee to be absent, a member of the Executive Board of the United Council should act for him, but without the power to sign any official papers or documents. This proposal was approved by the Council.

It was voted that three people be nominated for membership on the Executive Committee. The United Council nominated the following: Messrs. Torbiat, Safavi, and Vafa'i-Zadeh. Mr. Moradi suggested that if the representatives of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company wished to discuss matters with the Executive Committee, two members of the Executive Board of the United Council of Abadan should participate in the discussion. The United Council unanimously approved the above proposal and plans for the strike were drawn.

On 12 July 1946 a board to carry on the strike was appointed. A meeting of the board began at 10 p.m. Members of the Executive Board of the United Council of Abadan and the following people were present: Messrs. Najafi, Torbiat, Vafa'i-Zadeh, Moradi, Moxleh, Kavsh, Safavi, Dashti-Pur, Nataqi, Gholam 'Ali Moradi.

Mr. Najafi said three members of the Executive Committee should be responsible for leading the strike. He suggested that responsibilities be divided and that Communications of the United Council be well preserved. This was also unanimously approved and Messrs. Najafi, Vafa'i-Zadeh and Torbiat were appointed.

FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall act for the Executive Board of the United Council, receive and hear reports, make and announce decisions.
2. The Executive Committee shall be in charge of executing decisions made by the Executive Board.
3. At every session of the Executive Board the Executive Committee shall submit reports for approval.
4. The Executive Committee members shall be allowed to enter into negotiations but only the Executive Board will render the decisions.
5. The Executive Board (of the United Council of Abadan) shall be responsible for the termination of strikes.

UNITED COUNCIL'S BOARD MEMBERS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Committee on Communications - Messrs. Safavi and Mosleh
2. Committee on Food - Messrs. Kaveh and 'Abadi
3. Committee on Propaganda - Messrs. Moradi and Selmasi
4. Committee on Discipline - Messrs. Dashti-Pur and Nataqi.

On 14 July 1946 it was decided to take over control of the city's traffic. The controlling of the city's traffic was positive evidence of the illegal encroachments of the United Council even if we possessed no other evidence of their illegal activities.

At the Executive Board's meeting of 14 July 1946 the following were present: Messrs. Torbiat, Najafi, Kaveh, Mosleh, Moradi, Fereji, Nataqi, and Vafa'i-Zadeh.

Mr. Safavi suggested that the matter of the strike be presented to the tradesmen. He proposed that financial help be asked of them. This proposal was approved by the United Council. After a long debate, it was voted that traffic be allowed by special permit and that all vehicles should obtain special permits to be issued by the United Council.

WHY WAS THERE A STRIKE?

The strike was called at a time when the conditions of workers were growing better. The government was trying to adopt ILO standards and to better the living standard of the workers. This was evidence that the authorities had a keen interest in the welfare and living standard of its workers. The working hours had been shortened and wages increased. To adjust the working conditions of those employed on the oil wells, Mr. Kaveyani, a Director General of the

Ministry of Arts and Sciences, Mr. Aramesh, the Assistant (Minister) and Mr. Saqafi, another Director General, had been sent from Tehran to Abadan. All this shows that the central government was seriously working for the interest of the laborers. It is plain that the adjustment of working conditions could not be accomplished overnight. Time was needed to adjust policies and carry on plans for the welfare of the workers.

Due to their connections with the United Central Council and their illegal activities, the labor unions made it difficult for the government to improve the living standard of the workers. Yet in spite of all these problems, the government went ahead with its constructive plans.

The board meetings of the United Council of Abadan indicate that political matters were discussed. The case of the Ashair Tribe (the Arabic-speaking people of Khuzistan) received special attention. Beside these questionable extensions of their rights, it was also plain that the Council had no legal reason to call a general strike.

A special official notice was sent by the Prime Minister, at that time, Qavam-al-Soltaneh, stating that the wages of the workers were in the process of being increased again and that the government would safeguard the rights of the workers. It also emphasized that as long as the discussions over the wage policy were not complete the workers should not strike; if they did, the strike would be considered illegal.

The leaders of the United Council and the Tudeh Party notified the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company that the Company should pay Friday wages to the workers. (Friday is an official holiday and is considered the Sabbath in Iran as well as in all Mohammedan countries). The Company was given until 5 p.m. on 10 July 1946 to notify the Council of its decision. But the Company protested that the time was not long enough. Then the representatives of the United Council extended the time limits. Between the 10th and the 13th of July, the head of the Company with two other company directors, met with Messrs. Najafi, Mosleh, and Nataqi, were told of the Company's good will. The Company head showed them the copy of a telegram he had sent to London which was favorable to the workers' cause. But the leaders of the United Council and the Tudeh Party, whose purpose was to agitate and create confusion, assembled the workers and on 13 July 1946 announced the strike. The Company could not see any reason for the strike and tried to see the leaders of the United Council, but the Council members evaded them and severed off relations with the Company.

The Company had not objected to paying the Friday wages to its workers; furthermore, the Central government had also declared itself to be working for the best interests of the workers and warned them not to strike. Therefore, it is clear that there was no economic reason for the strike. The Council must have had other reasons.

It should be understood that the Company never officially recognized the Labor Union. In a meeting on 5 May 1946, Mr. Kazeruni, the representative of the Company, told Mr. Najafi that he could talk to him and recognize him as an editor of a newspaper but not as a representative of a labor union.

According to the Company, it could not acknowledge the views of the representatives of the "Central Council" as those of the workers until it had been registered and until the government officially recognized the Central Council. If the Company did not refuse to enter into discussions with the representatives of the Council it was only to consult on and analyse useful plans which could be implemented.

One of the main reasons for the strike was to unite the workers and to challenge the newly-formed Tribal Union of Ashaer.

THE BEGINNING OF THE STRIKE

The Employees Union of the AIOC also participated in the strike, thereby making it a general strike.

Declaration of Strike

"Declaration to all Iranian personnel of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company:

"There are many ties and relationships that bind all Iranians together. While a few people enjoy a fairly high living standard, many workers are denied this and must live under dire circumstances. The world, and especially our dear country Iran, stands behind all those who try to maintain their rights. This is the moral duty of every individual.

"The Union of Anglo-Iranian Oil Company Iranian personnel in its first session unanimously voted to participate in the strike, cooperate with the Labor Union, and support the cause of the strike. Iranian personnel are asked to cease working in any locality or section where workers are on strike. Until further notice, personnel must cooperate with the workers. Personnel should help the workers in any way possible and make any sacrifice so that definite results might be obtained.

"As soon as the above declaration reaches sections or localities where the United Council is not officially organized, the personnel there must appoint representatives, and together with the leaders of the Union carry on the cause of the strike.

Chief of the Executive Board of the
Employees Union of the AIOC

Mohammad Reza Meshkini"

Murder and Pillage

The city was in the hands of the United Council and the Tudeh Party. Traffic was under their control.

On 15 July 1946 corresponding to the birthday of Mohammed, the Ashaer tribe decided to inaugurate their club. The Ashaer Club was close to the Pahlavi school situated on Pahlavi Avenue in Abadan. On 12 and 13 July 1946 invitation cards were sent out and preparations were under way for the inauguration.

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vehicles were stationed on streets, avenues and on the outskirts of the city as far as Bahmanshir and Khorramshahr. All company vehicles were confiscated. On Saturday Abadan was a dreadful scene: revolution and anarchy were rampant. An Englishman was pulled from a car and beaten. This event caused the British personnel of the Company to stay in their houses for two days. Traffic was allowed to move only by special permit. Anarchy also prevailed in Khorramshahr, Darnard, Kut Abd-Allah, Ahvaz, Masjid-i-Molayman, Gaj Saran and Bandar Mashur.

At 8 a.m. Sunday, 12 July 1946, the Governor of Abadan was informed of this violence, anarchy and chaos. Having authority from the central government, he declared martial law both in Abadan and Khorramshahr. Major Fatch was appointed military governor of Abadan and Khorramshahr. For additional security, forces were brought from Ahvaz to Abadan.

On Monday evening, 13 July 1946, the leaders (of the United Council and the Tudeh Party) were driving toward the Ashair Club. They were followed by a great number of people. The tribes, who were inaugurating their new club, were attacked.

To fully explain this incident, the report of the Abadan Police Department is cited:

"I beg to state respectfully that we were informed of the inauguration of Ashaer Club. At 11:30 we went to their Club on the Pahlavi Avenue. There were 150-200 Arabs assembled there. At this time a man named Mohammad was shouting through a megaphone, saying, 'Let us put away the double-dealing and differences, we all are Iranian.' He spoke for about half an hour.

"A car from the direction of the police station passed through Pahlavi Avenue and stopped near the Ashair Club. The following persons were in the car: the Messrs. Safavi, Dashti-Pur, Natsqi, Hasan Zargar, and the driver. There were five or six persons on the running board of the car. Taher, an Arab, who was traffic director for the Ashaer Club, prevented the car from passing through. He said to the driver that there was a meeting in front and that the car could not pass. Mr. Safavi climbed on top of the car shouting, 'We shall pass through!' and challenged anyone to stop them. One of the Ashairs named Haji Haddad was on the roof by the flag. He immediately came down, shook hands with the challengers and invited them to his Club. When they declined the invitation, he cleared the way before them, and let the car pass through. As they were passing, he told the men that nothing must disturb the meeting and that even bicycles were not allowed to pass through by the Club.

"After the first car passed through, a second car arrived and wanted to pass, but was stopped by the traffic director of the Ashair Club. Again Haji Haddad cleared the way and let the car pass through. A little later, a motorcycle, whose driver was a Tudeh Party member, passed through at full speed behind the car that had just passed. A third car carrying a number of Tudeh Party members also passed through; the men on the car were shouting, 'Long Live the Tudeh Party! Death to the Ashair Party!' 'The Ashair Party is nonsense,' said the men. Instead of going straight through, the third car stopped by the door of the Ashaer Club. The men in the car shouted: 'Friends, where are you? Where did the driver go? Friends, come and help!' At this time, about 200 members of the Tudeh Party gathered around the car and lifted the car and set it on Pahlavi Avenue.

"About 7 p.m. an Arab named Seyed Majid started arguing with a member of the Tudeh Party. The argument between these two men grew hot and broke into a fight. A number of men rushed on Seyed Majid and a gunshot was heard. On hearing the gunshot, the Arabs, and the leaders of the Ashair Party entered their Club and closed the door behind them. At this point, from the extreme end of Pahlavi Avenue 20,000 men appeared and rushed to the store of Hoseyn Gazi. They looted his merchandise and smashed his store to bits. Then they started going toward the Ashair Club. Reaching the Pahlavi school, which was close to the Ashair Club, they set fire to the school house and entered the Ashair Club.

"The Arabs and their leaders who were hiding in the Club were attacked; the doors and windows were broken and the building set on fire. Haji Haddad was wounded and hid himself under his car. A man named Mohsen Keyhani had his brains knocked out. Five cars were set on fire. They threw the corpse of Mohsen Keyhani into one of those cars. Haji Haddad came out from his hiding place with his nephew and hid under a school desk. Haji was discovered and beaten to death with iron bars. Anyone who saw an Arab attacked him and killed him.

"Finally the police arrived. Seeing the police, they started attacking them. To frighten the people, the police started shooting in the air. Knowing that the police were shooting in the air, the people attacked the police and wounded a police officer, Major Dowlatshahi. He was carried back to the police station. The other members of the police then returned to the police station.

"A great number of men under the leadership of Hasan Lareh then entered the home of Haji Haddad and stole everything they could lay hands on. The loot was then carried to the waiting cars which had been sent by Ali the Champion, then leader of the Ahmadabad Heroes Club. Hasan Lareh led the people to the house of Haji Hoseyn Gazi, the merchant. They killed him and looted his house."

After this event, the workers rushed toward the house of Haddad. Whenever they saw a man who happened to know Haddad, they treated him as a traitor and beat him. Finally they reached Haddad's house; seeing the police, the leaders shouted: "Down with the Police and the Police Station!"

In the House of Haddad

The daughter of Mohammad Ken'an was the wife of Haddad. Her brother, Habib Ken'an, was one of the great tribal leaders. She was sick and lying in bed with her five-day old baby. She was savagely attacked and the house plundered. A great sum of money was taken. One hundred thousand Rials of this sum was recovered by the police and later sent to the military governor. Haddad's house was razed and made completely uninhabitable.

The house of another merchant named Yusof Kuiti was also attacked and looted. In front of the Police Station, Colonel L'aly, by shooting in the air, stopped the looters. They then headed toward Ahmadabad and surrounded the house of Haji Hoseyn Gazi. Hoseyn Gazi telephoned the police and asked for help, but before the police arrived two men had already entered the house. The police arrived, raced to Hoseyn Gazi and took him into protective custody. As the police and Hoseyn Gazi were passing through the street, one of the looters started shooting at Hoseyn Gazi. He ran for his life and hid under a water tank. The workers destroyed the tank and one of them beheaded Hoseyn Gazi; the rest looted his house. This event was reported to the police on 14 July 1946. Colonel Azmudeh was asked to investigate this murder.

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At 11 p.m., the leaders of the Tudeh Party and the United Council went to the Military Governor and told him that they had nothing to do with the day's events.

THE END OF THE STRIKE

On 15 July 1946, it was announced that an investigating board appointed by the Prime Minister was on the way to Abadan. At one p.m., the board, under the chairmanship of Mozaffar Firuz, and accompanied by Dr. Radmanesh and Dr. Jowdat, arrived in Abadan. To make a thorough investigation and get a clear picture of all sides, the board ordered the release of the five leaders of the Tudeh Party and the United Council, which had been arrested the previous evening. The strike ended on 16 July 1946 and workers were ordered back to their jobs.

Note: The five leaders of the Tudeh Party and the United Council were imprisoned a day after the 23rd Tir crisis (14 July 1946).

DECLARATION OF UNITED COUNCIL OF WORKERS AND TOLLERS OF ABADAN

The End of the General Strike

"Be it known to all workers and people of Abadan that under the auspices of the government of Cavam-al-Seltanah (Prime Minister in 1946), a special investigating board, under the chairmanship of Mozaffar Firuz, the political assistant to the Prime Minister, accompanied by two members of the United Central Council, Dr. Radmanesh and Dr. Jowdat, has arrived in Abadan. The board has made a close examination of our cause, and after prolonged discussion has decided in favor of the workers' cause. The terms of this discussion will be explained later. It has been decided that today, beginning at 2 P.M., the general strike shall end; workers shall resume their jobs and the city shall turn to its normal pursuits.

"The safeguarding of the city and its environs is under the security forces of the government. The security forces have been instructed to be kind in their dealing with the people of Abadan and all Khuzistan. Nevertheless, they shall pursue and arrest all those who attempt to subject the public order. The public should remain calm, obey orders and pay no attention to the schemes of plotters.

UNITED COUNCIL OF WORKERS

AND TOLLERS OF ABADAN"

After the strike, the Friday wages were paid. Of course, this had been approved by both the Company and the authorities even before the general strike began. But the leaders of the United Council and the Tudeh Party gave the impression to the workers that the Friday wages were paid to them because of the general strike and that thus they were to be congratulated on their achievement.

Congratulations on the Accomplishment of the Workers

"Our friends the laborers:

"At the instigation of exploiters and profiteers, conflict was brought about among us. A number of workers suffered, innocent blood was shed, and many of our Arabic-speaking brethren injured or killed. Despite all these pathetic occurrences, we have succeeded in reaching our goal.

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"1. Our general strike has proved that a well-organized labor union with a strong will can challenge any institution and win rights for the workers.

"2. Throughout Khusistan we have proved, to those who thought of our own organization as temporary, that it will endure and that its everlasting holy flame will better the economic condition of the workers.

"3. The capitalists, those throneless and crownless kings of 'oil' must acknowledge our strong organization.

"4. According to the instructions of Mezaftar Firuz, the political assistant to the Prime Minister, the Oil Company must pay Friday wages to the laborers starting the 18th of May.

"5. Wages are subject to eight weeks' retroactive pay.

"6. The blood of the martyrs has watered the roots of the Freedom Tree and caused it to shoot forth green buds. In spite of all these bitter events, our organization grows stronger with the strength of steel.

"Those martyred in the cause of freedom shall always be remembered. May the United Council of Workers and Toilers of Abadan always remain strong.

"Long live our freedom-loving Arabic-speaking brethren. Long live the Iranians and all freedom-loving people of this country.

"The Arabic-speaking people, who used to be traitors and whose murder was considered legal, shall no longer be molested. They are our brethren and considered freedom-loving people."

The United Council caused this anarchy and chaos just to demonstrate its strength. This fact is indicated in the second line of its declaration.

On 16 July an extraordinary meeting was held including the Executive Board of the Central Council and Dr. Radmanesh and Dr. Jowdat. At this meeting the strike and the Ashair Union were discussed. The following are minutes of the meeting which show what political and economic matters were discussed, giving a clearer picture of the general strike.

"On 16 July 1946 at 8 A.M. the Executive Board of the United Council of Abadan convened. The following were present: Messrs. Najafi, Torbiat, Safavi, Vafa'i-Zadeh, Mosleh, Hataqi, Faraji, Moradi, Dashti-Pur and the two members of the United Central Council, namely Dr. Radmanesh and Dr. Jowdat.

Mr. Najafi stated:

"The friends in Abadan have suffered much and been kept very busy. The United Central Council had decided to support the South and its activities, but help had not been forthcoming. I was sent there for ten days, but was instructed by the United Council to stay (longer). I have witnessed the activities of a number of Arab contractors who are stooges of the Oil Company. After talking with one of the Arab leaders (Haddad), I went to Tehran, gave my report, and on my return had nothing to give the workers but empty promises."

Mr. Najafi also explained the reasons for the strike in which 6,000 workers of the Central Garage and the Great Factory took part. He said that he had made the demands of the workers very clear to the Company. One of the requests, he said was in regard to Friday wages about which the Company wished first to have instructions from London. The Company was given a nine day reprieve. But in his absence, he said, the Oil Company turned a deaf ear to the workers' requests and his friends became the victims of the Oil Company's stooges. Two members of the Labor Union were imprisoned without any legal procedure. This caused the workers to go on strike. "I went," Mr. Najafi said, "to Agajari and smoothed things over and ended the strike. On my return, the Executive Board of the United Council of Abadan convened, and after long deliberation decided it could find no way to solve the workers' problems; so finally it resorted to the general strike. On the same day the Council dispatched notice of its action to all members and syndicates, thus making it clear to the Oil Company that the 'Council means business.'

"How many strikers were there?" asked Dr. Radmanesh. After a long discussion he was told by Mr. Netaqi that he would be given a list of all departments and sections where the workers went on strike.

Mr. Najafi again talked about his efforts to prevent the strike. He went into further detail about the tradesmen and the maltreatment of government officials.

In regard to the Ashair Union, Mr. Najafi said:

"The Ashair Union came into existence with the support of the Oil Company. The conflict and strife which occurred two nights ago were planned by the Oil Company and Mr. Mesbah Fatemi, the Company's stooge."

He also explained the Arab attitude and said that on the evening of the day when the workers were on strike, the Arabs attacked them; the laborers had to defend themselves by counter-attacking.

Dr. Jowdat discussed the reasons for the imprisonment of Zobdeh and Dorosti at Aga Jari.

Dr. Radmanesh inquired about the Arab attack which Safavi explained.

Dr. Jowdat inquired into the nine-day delay which the Oil Company had requested. He then brought up the strike question and activities of the Oil Company. Dr. Jowdat also explained the new agreement between the Council and the Company which was to be drawn up.

Dr. Radmanesh discussed the political and economic aspects of the strike. He vividly described the feudal regime in Khuzestan, and agreed to send as soon as possible three engineers, Ansari, Namvar, and Ali Asghar Javaleqi to help (develop) Khuzistan.

On 20 January 1947, Yad-Allah Nasimi, representative of the (Khuzestan) United Council in Ahvaz, wrote a letter to the Military Governor of Abadan, in which he stated certain facts about the strike. In the letter he said:

"To demonstrate his power and influence, Mr. Najafi issued the order for the general strike. At this time, he had plans to destroy the Ashairs (Tribal Union) and to this end had sent missions throughout Khuzistan. Mr. Najafi is responsible for the conflict of 14 July 1946."

The case of the martyrs and funds to be collected to support their families is dealt with under a separate chapter.

A letter was sent to the Military Governor of Abadan in which the illegal activities and exploitations of the former members of the Executive Board were described:

"To the kind attention of his excellency the Military Governor of Abadan;

"Every patriotic Iranian who loves his fellow men must fight against the looters and the swindlers who took advantage of the Workers Organization of Khuzistan. The workers should be united for the preservation of their rights, and stand firm against the exploiters. Most workers of Abadan are aware that they have been victimized by the former Labor Board headed by Mr. Mahdi Hashemi Najafi.

"Receipts signed by the former Executive Board and other evidence is in the possession of certain individuals. This evidence proves their misconduct and victimization of the workers. But unfortunately, the possessors of such evidence do not wish to present it to the authorities. Those concerned should know that the presentation of this evidence and the receipts will confirm the encroachments and exploitations of Mr. Mahdi Hashemi Najafi, the former chief of the Executive Board. All those who possess such evidence and receipts signed by the former Executive Board, and who refuse to present them will be considered by the workers as being co-partners with the swindlers and the exploiters. The workers of Khuzistan now will know that the aim of the former Labor Board was anything but to better the living standard of the workers. Therefore, the workers cannot afford to ignore the evil acts of those in charge of the former Labor Board.

"After his return from Tehran, Mahdi Hashemi Najafi proposed a general strike (throughout Khuzistan Province). The Executive Board unanimously voted for the strike. They neither considered international policy in ordering the strike, nor paid any attention to the political conditions of the country. Their activities were merely directed at profit and at exploiting the workers. The slogan for their activities was: "The strike is inevitable and must be brought about as soon as possible."

"There were three men at the head of the Workers' Organization of Khuzistan: Mahdi Hashemi Najafi, Hoseyn Torbiat, and 'Ali 'Omid. Aside from 'Ali 'Omid's honesty or education, he strongly opposed the general strike. Just before the general strike was ordered, the United Council of Ahvaz received two telegrams from the United Central Council. One of them contained instructions not to go on strike; the other summoned 'Ali 'Omid to Tehran. 'Ali 'Omid had strongly opposed the strike, and not taking part in the schemes of the exploiters, he asked the workers to continue in their work. It had been decided that the railway workers of Ahvaz should go on strike, but 'Ali 'Omid prevented that. It seems 'Ali 'Omid's presence would have prevented the strike, and that this was the reason why he was summoned to Tehran. The Executive Board apparently was planning to get rid of 'Ali 'Omid.

"Najafi's activities and plans were never checked. On the contrary, he was given more power by the United Central Council and was nominated for a higher office in the Tudeh Party.

"The full story of the illegal activities of the Executive Board cannot be told. If it could, it would fill many books.

"We have spoken well of 'Ali 'Omid, which might cause some to think that our judgement of him was partial. Certainly this is not so, for we also admit that 'Ali 'Omid's activities and propaganda have been harmful to the workers' cause. But the fact that he was bitterly opposed to striking cannot be denied. In weighing these circumstances we have strictly considered the public interest and have tried to give a rounded picture of the Executive Board's activities.

"To demonstrate his authority, the pretender Mahdi Hashemi Najafi ordered the workers to go on strike. He was confident that while the strike was on, the roving meetings (demonstrations?) would destroy the power of the Arab tribal union.

"Messrs. Gholam 'Abbas Safavi, Ishi, Mahmud Nataqi were in charge of carrying out orders given. They propagated and inflamed hundreds of thousands of workers against the Arabs. Their slogan was, 'Death to the Arabs and death to the Ashair Union.' Yes, these men played a great role in the rioting, chaos, and murder on 11 July 1946.

"In regard to publication No. 490, dated 8 January 1947, under the heading, 'Answer of the United Council of Khuzistan Province to the forged indictment' we again say that the man responsible for all the turmoil, riot, murder, and insurrection was Mahdi Hashemi Najafi, and not the government.

The United Council started a campaign to raise funds. An enormous amount of money was raised by collecting:

- Dues for the membership in the United Council.
- Funds for aid of the Aga Jari strikers.
- Money for the treasury of the United Council.
- Funds to support the martyrs' families.

In addition to these, the dues that were collected by the United Council's representatives in the cities and province of Mazandaran, Gorgan, Isfahan, and Aserbaijan, for dam-construction in Kherramshahr, and aid for Khuzestan (Workers' Organizations, which were in the hands of a few men. These men split the United Council's treasury among themselves, and through forgery managed to conceal their evil deeds. The only evidence at hand is a cashed check in the bank and the hungry families of the martyrs of the 11 July 1946 conflict. A great part of the United Council's treasury was taken to Tehran by Mr. Safavi and the rest was deposited in the bank by Mr. Ramzan Kaveh in his children's name. We also hear that 300,000 rials of the United Council's treasury is with Mrs. Ramzan Kaveh. Receipts for purchasing a 1940 Packard, a radio, a bicycle, etc., with the United Council's money for the United Council, indicate that Mr. Ramzan Kaveh bought them in his name and then appropriated them. (Ramzan Kaveh was in charge of the financial affairs of the United Council.) Under the pretence of aiding the families of the martyrs of the 23rd of Tir, and the prisoners of Ahvaz, Messrs. Safavi, Nataqi, Ashuri, Qobad-Pur and Torbiat divided about 80,000 rials among themselves.

We appeal to the authorities to set free those innocent men who have been banished to Mazandaran and to investigate the former Executive Board of the United Council so that the people will know these exploiters and swindlers.

With great respect,

Yad-Allah Nasimi
Member and Representative of
the United Council of
Khuzistan Province."

SECTION FOUR:

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS; AID TO THE MARTYRS' FAMILIES

From the evidence at hand, the financial affairs of the United Council are not at all clear. It is impossible for one to discover from the three account books of the United Council (1. The expenditures of the United Council; 2. The accounts book of the United Council; 3. The journal of the United Council) either the income or the expenditures of this organization. In 1945, membership dues were collected, but they did not have a neat book in which to record the Council's income or expenditure. In regard to this, Mr. Abbas 'Ali Najafi in his letter admits:

"When the managers of the Provincial Organization of Khuzistan decided to take over the financial affairs of the Council, Mr. Mohammad Hasan Zamani, a man from Bank Melli, was asked for advice. Mr. Zamani said that according to the laws of accounting, the organization, its aim, etc., should be recorded in an accounting book. The managers were opposed to his counsel. Evidently they did not want to leave behind anything that would reveal their frauds and deception. Mr. Zamani refused to be a party to their schemes and thus their first plot was made known to us."

The failure of this project opened the way for those who had definitely planned to take advantage of the United Council's finances for the aid of the martyrs' families. With the facts and evidence now in hand it is easy to see how the swindlers and exploiters acted. For example:

On the 26th of Tir (17 July 1946) the Executive Board of the United Council held another meeting at 2 P.M. which lasted until 4 P.M. The following were present: Nataqi, Najafi, Torbiat, Safavi, Faraji, Moaleh, Vafa'i-Zadeh, Moradi and Bijeh, the head of personnel for the United Council proposed that contributions be taken for the purpose of aiding the survivors of the martyrs in the cause of freedom. He also suggested that receipt books be printed and distributed among various trade unions under the supervision of a commission, and that workers donate one day of their wages. It was voted that the members of the union pay 100 rials, 150 rials, or 200 rials, depending on their income. That is to say, those whose income is from 1,000 to 3,000 rials pay 100 rials. Those who get from 3,000 to 5,000 pay 150 rials, and those receiving 5,00 and over would pay 200 rials.

In regard to the Club personnel, it was decided that they should go ahead and have receipt books printed and send school girls all over the city to collect contributions. The school girls wore flowers on their breasts and asked for contributions from the public. The fund raising committee members were Messrs. Safavi, Beijeh, Meshgiani, Diba and Faraji. It was decided that the committee should give a report of their campaign on the following Thursday.

The funds were deposited in the National Bank of Abadan under the names of Messrs. Safavi and Vafai-Zadeh. A little later this sum of money was transferred from Abadan to Tehran and there was deposited in Mr. Safavi's account. (Check No. 623353 dated 16 October 1946, 70,000 rials; Check No. 623356 dated 15 October 1946, 80,000 rials.)

In the expenditure book of the United Council a few items are mentioned as being spent for those families whose husbands were wounded in the July crisis. These are the expenditures:

1. Receipt No. 330, dated 21 July 1946, showing 226 rials spent for cigarettes and matches for the patients.
2. Receipt No. 331, dated 21 July 1946, showing 60 rials spent for biscuits for the patients.
3. Receipt No. 333, dated 21 July 1946, showing 200 rials spent on the families of those in prison.
4. Receipt No. 339, dated 21 July 1946, showing 2,000 rials spent for medical expenses of Mr. Nataqi.
5. Receipt No. 340, dated 21 July 1946, showing 1,000 rials spent on Pirouz Ram for his medical expenses.
6. Receipt No. 241, dated 21 July 1946, showing 200 rials given to the family of Ahmad Zakhmi, who was hospitalized.
7. Receipt No. 347, dated 21 July 1946, showing 200 rials given to the families of those who were wounded.
8. Receipt No. 11, dated 23 July 1946, showing 100 rials given to the families of those who were wounded.

Yes, the United Council claimed that the martyrs, through shedding their blood had watered the trees of freedom.

Funds were raised to aid the survivors, but such meagre aid disbursements are proof that their claim is untrue.

A committee was appointed by the Union of Workers of the Oil Company to investigate the financial affairs of the former United Council of Abadan. The following acted as investigators: Abbas, Ali Najafi, Hormoz Shabani, Mohammad Bedi, and Jehangir.

Questions were addressed to Mr. Ramzan Kaveh, responsible head of the Finance Committee of the United Council.

Question 1: Please explain to the committee what happened to the dues collected for membership in the United Council from 21 March 1945 to 21 March 1946.

Answer: "I have always been opposed to organizing a treasury, and which was why I kept aloof for eight months. I have been urged by friends to take over the treasury, but I refused. I was not responsible for the treasury until 1 May when the official banner of the United Council of Abadan was raised. I knew nothing about the financial affairs. In the beginning there were four councils, each of which had its own treasury. For this reason I don't know anything about the treasury. As I said, I was against organizing a treasury and have not taken any part in it, nor was I a member of the treasury. Before taking on the responsibility for a period of three months, I requested that the past accounts of the treasury be rectified. I started with a new treasury and made it clear to them that I was not in any way responsible for the former treasury. Making my position very clear, I accepted the treasurer's position, having nothing to do with the old accounts.

Question 2: In the early days of the United Council, performances were given and tickets were sold; give an account of this.

Answer: In the early days of the United Council concerts were given and about 1,000 toman were collected from the sale of tickets. This sum was not turned into the Treasury. I do not quite recall whether this money was to be used for the benefit of a library or was to be given to the theater project of Mr. Khaykavah. Having no experience in that line I did not interfere in the matter.

Question 3: Dues were collected from the workers to aid the strikers at Aga Jari. That money was kept under a separate account; what about that?

Answer: Yes, an enormous sum of money was raised by the finance committee. About 2,000 Tomans were sent to the strikers of Aga Jari and more than 1,000 Tomans were given to the representatives of the Council for travelling expenses. The sum of money that was raised in Abadan for the same purpose was more than the money used for various expenditures.

Question 4: In your organization you had a safe in which money was deposited for the use of the organization itself; what have you to say about that?

Answer: Money was collected from people for that reason and receipts were given to them. I do not remember how much money was collected; I can only refer to the books. The books were there in the office when I was arrested; now I do not know what has become of them.

Question 5: 950,000 rials were drawn from the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company to the account of the municipality for the purpose of building a dam in Khorramshahr; what about that?

Answer: The money received in the account of the municipality from the treasury of the Oil Company was the responsibility of Mr. Mosleh; he deposited the money in the United Council's safe. This money was used in building the Khorramshahr dam. He had nothing to do with the expenditure of the money. Mosleh had to see that the workers and the builders of the dam got their pay.

Question 6: During the general strike money was raised to aid the strikers: what about that money?
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Answer: I do not remember exactly how much money was raised for the purpose. They had confidence in me and I was made financier of the Council. I really did not know anything about bookkeeping.

Question 7: The Theater Board of Tehran gave performances for ten nights. We understand that after taking out the costs and travelling expenses, they had to pay the rest of the money to the Abadan Organization. What about that?

Answer: They gave us 500 Tomans and a receipt was issued for the money.

Question 8: After the crisis of the 23rd of Tir (14 July 1946) an enormous amount of money was raised to aid the martyrs' families. 96,000 rials of that sum was deposited in the National Bank of Abadan in the names of Messrs. Abd-Allah Vafa'i-Zadeh and Gholam 'Abbas Safavi Sahi. Give us your account of this and explain.

Answer: I had gone to Tehran to buy a car. Hashem Najafi arrived in Tehran a few days later, where he told me that just before he had left Tehran, 1,000 Tomans had been raised to help the martyrs' families. I think the sum collected was far more than 1,000 Tomans because 7,000 Tomans of it was sent to aid the martyrs' families.

It was at this time that Mashti Hashem Najafi was arrested. A committee composed of Messrs. Dashti-Pur, Torbiat, and Safavi went to Tehran and gave a report of all these matters. Subsequently Messrs. Mosleh and Vafa'i-Zadeh were also arrested.

The martyrs' families came to us for help; there was no money to give them. Since then, the martyrs' families have been helped by the reserve treasury of the United Council.

In regard to the 7,000 Tomans, I corresponded with Mr. Mosleh in prison; he told me that the 70,000 Tomans had been given to Mr. Torbiat.

The remaining money raised to aid the martyrs' families was 21,500 rials, which Mr. Safavi had given to me; but I did not record it in the book. A few days before I was released from prison, I gave a receipt to Mr. Safavi for this amount.

Question 9: Beginning 25 Fervordin 1325 (14 April 1946) membership dues were kept in a separate account; please explain.

Answer: Beginning 14 April 1946, the members used to pay one per cent of their incomes as dues. This is recorded in the book; check the membership book and see for yourself.

Question 10: After the crisis of the 23rd of Tir, (14 July 1946) a show was put on by the Pulad Athletic Club and a portion of the proceeds was to be given to the martyrs' families; what do you know about this?

Answer: I do not know anything about the Pulad Club show; on that occasion I was in Tehran.

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Question 11: According to information on hand, in the early days of your movement, a sum of money was sent from the Central United Council of Tehran (headed by Rosta) by Messrs. Torbiat and Mosleh to aid the United Council of Abadan. What do you have to say about it?

Answer: In the early days, if such money was sent by Messrs. Torbiat and Mosleh, I did not get it; hence I have no idea what became of it.

Once 3,000 Tomans were left in my custody without issuance of any receipt on my part. On the same day 600 Tomans of this money was taken back, and the rest they recovered a little at a time.

Question 12: According to the receipts, for a period of one year loans were taken from the people for the capital of the People's Library. I too collected 100 Tomans for the People's Library.

A sum of money was transferred from Abadan to Tehran. According to the check (No. 6790780), 250,000 rials of the sum transferred was given by Mr. Safavi to Mr. Najafi. The receipt given by Mahdi Hashem Najafi shows that the 250,000 were to be set aside for the emergency use of the United Council. The following is a copy of the receipt given by Gholan Abbas Safavi for the 250,000 rials:

"With the approval of the United Council of Khuzistan, Check No. 6790780 is received from Gholan Abbas Safavi whose bank account number is 45196. This money is to be put in my account (number 45210) and with the approval of the United Council the money is to be used for the emergency needs of the Council.

Mahdi Hashem Najafi
2 November 1946

Aiding the families of those killed on the 23rd of Tir should have been the most important function of the United Council, but this was not so. When it was understood that the money collected was going into the pockets of a few swindlers, letters of protests were sent to Tehran from the United Council of Workers and Toilers of Abadan.

This letter, No. 720, dated 2 November 1946 was sent to Messrs. Torbiat and Safavi from the United Council of Workers and Toilers of Khuzistan Province.

"Mr. Torbiat and Mr. Safavi:

We are deeply distressed to discover that your activities designed to help the workers were faithless and dishonest. It is for this reason that we are writing this letter to you.

"Recently the oil company informed us that the money collected to aid the martyrs' families was being spent in Shiran, the summer resort of Tehran, and that the United Council's leaders were investing the money and laughing at the workers. We have tried to calm the workers and take your selfish acts off their minds. But it is very unfortunate that you have neither been true to your duty nor have kept your promises. In the names of the martyrs' families whose husbands gave their lives for your whims, selfish desires and interests, money was collected which should have been distributed among the families whose husbands were killed on the 23rd of Tir. Why, then were more than 800,000 rials of the collected sum transferred from Abadan to Tehran? We know that the money was transferred to Tehran within your reach; actually you had no right to do this. You might have thought that your position permitted it, but

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your position did not entitle you to transfer the Council's treasury. If the United Council has authorized a person to act in its behalf, it has also made clear that in case that person proved to be a fraud, he shall be subject to suit. As we know, the United Council had not authorized anyone to transfer its treasury to another place. Even if the United Council had authorized someone to transfer its treasury, you were not authorized. The decision and right of transference was in the hands of the United Council of Khuzistan Province.

"In addition to this, it has been a long time since you left here, and you have not done the least good to our organization. Have you not repeatedly stated that anyone working against the workers and toilers will be looked upon as a traitor? It is clear to us that your plans and activities were anything but for the benefit or progress of the workers and toilers. In the name of the toilers of Khuzistan we ask you, why have you acted so traitorously? It is more than two months since you barricaded yourselves in Tehran and began spending the workers' wages. Why have you, without any legal right, transferred the money collected belonging to the martyrs' families from Abadan to Tehran?

"There are other matters to be gone into which we shall not mention right now. All those connected with the Khuzistan Organization must come immediately and give a report of their activities. Those who fail to come will be held responsible and such persons shall reap the fruits of their deeds.

(signed)

Hormoz Sheybani, Faraj-Allah Feykar,
Mohdi Piruzi and others.

Note: A copy of this letter has been sent to the United Central Council in Tehran."

Another letter numbered 722 and dated 25/11/11 (2 November 1946) was sent by the United Council of Workers and Toilers of Abadan to the United Central Council.

"United Central Council:

"The so-called friends of Khuzistan who had been members and heads of the former Khuzistan Organization have all scattered to various places. These men have acted contrary to the rules of the organization and have done an injustice to the Society by transferring the collected money belonging to the martyrs' families whose husbands so valiantly gave their lives in the crisis of the 23rd of Tir. Every day the martyrs' families come to the United Council for aid, and the Council must see that they get help.

"The Council cannot stop paying these families, because the husbands of these families have been killed at the instigation of the former United Council heads. These families have no other place to seek help except the Council. From the beginning the Council has paid the families from its reserve funds with the expectation that the money collected would be turned in to the United Council's treasury. Our friend, Mr. Salmasi has made the weekly statement that the money paid

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to these families is considerable; due to the present scandal the income of the United Council here in Khuzistan is very low and the Council cannot meet all its expenses. Moreover, the United Council has 30 branches all over Khuzistan and must pay its rents. To keep up the morale of the workers and continue the United Council's activities, it is not a good idea to dismantle and close up those 30 branches. The Council has to see its friends in prison and their families, and also pay the wages of its present employees who are so faithfully performing their duties in these dangerous and trying areas. It is not just a matter of betraying the Organization. According to information at hand, the United Central Council donated some money to help the martyrs' families, but this too has been expropriated and the man concerned has refused to turn the money in.

"The United Council of Workers and Toilers of Abadan requests that those concerned with the seizure of the Martyrs' families fund should send it back, and come themselves to Abadan to report. Against those who fail to appear the Council shall be free to take action which no doubt will have great effect on the culprits."

The United Council of Workers
and Toilers of Khuzistan Province,
Abadan"

Another letter dated 17 October 1946 was sent from the United Council of Workers and Toilers of Khuzistan Province to the United Central Council.

"The United Central Council:

"After the banishment of Comrade Mahdi Hashem Najafi and the arrest of Vafa'i-Zadeh and Mosleh, Messrs. Torbiat, Safavi and Dashti-Pur were commissioned to go to Tehran and talk things over with the leaders of the Central Committee of the Fedah Party and the United Central Council. It was decided that these men should come the next day and give the result of the meeting to the United Council of Khuzistan. But unfortunately, due to the tension and fear prevailing in Khuzistan, the men did not return, and Tehran became a place a refuge for them. Other friends under various pretexts such as vacation and illness left Khuzistan and later gave the impression that they had been banished and could not return to Khuzistan. This was false because the only one banished was Comrade Najafi. To escape from future punishment and imprisonment, they worked out a scheme. They proposed that an investigation committee called the 'Investigating Committee of the United Council of Khuzistan Province' be formed and that the newly formed Committee take the grievances of the United Council of Khuzistan Province to the United Central Council.

"The United Council of Khuzistan Province under no circumstances acknowledges such an Investigating Committee, and strongly protests its activities. The United Council of Khuzistan requests that those men who have, under various pretexts, left Khuzistan return and take up their posts of duty here in Khuzistan.

"Yes, these men wanted to stay in Tehran until the dust settled in Khuzistan. To keep their positions and be paid by the United Council of Khuzistan Province, they proposed the formation of an investigation committee of which they hoped to be members.

"The United Council of Khuzistan Province through the United Central Council of Tehran announces that anyone connected with the United Council of Khuzistan Province should immediately leave Tehran and come to Khuzistan; otherwise, he will neither be considered a member, nor will he be paid his salary beginning with the end of his vacation.

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of Khuzistan Province, Abadan

Another letter was sent by the Executive Board of the United Council of Khuzistan Province (the Board was abolished on this date) to Chief Director of the United Central Council and the editor of the daily newspaper Zafar:

"Respectfully we bring to your attention the illegal activities of the former United Council's members who have caused misery and pain in society. These facts, which have been hidden from your personage, should be published in the daily paper Zafar. We leave the case to your discretion.

"The undersigned Executive Board of the Second United Council of Khuzistan Province has evidence at hand that after the banishment of Hajafi, the arrest of Messrs. Abd-Allah Yafa'i-Zadeh, Manuchehr Mosleh, Gholah Reza Moradi, and the escape of other members of the Executive Board, we were asked to be responsible for the affairs of the Khuzistan Organization.

"When we took over the Organization, it was discovered that some of the leaders had absconded with the Organization's treasury. According to the checks No. 623356, dated 15 October 1946, the 800,000 rials which was collected to aid the survivors of those killed in the 23rd Tir crisis (14 July 1946) was transferred to Tehran, and this sum was put in their own personal accounts. These men have left behind them a number of helpless orphans without any support. Ramzan Kaveh, the treasurer of the United Council of Khuzistan, had also a great part in (mis) appropriating the Council's funds. Letters written in regard to the fraud were discovered on Ramzan Kaveh on 28 November 1946, when he was arrested by the Military Governor of Abadan.

"We have not been swayed nor influenced by the propaganda of the Oil Company. Our conscience pricks us as we behold the pathetic condition of the widows and orphans. We therefore ask the men of the former Council to send back the Organization's money so that we can help these helpless orphans and also maintain the Organization's good name.

"The former Council claims that the martyrs' families and the families of those in prison have regularly been helped; if this be true, why do these helpless families throng to the Military Governor's office and explain their grievances? When did the former Council help the families of those in prison? A long time has elapsed since they were imprisoned in Ahvas, but no help was extended to their families. If any financial help has been given to the martyrs' families or the prisoners and their families, we ask that such information be published in the daily paper Zafar so that people may be enlightened about it.

The Executive Board of the United Council
of Workers and Toilers of Abadan."

(Evidently the First and Second United Councils and the Labor Boards of the Workers and Toilers of Abadan could not do much to help the martyrs' and the prisoners' families. Another group of men gathered on 18 December 1946, formed a Council, and called it "The Third United Council. The Third United Council, repudiating the First and Second Councils, sent a letter to the Chief Director, Mr. Rusta, of the United Central Council.)

Third Council's letter to the Central United Council, to be read by Mr. Rusta, the Chief Director of the Central United Council:

"Due to the indifference and slow answer of the United Central Council, to its letter the former Council collapsed on 13 December 1946. As its members, Messrs. Behruz and Badavi stated, 'Unless the United Central Council helps, the (Khuzistan) Council will collapse.'"

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"Inally or unluckily, the United Central Council did not give a written reply to the former Council's demand and grievance. The United Central Council did not pay the least attention to the former Council's letters, whose empty promises and groundless claims were recently made known to the workers.

"The first Council of Khuzistan Province had come into existence without the rules and laws of democracy, and without even the consent of the United Central Council. The Second Council came into existence to reform the First Council's Executive Board. That also went out of existence. As can be seen from the agenda of its last session, just as soon as the crisis of Azerbaijan broke out, its members scattered.

"At the instigation of the First Council's leaders, a great number of families have lost their husbands in the 23rd Tir (14 July) crisis. Also a great number were imprisoned. Thousands of rials were collected as dues and contributions from people in order to help the families of the martyrs and of those imprisoned. Up to the present time, we do not know what has happened to that enormous sum of money. The families of the martyrs and those in prison are left without support and now exist in a pathetic condition. Neither the United Central Council nor the First Executive Board pays any attention to them. Therefore, this Council, known as the Third Council, repudiates the members of the Executive Board of the First Council and the Second Council unless they come into the Third Council and become members. As of 18 December 1946, this Third Council is officially formed and shall be called 'The United Council of the Workers and Toilers of Abadan.'

"At the first opportunity, this Council shall investigate the Martyrs' families and those whose husbands are imprisoned. This council does not have any funds, and under the prevailing tension, dues cannot be collected. To investigate the former Councils and their financial affairs, the Third Council needs financial help.

"Therefore, we ask the United Central Council to send home the first Executive Board of the United Council of Khuzistan Province now in Tehran. They must come to Abadan for an investigation of the financial affairs. Any failure on the part of the United Central Council to cooperate with the Third Council shall be considered as an act against the workers and this Council shall complain against the United Central Council to the authorities in Tehran. This Council will also send its grievances to international bodies.

"The Third Council proposes that one qualified person be sent from the United Central Council as its representative and that he also represent those who formerly held positions here in Khuzistan who are now connected with the United Central Council. The person sent by the United Central Council should be properly qualified and faithfully to his duties, otherwise the Third Council will dismiss him. Expecting to hear from you immediately.

The Council for United Workers
and Toilers of Abadan"

In a letter written by (one of the members of the old United Council of Khuzistan Province) Mr. Menati to his friends, 'Abbas 'Ali Najafi and Mr. Sha'bani, that a part of the money is in the hands of a doctor, and the rest is with Mahdi Hashem Najafi. Strange as it may seem, Mr. Menati says that those who had transferred the money to Tehran claim that the money is not in Tehran but in Abadan.

This is the letter:

26 December 1946

"Dear Friends, Sha'bani and 'Abbas 'ali -N.

"Greetings: I hope you are well. If you wish to know about me, I should say that I am well, except that your absence makes me heavy-hearted.

"Dear friends, since my departure from Abadan, I have been ill. When I arrived in Tehran, I succeeded after two days in meeting my friend Karbalai. We had a meeting at which the following persons were present: The nephew of Mahdi, Karbalai, Jehangier, Esma'il and the rest of Karbalai's friends. After a long discussion of friendly grievances (as you know), a question was asked about that check. It was discovered that 25 of it (sic) is in the account of the Doctor, and the rest in the account of the Candidate (meaning Hajafi, a Rudeh Party candidate for representative to the 15th Legislature.) A little has been spent from the sum and we have a list of the items for which the money was spent.

"The Doctor on the same night transferred the 25 (sic) to the account of the Candidate.

"When the family of Tehrani asked for money, they were told that the money was in Abadan. The money was not paid to them because there was no permission to pay. You might ask the details of the meeting from Karbalai and Mr. Jehangier.

"I was very sick and as Tehran was quite cold I had to leave. I hope you will keep me informed of weekly occurrences.....is with us.

"Address: Malayer Post and Telegraph Office.

(signed)

Menati"

The following is a personal letter written by Mosleh to 'Abbas Ali Hajafi. One gathers from this letter that Mosleh did not think much of his friends and wished the public to know about them.

"My Dear Friend 'Abbas Ali Hajafi,

"The situation has been made known to the people; we shall judge matters as our sane minds allow. I do not wish to mention the conduct of certain friends, as I believe you know about it.

"Moradi arrived and without consulting anyone, went directly to Hajafi and delivered your letter, which he in turn gave to Rusta. Mr. Rusta will have to decide. I have gathered some clues from Moradi. But, my friend, we have to be careful and carry on our private work. Here in Tehran I am engaged in some lines of work which in the near future may succeed. At present I should say that I am quite disappointed in Messrs.... These men must give an account, and the people must know about them."

This letter is written by a person to Rusta, the Director of the United Central Council. This person was sent from the workers of Abadan to Tehran to explain to the Central Council of Tehran the theft and bilking of the Executive Board of the United Council of Abadan. When he discovered that some members of the United Central Council had a part in the theft and bilking and were remaining silent, he wrote the following letter.

"Your Excellency Rosta, The Chief Director of the United Council of the Workers and Toilers of Iran:

"Respectfully I state that the laborers of Abadan have sent me to investigate the Labor Board of Abadan. I have given a complete report of the Executive Board's theft and fraud, and also have told you orally the details of its illegal activities.

"Regrettably, in the face of all this, the Executive Board is still undisturbed and no attention is being paid to the glaring evidence. You have not taken the least steps in this matter. Some people, especially the workers, suspect that you yourself might not have been above theft and fraud. However as you know, I must go to Abadan and give a report.

"If you continue to support these people who exploit the workers, they will not be able to maintain their great influence in the affairs of the workers. When suspected, you should immediately dismiss them from their posts; otherwise you yourself will lose influence. On the other hand, if you stop these crooks you will be well liked by the workers.

"You may be thinking of some editors who have written much in the daily newspaper Zafar, or of some men who have spent years in prison. Do not be influenced by the editors nor think that years of imprisonment have changed their characters. They are still the same men. So do not ignore their evil plans and deeds. If not checked, the organization will soon collapse and you too will be caught in chaos.

"Having faith in the prosecution of the workers' cause, I feel that I should bring these matters to your attention. According to the evidence on hand, the laborers in Abadan are growing tense and I cannot be responsible for anything that might happen. No honest man wishes to steal the wages of laborers and leave unsupported the families of those who have given their lives in the cause of freedom.

"I might mention that this is my last letter to you, as I have to leave for Khuzistan. I shall see that the public knows the results of my mission.

Jehangir Moridi"

According to the report given by Moridi, the investigating officer for workers of Abadan, 2 million rials were collected for the support of the martyrs' families. This sum of money was divided among Messrs. Ramzan Kaveh, Vafa'i-Zadeh, Tarbiat, Nataqi and Dashti-Pur.

REPORT

"Your Excellency Reza Rosta, Chief Director of United Central Council of Tehrans:

"I, Jehangir Moridi, the investigating officer for the United Council of Abadan have been present since the day of the inauguration of Abadan Organization. Therefore, I have the following facts which I should like to bring to your attention:

"(1) I should not complain of my hardships since the inauguration of the Abadan United Council. Having faith in its growth, I bore my difficulties and do not even want to mention my struggles.

"(2) Approved For Release 2001/09/07 : CIA-RDP83-00415R009900070003-2
the workers, employees and tradesmen. This sum was gathered by me and others in order to aid the martyrs' families. Now we do not know what has happened to the money. Some of the members of the Labor Board have expropriated it.

"(3) 800,000 rials of the sum collected were transferred from Abadan to Tehran about two months ago. This sum was put in the personal account of Gholam 'Abbas Safavi. His account was checked; at present he does not have more than 24,000 rials. We do not know for what purpose the rest of the money was spent.

"I might mention that the Executive Board members are aware of this and have hidden everything from you. They sensed that I was going to inform you of their fraud; that was the reason they had to leave Tehran.

"(4) Ramsan Kavah has deposited 800,000 rials in the names of his children in the National Bank of Abadan. He also has 200,000 rials which he has invested.

"(5) Vafa'i-Zadeh has pocketed 100,000 rials.

"(6) Torbiat and Nataqi have also misappropriated money and now have their share.

"(7) Through me, the workers of Abadan ask you whether it was by your permission that Messrs. Safavi and Dashti-Fur have become millionaires.

"Indeed I should say, the workers have decided to tear Mr. Safavi and other limb from limb if they should dare to come to Abadan.

"Please look into the financial affairs of the Laborers Council. 800,000 rials have been transferred from Abadan to Tehran. This sum has been put in the personal account of Mr. Safavi.

"I have other things to tell you. Allow me to see you privately.

Jehangir Moridi"

This letter, dated 10 January 1947 was also sent to the Chief Director of the United Central Council.

"The United Central Council of Workers of Iran

"Your Excellency Reza Rasta, the Director of the United Council of Workers of Iran:

"We, the undersigned, request that you attend to our pleas as soon as possible. Two letters have been sent to you by the Southern Workers in which the illegal activities of the leaders of the first and second Abadan Councils were indicated. In those letters, it was plainly explained to you what happened to the money collected to aid the martyrs' families.

"We hear that the leaders of the former Councils, namely Najafi, Safavi and Nataqi have told you that the writers of the previous two letters were merely stooges. Yes, they are right but on the wrong point (sic).

"Mr. Rusta, please listen attentively. We have not become stooges. But we were deceived by those who pretended to be loyal Iranians. We have confidence in you and your character. But we must say that some leaders of the Council, right from the inception of our Organization, have not had the least interest in helping the workers. They have always looked down on them. For example, Comrade Khoda Morad Sanjabi, who is one of the oldest organizers in Iran, has repeatedly advised the Council's leaders that the path they were following would not help them obtain freedom. He told them that the way to raise the living standard of the workers and preserve their rights and complete independence was not by violence. He also advised them that they should free themselves from pride and selfishness and like brothers calmly cooperate with the United Central Council so that the workers rights might be preserved and the traitors banished from the ancient land of Iran. But his advice was not heeded. We still remember that Mr. Safavi, who claimed to be the spokesman of the workers, said to them, 'Dear friends, do not listen to the fairy tale of an old and brainless fellow.' Of course, he was referring to Mr. Khoda Moradi Sanjabi. Those leaders right from the beginning of our organization have considered us stooges. Today their evil activities are clear to all.

"Mr. Rusta, believe me, at present there is no sign of any laborers' organization in Abadan. There are only some simple-minded men who try to cheer up the workers and make them hopeful. These few men meet in their houses.

"Mr. Rusta, we do not expect any high positions, nor do we wish to become leaders of the laborers. We would like to see that the exploiters get punished. Whether Messrs. Najafi, Safavi, Nataqi and others remain in the laborers organization does not matter to us, but now we know what kind of men they are. We stand behind you and have great confidence in your leadership. But we must point out that these crooks have ruined our organizations.

"We wrote you a letter in regard to the budget of the Council of Iranian Workers and asked you several questions. In Tehran, our letter fell into the hands of Mr. Kavah, who evaded giving it to you. Later, our letter addressed to you was found in Mr. Kavah's house. Please investigate this matter. If they deny it, we have a copy of the letter which can be given to you if you desire.

"Mr. Najafi had formed an Executive Board of inexperienced men who oppose us all. The finance committee, too, is opposing us. These circumstances force us to write to you.

"You were not the organizer of our organization. You took the organization over when everything was in order; and still you cannot manage it. Though we have great difficulties and are overwhelmed with internal and external attacks, we shall try to the last breath to preserve the organization.

"Mr. Rusta, do not believe those cunning men who tell you lies. Do not believe them when they claim to have connections with the United Council. Please, send an experienced man to investigate our affairs here in Abadan."

(Signed)
Najaf Qoli Guhrani, 'Ali Akbar Hashemian,
'Ali Reza Sanjabi, Mohammad Rafi', Khoda
Morad Sanjabi, and others."

The critical situation in Abadan, the confused financial affairs of the United Council of Abadan, and the repeated protests from Abadan to Tehran forced the United Central Council to form an investigating committee to solve the Khuzistan problem. The following letter was written by the Chief Director of the United Central Council, Mr. Rusta, to friends in Abadan. In his letter, Mr. Rusta asked the friends in Abadan and the martyrs' families to have patience.

This is Mr. Rusta's letter:

"Friends in Abadan:"

"Your long and legal letter about the activities of the First and Second Councils of Abadan, and also the financial affairs of the Councils was brought to my attention. The United Central Council has given the fullest attention to your grievances. An investigating committee has been appointed to attend to your affairs. For a thorough investigation, it may be that the Committee will have to go to Abadan. However, you should have patience and trust in the just investigation of the United Central Council.

"Friendly greetings from the United Central Council

Heza Rusta"

"P.S. In closing, I might mention that the United Central Council sends its sincere greetings to friends in Abadan."

In regard to the work of the investigating committee, Mr. Moradi wrote to Mr. Safavi as follows:

"We have formed an investigating committee in Tehran to solve the problems of the United Council of Khuzistan, but we just sit and filibuster. We send our decisions to the Central Council through Mr. Najafi. Whenever a question comes up as to the result of the investigation, a vague answer is given."

This is the full text of Mr. Moradi's letter to his friend Safavi:

"My dear friend Safavi:

"This is the second note that I have written to you. I know that you are in a tense situation and encountering difficulties. I hope to see you in the near future. Here everything is just the same and up to now no definite decision regarding Khuzistan has been reached.

"Mr. Ya'qubi left for Tehran the night before last and he too wants to go to Isfahan. Mr. Ya'qubi said that he would not return to Abadan until the dust settles in Khuzistan.

"As I mentioned in my previous note, Mr. Nataqi has become irritated. Probably Mr. Dashti-Fur will write you about him.

"We have formed an investigating committee in Tehran to solve the problems of the United Council of Khuzistan, but here we just sit and filibuster. We send our decisions to the United Central Council through Mr. Najafi for approval. Whenever a question comes up as to the result of the investigation, a vague answer is given.

~~Mr. Approved For Release 2001/09/07 : CIA-RDP83-00415R009900070003-2~~ but unfortunately they keep us here in Abadan.

"Our friends here in Abadan are still in the prison. As I orally told you while in Tehran, the prisoners have to stay in jail until after the election of the 15th legislature. If you can try to rescue them from prison...Here we cannot do anything for them.

"Your letter through Mr. Bijeh, addressed to Mr. Torbiat, was read in the session. We were saddened by Mr. Menati's arrest. We hope his car is being utilized. I am enclosing a clipping from Eteleat on the arrest of Colonel Hejazi who participated in the pbt in Isfahan. Perhaps you can use the clipping for propaganda purposes. Undoubtedly newspaper Rahbar has printed an editorial on this subject. The Eteleat has fully described the disgraceful events.

"Please, send the enclosed letters through any means you may have to Gholam Reza and my mother. My address is: 3rd Avenue Esfandiar House, Office of the Khuzistan Branch of the United Central Council.

"Dear Safavi, I have sent my mother's letter separately but Gholam Reza's letter is enclosed.

"My personal greetings to Messrs. Kavah, Salami, Menani, Porbeha, Behruzi, Piruz-Ram.

Most sincerely yours,

Moradi"

The investigating committee itself had part in expropriating United Council of Khuzistan Province's treasury. This investigating committee tried to conceal the facts and stated that the 250,000 rials which Mr. Safavi had deposited in Mr. Mahdi Hashem Najafi's account had been gradually spent for the United Council of Khuzistan Province. But they refused to mention the money which the Council collected in the name of the martyrs' families.

The investigating committee met in Tehran and made its final statement about the treasury of the United Council of Khuzistan Province.

The following is the final statement of the investigating committee.

STATEMENT OF THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE ABOUT THE TREASURY OF THE UNITED COUNCIL OF KHUZISTAN PROVINCE

The investigating committee met on 25/11/9 (29 January 1947) and from 25/11/11 to 25/11/14 (31 January to 3 February 1947); the Executive Board of the United Council of Khuzistan, namely Messrs. Mahdi Hashem Najafi, Abd-Allah Vaf'ai-Zadeh, Mahmud Nataqi, Gholam 'Ali Moradi, Fath-Allah Dashti-Pur, Manucheh Mosleh and Gholam Reza Moradi were present. The investigating committee checked the books and the treasury of the United Council of Khuzistan Province and states its findings in 12 points. The findings of the investigating committee were unanimously approved.

According to the evidence at hand, the income of the United Council of Khuzistan from 25/7/25 (17 October 1946) up to the present time has been 535,115 rials, which were received by Mr. Mahdi Hashem Najafi and which he recorded in the books in 9 items.

The 9 Items

- (1) 10,000 rials received on 25/7/25 (17 October 1946) from the United Central Council for the budget of the Ahvaz Organization.
- (2) 6,600 rials received on 25/7/27 (19 October 1946) from the United Central Council for printing receipts. (These receipts were used for those who contributed money for the Khuzistan organization.)
- (3) 3,000 rials received on 25/8/7 (29 October 1946) from the United Central Council for the Borujerd Organization.
- (4) 2,390 rials received on 25/8/11 (2 November 1946) from Mr. Gholam Abbas Safavi. This money was collected in Isfahan for the Khuzistan Organization.
- (5) 250,000 rials received on 25/8/12 (3 November 1946) from Gholam Abbas Safavi. This sum was sent by check No. 679078 through the National Bank of Iran. This money was equivalent to one day's wages for the Abadan laborers.
- (6) 20,000 rials received on 25/8/23 (14 November 1946) from Mr. Hoseyn Torbiat. This money was raised in Mazandaran for the Khuzistan Organization.
- (7) 250 rials received on 25/8/30 (2 November 1946) from Mr. Ahmad Dabir as a loan to the Khuzistan Organization.
- (8) 2,875 rials received on 25/9/2 (23 November 1946) from the United Central Council. This sum was contributed by the personnel of the United Central Council.
- (9) 240,000 rials received on 25/10/11 (1 January 1947) from Gholam Abbas Safavi, from contributions equivalent to one day's wages of the Abadan laborers.

NOTE:

According to check No. 6809510 and Check No. 609060, Mr. Mahdi Hashem Najafi received from the National Bank of Iran in Tehran 250,000 rials which sum was gradually spent.

According to the account books of the United Council of Khuzistan Province and the related evidences from 25/7/25 (17 October 1946) to the present the treasury spent 535,115 rials.

After all expenditures, the treasury of the United Council of Khuzistan Province had a net remaining sum of 26,000 rials. The investigating committee checked all books and delivered the net sum to the treasury. The committee recorded both the income and the expenditure, and the appropriate vouchers were filed. All the vouchers were signed by the Committee members and sealed by the United Council of Workers and Toilers of Abadan.

The investigating committee examined all the books and evidences at hand and after the investigation, all papers and documents were given to Mr. Najafi, the director of the organization.

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The investigating committee made 7 copies of its findings. One copy was filed in the United Central Council in Tehran and one copy in the United Council of Khuzistan Province. The other 7 copies were distributed among the members of the investigating committee. These statements were sealed by the United Council of Workers and Toilers of Abadan and signed by the members of the investigating committee: Mahdi Hashem Najafi, Abd-Allah Vafa'i-Zadeh, Mahmud Nataqi, Gholam 'Ali Moradi, Manucheh Mosleh, Gholam Reza Moradi, and Fath-Allah Dashti-Pur.

After sealing the papers and statements, the investigating committee had its seal burned.

In the following letter Mr. Jehangier Moridi writes from Tehran to 'Abbas 'Ali Najafi in Abadan that he has again been summoned for further questioning, mentioning once more that the masquerade is over and that the leader's fraud has been discovered:

"Mr. 'Abbas 'Ali Najafi:

"I wish you God's blessings and good health.

"Mr. Torbiat is on his way to Abadan with 5,000 tomans. Please see that this sum does not go through the same channels as did the 5,000 tomans last year. Mr. Rusta, the Director, has personally told me that last year he gave 5,000 tomans to the United Council of Khuzistan Province. Unfortunately there is no trace of it, nor of the 7,000 tomans sent by Mr. Torbiat from Abadan. In the presence of Mr. Rusta I asked Mr. Torbiat about the money. In answer to my question he said that he could prove that the money had been spent on the United Council of Khuzistan Province. But thus far he has not produced any such proof.

"As you know, Mr. Rusta did not and still does not have any idea about the financial affairs of the Abadan Workers' Unions. The letters which we wrote to him never got into his hands. Please try to find some proofs of our work. These corrupt men are trying to ruin our reputations.

"Please convey my greetings to all the friends up there. Know that these men are trying to prevent my going to Abadan. It may be that you, too, will be summoned here. Mr. Mosafa Bagh does not know much about the situation here. We, too, are still not very clear about things. You shall be informed of how things stand a little later.

Jehangier Moridi"

In the following letter, Mr. Reza Rusta, the Director of the United Central Council, asks Mr. 'Abbas 'Ali Najafi to make a through investigation of the financial affairs of the United Council of Khuzistan Province.

"Mr. 'Abbas 'Ali Najafi:

"Your explanatory letter in regard to the affairs of the United Council of Abadan was read by the United Central Council. The Central Council thinks that an investigation should be made of the activities and the financial affairs of the United Council. Therefore, you should take all the materials and documents and proceed to Tehran. Here in Tehran in the presence of Mr. Moridi we shall investigate the whole matter so that an end can be put to these scandals.

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I have good news to tell you. Tell our friends that we have received a telegram from Paris saying that Louis Saillant will be coming to Iran one of these days.

The Central United Council

Rusta"

This letter was sealed with the seal of the United Central Council of Iran, Unions of Workers and Toilers.

Mr. 'Abbas 'Ali Najafi wrote the following letter to the Director of the United Central Council, Mr. Rusta, dated 15 January 1947, in which he said that the United Council of Abadan had prevented him from going to Tehran:

"Mr. Rusta, Chief Director of the United Central Council

"Your letter sent through Mr. Baghbeh has been received.

"The United Central Council right from the beginning has acknowledged this organization. But unfortunately, through papers and editorial writings, the United Central Council has worked against this organization. These men claimed to be connected with the United Central Council. Therefore, this Council will not allow me to go to Tehran unless our Council knows the exact attitude of the United Central Council.

"I am one of the members of the Council and have to respect its orders.

"In regard to Mr. Torbiat, it was arranged that he, together with Mr. Ghulam 'Ali Moradi, come to my house and talk things over. Unfortunately, these men not only have broken their promises, but cannot be found.

"If you wish to maintain close relations with the Council here, I suggest that you appoint three men who have never been here in Abadan before. These men, accompanied by Mr. Moridi and two men from Abadan, can investigate the whole affair and inform you of the true facts.

"Mr. Rusta, if things here do not clear up, people here will hold the members of the First Council responsible for the collapse of our organization. You too will be regarded as having a part in the schemes.

"This is the last friendly letter I shall write to you and the United Central Council. We expect immediate action on your part. The existence and future expansion of the workers' organization depends on the good judgment of its leaders. It may also be ruined by traitors. Please set an example that people may know that we, the leaders, have worked and are working for the welfare of the workers.

With best regards,

'Abbas 'Ali Najafi

15 January 1947

Mr. Approved For Release 2001/09/07 : CIA-RDP83-00415R009900070003-2 Executive Board. But when he saw that they would not see his views fairly and were covering up the facts with scandals, he wrote the following letter to Mr. Rusta:

"Your Excellency, Rusta, Chief Director of the United Council of Iranian Workers.

"Respectfully I state that, despite all the glaring evidence at hand, no attention is being paid to the fraud of the former Executive Board. One of its members writes in a paper and threatens the workers. You know that paper and the articles that are being published. Could it be that you do not know anything about those articles? In view of all this, I must say that truth and facts cannot be concealed by scandals. Do you really want to ignore the Executive Board's fraud, skulduggery and bilking of the workers? How can you permit the editor to write such scandalous articles in the daily paper Zafar. The Abadan workers have asked me to present the facts about the illegal activities of the former Executive Board. They expect you to pay attention and learn of the Executive Board's deeds. Do you really want to ignore them and keep quiet? Do you think the Abadan Organization came into existence through the Executive Board?

"I have done my duty by informing you of the above. But you have not taken any definite steps towards making a constructive change.

Jehangir Moridi"

In his letter to the United Central Council dated 21 January 1947 Mahmud Nataqi, a member of the Executive Board of the Khuzistan Council, listed the reasons for the difficulties and mistakes of the Executive Board.

"On the whole, I think it is our fault. Some of these mistakes have been made by individual members, and others by all of us. For example:

- "1. The disorder of the financial affairs of the Abadan Committee.
- "2. The arbitrary actions of Mr. Ramzan Kaveh in the financial affairs.
- "3. Admission of men into the organization through partiality, and with the expectation of making money.
- "4. The confused financial affairs of the United Council of Khuzistan Province.
- "5. The transference to Tehran of the collected money belonging to the martyrs' families without either informing the Central Council or our comrades in Abadan.

"Thousands of other such mistakes and negligence on the part of us all caused the Khuzistan Organization to be in the trouble in which it now finds itself."

Yes, more than 2 million rials had been collected for the support of the martyrs' families. The martyrs gave their lives for the political aspirations of the United Council's leaders. Today their families are left unsupported and are in dire need. These families have sent petitions to Dr. Raj; their representative in Parliament, requesting the return of the collected sum and punishment of the leaders of the Executive Board of Abadan.

"Your Excellency, Dr. Abd-al-Hoseyn Raji, representative to the Lower House: I have lost my feet," wrote a man who was mutilated in the crisis of the 23rd of Tir.

The mutilated man wrote further, "As you know, those members of the Executive Board of the United Council were at the head of the workers' affairs. As a result of their plans, a great number of workers have been killed and parted from their families forever. A number of widows and orphans are left unsupported. Those political aspirants have also absconded with the money that was collected for the martyrs' families. The money collected from Abadan and other cities for our aid has been transferred to Tehran and the Executive Board members are lavishly spending it."

(The mutilated man and a group of widows and orphans are shown in a picture captioned "We have lost our source of livelihood.")

The following is a petition sent by the martyrs' families to their parliamentary representative, Dr. Raji:

"We the undersigned have sacrificed both ourselves and our children for the whim and caprice of the United Council's leaders.

"Our fellow citizens have contributed a large sum of money for our relief, but that sum was not given to us. We are living in dire straits and prefer death to living.

"We are expecting the representatives of the World Federation of Trade Unions to come to Abadan. They will investigate our situation. Dr. Raji, you represent the people of Abadan and Kharramshahr; we expect you to cooperate with the representatives of the World Federation of Trade Unions in investigating our case. Whatever decision they might make, we expect you to cooperate with them and support them in their decision.

"We, the survivors of the martyrs of the 23rd Tir (14 July) wish to get back the large amount of money which our fellow citizens contributed to our relief, and we also expect punishment for the leaders of the United Council of Khuzistan."

Fingerprints of the following:

Wife of the deceased Hayat-Qoli, who has five children,
Wife of the deceased Hoseyn, who has three children,
Fatimah, wife of 'Evas, who has two children,
Feyvieh, wife of Mohammed, who has two children,
Mother of Hoseyn Malazadeh, who has a daughter,
Daughter and wife of Abd-al-Rahman, who has 9 dependent children,
Amila, wife of the deceased Mirza Hasan, who has two children,
Mother of Rasul, who has 2 of his dependents,
Wife of the deceased 'Ali,

The Ali who lost his right foot on the 23rd of Tir and who is living in direct poverty.

SECTION FIVE

REACTIONS

The deeds of the United Council of Abadan were exposed. The workers understood that their leaders had not been working to improve their conditions. People came to see the leaders as traitors to both the country and the workers. Then a great reaction took place and the members of the United Council started turning in their resignations.

Here are a few resignations that we want you to see. By quoting these resignations we not only prove the fraud of the leaders but also show how some Iranian workers were deceived, for a long time believing in empty promises.

RESIGNATIONS

I, the undersigned, resign from the workers organization of the Tudeh Party of Iran, and am turning in my resignation to the United Workers' Council.

Taqi Sharifi
22 January 1947

The United Central Council:

I, the undersigned, identity card No. 55, issued at Bushahr, seeing the fraud of the United Council of Abadan, resign. Those leaders were disloyal both to the workers and to the government. It was also discovered that they were spying for foreigners.

Hasan Kuh Bazi
25/10/27 (17 January 1947)

The United Central Council:

I, the undersigned, son of Ghafar, identity card No. 2214, issued at Abadan, resign. There was not integrity in the activities of the leaders. They had not been working for the benefit of the workers. I should say they were spying, and selling out our country.

Hasan 'Ali Sabti
25/10/27 (17 January 1947)

I, the undersigned, identity card No. 39372, issued at Tehran, resign from the United Central Council. The leaders of the United Council were evil and wanted to sell out our country; during all this time they have only been stealing people's money.

'Ali Setar-Zadeh
25/12/22 (13 March 1947)

I, the undersigned, identity card No. 1755 issued at Abadan, have been a member of the Tudeh Party of Iran since the 10th of Mehr 1321 (2 October 1942). Now that I see the fraud of the leaders, I turn in my resignation.

(Finger print of)
Khoda Morad Eskandari
25/11/9 (29 January 1947)

The United Central Council:

The United Council has proved to be connected with the Tudeh Party of Iran. Therefore, I resign. Many petitions sent by the Abadan workers about the United Council's leaders, but no attention was paid to them

Mohammad Badi
Identity Card No. 7
25/11/1 (21 January 1947)

The United Central Council:

I, the undersigned, identity card No. 586 issued at Abadan, resign because the leaders of the United Council of Abadan were the cause of the bloodshed on the 23rd of Tir, 1325 (14 July 1946). They have also misappropriated the money that was contributed for the martyrs' families.

Serdar Ne'mari
25/11/1 (21 January 1947)

The United Central Council:

I, the undersigned, turn in my resignation to the Council because the leaders were the cause of the bloodshed on the 23rd of Tir and also because they have deceived the workers.

(Finger print of)
Safar, son of Heydar Shohrat Keyka'i

The United Central Council:

I, the Undersigned, identity card No. 1993, resign because of the unfaithful leaders of the United Council. I hereby announce to all laborers that I shall no longer have any connection with the United Council.

Hoseyn, son of Ahmad Gha'bi
Behmen 2, 1325 (23 January 1947)

The United Central Council:

I, the undersigned, identity card No. 4118 issued at Abadan, resign because of the Council's fraud. They have misappropriated the workers' money.

Mirza 'Ali Katkhordeh

I, the undersigned, identity card No. 87 issued at Abadan, resign because the leaders of the Council proved to be false and misappropriated the money which belonged to the workers

Ayaz-Allah Sohrabi
25/11/25 (14 February 1947)

Resignation:

I, the undersigned, identity card No. 6002, issued at Masjid-i-Soleyman, resign because the leaders of the United Council were connected with the Tudeh Party. They were working against the independence of our dear country; they have misappropriated a large sum of money which belonged to the workers; they were working for the political advantage of a foreign government.

Mohammad Nasir Ali-Pur.
14 of Behman 1325
(3 February 1947)

- END -

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED
CENTRAL COUNCIL

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WHY IS THIS BOOK BEING PUBLISHED

In the midst of darkness, this book shines like the sun upon the activities of the United Central Council; illuminating the points which have been hidden from view.

Acting like a sovereign nation unto itself, this group had arsenals used to produce ammunition, trained soldiers, and dominated the lives and properties of their subjects. Moreover, the group did not understand either the purpose in concentrating the power of the workers and in forming unions, or they understood it and had other goals.

This book is a collection of documents and records indicating the treacheries and contradictions of this selfish group; a group which, under the pretence of providing welfare and establishing the worker's rights, mounted the political stage and became openly involved in belligerent acts directed against the security forces.

Any objective reader, by studying this book, becomes readily aware of the truth. He will be convinced that the United Central Council has only accomplished one thing - treachery. The solid foundation of ministers and union leaders under the United Central Council was false. In every instance, they have taken steps against the laws of the country to the detriment of the workers.

This group had only one outstanding characteristic, and that was fearlessness: fearlessness in murdering and plundering; fearlessness in disrupting the nation's security; fearlessness in making and using ammunition; fearlessness in accomplishing their political aims; finally, fearlessness in preserving incriminating documents.

The Minister of Labor has harvested the fruit of this last mentioned form of fearlessness. Relying upon unimpeachable documentation, he has composed this book devoted to a description of the United Central Council's unlawful activities.

There is no doubt that one fundamental factor caused the weakening of the United Center Council's foundation and its subsequent collapse. This factor was public opinion regarding the unethical actions and witnessed treacheries of the workers and the country.

These documents and records, unveiling the list of abuses perpetrated by the United Central Council directors, are not published for the purpose of strengthening the already abject public opinion of the United Central Council. People, especially the workers, already consider the United Central Council condemned by its own accusations.

The Minister of Labor unveils the truth by publishing this book which will always be a lantern of light in the workers' path. He shows that in reality, the United Central Council did nothing except take advantage and profit from the occasion: demanded hearing, threatened the country's safety, weakened the productive power, ruined the factories, executed inauspicious political plans, and created disorder and insecurity; although the United Central Council founders and directors promised to safeguard the welfare of the workers.

CHAPTER I

INSIDE THE UNITED CENTRAL COUNCIL

1. The Tudeh Party of Iran and the United Central Council
2. What was the Purpose in Organizing Unions?
3. The Workers were Forced to Join the Union
4. Was the United Central Council Solely Interested in its Financial Affairs?
5. What Kind of People were the Members of the Financial Committee?
6. The Union had Become the Monopoly of a Special Group
7. The Attitude of the Tudeh Party of Iran toward Religion. The Workers were Disgusted with the Insolent Attitude toward the Religious Leaders
8. The Workers want Their Lost Salary

A reason need not be brought forth to prove the relationship of the United Central Council with the Tudeh Party of Iran.

In a part of this book under the title Why was This Group Needed? two similar circulars show that the activities of the United Central Council and those of the Tudeh Party of Iran were parallel and aimed at the accomplishment of a single plan.

The United Central Council considered the Tudeh Party of Iran its supporters; reciprocally, the Tudeh Party of Iran enjoyed the strong support of the United Council.

Reza Rusta, in one of his speeches, refers to the United Council as being based on the Tudeh Party of Iran and the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan.

The following excerpt is taken from newspaper Zafar, Third Year, Number 392, Sunday 3 November 1946:

"Comrades, Workers, have no fear! We are founded on a force of 400,000 united workers, the Tudeh Party of Iran and the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan, who are armed. The Democratic force of Azerbaijan, which is armed, is the liberal force of Iran."

A few receipts are available which relate to the Tudeh Party of Iran, and the signature or the seal of Reza Rusta can be seen underneath. As a preface, we present one of these receipts:

Number 6,958

Dated 31 August 1945

Tudeh Party of Iran Receipt

A sum of 40 rials, on account, for the months of Khordad (22 May-21 June) and Shahrivar (23 Aug-22 Sept) received by the treasury of the Tudeh Party of Iran through Asad-Allah Sadegina.

Place for the signature of the Financial Committee:
Reza Rusta's seal; the seal of the Central Treasury.

This case illustrates the fact that the United Central Council and the Tudeh Party of Iran were in contact with each other that sometimes their financial affairs were not kept separately.

The newspaper Zafar, Third Year, Number 319, Thursday 1 August 1946, printed a picture of the members of the Union and members of the Tudeh Party committee, which had been taken together.

Reza Rusta, the Responsible Secretary of the United Central Council, in the congratulatory message he delivered to the Tudeh Party of Iran on the

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occasion of the fifth anniversary of its founding, said the following (This
congratulation message has been published in a special issue of the newspaper
Rahbar):

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE UNITED CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE
WORKERS AND LABORERS OF IRAN
TO
THE COURAGEOUS TUDEH PARTY OF IRAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE TUDEH PARTY OF IRAN

by Reza Rusta
Responsible Secretary of the United Central Council

"The United Central Council, the Union of Workers and Laborers of Iran,
is the true heir of 25 years of agitation and struggle by the Iranian workers.
Today, this Council is one of the most important factors in obtaining freedom
and democracy for Iran and in establishing world peace. This Council, having
more than 400,000 devoted soldiers and with the faith that creative strength
rules the country, is the best guarantee of freedom for the country and is a
great force combating international imperialism and reaction.

"The international imperialists who need Iran both for its oil resources
and valuable goods on the one hand, and for the creation of a barrier against
India on the other, are ready to commit any crime and to break any promise in
order to protect their unlawful privileges and their years of mastery. In
opposition to such tyrannies and imperialistic crimes, the sole force of anti-
imperialism and the unreconcilatory enemy of reaction is, indeed, the united
and orderly formation of Iranian workers and laborers. These workers and
laborers, with the support of the freedom-loving parties such as the Tudeh Party
of Iran, are able to stop reaction in any of its forms and, for the salvation
of the laboring class and the establishment of their national sovereignty, will
fight bravely until the last moment when the final victory will be theirs.

"This vast and wonderful organization in this long fight has always had
close and sincere relationship with the Tudeh Party of Iran. For this reason,
the outstanding individuals of the Iranian workers never have, and do not
refrain or refuse devotion and help in protecting the unity of the organization.
It has proved that in action it has been, and is, a union which is the protector
of the workers, peasants, and other laboring classes. Therefore, the United
Central Council with the representation of four hundred thousand uniform
workers, presents its heartiest congratulations to the Central Committee and
other organizations in this fifth year of the foundation of the glorious Tudeh
Party of Iran. The Council is hopeful that this advancing and progressive
party, with the effortful participation of the democratic parties of Azerbaijan,
Iran, and other freedom-loving people, will be able to obtain even greater
success in rescuing the working class, in protecting their freedom, in establish-
ing democracy throughout Iran, and in driving out the reactionaries. We also
hope that this great party will support the United Central Council and will
protect and defend our unity and organization.

"The Tudeh Party of Iran is the torch-bearer of freedom, the political
fighting guide of the laboring classes of Iran.

"The Tudeh Party of Iran and the United Central Council are considered the most important agents in establishing peace and tranquility and in advancing the democratic movement in Asia and the world.

"long live the glorious Tudeh Party of Iran. Long live faithful comrades. Long live the United Central Council, the Staff of the Iranian laborers."

If the name of the Tudeh Party of Iran is mentioned, it is because the Tudeh Party and the United Council can not be separated from each other.

We are not devoting any part to the detailed description of the analytical demand, slaughter, molestation of chastity, domination over the life and property of the people, and other unlawful activities of the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan. Although in spirit the same as the United Central Council, in body it is different.

The newspaper Zafar, Third year, Number 335, on 23 August 1946 writes:

"The presentation of two of the secretaries of the United Central Council to the provincial council of the Azerbaijanian workers: According to the reports of Mr. Ebrahim Mahzari and Mr. Kesa Ebrahimsadeh, it was decided at the seventh congress of Azerbaijanian workers that two people would be sent, on behalf of the United Central Council, to the provincial council of Azerbaijan. They will be considered part of the electives to the Azerbaijanian Congress. For this purpose comrade Ebrahim Mahzari and comrade Ebrahimsadeh are being sent to the provincial council of Azerbaijan.

United Central Council, Union of Workers
and Laborers of Iran."

The newspaper Zafar, Third year, Number 359, on 20 September 1946, printed the picture of a group of army officers of the self-governing province of Azerbaijan.

Ali Amiri Khizi, in his article "A few words about the activities of the Tudeh Party of Iran in Azerbaijan" writes the following in the newspaper Rahbar, Number 829:

"On 3 September 1945, the organization of the Tudeh Party of Iran in Azerbaijan together with the worker's union, peasants unions, and other organizations attached themselves like a powerful army to the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan. The individual leaders of the Tudeh Party of Iran continued their activities within the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan by reinforcing their power and strengthening their revolutionary policy."

The newspaper Zafar, Third Year, Number 369, on 6 October 1946, writes:

"General Daneshian congratulates the Tudeh Party of Iran on its sixth year of foundation: In connection with the ceremonies honoring the foundation of the brave and glorious Tudeh Party of Iran, which is related with the ancient celebration of Mehregan, I present my sincere and ardent congratulations to the presence of the guiding party and, through you, to all the dear fighting comrades. I hope that we will gain success on the road to establishing the integrity of our dear fatherland. And I hope, with the aid of other freedom-loving hardworking Iranians, we will be successful in uprooting internal reaction and imperialistic possessions, and in establishing an educated, healthy,

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flourishing, free Iran. Long live the zealous nation of Iran, the Guide of the Azerbaijanian nation. Glorious be the name of the freedom lovers Fischevari, Shostary, and Padegan, the founders of the party. Immortal be the glorious names of Setar Khan, Bazar Khan, Dr. Brani, and Soleyman Eskandari, the brave sons of Iran. Greetings to the freedom-loving founders of the fighting Tudeh Party of Iran. Long live the only strong fortress for the Iranian laborers, the United Central Council. Blessings be upon these builders of the road to freedom."

Tabriz,
Signed by Gholam Yahya

The newspaper Zafar, Third Year, Number 373, on 10 October, introduces Gholam Yahya in the following manner:

"Gholam Yahya, the son of a farmer, worked in a file factory and later became a member of the United Council of Mianeh. Due to his genius, talent, and the fight which he has displayed against the feudalists' reaction and tyrannical police, the people of Azerbaijan have promoted him to the rank of General. Now he has undertaken the leadership of the Fedayan Army of Azerbaijan. Like a steel barrier, he has bared his chest to ward off the intrigues of reaction. He protects and defends the freedom and advancement which has become the share of the Azerbaijanian nation."

If we had wished to give an extensive explanation regarding the activities of the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan, we would not have deviated in any way from our original purpose of holding a mirror to the activities of the United Central Council. But eventually, we would have digressed from our stated policy and purpose. Also, in the case of the Tudeh Party of Iran, if we have sometimes mentioned it by name, we did not mean to describe its activities. It has been necessary to mention the party name when commenting on and describing documents which refer to the subject exposed to argument. Originally, from the point of view of the workers who used to join the unions, the United Central Council and the Union were one and the same.

Abd-al-Hamid Soheyli at the investigation which was conducted on 12 January 1947 by Captain Darvish, introduces himself as follows:

I, Abd-al-Hamid, am the son of Abd-al-Ghasfar. My family name is Soheyli. I am the holder of identification card 392, a native of Khalhal, and at present I work in a jute mill. I am a Moslem and a subject of the Iranian government, and I have a wife and children. I am literate and my position in the party was that of second secretary of the Shahi City Council, and the first secretary of the Workers Union in the jute mill."

From this, it can be seen that Abd-al-Hamid Soheyli considers both the first secretaryship of the jute mill and the second secretaryship of the City Council of Shahi a party occupation.

There are documents at hand which show that most of the workers had no information about the organizations which they were forced to enter. Boghus Minasian, a tobacco factory merchant, expresses himself as follows; at the investigation held on 19 July 1946 in the office of the military district governor of Tehran: "I did not know anything about the party. They used to promise all kinds of things, that the workers' situation would be improved, that they would give us oil, tea, and a house. I registered with the party and attended their meetings several times, but finally saw that everything was a lie and nonsense."

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Rostam, the son of Mahmud Khoda'i, expresses himself at the investigation, held on 30 May 1946 in the office of the military district governor of Tehran as follows: "I entered the party because I was afraid. My comrades used to tell me, 'You so and so, why don't you join? If you do not come in we will fire you'. I saw that they were about to fire me so I took a sheet of paper and signed my name; but I really don't know what I signed."

Hasan Shohrat Sowlati expressed himself in this manner: "I am not mixed up in this, I don't even know what I am doing. They have written to me and have spoken to me, but I really can't make head or tail of their affairs. Who ever gives me bread, I am his servant."

In a letter written in his own handwriting, Mohammad Borumand, the secretary of the Council of Mazanderan Province and the first secretary of the Workers' Union of Shahi confesses:

"As a result of the quarrels and arguments which had occurred in most areas in Mazanderan, especially in the industrial centers among the natives and Turks, the factory workers were gradually obtaining hand weapons. They had reached the point where they were threatening each other with these arms. And this threatening had caused a split between the individual party and union leaders. I had reported the above mentioned incidents more than a dozen times and asked for a complete investigation by the United Central Council. The center paid very little attention to our letters until Mr. Ovanesian's recent arrival in Mazanderan on behalf of the General Investigation Committee of the Tudeh Party. They listened to all our complaints but, until now, no effective adjustment has been made. And if anyone had asked these people, 'Why are you doing all this?' they would have been punished. In spite of this, Mr. Abd-al-Hamid Soheyli complained to Mr. Ardeshir Ovanesian about these people. Consequently, a few nights later, the above mentioned was beaten and his teeth were broken. For this reason, no one else had the courage to speak. Actually, this split existed among the Turkish speaking people; that is, between those from Ardebil and those from Khalkhal. I, Mohammad Borumand, writer of these lines, am the secretary of the United Provincial Council and a member of the Provincial Committee of the Tudeh Party. In the meantime, I wish to remind the reader that there has been a permanent interlocking between the United Central Council and the Tudeh Party of Iran; the representatives of the central committee of the Tudeh Party were members of the United Central Council, and the representatives of the United Central Council were members of the Tudeh Party."

Borumand's signature
18 January 1947

P. Sh. Mobarez, in his book Has the Tudeh been Defeated?, writes:

"Three fundamental factors have given a bad name to the Tudeh Party:

- (1) the United Central Council;
- (2) the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan;
- (3) strong partiality to the government of (....)."

On page 16, he writes: "I say that at present the Workers' and Laborers' Union is **sufficient** for the workers. They must remain at this stage for a while until they understand their class rights. Their comprehension will be aided by speeches, conferences and discussions, by opening evening schools and making them literate, and by various other means of their own understanding. Then their entrance into the Union is not harmful, but perhaps necessary and sustaining.

The Tudeh Party did not do this, it accepted any one who entered."

And on pages 13 and 14 he continues: "To the same degree that the United Central Council gained a good name from the blessings and activities of the Tudeh Party of Iran, the Tudeh Party's name decreased in stature. Yes, the relationship of the United Central Council to the Tudeh Party of Iran brought a great injury to the latter, and most of the dissatisfaction found its sources here...."

We will now quote descriptions of the Tudeh Party's Provincial Conference of Youth Organizations, especially the speech of Reza Rusta from the newspaper Zafar, Third Year, Number 337, Monday, 26 August 1946.

"Comrades, I am congratulating the First Provincial Conference of Youth Organizations of the Tudeh Party. Comrades, today we are in combat with two brigades and two classes. In this struggle, the plans for the youth are very important and fundamental. One of the brigades opposes the vast masses of laborers and freedom-lovers of Iran. This group consists of the Imperialists and the remainder is formed from the decayed hoard of rulers who would like to destroy the freedom of most of Iran through the medium of foreign corporations and internal mercenaries. The other group is the brigade of laborers who stand in direct opposition to our own labor group. The scourge of this group is the Tudeh Party of Iran. Another adversary of this group is the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan. The three great freedom-loving parties, with the support of the United Central Council, the unions, and the workers and laborers of Iran must strive hand in hand to destroy the enemy of the nation. Comrades, without doubt we will be victorious in this holy combat which is spreading among the two brigades. The young people have always taken the first row in this combat. As Dr. Keshavarzi had said, 'I am Old,' but I am not reluctant and I say that we are not only a little older but a good deal older than you are. You must continue along the road which leads to Iranian freedom."

Then Reza Rusta made a stimulating speech about the recent occurrence in Khuzestan, the youth activities, the duties of the coalition cabinet ministers.

In addressing the Tudeh Party ministers and those ministers sympathetic to the party, he stated: "Comrades, you must support the unity of the workers' organizations and principles of democracy, especially the Khuzestan workers' movement, which guarantees the independence of our Dear Fatherland. You must know that in this struggle the entire Iranian nation is with you." (Applause)

"I see that today, in spite of your participation in the cabinet, they imprison and banish our champion fighting comrades by authority of Article 5 of martial law. They declared martial law in the Tehran area and then expanded it. Even the eleven o'clock curfew hour still exists. We ask the Tudeh Party ministers to stop this interference and to defend the individual and social freedom of the Iranian Nation."

Comrade Rusta's speech from start to finish was continuously interrupted by applause.

Comrade Rusta ended his speech with his poetry: "Long live the youth organization! Long live the freedom-loving youth of the Iranian Party who are the Guarantees of Independence and Freedom for Iran!"

Comrade Mahzari, on behalf of the District Council, congratulated the Youth Organization's First Provincial Conference.

"Champions of the Tudeh Youth Organization, on behalf of the District Council I want to extend my congratulations to your First Provincial Conference and to the work which you have accomplished in your studies at the Erani School. I hope the United Central Council, like a gardner, is hoeing out the poisonous weeds of society so that you may grow. But this brave gardner is not immuned from poisonous human snakes who are as numerous as poisonous weeds and hence have many to sacrifice. You are fighting on three fronts; the family front, the school, the society. Your life is mingled with the life of the Iranian laborers.

"You, the champions of freedom, the pupils of the Erani school dedicated to building and securing an independent Iran in conjunction with the United Central Council - Forward! Long live the young and pure fighters of the Tudeh Youth Organization of Iran. Long live the Liberal Parties' united front. Long live the United Central Council's devoted soldiers."

The United Central Council's participation in a Tudeh Party demonstration was reported in the newspaper Rahbar, Third year, Number 4,635, Saturday, 8 August 1945:

"Our strong and healthy workers, holding the tri-colored flag firmly in their hands, were moving in the front line as if to announce that today the awakened and uniform working class of Iran is holding the flag of constitutional revolution and is the champion of the movement for freedom.

"Moving in the first row were the Tudeh Party representatives, and some of the Party and Union members. A band followed them, formed from members of the Tudeh Music Society. They were playing the music of the Tudeh Party. The following heart stirring motto, 'The Tudeh Party of Iran is the greatest supporter of Iranian freedom,' written on a white cloth pictured an Iran which has become independent, cultivated and free through strength of thought and strength of arm of all these scientists and fighting workers."

Despite all these evidences, the United Central Council still claims it is not connected with any party.

The newspaper Zafar, Third Year, Number 113, Monday, 2 December 1946, states:

"The United Central Council was not and is not connected to any party neither before nor after the coming of Louis Saillant. It is universal under the world banner. In accordance with the statute upon which it is founded, it will fight only when democracy is challenged; such as the fight waged by the workers of the world against Fascist Spain. The United Central Council looks at all parties with the same eye, and fights only to safeguard the workers' economy and health. In most instances, the United Central Council members aren't members of any other party. In some working areas, such as Khuzestan, not 1 worker in 100,000 is a party member. Altogether approximately 30 percent of the members of the United Central Council Unions, Approved For Release 2001/09/07 : CIA-RDP83-00415R009900070003-2"

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Yet 7 days before the appearance of the above issue, the United Central Council confessed their unbreakable tie with the Tudeh Party. The newspaper Zafar, Third Year, Number 407, on Monday 25 November 1946, printed the following article:

"The greatest threat to Iranian freedom is the creation of unions and syndicates which are not connected with the United Central Council. In the past 5 years, the United Central Council advanced in development parallel with spreading world freedom.

"As a result of a hard fight the steel-like organization of the obstinate 'Arfa was defeated. The adventurer Said-Zia was imprisoned and the tottering castle of National Will (Eradeh Welli) (the name of a party) collapsed and some of the "harmful insects" were repelled. The present government, an obstacle to imperialistic expansion, became active through our historic sacrifices. We worked extremely hard in strengthening the government and their reform plans so that at last a coalition government was formed and Iranian membership in the Peace Conference was accepted. The stalwart activities of the United Central Council will live for thousands of years, since satisfied workers and the establishment of a free Iran are considered a part of our national honor. As a result of the United Central Council's struggle and its close and unbreakable cooperation with the Tudeh Party of Iran, the whole world now understands that Asia, considered a cemetery, exhibits traces of life. The nations of the East have been awakened and are breaking their chains of slavery."

About two months ago Zafar, in connection with the Tudeh Party's 6th anniversary, praised this Party and discussed the strong relationship between it and the United Central Council. The newspaper Zafar, Third Year, Number 368, Wednesday, 2 October 1946 writes:

"The Tudeh Party of Iran, a party which sprang from the Iranian workers and laborers and established its political life for their advantage, has never been negligent in its great duty. The Iranian workers will never forget the Tudeh Party's sacrifices in strengthening the workers organization. It is a party which comprehended the reality of greatness and the power of the worker, and it was for this reason that the enemies of democracy tried several times to create a rift between the Tudeh Party and the Workers' Organization, the sole asylum of true Iranian democracy. They were unaware of the fact that the Tudeh Party of Iran, relying on the strong arm of the Iranian workers and laborers will be victorious. The rotten roots of Imperialism will be demolished forever, and there will be a new world erected in which each person receives the fruits of life according to merit."

The purpose in quoting the above speeches and documents is to anticipate critics who might consider the weak point of this book, the mentioning of the Tudeh Party's name. For those also who emphatically state that the activities of the Tudeh Party are not related to the United Central Council.

WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE IN ORGANIZING UNIONS?

From the evidence on hand, it seems the object of organizing unions, in the opinion of the United Central Council, was ~~outright~~ exploitation of the workers under the guise of protecting them from exploitation and political graft. The political bosses of the United Central Council would theoretically devote their time to solving problems related to work and the worker.

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Perhaps the workers did not need hygiene and instruction. It is true that in the beginning they gave promises, such as, to safeguard the workers and their needs and to bring them comfort in their work; in reality such promises were forgotten. The worker, except for paying dues and contributing to a relief fund without reasons, could not see any results from the activities of the United Central Council.

The publications of the United Central Council and the Tudeh Party of Iran contain a range of materials which was comprehended only with great difficulty by the workers who were not familiar with even the slightest political problem of the day. Great masses of the workers could perceive nothing from the published books and newspapers. If there were any speeches or propoganda, it included points which necessitated previous studies and instructions to be understood. They would speak of Socialism, Communism and Marxism to the worker who could not understand the meaning of law and ideology. Were they not aware of the fact that the illiterate worker had to know his Persian ABC's before he could pay heed to such political problems? Wouldn't it have been better to devote time to educating the workers and raising their standard of living instead of giving them empty propoganda? P. Sh. Mobarez states the issues very well on page 14 of his book:

"The newspaper Zafar which should protect the welfare of the working class, which should lead the workers every day, which should give the workers introductory social lessons, and which should be a school for workers and laborers, either devotes its headline to denouncing Franco or fills the entire paper with congratulation messages to Reza Rusta.

"I am not saying that Franco is a nice person, on the contrary, in my opinion at the present time Spain has the worst government in the world. In my opinion Franco is the most disgraceful ruler of this era. He must be overthrown and people, such as Garcia Kristino (sic) should be avenged (?). This, however, is not the duty of the United Central Council. Take the worker who spends all his time from morning until night at the factory, who cannot read and who is not acquainted with those who are well informed: How would he know who Franco is? To start with, the worker doesn't know the meaning and purpose of the government. Perhaps he still thinks that throughout the world all governments are despotic in nature and are ruled by a person called the Shah. He doesn't even know the government of his own country. If he knew his own government, which actually rules his life, he would not vote for religious leaders such as Imam Zaman and Imam Ja'far Sadeq at election time. Besides, protection against Franco's policies should be carried out as a political party function. If the Tudeh Party of Iran accomplished this function or debates about Franco in its headlines, there is no harm in that. Yet, how can this possibly concern the unions?

"I have not yet seen simple and profitable debates for the workers in the newspaper Zafar or any other newspaper. In not one instance has this paper simplified words such as reaction, 'fascist', 'imperialism', 'exploitation', etc. They have brought these words to the workers without making them understand their meaning.

"The newspaper which is obviously the organ of the United Central Council writes in its 327th issue:

"The imperialistic dragon has opened its mouth. The background for the plot the British plan for the South is being laid down by the subversive activities of the imperialistic agents, the reactionaries, and the treacherous officials.

"In Number 224, Third Year, Thursday 6 August 1946, the newspaper calls Franco a traitor, murderer, and butcher.

"In Number 243, Second Year, Friday 26 April 1946 it attacks the Security Council and writes the following:

'What is going on in the Security Council? England and America intend to interfere in Iranian affairs. Iran is independent and does not need a guardian. In the Iranian case, although it was an internal affair, the Security Council nevertheless suddenly decides to interfere and states that it is carefully guarding the peace and security of the world. The case of Iran is very important, the rights of small nations must be protected.'

"In Number 364, Third Year, Friday 27 September 1946, it attacks the government of England and praises the Azerbaijan movement.

"In Number 359, Third Year, Sunday 22 September 1946, it attacks the American foreign policy.

"In Number 224, Second Year, Thursday, 4 April 1946, an article appears under the title of 'A glance at the English and Russian Organization', which goes on to state:

'England, who calls herself the Mother of Democracy and who recently wished also to introduce herself as the stern Defender of Peace and Independence, in reality, due to the reasons which we will mention, is neither democratic nor can she be a protector of independence. This country owns vast colonies and dominates the trade routes. Most of the colonies' markets and underground resources belong to companies, trusts and cartels, under control of capitalists. These capitalists are obliged to intervene and supervise in British Government affairs for profit protection. This profit making motive is probably not the only cause for British imperialistic policy. To maintain the aristocracy and to support their looting forces, the government is obliged to employ a reactionary policy. It is from this point of view that the Workers' Party, in spite of the fact that when it became active it had the public support, could not carry out the corrective plans which it was propagating at election time. These plans which consisted of nationalization of industry and banks were met with strong capitalistic opposition. In domestic government complete democracy cannot exist without the existence of economic democracy, since the employers can control the workers' lives through economic threat. An example of this form of capitalistic influence over the English workers' lives is the action taken towards the dock-workers' strike: Soldiers were brought in to replace the strikers, thus subjecting the workers to undue pressure.

'We will now compare this English Government with Soviet Democracy: Primarily, the race superiority which exists in England and its colonies does not exist in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is formed of several nations and equally recognizes all their rights. In addition to the right of autonomous government in internal and external affairs, it gives them equal rights to participate in the general affairs of the Soviet Union. Hence, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has been established on the principles of brotherhood and the equality of nations. Its people do not enjoy simply a superficial democracy, but a true democracy based on a strong foundation. The masses directly participate in and strengthen the administrative affairs of the country. Industries and banks, in fact all the branches of living, are nationalized. The country's income is used for better education and social reform. Whereas, in England most of this income piles up in capitalists' pockets. With nationalized industry in the Soviet Union, production equals consumption. Since there is no personal profit, this government is not seeking world markets and consequently has no reason to acquire colonies.'

There are many other files which will suffice. This lack of attention to our own government policies creates obstacles.

Apparently, the directors and managers of the United Central Council did not know that unions must deal with the economic struggle while political struggle is a party duty. The Union Organizations function for the purpose of improving living conditions and educating the workers. Perhaps this lack of recognition explains why the workers' congregation and the union organizations had political objectives.

Was it not a mistake to oblige barefoot workers to walk the streets uttering phrases such as "Long live, down with, etc.," about some unknown personalities instead of providing shoes for them? With little investigation, it becomes apparent that the United Central Council directors either did not know the purpose for organizing unions or intentionally deviated from these objectives.

THE WORKERS WERE FORCED TO JOIN THE UNIONS

The vast masses were composed of persons who had joined the unions under the duress of pressure and threat. Most of them, especially those who were not deceived by United Central Council propaganda and who did not attach value to the empty promises of the Executive Board, considered union membership a form of slavery and compulsory obedience. The United Central Council, in order to increase its membership and thus display an illusory power, employed unlawful means to force the workers to join the unions.

Document 23 of the Military Governor

From: The Tobacco Factory

Date: 19 December 1946.

The investigation file of Boghus Minasian indicates the following particulars: he is 40 years old, is an Armenian, resides at 3 district Chahar-Rahi-Sepahsalar in the home of Mr. Armonak a telegraph office employee, and is a carpenter in a tobacco factory.

He states, "I do not know what a party means. One day Shah-zadeh-Azad came to the tobacco factory and told us, 'those who do not become Union members will be destroyed - shot.' Since I saw that they were putting pressure on us, I joined too."

Document 24

Sabz: All the son of Muza Shohrat Sarkhani Rushan, native of Maragheh, Resident of Workers' District 12, Government Housing, 44 years old, cement factory worker in charge of the heating process in cement production, states:

"I am a member of the Cement Workers' Union. I was forced to enter it; if I didn't, they would have fired me."

Files Number 35 - 19 December 1946

Gholam Hoseyn, the son of Shokr-Allah Shohrat Shaqaqi, 40 years old, and a cement factory worker, gives this answer:

"Until last year I was not a member of any party. However, the day came when, after 10 years of service at the cement factory, I was beaten and about to be fired so I was forced to enter the Tudeh Party."

Rostam, the son of Mahmud Shohrat Khoda'i, age 36 years, in response to the question, "Are you a member of the United Central Council?", answered, "Yes, and I am paying 10 rials per month. The reason I entered was because of fear. My co-workers asked me, 'Why don't you join? If you do not enter, we will fire you.' Since I saw they were about to fire me, I took a piece of paper and signed. I don't even know what I signed. I do not want the card they gave me. I would not keep on now if I were sure that no one would molest or bother me."

WAS THE UNITED CENTRAL COUNCIL INTERESTED ONLY IN ITS FINANCIAL AFFAIRS?

The Union of Shkoda Workers; Circular:

Number 1,370
23rd October

"Recently, in referring to the membership cards of the Union Members, it has become apparent that most of the members did not pay their membership fees regularly and some have failed to pay dues for 7 months. Since such a negligent policy is contrary to the course of the Workers' Organization, we are obliged to direct the board of agents of every Union that it is their responsibility to check all membership books as soon as they receive this circular. All back payments must be collected so that this deficiency will not appear when the United Central Council agents make their tour of inspection.

The United Central Council, the
Union of Workers and Laborers of Iran"

(Signature and seal)

If a worker was out of a job for a while and was not able to pay the membership fee he had violated the proper course of the Workers' Organization. If he was not in a position to pay the membership fee, they would inform him that he must remit the back payment by any means he wished but it had to be paid in one sum. The payment of unpaid membership fees was the greatest hardship the workers encountered. The sum of several months' membership fee was large. The worker had a great many difficulties in his life, and he had become a Union member for the purpose of reducing these difficulties. Now he had to face a new problem.

The documents below show that the United Central Council considered its own financial situation before considering the workers' plight in solving financial problems.

United Central Council, the

Date 25 December 1945

Unions of Workers and Laborers of Iran

Number 4,531

Mr. Sadeqian

"In accordance with the decision of the Provincial Council and with the confirmation of the United Central Council, you have been chosen as a United Council investigator. You must thoroughly investigate the Unions subject to the United Council, with special reference to their financial condition, and report the results."

The United Central Council
(Signed by) Reza Rusta
(The Seal of the United Central Council,
the Unions of Workers and Laborers of
Iran)

The investigator of the United Central Council has the specific duty, in accordance with the above document, to investigate and report the Unions' financial condition.

The United Council of the District of Shahi,
Union of Workers of Behshahr:

"Since the United Central Council Treasury is in immediate need of help from the worker, it asks you to send money to headquarters through Bank Mellis or through Comrade Hashemzadeh."

(Signed) The United Central Council

A copy has been sent for prompt action to the union of workers of Shahi and immediate execution of the above directive is expected.

No. 607

The United Provincial
Council of Mazanderan

28 August 1946

A copy of the above is being sent to the Preserve Factory Union. Please take cognizance of the above directive and forward it promptly.

No. 204

The United District Council
of Shahi (The Seal of the
District of Shahi, the Union
of Workers and Laborers of Iran)

26 January 1946

WHAT KIND OF PERSONS FORMED THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE?

A responsible member of the Party in his book, Speaking the Truth, Volume I, 'The Liquidation Organization of the The Tudeh Party of Iran' (pages 23,24) in the course of his description the writer "is one of the evil members of the Tudeh Party and the United Central Council, and a member of the Rusta gang," writes:

"The basis for his membership on the financial committee is obvious. The Financial Committee of the Party was formed from special dark elements and their followers. Under no condition do they allow an untrusted hand to reach this sensitive vein. Kebari is also one of the honorable elements."

THE UNION HAD BECOME THE MONOPOLY OF A SPECIAL GROUP

Afternoon, 15 January 1947

Interrogator, Captain Darvish

Name of Informant, 'Abd-al-Hoseyn (sic) Soheyli

Question: Introduce yourself.

Answer: 'Abd-al-Hamid, the son of Abd-al-Ghafar, family name, Soheyli, the holder of identification card Number 392, native of Khalkhal, now working in a jute mill; Moslem, Iranian. I have a wife and children. I am educated and my Party position has been Second Secretary of the Council of the District of Shahi, and First Secretary of the Union of Workers of the jute mill.

Question: During the time that you held a position of authority in the Union of Workers of the jute mill and in the District Council of Shahi, how many times have you collected funds designated as 'additional aid for the Khuzestan workers?' Do you know anything about the way this money was spent? Please describe everything in detail.

Answer: Money was collected only once for the workers of the South, for the fifth anniversary of the party's founding, and once for the martyrs of the tragic events of Shahrivar (August to September). The Financial Committee of the jute mill would collect this money and deliver it to the United Provincial Council of Mazanderan, which consisted of Said Rasul Hashemi, Ramazani, and Hasan Ramazani. Only part of a day's pay was collected from the workers, and it was collected for the fifth anniversary of the party's founding. Four thousand four hundred tomans, which belonged to the Tudeh Party, were collected through the factory treasury and were delivered by me to Lanckerani.

Question: Did the Financial Committee report the expenditure of this collected money to the Workers' Council or to the district?

Answer: All the money was spent under the signature of Mr. Borumand and we knew nothing about it. Especially as of late, since the party had become a monopoly, anyone who objected would immediately be threatened. Once when I objected to the activities of the Provincial Committee and the United Council, the son of Ne'mati Abu-al-Fazl under Lanckerani's orders came and hit me so that my teeth broke. A Commission finally arrived and settled the matter.

(Signature of Soheyli)

THE ATTITUDE OF THE TUDEH PARTY TOWARDS RELIGION

The Workers were Disgusted by the Insults to Sacred Objects

The Tudeh Party of Iran and the United Central Council, which drank water from the same spring and whose plans used to be equally and uniformly accomplished, took a dim view of religion.

Apparently, they understood that the ideas which had been given to the working and farming classes by family and spiritual leaders from early childhood obstructed their accomplishing their inauspicious purposes, which were antagonistic to Godly principles. For this reason they were attempting to undermine the roots of religion.

The following are excerpts from the calendar distributed by the Tudeh Party of Iran for the year 1946-1947:

(a) On the page for Friday the 19th of June:

"Religious fanaticism and adherence to the doctrines expounded by religious teachers are the greatest and most powerful reactionary forces destroying the backwards countries."

(b) On the page for Thursday the 13th of September:

"Victory for Dialectical Materialism, which is victory over superstition! Attempt to destroy the influence of religious leaders by acquainting the workers with the principles of materialism. Show the workers the uselessness and harmful effect of the religious fantasies."

"If the worker prefers superstition to his historic duty, if he refrains from shedding blood, and if he evades revolutionary struggle by relying upon the idle words of religious leaders, he must then accept the fact that unscrupulous factory owner profits from the same superstition and will sacrifice the worker and his family for his own gain."

(d) On the page for Thursday the 10th of February:

"Belief in eternity, belief in a better world, belief in heaven and hell, gnosticism and nature, following the clever theory of "all-knowingness" from the superstitious philosophy of pantheism, all of which are the inventions of religion, are the most effective weapons of counter-revolution and a great hinderance to organization of the masses."

Some of the workers began to complain. We cite the following reports:

"We the Investigation Committee of the Central Council of Workers report that on Monday, 23 June, comment was raised among the workers by the fact that the next day would be a holiday commemorating the birthday of Hazrat Amin. Sakri, an Armenian, with utmost stupidity and lack of com or courtesy for his Moslem comrades, screamed, "A desert dog dies a long time ago and today we must have a holiday for him." It is obvious what a frightful effect this rude statement made. Only the principles of liberal ideology prevented an unfortunate incident. Yosuf, a mason, and other understanding comrades have been very stern in handling this matter. All the workers requested that the above mentioned person be fired from his job and also that his membership in the union be revoked. We expect the committee to take immediate action."

(Twenty-four signatures and two finger prints.) 25 June 1945

"Immediate action" was taken on 13 July 1945, that is, 18 days later, in the form of a letter sent on behalf of the Chief Investigating Committee to the Investigating Committee of the District of Tehran. It was given to Mr. Sadeqian and eventually filed. On the margin they have written, "Due to lack of information about the case, Moharram Hashem has not endorsed the workers' request."

THE WORKERS WANT THEIR LOST SALARY

When the weak foundation of the autonomous government of Azerbaijan collapsed, the chief support of the Tudeh Party of Iran and the United Council was destroyed; The Workers, who had entered the unions mostly because they feared the terrorist activities of the United Central Council, started to complain.

Those who were not free to speak, those who had their freedom usurped by the tools of the unions and were unaware of the evil and base intentions of the bosses and directors, cried out when the curtain was drawn back and they saw the power broken. They asked for their lost salary.

The truth became apparent and in its light the malfeasance and treacheries were revealed.

All the restrictions and limitations had disappeared. And all of a sudden the organization of the United Central Council, which appeared so vast and invincible, melted like a piece of ice before a fire.

MANIFESTO

The cement factory workers attached to the trade union syndicate of Iran, take this means to deny the story sent out by Radio Moscow. This story concerns the pressure the government exerted on the workers in forcing them to enter the organization of Trade Union Workers. Apparently, the source of these untruthful rumors is the poisonous and evil propaganda disseminated by the foreign-worshipping leaders of the Tudeh Party of Iran. Those who failed and vanished because of their betrayal of their fatherland, are now trying to poison the minds of foreigners against the Iranian government by falsely stating that workers are leaving the United Council because of government pressure. But we assure the world that all these reports are lies. The Iranian Government is trying its best to protect the worker. And we, after having found freedom from the false promises of the Tudeh Party have joined the Organization of Trade Union Workers which we established to protect the workers' rights. We are supporting the government's prosecution of these political adventurers who, using the workers as a front, were about to accomplish their dangerous plans.

485 signatures

MANIFESTO

The news which has been broadcast by Radio Moscow concerning pressure put on the workers by the Iranian government to force them to join the Workers' Trade Union, has been a great surprise to workers all over the country. We, the tobacco factory workers, consider it our duty to deny such a statement, and to point out that the only pressure we have witnessed is that previously applied by the leaders of the abhorred Tudeh Party and the United Council Workers. These leaders used to force us to join their union and then they would take away our rights. Now that news of the disgraceful activities of this Tudeh Party and the United Council of Workers has spread around and their activities have been curtailed, we have been freed from their pressure. We have entered the trade unions established by our own friends with complete freedom. In these trade unions our freedom has been protected and safeguarded.

We are very sorry that a group of adventurers among the workers engaged in treacherous activities and wanted to set the country afire. The steps which the government has taken to punish this group are very appropriate. The government's action in this case should not be considered severe to the workers because these groups, in reality, were nothing more than groups of foreign adventurers.

Finally, we announce to the whole world that the Iranian workers are completely free and by their own will have joined the Trade Union of Workers. We request that the funds which the United Central Council received from us be collected from it and that our representatives be accredited to all formal meetings on union matters.

Long live the Trade Union of Workers of Iran.

925 Signatures

MANIFESTO

With greatest regret we have heard that Radio Moscow has announced that Iranian workers have been forced to leave the United Central Council and join the newly established Workers' Union. We, the Shams Brewery workers, declare emphatically that no one and no authority has forced us to join the Trade Union of Workers of Iran.

On ~~Approved For Release 2001/09/07 : CIA-RDP83-00415R009900070003-2~~ the contrary, because of pressure and threat, the United Council forced us to find a remedy and we willingly and freely joined the Trade Union of Workers of Iran. The United Council accomplished nothing but betrayal and the illegal extortion of funds. We request that government authorities investigate the funds which the United Central Council received from us. Also, we request that the government halt the influence of these betrayers who, because we have now completely freed ourselves from their tyrannies, have incited Radio Moscow against the trade Union of Workers of Iran, the supporter of the nation and our only refuge. We, the Sham's Brewery workers deny the statements of Radio Moscow.

Long live the Trade Union of Workers of Iran.

MANIFESTO

The Imperial Mint Factory workers employ this means to deny the news sent by Radio Moscow about pressure put on workers to force them to join The Trade Union of Workers. Apparently the source of these unfounded rumors is the poisonous and evil propaganda of the foreign-worshipping leaders of the Tudeh Party of Iran. Those who failed and have been banished because they betrayed their fatherland are now trying to poison the minds of foreigners towards the Iranian government, and are attempting to make them think that workers are leaving the United Council because of government pressure. We assure the world that all these reports are lies. The government of Iran is trying its best to protect the worker. And we, after being freed from the promises of the false Tudeh Party, with complete faith joined The Union of Workers' Trade Unions, which was established for the protection of the workers' rights. We are supporting the government's prosecution of these political adventurers who, using the workers as a front, were about to accomplish their dangerous plans.

90 signatures

MANIFESTO

The Trade Union of Flour Mill Workers

The Undersigned, who entered the unions attached to the United Central Council because of pressure and threat, submit their resignations. Previously we had seen fit to assist the above mentioned unions and had paid the membership dues every month to the union treasury.

Today there is not one penny in the treasury. The money has gone into the pockets of a group of immigrants, people without a country.

We have registered our names with the new Trade Union of Flour Mill Workers.

472 signatures.

Other manifestos had been issued by following factories: the Lux Leather Factory, the Glycerin Plant, the Joint-Stock Stocking Company, the Refractories Plant, the Fereshteh Match Factory, the Copper Plant, the Joint Stock Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company of Tehran, the Majidieh Brewery, the Chemical Plant, the Mihan Match Factory, the Omid Crystal Factory, Factory Number 5, the Syndicate of Government Drivers, and the Bicycle Factory Workers. In all

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these manifestos the workers related the presence of agents of the United Central Council and declared that they were forced to join unions associated with the United Central Council. They all expressed their hatred for the United Central Council and demanded the money lost from their salaries.

Telegrams reached the authorities from the workers in the provinces. All these telegrams contained complaints about the leaders of the unions and the agents of the United Central Council.

A cable from Isfahan dated 24 December 1946 states:

"Your excellency Mr. Qavam-al-Soltaneh, Prime Minister of Iran:

"We are honored to bring to your attention copies of publications issued by the following organizations: the Central Council of Trade Union Workers of Iran; a copy of the organ of the Ministry of Justice and the newspapers Farman, Etela'at, Iran, Mehri Iran, Democrat Iran, Bahram, Tehran Mossavar, Setarch Atesh.

On Monday 23 December 1946, a meeting was held with the presence of the following people: the Governor of Isfahan, the government workers' representatives, the national foundations, the city notables and the press. In this meeting the Provincial Council of Trade Union Workers of Iran gave their opinion on the tyrannical activities of the Tudeh Party and the United Council. The Union said that in view of the fact that the Tudeh Party and the United Council have been the cause of the workers' betrayal of their fatherland, and also have taken the workers' salaries to provide luxury for the Central Council leaders, they were asking his excellency to appoint and send a special investigating board to Isfahan to attend the workers complaints and punish those still in Isfahan who have deprived the workers of their rights. Finally the Union of Trade Workers of Isfahan is honored by the hard work that your excellency has done and is doing for the people of Isfahan. The union is ready to perform any sacrifice to aid you in your works of saving Iran from foreign elements.

Signed: Rabi' Ansari, Saduqi Eskandari, and Rafahi, representatives of the Isfahan Guilds; Jabrian and Soltani, workers' representatives of the Isfahan Risbaf Mill; Mahmud Barhanian and Abd-al-Vahab Kh(v)ansari, representatives of the Zayendeh Rud Factory in Isfahan; Saad 'Azim Motadayyen, workers' representative of the Isfahan wool Industry Mill; Mohammad 'Ali Harandi-Zadeh, Hassan Azemun, and Mohammad Nabavi, workers' representative of the Isfahan Vatan Factory; Mohammad Fakhri, workers' representative of the Isfahan Pashmbaf (Wool-Weaving) Mill; Gholam 'Ali Sadri and Ja'far Ahsani, representatives of the Shahreza Factory; Yad-allah Nabi-Zadeh and Abd-Allah Rasuli, representatives of the Nur Factory; Engineer Sa'ed Nia, representative of the Flour Mill, and Mohammad Afiani, representative of the Rahimzadeh Factory.

CHAPTER II

THE DISRUPTION OF PUBLIC PEACE AND SECURITY

1. For what purpose Was the United Central Council Needed?
2. Did They Have the Authority to Mete Out Capital Punishment?
3. How Did They Treat The People?
4. Did they Execute Individuals?

Circular

Area Number 1111

For the purpose of choosing a local inhabitant to keep party discipline please have the secretariat of the Central Committee select one of the members in that area for the Committee on Discipline. This individual must have the following qualifications: (1) a strong physique (2) bravery (3) coldbloodedness. This person should be introduced in writing to the committee by 1 June 1945.

The Committee on Discipline

The Signature of Dr. Radmanesh

The Seal of the Tudeh Part. of Iran

the Committee on Discipline

Circular

Union

EXECUTIVE BOARD

For the purpose of choosing local residents to keep party discipline, please have the secretariat of the Central Committee introduce five people from that union to the Committee on Discipline. These individuals should have the following qualifications: (1) strong physique (2) bravery (3) coldbloodedness. These persons should be introduced in writing to the Committee by 1 June 1945.

The Committee on Discipline

Signature of Dr. Radmanesh

The Seal of the Tudeh Party,

the Committee on Discipline

Seal of the Union of Workers

and Laborers of the United

Central Council

These two circulars show that the Tudeh Party and the United Central Council participated in the same activities, that they were connected with each other, and that they worked for the same purpose. In these two circulars the Committee on Discipline has asked for a strong, brave and coldblooded person.

Why would they require strong, brave and coldblooded persons? For what type of work must one be strong, brave and coldblooded?

The following costly evidence will give satisfactory answers to these two questions.
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- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Kebari | Ebrahim Hashem |
| 2. Mohram Hashem | Agha Bala Sabuni |
| 3. Sadeqian | Esmail Terabi |
| 4. Engineer Rokni | Qadir |
| 5. Ebrahim Hashem | Ali Lotfi |
| 6. Agha Benk Guran | Hedayat Motalebi |
| 7. Esmail Terabi | Bayram Najaf Goli-Zadeh |
| 8. Abd-al-Molk Pur | Ali Basam-Raz Employee of the Disciplinary Board of the United Council |
| 9. Vahab | Vali Gol-Mohammad |
| 10. Pasha-Pur | Yunes Bahmani (weapons) |
| 11. Yad-Allah Hoseyn Sayeql | |

1. The people who enter the organization should not be given cards.
2. No written records are to be kept; Necessary instructions must be given orally.
3. All printed material and files pertaining to personnel should be kept in one place in a safe.
4. Since Mozaffari has been in the organized guard for the past four months, he should remain there until we find a literate person among our comrades to replace him.
5. A constitution should be drafted by eleven people and should accordingly be put into effect.
6. I, Reza Ebrahimzade, ask my heroic comrades to expand this organization and this honorable duty, since it is the basic support of the liberal workers and laborers of Iran.

Comrade Ebrahimzadeh

1/3/25

After the formations of the above-mentioned organized guard, the illegal activities of the Tudeh Party of Iran and the United Central Council increased. Threat, torture, and sometimes murder began to occur. Ebrahimzadeh began issuing the following directives:

Memorandum

"I have spoken to you and comrades Kebari and Moharram about the bearer of this letter. It was agreed that I should write a memorandum to you and have the bearer deliver it so that you may get to know this person and return the help which he has given us in the past few years.

"Please show the memorandum to Engineer Makinejad and tell him about the above mentioned individual. Meanwhile, please attend to five persons who have betrayed us and have them fired from the railroad."

Signed by comrade Reza Ebrahimzadeh

Date: 21 February 1947

(This letter was written on official government paper)

The second secretary of the United Central Council writes on the official government railroad stationery: "I have given you the names of five betrayers... Please terminate their employment at the railroad."

Another record written on ordinary paper states the following:

"Comrade Sadeqian, in regard to the people who have been insulting the Party at the Nuri Cafe, the Central Committee has reviewed the case and has decided that a group from the council be sent and will act according to instructions."

Signed by A'zazi

13 August 1947.

Of course it is obvious what is meant by "instructions".

DID THEY HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO METE OUT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT?

Asghar Zebar Adami, in accordance with the Order No. 1255, dated 10 June 1945 of the United Central Council, written at the request of the organization of the Firuz Kuh District had gone to check over the books of their unions and to report on their financial situation. At the same time he had been directed, under order Number 155, dated 5 July 1945 of the Tudeh Party of Iran, the Committee of Mazandaran Province, to check and report on conditions for establishing local party committees in Firuz, Kuh, and Doab. After completing his work he was arrested and thrown into jail by the Mazandaran Council.

In the letter which he wrote to the United Central Council on 5 February 1946 he states that he was afraid to leave his house, but he was ready to stand trial and be punished.

5 February 1946

The United Central Council

"I, Asghar Zebar Adami, after having been imprisoned, punished and finally released by the Mazandaran Provincial Council, have come to Tehran. I was held because the United Central Council was suspicious of me and had ordered the Mazandaran

"Although I know that I am not on good terms with the Central Government and that they have come for me several times, I ask the United Central Council to form a board and try me. If I am condemned then they can give the order for my execution and can turn me over to the Mazanderan Provincial Council to be shot.

"Mr. Rusta I am sending you this letter and I will not come out of my house until a board is formed and my position is cleared."

Zebar Adami writes a letters as if he were a subject of the independent country of the United Central Council when he says that if he is condemned, to give the order for his execution and return him to the Mazanderan Provincial Council to be shot.

Did the United Council have a prison? Did it have a court? Did it try people and punish them? Zebar Adami, in a letter he wrote to Mr. Dehgan, the editor of the newspaper Tehran Mossavar, states (this letter was published in issue Number 186 in the weekly Tehran Mossavar):

"On 19 January 1946 several agents of the Disciplinary Committee suddenly arrested me on Ferdowi Street. Using force they threw me into the United Central Council prison. After beating me, they put me in a car with three guards, drove to the station, and sent me to Shahi. In Shahi, Akbar Shahabi imprisoned me in a cellar. Then, in the afternoon of the same day, the investigation by Ebrahimzadeh began. Threatening me with a weapon, he forced me to sign a prepared paper. After I signed the paper he ordered his assistants to throw me into prison. In prison, Ebrahimzadeh, while drunk, fired several shots into the ceiling and told me if I didn't give the right answer to his questions he would execute me. Finally, after three days imprisonment in a damp cellar, they released me and told me to go and find a job for myself. I asked their permission to go to Tehran. They answered that I had been banished to Shahi. After seven days of wandering in the street and not finding work, I fled to Tehran.

"Why did they not kill me in Shahi? Because Mr. Key Maram had forgotten to bring my execution order with him from Tehran and the Shahi Provincial Council was not ready to execute me without written orders. But his orders permitted them to imprison me in the Hotel Shahi cellar, which had been taken over by the Tudeh Party. In this cellar there were several dead bodies which I could not recognize."

Note: There is a photostat in the book under which is written:

"This letter bears the signature of Reza Rusta; it is a true copy of Zebar Adami's statements."

HOW DID THEY TREAT THE PEOPLE?

The free government of the United Central Council dominated the life and property of its own members, and probably the life and property of individuals not even related to this government were in danger. On some occasions the workers used to organize demonstrations in order to create fear among the people. And of course, in all these activities, the primary purpose was to fill their pockets.

Public Prosecutor, Military Governor of Mazanderan

"On the 29th of Moharram 1324, I, Shirkhan Alvandi, a merchant from Shahi was seated in my own shop. Suddenly Yusof Lankarani, Mohammad Borumand, Ebrahim Saheli, and twenty other persons carrying small arms came into my shop and, without questioning me, dragged me out of my shop and took me home. On the way they insulted me. When we reached home they put me in a room and three armed men guarded me. The rest started to search my house; they opened every closet, suitcase, etc. Then they said they wanted to take me to the Tudeh Party Club. My mother, with a holy book (the Koran) in her hands, started crying and begged them to let me go. But they did not listen, and instead insulted my family. Anyway, they brought me to the club and threatened me and wanted to throw me in the cellar. I started to cry and asked for pardon from Mr. Lankarani and Borumand. Finally Mr. Lankarani told me to give him 2,000 tomans. I told them that I did not have that sum on me and, in the middle of the night, I did not know where to get it. They told me that if I did not pay them they would kill me that same night. Finally I was forced to give them IOU for 1,250 tomans. They released me and I went home. When I got home my wife told me that when they were searching the house and the suitcases, they had taken a gold necklace and a gold watch. In the morning, when I came to my shop, I saw that several disciplinary agents of the Tudeh Party were waiting for me. They took me to the Club and Mr. Lankarani, after receiving 1,250 tomans from me, returned my IOU. I told Mr. Lankarani and Borumand that I would like to have the necklace and the gold watch. He answered 'It seems that you want yourself killed. If you tell anyone about this incident I will have you killed.' That is why, I had not reported this incident up to now. Since you are investigating the files of these people please also see to the above-mentioned problem."

Signature of Shirkhan Alvandi

(This note appears at the foot of the letter)

"The validity of Shaki Alvandi's signature is established by testimony, and in addition, this copy of the letter is a true copy of the original."

Signature of Captain Darvish,
In place of the Judge of the
Military Tribunal

4 January 1947

Number 1433, 304

The Office of the Shahi Chief of Police:

"The file Number 2214, 4 January 1947 has been received from the local police office. It states that at 9 o'clock on the 12th of the current month, Mohammad Kazem, the son of Lotfollah, employee of The Shahi Registration Office, submitted a petition saying that on the first day of the month of Farvardin 1325 (21 March 1946), Heydar and Qahraman suddenly entered his house, and after insulting him took about 5,500 cigarettes. They also took him to the club and after detaining him for awhile, freed him. His complaint has been investigated and after an explanation by the Shahi officials, steps were taken to arrest the accused persons. Qahraman has been arrested

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Heydar Motavari Barak, the son of Mashhadi, thirteen years old, a native of Ardebil, and a cigarette vender, has been called and questioned and denies that he went to the house in Shahi. 'I used to buy cigarettes in Shahi. I was selling cigarettes when they came and took me to the club. They asked who sold me the cigarettes, and introduced me to Mohammad Kazem. Qahraman and Heydar had gone to the house of Mohammad Kazem. I had nothing to do with it.' These statements prove that the two men had gone to Mohammad Kazem's house and had taken cigarettes from him. Under whose order was this done? This information should be obtained from Qashraman who is under custody of the District Governor's Office. We now submit the two files, and ask that the Office of the Military District Governor take action in arresting the accused."

Signed by Gharavi

Chief of Shahi Secret Police

11 May 1946

Number 792,206

The Office of the Mazanderan Chief of Police

"Hassan 'Edalat, police officer number 33, city guard, Shirgah Factory agent, reports in a letter dated 31 March 1946 that when he was on his post Mr. Ali Dust-Haq the factory head, informed him of a quarrel occurring at the home of Khalil Azar, the leader of the Tudeh Party in Shirgah. As a result of this fight Akbar Jeddi, driver of truck number 1112, was wounded. He was taken to the Shahi hospital. At the hospital Akbar Jeddi was questioned; Akbar Jeddi, 45 years old; the driver of truck number 1112 for the factories of Shirgah, Amol, and Tabriz, is the resident of Tehran with his wife and children. He stated that on the above mentioned date he was at the station, along with Mr. Darab, Amiri, and Khalil Azar. Mr. Khalil Azar invited them to his house for a drink. While they were there Khalil Azar sent someone for Mr. Fadai, a worker in the Shirgah factory and the Shirgah workers' representative. Since Mr. Jeddi was not on good terms with Mr. Fadai he decided to leave before Mr. Fadai's arrival. But before he could leave Mr. Fadai arrived and immediately began to insult him. The Mr. Fadai, with the help of the other three began to beat him. Finally he escaped from the house but they followed him and shot him in the leg. Investigation indicates that Mr. Jeddi considers Mr. Fadai guilty, and suspects the others since they invited him to Khalil's house. The Shahi hospital was crowded so they have taken him to Tehran. But, since the incident took place in Shirgah, file Number 208,48 dated 15 May is being submitted to the office of the Military Governor in order that they may review the incident.

A copy is being sent to inform the Office of the District Governor of Shahi.

Signed by the Chief of Police

A copy of the 31 March 1946 report of Mr. Hasan 'Edalat, police officer, Rank 1, Number 33, security guard follows:

The honorable management of Shirgah factory.

At six-thirty in the evening on 31 March 1946 while I, Hasan 'Edalat, police officer Number 33 of the Shahi police, was on duty Mr. Ali Dust-Haq informed me of a quarrel at Mr. Khalil Azar's house. Due to this quarrel Mr. Akbar Jeddi, the driver of truck number 1112, was wounded. Since I was on duty, I left my regular

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rounds to ~~Arrested~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~way~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~car~~ ~~number~~ 1112
being driven by Mr. Teymur. He was accompanied by Mr. Khalil Azar, Mohammad Hasan,
Dust-Haq, Alizadeh, and several others. The wounded Mr. Akbar Jeedi was in the
back of the truck which was being driven towards Shahi. Since it is one of my
duties, I am reporting this incident to the Shahi Police Office."

Signed by Hasan 'Edalat,
Police Officer Number 33,
Agent of the Shirgah Factories.

DID THEY EXECUTE PEOPLE?

At the questioning of Mohammad Borumand on 22 November 1946 one of the many
names that he mentioned was that of Mr. Amir Bahram. He said that after Mohammad
Ruhi, Amir Baghram had become very active and was one of those disturbing the people.
He said that when he was in prison he heard that Mr. Amir Bahram had been shooting
people in the Sari streets.

PROCEEDINGS

"At nine o'clock in the morning on 13 January 1946 Amir Bahram, elaborating
on his previous statement that he would show us that body of Nur Mohammad, confessed
the following:

"I, Amir Bahram, along with Hoseyn 'Ali Golshan and Ebrahim Saheli, on 10 April
1946 in the evening, took Mohammad Nuri to Sari in the Tudeh Party Ambulance. From
Sari, under the pretence that we wanted to go for a ride, we drove approximately
two miles and then stopped, saying that something was wrong with the engine. We
got out of the car, walked a short distance, and sat near a hole which was dug in
the ground. While Nur Mohammad was sitting there with Hoseyn 'Ali, he was shot in
the back by Ebrahim Saheli and then thrown into the hole!

"In accordance with the orders directing us to find the body, the following
persons were sent to the scene of the crime: (1) Lieutenant Ra'uf (2) Mr. Shadmand
(3) Mohammad Gharavi, the chief of police (4) Olfat-Pur, a police employee (5) Hoseyn
Farvardin, the court representative. These people started for Sar in a car Number
..... driven by Panjali. One of the passengers Hoseyn Oehgan was the brother of
the deceased. The passengers consisted of citizens of Shahi who had come here for
the same purpose. The above-mentioned people and the bus passengers drove to the
place where Nur Mohammad was buried, as Amir Bahram indicated. Zolf 'Ali dropped
into the hole where the murdered man was buried. The depth of the hole was ten
meters. Zolf 'Ali, after reaching the bottom, shouted that he found the clothes
and shoes of the murdered man. Finally the man's bones were removed from the grave.
When the bones were pulled out the murdered man's brother was present. The bones
were put in a sack and were taken to Shahi.

"A Doctor Zamani was called upon to examine the body, but since he came from
Sari and had no jurisdiction in Shahi he was unwilling to examine the body. However,
the following people prevailed upon the doctor and he examined the body. Mr. Shadmand
Lieutenant Ra'uf, -chief of police, Gharafi, -the court representative, Alefpoor, -
a police employee, Amir Bahram, Ahmad Mohammadi, Dehgan, -the driver of the car,
Yazdenin, Barari, Najafi, Ahmad Safavi, Said Hashemi, and Ahmad Barjasteh, -police
officer number 15.

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Repeatedly stated that, since this person had been dead for nine months and only the bones remained, it is very difficult to discern how and by what means he had been killed.

"The murdered man's body was taken to the Office of the Military Governor the following day. In the presence of the Director of Health, Chief of Police Khosrow, and Mr. Shadmand, the body was once more examined. They concurred with the above doctor that, since the person had been dead for a long time, it was difficult to indicate the means by which he was killed. Pictures were taken of the body, and the body was returned to the family for burial purposes."

Signed by: Savad Kuhl,
the Military Prosecutor
of the Military Governor's Office.

Dr. Basiri, Director of Health
Gharavi, Chief of Police
Rafi' Niri, Police Officer No. 3,
Mashayekhi the representative of
the civilian Governor
Gholam Hassan Kheyrikhavan, Police Officer
No. 34

CHAPTER III

THE EXORTION OF THE WORKERS

1. How Did the Collection of Money Take Place?
2. Money Was Taken From The Workers by Force.
3. They Bought Ammunition with the Workers' Money.
4. What did "special expenses" mean?
5. Is the Club of Sattar Khan the Lawful Property of Reza Rosta?
6. All Heads and Chairmen of the Unions became Property Owners with the Workers' Money.

HOW DID THE COLLECTION OF MONEY TAKE PLACE?

Money was collected in a very strange manner. Dr. Yazdi would sit in his house from twelve till one o'clock and receive the funds. Dr. Yazdi's house was located at Shahsbad Avenue and Bagh Sepahsalar Street.

We include a circular below.

Date 25 December 1945

United Central Council

Number 4530

The Union of Workers and Laborers
of Iran

Circular : The Union of Workers of the Majidieh Brewery
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"In accordance with the decision taken by the United Central Council and the District Council of Tehran, all the existing funds in the union treasury of this union and also all the future funds received from membership or other purposes, should be acknowledged by the formal receipt of the United Council. At the end of each week the money should be delivered to Dr. Morteza Yazdi, treasurer of United Central Council. Upon delivery a separate formal receipt should be received. The central treasury of the Council is open every day from twelve until one o'clock for receiving funds. It is located at Dr. Yazdi's house at Shahabad Avenue and Bagh Sepahsalar Street. Union messengers can deliver the funds and receive a receipt. Each union should introduce its cashier or tax-collector to the District Council or to the United Central Council.

The United Central Council
and the District Council
of Tehran

Seal and Signature of Rusta

The United Central Council,
the Union of Workers and Laborers
of Iran

MONEY WAS TAKEN FROM THE WORKERS BY FORCE

The Military Governor of Tehran

File Number 25,9,28,350

Particulars: Gholam Hoseyn, the son of Shekrallah, family name Shaqaqi; 40 years old, cement factory worker, native of Tehran, married and has children, resident of sub-district 2, Number 40 Amin-al-Dowleh Avenue, Sar Chashmeh Street and Farashbashi Street, No. 40 in Yazdan Qoli Raisi house, Iranian subject.

Question: What was the Executive Board doing?

Answer: Except for being sons-of-bitches and for standing near the soffer to force money from us, it did nothing. We had no choice but to obey them.

File Number 25,9,29,212

Particulars: Yadoallah, the son of Khalil, family name Barfini; 16 years old, native of Ardebil, resident of Tehran, cement factory worker.

Question: You are a member of what party?

Answer: A member of the Youth Organization. I don't know...They received five krans from me and gave me a sheet of paper. If I said anything, anytime, they would keep my wages.

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The opinion of the two workers is that the United General Council, under the pretext of protecting them from exploitation, was doing that very selfsame thing. They say that the Executive Board, aside from being sons-of-bitches did nothing but stand near the coffer and take their money. They said that they used to take our hard-earned money by illegal means and they could not help but obey them. They said their tongues were tied and that if they disclosed anything in secret they would be punished.

THEY BOUGHT AMMUNITION WITH THE WORKERS' MONEY

The excerpts from an interrogation, given below, illustrates the fact that some of the collected money was used to buy ammunition.

8 January 1947

Interrogation of Yusof Lankarani

Question: Did you send any of the money which you collected to Tehran for the purpose of buying ammunition?

Answer: I sent about thirty thousand tomans to Assad-Allah Bahar, who works at the Tudeh Club in Tehran, to buy ammunition. He provided us with three rifles and some cartridges. The rest of the money was spent for other purposes.

Question: What kind of ammunition was sent to you?

Answer: Different kinds.

Interrogation of Lankarani and Ruhl

22 December 1946

Questions: With what care were the incomes and expenses recorded in the books?

Answer: It was being recorded in the books from the time that I had been responsible, and a few months prior to that.

Question: Was the above-mentioned book half-sheet and printed or was it not printed?

Answer: It was half-sheet and printed.

Question: Did the above-mentioned book have numbers or not?

Answer: Yes, it was like the income and expense books of businesses.

Question: The ammunition which was bought, was it included in this book as a part of the expense?

Answer: No.

Question: What was the reason for not recording it in the book?

Answer: Under Mr. Tabari's instructions, this part was not being registered in the book.

Question: Well, where was the purchase of ammunition recorded?

Answer: It was not recorded in any book.

Question: If it was necessary to find out how much and to whom you have paid for ammunition what book would you refer to?

Answer: There was no book for this purpose. For example, if we gave five thousand tomans to someone for the purpose of buying ammunition we keep a little memorandum which would soon be destroyed.

Question: Did you have a book to show how many rounds you had bought?

Answer: Yes, we had one and Zolfaqar Mohammadi had it. He is now in prison. When he was going to Zirab, according to his investigation statements, he burned them.

Question: How much had you sent to Assad-Allah Bahar in Tehran?

Answer: For the purpose of providing ammunition and other necessities, - 30,000 tomans. This money was given him in person when he came to Shahi. 10,000 tomans were given to Mohammad Ruhi; 5,000 of which was sent by Asgar Ashraq, who was going to Tehran but who was in Shahi at the time.

WHAT DID SPECIAL EXPENSES MEAN?

From the questioning of Mohammed Borumand, the first secretary of the Union of Workers of Shahi and the secretary of the Mazandaran Provincial Council, we have obtained an example of how the funds were spent.

Here is an excerpt from the interrogation of Mohammad Borumand, dated 20 January 1947. The examiner is Captain Darvish.

Question: The documents at hand and information we have received indicates that you have spent a sum of 102,403 rials and 50 dinars for special expenses. Explain yourself; what is meant by "special expenses" and what was its purpose?

Answer: In the year 1945-1946 the responsible heads of the Mazandaran and Gorgan Workers' Union were usually Mr. Ebrahim Alizadeh, Ali Akbar Shahabi and Reza Ebrahimzadeh. They used to bank, under their own accounts, money collected from the unions. Whenever they needed money they would take some and spend it. Their accountant was Mr. RamazanPur who used to work in the fruit canning factory in Shahi. They used to give a great deal of money to Mr. Ebrahimzadeh.

Question: Please explain why individuals on this list are indicated only by initials.

Answer: In number 9, the letter M. M represents Marutin Sarukhanian. He was registered simply as M because Marutin received his salary from the Tudeh Party and he didn't want this known. Regard the letter N, that signified Second Lieutenant Nik Fetrat, Chief of the Shahi Railroad who had connections with Akbar Shahabi."

On 25 December 1946, the Director General of the Tobacco Monopoly of Iran wrote a letter to the Ministry of Labor and Propaganda. A copy of this letter is published here.

TOBACCO MONOPOLY OF IRAN

25 December 1946

Number 3942,36

To the Ministry of Labor and Propaganda:

"The workers in the tobacco pipe-polishing division, the division for preparing the cigarette mixture, and the division for separating tobacco leaves, by means of three petitions inclosed herein, claim that Mr. Sharif-Pur, Ahmad Sharifmadari, Yusof Khazari, and Musa Hatami, all workers in the auxiliary factories of this institution, by threat and pressure, forced them to give up a day's pay. Please submit the petitions to review and report the results to this institution.

The Director-General of the
Tobacco Monopoly of Iran

To the Honorable Office of the General-Director of the Tobacco Monopoly of Iran:

Inclosure Number 1

Mixture Division

With due respect the undersigned, workers in the division for preparing the cigarette mixture, report that Mr. Sharifi has taken a day's pay from us by force and threat. Please direct that our day's pay, earned by hard labor, be returned to us. We need this money more than anyone else.

Inclosure Number 2

Pipe Division

With due respect the undersigned, workers in the tobacco pipe-polishing division report that Mr. Ahmed Sereshteh-Dari, Yusof Khazari and Musa Hatami, without reason and by pressure and threat, have taken a day's pay from us. Please direct that our day's pay, earned by hard labor, be returned to us. We need this money more than anyone else.

61 Seals
2 Finger Prints
9 Signatures

Inclosure Number 3

With due respect the undersigned, workers in the division for separating tobacco leaves, report that on Monday, 11 November 1946, on payday, Mr. Sahrif-Pur and five disciplinary agents, without warning, took from us a day's wage. A receipt was given to each disciplinary agent. Please direct that our day's pay, earned by hard labor, be returned to us. We need this money more than anyone else. Disciplinary agents used force and threatened them.

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As you are aware, with the present condition and the high cost of living, it is not fair that we should lose this money.

We ask your honor to please stipulate that the money, which has been taken away from us forcibly, be returned.

Some Seals and Signatures

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Labor and Propaganda the investigator appointed to review the workers' complaint reported the following:

"In connection with letter Number 908 of that office, I was appointed on 6 January 1947 an investigator to check into and report the tobacco factory workers' complaint that a day's wage was taken from them by force and threat. In agreement with the statement made by all the workers on 11 November 1946, the worker Sharif-Pur attached to the United Central Council, for the reason of buying land for the union, had taken one day's wage from the workers and had given them a receipt in return. A copy of one of the receipts follows:

The United Central Council
The Tobacco Factory Workers Union

Number	Date	Sum
		On account, one day's wage for the profit of the union.....
		Received by.....
		Member of the.....section

The Chairman of the Wage Committee
The Seal of the Tobacco Workers Union
Financial Committee

All the receipts were signed by Sharif-Pur. Sharif-Pur, at the present is in prison. In response to complaints received from the workers by Local Police Office 10, an investigation had been conducted. All responsible persons and evidence are being held by Local Police Office 10.

The workers' statements, the receipts, and the statements of Sharif-Pur, Sereshteh-Dari, and Hatimi are in the files of the local police.

The workers state that seemingly the Satar Khan Club has been bought for 130,000 rials by the United Council. 30,000 of this was paid by the workers at an average of 10,000 rials per month. After the recent incidents, when the workers wanted to go to that club they were prevented from entering by the first secretary of the United Council, Reza Rosta. Reza Rosta claims that, with the present papers, the property of the Satar Khan Club is his property.

"Any way, the workers ask for their day's wages taken from them by force and threat."

Investigator Engineer Parki

~~ALL HEADS AND CHAIRMEN OF UNIONS~~
BECAME PROPERTY OWNERS WITH THE WORKERS MONEY

P. Sh. Mobarez, in his book, Has the Tudeh Party Been Defeated? The True Accomplishment, writes, "The United Central Council was always trying to increase the number of those who gave meetings, and the thing it neglected most was the improvement of the workers' material and spiritual condition. Most of the people in the United Central Council took advantage of the workers. The heads and chairmen of the unions, became property owners with the workers money. And it may be that even Reza Rusta was not innocent in this case."

And in another part he writes: "Where did all the money come from for the big party celebration given by Reza Rusta to make the United Central Council officially known? For what purpose was this party given?"

The above mentioned book is written by a person who considers himself a faithful believer in the party. In the month of December 1946 to January 1947 he still believes that the Tudeh Party has not lost its strength and will rise again by remedying its past mistakes.

CHAPTER IV

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES

1. The Destructive Activities of the United Central Council in the State Railway Department.
2. Did the Government Factories Belong to the United Central Council?
3. The Hiring and Firing of Workers Was Conducted by the Executive Board.
4. They Received Money Without Working
5. They Made Bombs and Grenades in The Government Factories
6. They Wanted to Set Fire to The Cement Factory

THE DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED CENTRAL COUNCIL IN THE STATE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT

22 November 1946

Number A, 40712318

The Honorable Chief of the Railroad Police Office

I am bringing to your attention to the continuation of report Number 41.

In accordance with the previous reports and also with the contents of the presented file, on 11 November 1946 a notice had been sent on behalf of the United Council, to the workers of the Tehran Center, to the Provincial Council of Mazanderan, and to the local committees, instructing all workers related to the Council to strike beginning at six o'clock on the morning of 12 November 1946 until further notice.

The Workers' Union of Bandar Shah received this notice in the afternoon after the passenger train had reached the Bandar Shah station. The heads of the Workers' Union of Bandar Shah gathered in the club and held a meeting. According to the statements of Mr. Javad Sarkhabi, Ebrahim Motadayyen, and Zeynolabedin Sehhat-Bakhs, the necessary decisions were made and the following seven people were appointed to the Strike Committee: Mr. Amjadi, depot chief of Bandar Shah; Alwandi, in charge of water establishments; Sajedi, in charge of steam engines; Sehhat-Bakhs, chief repair man; Nazirian, engineer; Shokubi-Nezhad, chief of itinerary personnel, and Moqadam, the founder of the factories. These people, instead of beginning a strike at six o'clock started destroying the railroad and disrupting the transportation system at two o'clock in the morning of 12 November 1946.

A. Mr. Karim Tarverdi, holder of identification card Number 934, issued at Sarab, who is the train supervisor along with Mr. Mohqeq the son of Esma'il, holder of identification card Number 654, issued at Sarab, who is foreman of one district carrying out previous instructions of Mr. Javad Sarkhabi, put stones between the switch. Locomotive number 1,57,1767 driven by Haji Anu-Coli was turned over when it passed over the switch. Later with the help of Amjadi and Omidvar and Haji, the locomotive was put back in its place. Since the two above mentioned conspirators and their instructor had completely denied their act during the investigation, further investigation was made of Hasan Rezvan, Haji Qoli Arzi and Soltan and also of factory chief Amjadi, Mr. Tagi Mokarrami, Ali Khorsandi, and Esma'il Yazdani, the drivers from Bandar Shah. The above mentioned persons and twelve others, as a result of the investigation, have stated the stone was placed on the switch by Mr. Tarverdi and Mohqeq. In addition Hasan Rezvan during the investigation stated that Mr. Sarkhab had given orders to Tarverdi while he was present. Mr. Arzi Sarmahalli, and Rezvan feared the strikers and did not warn the driver of locomotive 57-1767. As a result the locomotive was overturned. On the otherhand, Mr. Arzi and Sarmahalli both confessed that on the night of 12 November 1946 when they were at the switch, Mr. Motadayyen Tarverdi and Mohqeq crept near the switch and hid in the dark. Then Mr. Razvan approached them and after a little discussion returned. When the locomotive signaled it was going to cross the switch, Razvan threw the switch causing the train to turn over. It was arranged however, that when the locomotive's tank was nearly filled with water and was returning, Hasan Razvan would put his pocket light near the English-made switch. Razvan then went to the American-made switch and returned. Hence, when the locomotive passed over the American-made switch and returned. Hence, when the locomotive passed over the American-made switch, it was derailed and turned over. At this moment Mr. Razvan went back to the station so that there was no evidence of his action.

Based on these reports Mr. Tarverdi, Hosayn Mohqeq and Hasan Razvan were considered guilty of putting stones into the switch with the intention of destroying and disrupting the transportation system. We consider that their act warrants extreme punishment."

B. Mr. Ebrahim Motadayyen, the son of Mohammad, depot driver of Bandar Shah, according to the files, belonged to the committee at Bandar Shah, and helped select the strike committee. He is responsible for putting out the fires in all the (boilers of the) locomotives at two AM on 11 November 1946. In addition, he and Mr. Hamid Fulad-Shekan, the driver and Mostafa Laleh-Nama, the repair man and Ebrahim Tavana had stolen the most sensitive instrument of locomotive number 42-168 which hauled passenger cars from Bandar Shah to Tehran. Through the confession of Mr. Ebrahim Tavana, the stolen instruments were found behind the locomotive in the station warehouse. Motadayyan had gone to Behshar by jeep at eight o'clock in the morning of 16 November 1946. There he had issued the strike order. Mr. Nasr-Allah and Hashemzadeh, workers at the cotton factory at his instruction had opened the station water tank.

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the destruction of the passenger cars, and other stations were warned of the danger ahead. The following statements indicate the guilt of Mr. Motadayyan:

1. Mr. Ali Nowruzi, fireman of Bandar Shah, states that on the night of 16 November 1946, Mr. Motadayyan and Fulad-Shekan and a few other members of the union came to the depot. Motadayyan instructed him to extinguish the fire of a certain locomotive, but since Nowruzi did not respond; he repeated his orders, but since he only lowered the fire Motadayyan put it out himself.

2. Mostafa Laleh-Nia, worker in Bandar Shah factory states that on the night of 12 November 1946 Motadayyan instructed him to extinguish the fire of passenger locomotive number 42-168 due at Pol-i-Safid at six o'clock in the morning. These instructions were carried out.

3. Ali Khorsandi, driver, had testified that on the night of 12 November 1946 Motadayyan and Fulad-Shekan stole vital instruments from locomotive number 42-168. Mr. Mokarrami, chief of locomotives of Bandar Shah was able to repair locomotive 57-1767 which was used to run passenger trains.

4. Abu-al-Qasem Haji Amu-Qoli has confirmed that on the night of 12 November 1946 Motadayyan, Fulad-Shekan and Laleh-Nia extinguished the fire of the boiler of the locomotive and stole the equipment from locomotive number 42-168, and had hidden the same.

5. Mr. Mohammad Baqer-Vafa'i testified during the investigation that on the night of 12 November 1946, he saw Mr. Motadayyan and Fulad-Shekan, and Laleh-Nia steal the equipment from locomotive number 42-168.

6. Saad 'Abbas Sayedin, fireman on locomotive number 42-168, stated that on the night of 12 November 1946 he was busy working on the locomotive when he saw Motadayyan, Fulad-Shekan and a few others rush towards the locomotives. After they had made him get out they extinguished the fire in the engine room. The fireman also saw Mohqeq put a stone into the switch which consequently caused locomotive number 57-1767 to be derailed.

7. Mr. Seyf-Allad Falah, driver, stated that he came to the station and saw that locomotive 57-1767 was derailed and that Mr. Omidvar and Mokarrami were trying to put it back on the track.

8. Mr. 'Ali Omidvar, depot superintendant of Bandar Shah stated that on the night of 12 November 1946 Motadayyan and Fulad-Shekan and several other rush towards locomotive number 42-168 which was starting for Tehran. They extinguished the locomotive's fire and took some of its instruments away. They had intended to destroy locomotive number 42-167 but were not successful. Mr. Mokarrami had been warned of their intentions and asked the police to guard the cross road. But since Mohqeq was successful in putting stones in the switch, locomotive number 57-1767 which was returning after having its tank filled, was derailed. However, Mr. Mokarrami and Mr. Omidvar were able to repair it.

9. Mr. Mokarrami, in charge of locomotive affairs, stated that Mr. Motadayyan and Fulad-Shekan extinguished the fire in locomotive number 42-168 and stole some of its vital equipment. However, he decided to repair the locomotive so it could haul the passenger train. Motadayyan was informed of Mokarrami's intentions and planned to destroy the passenger cars. Since Mokarrami was warned of these plans, he informed the police and with their aid prevented sabotage. Meanwhile, he was informed by Omidvar that Mohqeq and others had put a stone into the switch and thus derailed locomotive number 57-1767. With the help of a few workers, Mokarrami was able to repair it.

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10. Mr. Yaloub Amjadi, depot assistant of Bandar Shah, testified that on 21 November 1946 at about 10 PM Motadayyan, Fulad-Shekan, Laleh-Nia, and 'Ali 'Alami-Nowruzi, without forewarning him illegally ejected the fireman, Mr. Saed 'Abbas Saedin, from locomotive number 42-168 and extinguished the fire. Also, when Amjadi learned of their destructive activities, he tried to warn (people in) Sari. Just then, Mr. Sorkhabi came in and took the telephone from his hand and with dark threats led him to his house. Amjadi stated that the derailment of locomotive 57-1767 was due to the stone put on the switch by Mohqeq, and that when he heard the news of the derailment he went to the scene of the accident and with the help of others was able to put the locomotive on the track. The locomotive and the passenger trains were repaired and thus able to start for Sari the following morning at 10 o'clock.

11. Mr. Ebrahim Tavana stated that on the night of 12 November 1946 he, Motadayyan, Fulad-Shekan, and Laleh-Nia extinguished the fire in locomotive 42-168 and hid some of its equipment. The same night, Motadayyan took by force the superintendent post occupied by Omidvar and made him leave the depot. Some time later Tavana brought back the stolen instruments and put them in their place.

12. In addition to the above mentioned witnesses, testifying to Motadayyan's, Fulad-Shekan's, and Laleh-Nia's guilt, they themselves have corroborated their statements admitting that they played a certain part in the destruction. However, they have denied a great deal of the statements made by the ten above-mentioned people."

C. Of course, the statements of Motadayyan and Fulad-Shekan are not accepted. Mr. Motadayyan has been considered guilty for disobeying the chief of the Bandar Shah depot and for going to the station of Behshahr and ordering Nasr-Allah-Fur and Hashemzadeh to empty the water tank. Motadayyan has denied the above facts but at the time of the investigation he made two contradicting statements. He claims first, that he went to Behshahr at eight o'clock in the morning by jeep and second, that he went to Behshahr with Mr. Saed Ashrafi at eight-twenty, and at two-thirty went to the station to see about a passenger train. Therefore, he is considered guilty. At the same time he has denied the fact that he ordered the workers to empty the water tank."

The following statements show that Motadayyan is guilty of going to Behshahr without permission and of trying to destroy the passenger train:

1. Mr. Taqizadeh, the son of Taqi, holder of identification card Number 20180 issued at Tabriz, chief of Behshahr station, during the investigation stated that at eight o'clock on 12 November 1946 the workers of a cotton factory came to the Behshahr station, but they did not interfere in the station's activity. About nine o'clock Motadayyan along with Mr. Piri, the chairman of the United Council, came to the station, entered the watch room and took the selector from Taqizadeh's hand and started insulting the Sari controller. The controller asked for the station agents but Motadayyan told them all the station employees were on strike and there was no one there. This statement was not true, for the employees were actually present and attending to their duties. Motadayyan informed all the employees that no one had the right to touch the communications system. Then he instructed the Tudeh Party agents who were at the station at that time, to destroy the rails and empty the water tanks. Motadayyan then left for town and half an hour later returned with a few armed men. He ordered Taqizadeh and Dehqan, the station assistant, to go to a room where they were kept prisoners. Finally, they were released and the armed men were left to guard the station.

2. Mr. Dehqan, the son of Mahmud, holder of identification card number 2217, issued at Tabriz, station assistant of Behshahr, confirmed Taqizadeh's statement and added that Approved For Release 2001/09/07 : CIA-RDP85-00415R000900070003-2 The action was done, however, by the workers of the cotton factory of Behshahr.

3. Mr. Approved For Release 2001/09/07 : CIA-RDP83-00415R009900070003-2 Ferdows, holder of identification card 581 issued at Gorgan, who is in charge of water purification of Behshahr station was also investigated. He stated that on 12 November 1946 as usual everyone was working when Dr. Salimi's agent informed him that all water tanks had been opened. Ferdows came out immediately and asked Hashemzadeh who was standing near the water tank, why he had done it. Hashemzadeh, answered that it was none of his business. When a worker by the name of Gorban tried to stop him, he punched him in the chest and threw him to the ground. Ferdows went inside where the waterpump was located and shut it off, to create the illusion that there was no water in the tank.

4. Mohammad Ja'fari, the son of 'Ali Asghar, and Abu-al-Qasem Taherpur, the son of Assad-Allah, stated that they had started work at seven o'clock in the morning, and were at their own job, when the workers of the cotton factory of Behshahr came and tried to interrupt them. However, they were able to hold them off until the passenger train had passed through Behshahr safely."

In addition, the report of the Behshahr Railway Police number 43 dated 13 November 1946 states that since Nasr-Allah-Pur and Hashemzadeh are members of the Behshahr factory the investigation does not fall in our sphere of authority."

D. According to the record, about two o'clock in the morning, Javad Sorkhabit, the son of Mohammad 'Ali, holder of identification card Number 24023 issued at Tebriz train chief of the northern zone, and Mr. Zeynelabedin Sehāt Bakhsh, the son of Mohammed, holder of the identification car Number 40838 issued at Mashhad, chief mechanic of the Bandar Shah trains, had left the local union and with Mr. Nazarian, a roundhouse motorist (engineer), had ordered Mr. 'Ashur Yatim, Mohammad Reza Ariani, and Mohammad Ramian to remove the brakes of the passenger trains. The order was also to fill the engine with sand instead of oil. Since this action damaged the passenger trains, the case had been investigated as follows:

1. Testimony has been secured from Mohammad Qal'ehsari, a worker on the passenger train. He stated that on the morning of 16 November 1946 when he came to work he found everyone on strike. When he discovered the brakes had been removed and the motors filled with sand, he started to repair the trains along with several others. But at this time Mr. Sorkhabi, interfered and told him, "We don't want anyone to work." Qal'ehsari testified that he had been informed that the night shift had done the above-mentioned damage at the order of Mr. Sorkhabi, Sehāt Bakhsh and Nazarian.

2. Mohammad Shirzadi, a worker on the passenger train, was questioned and stated that on the morning of 12 November 1946, when the workers were repairing the passenger trains, he also went to help them, but Sorkhabi prevented him from doing so.

3. Mohammad 'Ali Ja'fari was questioned and stated the destruction of the passenger trains had been done by Ariani, Ali' Nasir, 'Ashur Yatim and Mohammad Ramian, the night workers. The instructions had been given by Mr. Sorkhabi, and Sehāt Bakhsh, and Nazarian. In addition, after Ja'fari had finished repairing the trains on the morning of 12 November 1946 and was leaving, Sorkhabi got hold of him and said "Why did you continue to work? I know what I'll do with you when I get hold of you."

Mohammad Naraqī, a worker on the passenger train, during the investigation stated that as he was informed, Mr. 'Ashur Yatim, Mohammad Airani, and Ramian, the night workers removed the brakes by order of Mr. Sorkhabi and Sehāt Bakhsh. Also in the morning of 12 November 1946, when Naraqī tried to work, Mr. Sorkhabi stopped him and told him he needn't work. Nevertheless, with the help of a few workers they were able to repair the trains and make them ready for operation.

5. Mr. Teymur Eskandari stated that he had been informed that Mr. 'Ashur Yatim, Mohammad Airani and the others were ordered by Sehāt Bakhsh to remove the brakes. However, in the morning of 12 November 1946 a few of the workers including Eskandari repaired the trains.

6. Gholam 'Ali Khosh Seresht made several statements during the investigation. The passenger trains were put out of order on the instructions of Sorkhabi and Sehāt Bakhsh. The night workers carried out the orders under the supervision of 'Ashur Yatim. Mr. Sorkhabi is reported as saying when the workers were repairing the trains 'I am the one responsible for the opening of the brakes and I am the one who will answer. This is nobody else's business.'

7. The following is testimony given by 'Ali Farzand, a train worker; He stated that on the evening of 12 November 1946, he saw only Mr. Ali Hoseyn Zanjani who was standing inside the train with a hammer in his hand.

8. Bashir Dabirnezhad, a train worker, stated that on the evening of 12 November 1946, Mr. Nazarian, the chief repairman ordered him to pick up a hammer and come to the train as he had a job for him. When he arrived somebody called out to Mr. Nazarian that the train rooms had been fixed and no help was needed. Bashir returned home.

9. Mr. Abd-Allah Shahverdi testified he knows nothing about the destruction of the trains or the persons concerned.

10. Mr. 'Ashur Tavaq, a train employee, during the investigation stated that on the evening of 12 November 1946 at three-thirty, Mr. Mahmud Nazarian, the chief repairman, came into the engine room and asked him whether he had key Number 22. He replied that whatever he had possessed had already been given "to you people". At this time he went out and shortly after, returned with Mr. Bashir Dabirnezhad and Mirza Rostami. They removed all the couplings from the passenger train and hid them in different places. Mr. Ali Hoseyn Zanjani was with them too.

11. 'Ali Hoseyn Zanjani upheld the statements of 'Ashur Tavaq and added that he had been called in by 'Ali, a guard, and on the evening of 12 November 1946, obeying the orders of Mr. Sorkhabi and Nazarian, opened the couplings. At this time there was a worker present by the name of Petros who also helped in hiding the removed pieces.

12. Mr. Petros Cahramanian, holder of identification card Number 153, issued in Baku, was investigated. He confessed that at four-thirty in the morning of 12 November 1946 Sorkhabi sent him to the roundhouse where he met Mr. Nazarian and other workers. At this time Nazarian sent Ali, the guard, after 'Ali Zanjani, and when he came he and Bashir and 'Ashur were ordered to open the couplings. Nazarian was busy opening couplings too. Cahramanian had a lamp in his hand and was helping them.

13. Mahmud Nazarian, the son of Zeynalsbedin, holder of identification card Number 2006 issued at Tabriz, chief repairman of the roundhouse, after being questioned several times, finally confessed that on the evening of 12 November 1946, about three-thirty or four o'clock, Mr. Sorkhabi came to the roundhouse and stated that the house needed repair. In his presence Nazarian removed the train hooks (couplings?) with the help of Ali Zanjani and Petros (Ashramani).

14. Mohammad Ziani, the delivery agent of the train sheds, stated at the time of the investigation that on the evening of 12 November 1946, when he was busy checking the passenger trains he saw 'Ali Zanjani with a hammer removing the train hooks. When asked what he was doing, Zanjani answered, 'Since we are striking tomorrow, Sorkhabi and Sehat Bakhsh have ordered me to do this.'

The minutes have been confirmed. Those taken on 17 November 1946, concern the opening of hooks, chains and brakes of the passenger train on the night of 11 November 1946 by the above-mentioned names. Those taken on 18 November 1945 concern details reported by the police station of Bandar Shah. Sorkhabi, Sehat Baksh, and Nazarian are considered guilty and are subject to punishment.

Mr. Javad Sorkhabi and Zeynalsbedin Sehat Bakhsh offered the following testimony on their behalf: After the strike Committee had met they returned home. Not until they heard the danger whistle on the morning of 12 November 1946 did they come out of the house and start striking. They said they had only instructed the workers to strike in accordance with the instructions of the United Central Council, and that they knew nothing about the above-mentioned destruction or the persons concerned. Mr. Sorkhabi claimed that after receiving telegrapher instructions from the chief of the northern zone, he started repairing the passenger train. Most of the workers, however, as the minutes indicate, testified that Mr. Sorkhabi gave them absolutely no help. Instead the workers' testimony revealed that Mr. Sorkhabi had instructed them to destroy of the passenger train. In addition, as revealed in note Number 2 of 14 November 1946, Mr. Sorkhabi and Alvandi had refused to adhere to the telegraphed instructions sent them on 12 November 1946 had even prevented Mr. Habib-Allah Sobhani from posting them on the walls.

E. In regard to the opening of the pump of locomotive number 57,2483, and stealing and hiding the necessary equipments of the locomotive number 42-168 on 21/8/25, after a few questioning periods, Mostafa Laleh-Nia, Hoseyn Ali Sa'idi, Taqi Mokarrami, Yahya Kolagar, workers of the Bandar Shah depot, made the following statements: Mr. Mostafa Laleh-Nia, has confessed that on the night of 12 November 1946 he opened the pump of locomotive number 46,2483 as instructed by Motadayyan. He and Ebrahim Ravana unscrewed the eccentric of locomotive Number 42-168 and extinguished its fire. Laleh-Nia kept the pump in his pocket. However, on 16 November he put the instrument back in its place. In view of the above confessions Laleh-Nia is considered guilty and subject to punishment.

Further investigation revealed that Shirali Maqsudi, Mosaffa-Ab, Zia' Al-Akhbari, Gholam Ali Said Moqaddam, workers of the Bandar Shah water tank, during the strike had argued with Mr. Estepan Alvandi who was in charge of the water at Bandar Shah. Mr. Alvandi had ordered the workers to empty the water tank, but since they had disobeyed his instructions, he had emptied the tank himself. Also, since the non-striking workers had refused to aid him in his sabotage attempts, he had refused to supply water to the hydraulic generators. As a consequence from eight-thirty till ten-fifty on 12 November 1946 the electric current of the factories was cut off. The following people who did not participate in the strike, confirmed the above statement at the time of the investigation: Saad Mahmud Shakeri, Esmail Yazdan Zai', Gholam Ali Ahmadizadeh, Gholam Hoseyn Tayaran, Mohammad Hoseyn Morshedtalab, Abd-Allah Mazhabi, Mohammad Rasul Shahi, 'Ali Esmaili, 'Ali Asghar Nazaib, Ali Asghar Naqqash, Eskandar Miryekta

Also Mr. Shir Ali Maqsudi, Gholam Hoseyn Jehangir, and Ali Moqaddam, employees at the water tank, had stated that Mr. Alvandi had ordered them to empty the tank water into a well. But since there was no way to direct the rout of the water towards the well, according to the statements made by Gholam Hoseyn Jehangir and Sharif Maqsudi, Mr. Alvandi ordered them to open the drain valve and shut off the locomotive. Therefore, Mr. Alvandi is also considered guilty and subject to punishment.

According to the minutes, on the day of the strike, the oil compartment of the engine in the roundhouse had broken and caused further disorder. Mr. Darvishzadeh had banked and fired another locomotive. Since Mr. Mahmood Nazarian, in charge of engines in the repair shop was judged guilty of the above act and is subject to punishment."

At six o'clock on the morning of 12 November 1946 Yazdizadeh and Anzanpur, the station assistant, had taken over the communication system. They had appointed Fuladi, a worker and disciplinary agent of the Workers Party, and another person with the same title to guard the telephone system. The same day Mr. Hoseyn Janbarar was supposed to take over the station, but Mr. Yazdizadeh and Anzanpur had felt he opposed them and had dismissed him. They instructed Mohammad Ali Fatahi, the ticket agent, to guard the station. From the beginning till the end of the strike they had permitted no one to interfere in the communications, and on the evening of 13 November 1946 when Mr. Nahrudi was operating the selector from Sari, Anzanpur, acting on the orders of Yazdizadeh pulled down the selector level, cutting off communication with Babol. Sari attempted to reach the Shahi police to find out why they couldn't get messages through to the station. When Lieutenant Ra'uf and Lieutenant Piransar, chief of the Shahi police station arrived at the Station to investigate, Mr. Yazdizadeh and Mr. Anzanpur had pushed up the selector lever and were pretending that contact had been established. Yazdizadeh started insulting the Sari communications staff and prevented the agents, who were unarmed, from entering the radio room. Since Mr. Yazdizadeh had no right to interfere with the communications, and since he had caused disorder in the entire communications system between Sari and other stations he is considered guilty.

Documents revealed that Mr. Heydar Gudarzi, chief of the Pol-i-Sefid station; Mr. Mahmud, a locomotive engineer; Mr. Shirzed, water purification agent; and Mr. Mohammadpoor, along with Mr. Lankarani, leader of the Tudeh Party of Shahi, and a few unidentified people had come to Pol-i-Sefid from Shahi and had disrupted the communication system. According to the statements made by Najarzadeh, these people were trying to prevent the chief of that section, by disrupting communications with Firuz Khu and Varsak, from coming to Sari. He stated that they had tried to get hold of the chief at previous stations but had been unsuccessful. They were unsuccessful in capturing him at the Pol-i-Sefid station. Having failed, they returned to Shahi and ordered Mr. Najarzadeh to call the strike. On 12 November 1946 the guard rooms and the communications section were captured by Mr. Mahmud, Shirzed, Sattar Daliri, Nasimi, and Bakhshi, all of whom are members of the workers union. The communication system was taken over by force and no one was able to obtain help. The workers were assembled in the workers' party club. Mr. Gudarzi informed them that a train from Bandar Shah would stop at Behshahr or if it did not, they would stop it. Mr. Yazdizadeh had been ordered to open the rails, but he informed Mr. Gudarzi it was a difficult job. Mr. Gudarzi instructed Bahram Javanbakht, a worker, to remove the rails; the worker refused, but he was threatened and finally agreed to do so providing the rails were not in his section for which he was responsible.

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Mohammad Ali Gholi, Gholam Yafari, 'Ali, Pirjan Resa'i, and Saed Musa Divnard (Deynvard?) entered the storehouse to get the necessary tools to remove the rails. The workers at first refused to do the job but Javanbakht reminded them of the threats of Mr. Gudarzi. The workers started to walk towards the rails, met the watchman and asked him for the key to open the rails. The watchman refused and reminded them the disaster it would cause. Gholam Latifi, one of the workers, reported this to Javanbakht. Javanbakht and Gudarzi instructed him to return and get the key by force or face death for his failure. Latifi got the key and with the other five, opened all the screws of one rail and scattered them about. Javanbakht then put an explosive near the rail. The watchman, Baqer Yukhar-bashi, reported the six workers' intentions to Najarzadeh, chief of district 2. Najarzadeh, through Yaqub Azari, chief of the telephone office, tried to report the incident to Sari, but the communication system had already been taken over. Finally, Yaqub Azari succeeded in sending a message by other means. Also, it was reported that the Union agents of Pol-i-Sefid, had removed the switch, taken away the sensitive instruments, emptied the water tank and extinguished the fire in the locomotive.

At the Varasak station the same things happened, more or less. Hoseynpur, who claimed to be the leader of the Varasak Union, along with Ebrahim Azari, Malak, Baravath 'Ali Taheri and Victor Ivanov, specialist, and several others, at six o'clock in the morning of 12 November 1946, had taken over the communications system of Varasak station by armed force. After a meeting they decided to remove some of the rails. However, they later changed their minds.

At six o'clock in the morning of 12 November 1946, Ahmad Shams, the depot chief, Reza Jow'i, the assistant and Gholam Dub (Darb?), engineer and others seized the communications system of the Firuz Kuh station. At one-thirty P.M. on 21 November 1946, when the train arrived from Tehran, there was no locomotive for the train, so it was halted there. Although Ahmad Shams was ordered by the chief of the northern section to come to Pol-i-Sefid station with that train, he disobeyed. Shams and Reza Jow'i had not intentions other than causing confusion at the station. According to report Number 15,8,29-12193,4003 submitted by Sergeant Gholam Reza Naji, he was prevented from entering the communications room by the above-mentioned people with threats and insults.

These people are considered guilty for their parts played in the railroad sabotage plot.

1. Karim Tarverdi, the supervisor of the Bandar Shah train.
2. Hassan Rezvan, the train director of Bandar Shah.
3. Javad Sorkhabi, the chief of the Bandar Shan roundhouse.
4. Mostafa Laleh-Nia, shop repairman
5. Yazdi-Zadeh, the assistant of Section 4 at Shahi.
6. Mahmudi, the engineer of Pol-i-Safid Station.
7. Nasimi, employee at Pol-i-Safid
8. Pirjan, a Pol-i-Safid worker
9. 'Ali Akbar, a Pol-i-Safid worker

10. Mohammed 'Ali, a Pol-i-Safid worker

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11. Hoseyn Monagge, a Bandar Shah itinerant group (sic) worker
 12. Ebrahim Motadayyan, the engineer at the Bandar Shah revolving (sic) depot.
 13. Zeynalabedin Sehat Bakhsh, chief repairman
 14. Mahmud Nazarian, a motorist in the Bandar Shah shop
 15. Heydar Gudarzi, the chief of the Pol-i-Safid Depot
 16. Saed Musa, a Pol-i-Safid worker
 17. Shirzad, a Pol-i-Safid worker
 18. Golan, a Pol-i-Safid worker
 19. Bahram Javan-Hakht, head worker at Pol-i-Safid
 20. Ramazan, a Pol-i-Safid worker
 21. Mir Aga Mosavi, head worker at the Varasak Station
 22. Baravat 'Ali, a Varasak itinerant (sic) worker
 23. Hasan Hoseynpur, the leader of the Varasak Tudeh Party
 24. Malaki Komak, the accountant of Section 3 of Varasak
 25. Victor Ivanov, building specialist in Varasak
 26. Ahmad Shams, the chief of the Firuz Kuh depot
 27. Gholam Dub, a Firuz Kuh repairman
 28. Reza Jow'ei, the assistant manager of the Firuz Kuh depot
 29. Ebrahim Azari, resident of Varasak, owner of a coffee house.

Only through the efforts of the police and military agents was complete destruction of the railroad system prevented. All testimony, evidence and files have been submitted. It is recommended that these guilty persons be fired for their part in the conspiracy.

Finally, damage incurred in the northern zone which has been reported in file Number 18909, 29/8/26, has been estimated at 846,674,40 rials."

Signed by: Lt. Col. Vahdat
The Chief of Police of the State
Railway, Northern Division 1

DID THE GOVERNMENT FACTORIES BELONG TO THE UNITED CENTRAL COUNCIL?

The United Central Council ruled over the national government factories. It used the factory buildings as Tudeh Party clubs and as residences for its members. It considered government property its own property and used government stationery for Tudeh correspondence.

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Number 39039,55

The Prime Minister

Important and Urgent

Your Honor, Mr. Prime Minister:

Cordially submitted to you is a summary of the report by the agents sent to investigate the financial affairs of the factories in the northern section.

A. The activities and the abuses of the Tudeh Party leaders include the following:

1. The Tudeh Party buildings in Chalus and also the homes of the Tudeh Party leaders were all paid out of the Budget for Factories.
2. Profiting from the use of factory property, and also the use for themselves of most of these properties.
3. Taking the sum of 459,594,85 rials from the treasury of the silk factory and using it for their own advancement.
4. Taking 13 meters of material from the silk factory workers.
5. Using the factory press for party publications.
6. Using the Repair Division of the factories for repairing ammunition.
7. Receiving sums from the factories under the title of overtime work. Actually no overtime work was done.
8. Employing a group of adventurers to carry out party objectives. These people were paid from the factory budget, and this expenditure amounted to about 6,250,000 rials.
9. Seizing one-half of the amount which should have been delivered to the chief treasurer.
10. Firing and banishing workers under different pretenses.
11. Using the transportation system of the factories for party activities.
12. Ruining the product of the factories, so that some of the silk produced could not be used.
13. Instructing the payment of additional wages to the workers.

B. The Financial Situation of the Factories

1. Shortage of 24,537.75 rials in the silk factory treasury.
2. Addition of 2,698,10 meters of space to the storage area of the silk factory.

4. Advancing money to employees and neglecting to see that it was payed back.
5. Lack of order in the workers' attendance.
6. Using workers as servants in their homes.
7. Employing workers when they were not needed.
8. Ruining cotton purchased for the Shahi and Behshar mills.
9. Difficulty encountered by the factories in obtain fuel and raw materials.
10. Profits derived from purchasing jute for the gunny-sacks mill.
11. Delay by the industrial bank in meeting the needs of the factories.
12. Lack of supervision of employees who do not properly attend to their duties, and hiring engineers for the factories who were not specialists.
13. Disorder in the factories' bookkeeping and accounting.

The above-mentioned facts summarize the report of the inspectors sent to Mazanderan to check the factory situation. This report was submitted on the 26 January 1947 after their return from that region. A copy of this report has been sent to the Industrial and Mining Banks!

THE HIRING AND FIRING OF WORKERS WAS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The factory director not only did not have a list of the workers, he did not even know how many people were working in a particular factory. The Executive Board used to fire anyone they considered a hindrance to the Party, and hire anyone they deemed useful for their purposes.

The City Council of Shahi

7 October 1946

Number 772

Appendix

The Executive Board of the Workers' Union of the Fruit Cannery

"This letter introduces Mr. Sejf-Allah Rusta. We ask you to employ him in the factory as soon as possible. Also, we state that this action should take place with the assistance of Monsieur Puin."

The City Council of Shahi

The Council Seal

Tudeh Party of Iran

Local Committee of Shahi

28 October 1946

Number 727

The Executive Board of the Shahi Weaving Mill Union

"It is necessary that instruction be given to hire 18 workers. Making excuses in this matter will only cause trouble."

The Provincial Committee of Shahi
The Seal of The Tudeh Party of Iran
The Provincial Committee of
Eastern Mazanderan
Signature

As the letter indicated, the Tudeh Party instructed the executive board to take action, and intimated that delay or excuse in action would cause trouble.

The Executive Board of the
Shahi Weaving Factory Union
4 November 1946

"We are informing you that Comrade Sergi, the son of Rezayov, is greatly needed on the Committee of Discipline. We can profit immensely by his presence. Therefore, you must employ this person in the factory. If there is no room for him, make room by firing someone else. Hope you will not refuse this request."

The Chairman of the Committee on
Discipline of the City Council
Signature

There is no indication as to what could be received from comrade Sergi, and why he was necessary and useful for the organization.

On ordinary paper the names of 15 people were listed; on the margin 9 people from this list were checked off, and underneath that, may be seen the following sentence: "At present we cannot hire these people because the factory director has been changed."

3/8/25

P. E. Nemati

Date 31 October 1946, Number 68

Appendix

Another example written on official paper.

THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND ARTS AND SCIENCE

SHARI FACTORY

The United Central Council,
the Union of Workers and Laborers
of Iran

The Provincial Council of Mazandaran

The Gunny-sack Factory of Shahi

On the basis of our previous agreement with the factory office, we are presenting the names of 20 people. Please instruct those concerned so that these people may be given employment :

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Ali Hosein | 12. Saed Tofin |
| 2. Hasan Qamari | 13. 'Ali 'Azimi |
| 3. Ahmad Morteza | 14. Hamad-Allah Karim |
| 4. Jafar Hashemi | 15. Biran Musa |
| 5. Fazlat Pahal | 16. Fath-Allah Ali (also Habib-Allah 'Ali) |
| 6. 'Ali Jafarzadeh | 17. 'Abbas Handi Qasem |
| 7. Balal Alibaba | 18. Mohammad Vatani |
| 8. Hasan Hoseyn | 19. Hafez Tahmouresi |
| 9. Mirza Hendevarsh-Forush | 20. Rahmat-Allah Heydari |
| 10. Getha Mohseni | 21. Kheyir-Allah Rahimi |
| 11. Tumanianas | |

The Chairman of the City Council
of Shahi, Borumand's Signature
Seal of the City Council of Shahi

If a worker did not wish to join the union either because of the abusive activity of the Executive Board or because he was disgusted with the union in general, he would be threatened and told to give up his factory job.

The factory director who was himself intimidated with the threat of destruction by the Agents of the United Central Council, had no choice but to obey the instructions of the Executive Board and fire the helpless worker.

THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND ARTS AND SCIENCES
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SHAHI FACTORY

27 May 1946

Number 256

The Honorable Chief of the Gunny-sack Factory of Shahi

"It is the decision of the board that you be requested to discharge the following workers: Mr. Mahdi Mosallam, 421, weaving section workers, charged with robbery; and Bani Esmail, 455, causing disorder among the workers."

The Union of the Gunny-sack Factory

Signed by: Hamad-Allah Soheyli Tabari

(The following memorandum was written at the bottom of the above letter)

End the employment above-mentioned people.

Engineer Anmadi, factory director

27 May 1946

THEY RECEIVED MONEY WITHOUT WORKING

In cases where the United Council or the Party assigned a job to someone which was incompatible with factory work, the worker nevertheless would receive his wages for having accomplished his mission for the party.

15 September 1946, Number 591

The Tudeh Party of Iran

The Farmers' Union

The Executive Board of the Fruit Camery

"Sa'd-Allah Qasari upon orders from the Local Council of Farmers of Shahi was engaged in a mission on behalf of the Farmers Union of Shahi from 9-14 September 1946. It is requested that you instruct those concerned to pay the above-mentioned person his wages for the time of his absence from the factory."

The Chairman of the Farmers Union
of Shahi

Amini's Seal and Signature

copies sent to the Provincial Council of Mazanderan.

14/6/25

Khalil Riazi and 'Ezat-Allah Asad-Allah were on duty in the city elections. Please see that they receive the same overtime pay for the holidays as received by the other workers in the factory.

Signed by Mohammad Borumand

What attitude would the United Central Council exhibit towards a union member jailed for committing a crime?

Would they discontinue the membership of a worker if he was not fit to work or if he was known to be of undesirable character?

With the power that the United Central Council exercised, would it put pressure on the factory director for the dismissal of the worker?

The first part of this section we have already shown, with documents, that the Executive Board had forced the factory director to fire 2 workers.

But it seems, the United Central Council had reversed its methods in the case of Mohammad Mokarrami, cement factory worker, who was imprisoned in the local jail for 12 days. In this case, besides asking not to dismiss the worker, it demanded the factory pay him for the time he spent in jail.

23/7/25

The Executive Board of the Tehran Cement Factory

"I cordially bring to your attention the fact that I, Mohammad Ali Mokarrami, have been in the Police Office Prison for the past 12 days. During this period my prison expense amounted to 36 tomans. I borrowed 12 tomans to pay for small necessities and I had the extra expense of 38 tomans for carriage fare and tips. This money was advanced to me by Mr. Mohammad Hoseyn Mohammadi and Hoseyn Yarubi. The total sum of this debt is 86 tomans. Since I have no funds to repay these people, I ask the honorable authorities to pay this sum from the union coffers to the above-mentioned people. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mohammad Ali Mokarrami (Signature)

The Executive Board, of course do not touch the treasury money. The coffer money was needed for other vital purposes. The easiest way to solve the problem was to ask the factory to pay the sum out of the government coffers for the time Karami was not in the factory.

Written under Mohammad Ali Karami's letter is Kiari's instructions:

"This letter should be sent to the Executive Board of the Cement Factory so that they may take the proper steps."

Kebari (Signature) 24 October 1946

The Executive Board in turn expressed its opinion in another note as follows:

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Mohammad Ali Karami has a 14-day claim, since due to a misunderstanding he has been in Prison. For that period his wages have not been paid. Please take steps to see that his wages are paid. - 49 -

The workers received money and on orders of the United Central Council used the government factories' equipment to build ammunition which they then would use against the government.

8 January 1947

Number 2078, Confidential

His Excellency the Governor of Ostan No II

According to reports of the Shahi Police, Yusof Lankarani, one of the leaders of the Tudeh Party of Shahi and also a leader of the Fedai'ian Ei'-Islam of Kirab, has been arrested recently by military agents after fighting with the military forces. Under investigation by the Shahi Police Office he confessed to making bombs and grenades in Shahi factories under orders from N'emati and Saed Mohammad 'Ali Abd-al-Haq. He stated his belief that if government agents want to disarm you, you must resist. After the investigation, the Police Office will give you a full report.

The Chief of Police of Mazandaran

Colonel Eslani

(A copy of the above report is being sent to the Ministry of Interior

(signed) Governor of Ostan No. II, Sa'id Sami'i)

THEY WANTED TO FIRE THE CEMENT FACTORY

Document 25 dated 19 December 1946. The Military Governor of Tehran

Sabz 'Ali, the son of Musa, family name Sarkhabi, native of Maragheh, resident of Tehran, 12th district cement factory, government house, 44 years old, in charge of processing cement, made this statement:

"I am a member of the Workers' Union and a member of the Cement Workers' Union. I was obliged to enter these unions under penalty of being fired. I have never betrayed my country. Once I participated in a stop-work strike under orders from Sami'i, when he was director. Another time the Executive Board told me to stop working and I did so. I was obliged to do it. First I did not dare disobey and second I was in charge of the cement factory furnace."

Document 13

Kazem, the son of Haji Aqa, family name Nasira'ai, 35 years old, literate, native of Babol, resident of Tehran, 2nd district, S'adi Avenue and Fariab Street testified:

"When I was in the laboratory I heard they wanted to burn the factory. The Board of Directors was composed of Heydar Mohajer, Hoseyn Shida'i, Sadr Ranjehpur, Ahmad Sebil and Mohsen Mohseni, all fugitives. They urged me to go along with them but I would not cooperate."

The following is the statement of Gholam Hoseyn, the son of Shokr-Allan Shafaqi, 40 years old, cement factory worker, native of Tehran. He has a wife and children and is a resident of the 2nd District, Amin-al-Dowleh Avenue and Farashbashi Street:

"Till about a year ago I was not a member of a party. But there came a day when I saw that even after ten years of work, they would fire me from the cement factory unless I entered the Tudeh Party.

"On Friday, when the workers were on strike, I was on leave. But I heard that they planned to burn the factory. I have no knowledge of how ammunition is used. I think the Board of Directors is responsible for what happened. It is the fault of these disreputable people."

CHAPTER V

PROBLEMS DEMANDING ATTENTION

1. How Did They Treat Government Employees?
2. How Did They Communicate with Government Authorities?
3. They were Opposed to the Hanging of the Shah's picture.
4. They Seized Weapons from Government Officials
5. The Workers were armed
6. "Hen and Chickens - Pen and Ink"
7. They Killed the Police and Disarmed Guards under protection
8. Were They Connected with any Foreign Power?
9. What Happened at Zirab?

HOW DID THEY TREAT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES?

The people who were protected by the Tudeh Party and the United Central Council would not obey the law. They could freely destroy the freedom of others. If law-enforcement officers took steps to remove the choking hands from the throats of the people, they would be abused. Discourtesy toward government agents, in the opinion of the leaders of the Union, was simply a normal action.

Zirab to Shahi

24 October 1946

The National Gendarmerie

Very Urgent

From: Commander of the Shahi Guard;

"We have been informed that 'Abbas Afzali, an armed thief, is hiding in a mine in Zirab. I entered the mine today unarmed, but Amir Soleymani, the chairman of the Mines Committee threatened me and told me if I persisted he would kill me. I have armed my men and we are going back to the mine. We hope we will be successful in capturing the above-mentioned person.

Kazemi"

The unions not only disobeyed the law themselves; they even gave asylum to persons who were disturbing the peace.

"Ministry of Interior

The National Gendarmerie

His Excellency, Governor of Sari,

(Copies to Office of the Guard Regiment and First Sari Battalion)

According to information received from the local workers, 'Abbas Afzali and about two hundred armed men came to the Zirab Mine last night. They started a demonstration and some of the Union workers joined them. As a result of the gunfire, the people in the area were disturbed and the whole Mazanderan area is in a state of unrest. It is therefore considered necessary to arrest the above-mentioned person. His presence in this area is the cause of great disturbance.

No. 29

Captain Mosaddeci

21 October 1946

Commander, Shahi Guard

"Confidential-Direct

2 May 1946

Office of the First Company, Second Gendarmerie Regiment:

"I am respectfully answering letter No. 1051 of 29 April 1946. At the end of my letter No. 41 of 25 April 1946, I stated that the case was under investigation; and since the letter was sent without my opinion at the time, I will give it now. The second day of the incident I went to the Pol-i-Safid. From the investigation it became clear that a person named Hasan Sareq, a thief, was arrested by a Sergeant. In order to deliver the stolen goods, the Sergeant came to Pol-i-Safid and brought the thief with him. At the station, the above-mentioned thief took advantage of the crowd, pulled out a knife, cut his own throat slightly, and started to scream, "Freedom-loving people! They are trying to kill me!" From the notes made by the Sergeant and from my own thorough investigation, it is clear that the thief put the blade to his own throat. The wounded man was immediately taken to the hospital, but by that time a warning whistle had been blown. The thief was taken to the Party members and workers (including Helali, Heydar Gudarzi, Mahmudi, Gorban, Mirza

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'Ali and others) also went to the hospital. At the hospital they found the Sergeant, took his briefcase with the notes he had prepared, insulted him, beat him, and threw chairs and tables on him. The Sergeant was wounded, his clothes torn off him, and the sum of 147 tomans was taken from him. After keeping him in the club for 3 hours, he was released without any clothes. Reports show that a few days previously the same man had beaten the man in charge of the telegraph office."

"Commander of the Second Group, First Company, Second Gendarmerie Regiment:

First Lieutenant Kazemi

Circular from the Army Chief of Staff

From the Files dated 17/1/15, Chief of Staff.

"On 28 September 1947, when Sergeant Maqsudi of the third police precinct was on duty at the back of the municipal building, he was wounded. At this time, as First Lieutenant Amir Soleymani, an officer of the Khuzestan Tenth Division, was passing he saw the incident and came to the help of the wounded. However, a few of the members of the Union pursued him and beat him up. A meeting was immediately called on behalf of the Governor, the Police and the Guards. Three persons, Gholam, Seyd Bozorg, and Hoseyn, were recognized as the ones who had wounded the Sergeant. They were taken to the district police and their file was sent to the Military Governor.

"On 1 October 1947 according to a vote announce by the Court of Justice of the Office of the Military Governor of Tehran, Hoseyn and Gholam were pronounced guilty and sentenced to prison for a period of one year. Seyd Bozorg, a newspaper seller, since he had not been involved in the fight, but had only disobeyed the policeman, was given three months' imprisonment.

"We request that in order to prevent any future misunderstanding the file on the above-mentioned case be sent to the proper Army office.

Major-General Razmara, Chief of Staff

Following is a copy of the report by First Lieutenant Naser Amir Soleymani:

"Tehran Office of the Military Police:

"I respectfully bring to your attention the fact that at 11:30 on Saturday 28 September 1947, I, First Lieutenant Amir Soleymani, of the Tenth Khuzestan Division was going past the artillery (grounds?) to the dentist, when I saw that people had gathered and that there was a quarrel. I approached the crowd and saw that someone by the name of Hoseyn Naha'i was beating Sergeant Maqsudi, a policeman. He threw Sergeant Maqsudi to the ground and started kicking him. When I saw this, I could not stand still and watch a military man be beaten in the line of duty. I was very upset and approached the two and interfered in the fight. However, Naha'i tried to incite the crowd against me. I was successful in turning Mr Naha'i over to policeman number 176, and I sent Sergeant Maqsudi to the hospital. Unfortunately, Naha'i was able to escape and he, along with about 400 other people, armed with clubs and stones started chasing me through the streets. They got hold of me in one of the streets and began stoning me. If 2nd Lieutenant Hasan Motim Razm had not come to my rescue, I might have been killed. The workers, however, took me to their Union Club and there began beating me again. Finally, one of their own group interfered, took me away from the crowd and turned me over to the military police. In view of the above incident, if such vandals are not prosecuted, they might well insult and treat a major general the same way. I hereby request your office take action to punish these people.

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HOW DID THEY COMMUNICATE WITH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES?

The following letter is self-explanatory. It shows how the leaders of the Tudeh Party and the United Central Council used to correspond with Government authorities.

Tudeh Party Committee of Iran

The Provincial Committee of Isfahan

31 August 1947 , No 443

The Ministry of Labor and Propaganda

Mr. Engineer Nafisi, Director General of Labor:

"In answer to your letter No. 69 of August 1947, the illegal telegram which you sent supporting the Southern Oil Company and annulling the final vote by the board of arbitration, makes you liable for prosecution under public law. It seems that you were not very well aware of your duties. You can be sure that the workers of Iran will never give up their rights which they have gained by hard work just because people like you want them to.

Chairman of the Tudeh Party of the
Workers and Farmers of Isfahan,
Toni Madakar."

THEY WERE OPPOSED TO THE HANGING OF THE SHAH'S PICTURE

From File No 4-4

478, Chief of Staff

Report of Colonel Dadsetan, 12 March 1946

The main Office of the Military Governor of Railroads, Roads and Ports:

"I respectfully bring to your attention the fact that on the 20th of this month at 4:00 o'clock when I reached Semnan, I saw that they had covered all the walls of the station with newspapers and pictures. I asked what all this was about and told them that this action was an indication of their disloyalty to the country.

"The Tudeh Party leaders aroused the people against me and told me that the railroad does not need a military governor and that other pictures of the Shah would be taken down."

File No. 128, Papers 128, 127, 126, and 125, of 24 December 1946

Office of the Military Governor

"Name, Fakhri, daughter of Ja'far, known as Leylabadai; 36 years old, native of Tabriz, resident of the Government-owned apartments at the Rey Cement Plant.

"About 6 or 7 months ago, I remember that Heydar Mohajer, Mohammed Tirvand, Ahmad Sebil and Amir Ahmadi were in my house. Suddenly they noticed the picture of the Shah which was hanging on the wall. They told me to take down this picture and throw it away, and to hang in its place a picture of Mohammad Tirvand told me, "It seems that you have become a reactionary too." I told myself there was nothing reactionary about this picture. All of them told me that I had better take the picture off the wall because it might cause trouble both for me and my husband. I was afraid and took the picture and hid it, but now I have brought it back and it is hanging in my room.

THEY SEIZED WEAPONS FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

3 January 1946

No. 11818

Ministry of the Interior

Confidential - Urgent

Office of the Governor of Ostan No. II:

"I respectfully bring to your attention the report given by First Lieutenant Katuzi, the Commander of the Kiasar Police Company. When said officer was coming to Sari from Gorgan, ten armed men of the disciplinary service of the Tudeh Party stopped him in Behshahr and without any reason threatened him. They asked him for his pistol. The officer tried to resist, but they took the gun away forcibly telling him that the pistol should be delivered to the Tudeh Party.

Azadiganeh, Commander of the Gendarmerie
Regiment in Mazanderan."

The Chief of Police:

"I respectfully bring to your attention that according to the report of the Shahi police, at 5:30 on 23 January 1946, Samad, the policeman 2nd-grade No. 7, who was on duty for the Registration Office, was returning to Shahi. On the road, four men approached him and one of them, called Mohammad Hasan, took him to the Tudeh Party Club. After interrogating him about the mission which he was to accomplish for the government, they took his weapons: a pistol and six cartridges. They told him that they would return it to him later, but so far they have not done so."

Sari-Eslani, Chief of Mazanderan Police

(A copy is being sent to the Governor of Ostan No. II for action.)

Number 13649

Confidential-direct

Ministry of the Interior

Confidential, Direct

Office of the Governor of Ostan No. II:

"I respectfully invite your attention to report No. 5576 of 21 January 1946 (sic) from Bandar Gaz Gendarmerie, a copy of which is enclosed. It states that two of the policemen of Behshahr went on an assignment to the village of Galuzah. Suddenly several members of the Tudeh Party attacked them and disarmed them. They have not yet returned the arms; therefore we ask your office to take steps to recover the weapons and return them to us.

Colonel Baluch

For the Mazandaran Gendarmerie Regiment

certified a true copy - Ruhani

Seal of the Office of the Northern
Province.

No 2832 - 11 November 1946

Confidential Direct

The Mazandaran Negahbani (Security) Regiment Headquarters.

"We respectfully inform you that Report No. 11022 of 1 November 1946 from the Shasavar Gendarmerie Company states that the Tudeh Party of Chalus drew a caricature of the director of the silk factory of Chalus and put it on the wall along with their weekly news letter. The chief of the local police ordered two policemen to remove the pictures and the letter and bring them to the office. (At this time Tudeh Party members from Chalus had gone to Shasavar to deliver a speech.) When some of the members returned and learned of the incident, they went to the local police office and asked for the letter. However, the Chief of Police sent them away, telling them that this was his lunch hour and that he could not attend to this affair and that they should come back at 1:00 o'clock. But this group of Tudeh Party Members wrote a formal letter of complaint to the police office of Nowshahr. A second group of members, meanwhile, returned to Chalus and asked for the same letter. At this time Mr. Zanganeh of the police office of Nowshahr came to the police office of Chalus and convinced the leaders of the Tudeh Party that several of them should come to Nowshahr, where he said the letter now was. On the way to Nowshahr, car trouble delayed the men who had gone to get the letter. When the men waiting in Chalus saw that the two men sent to Nowshahr had not returned, they attacked the local police office and started questioning the Chief of Police, Mr. Golbar. Finally, the Tudeh members began beating the Chief of Police, in the course of which he was wounded. They took away his pistol and cartridges. But when Mr. Zanganeh returned after having delivered the letter to the Tudeh Party members, he discovered what had happened and sent the Chief of Police to the Hospital.

THE WORKERS WERE ARMED

MINISTRY of Interior
(Disciplinary Office)

No. 10267

16h08

11 January 1947

Ministry of Interior:

"I bring to your attention the fact that the police office of Mazanderan and the police office of Behshahr report that an old English-make rifle has been recovered from Sadeq Aqayani and has been delivered to the military garrison.

For the Chief of Police

Col. Hesan Vaziri

7251 25363

29/10/25 Copy to Ministry of Labor and Information.

Acting Minister of the Interior

Fariduni

1 January 1947

No. 15353, 9673

Ministry of Interior

Office of Justice

Ministry of Interior:

"I bring to your attention the fact that the Mazanderan police office has reported that according to the Behshahr police office, one revolver has been recovered from a worker named Gholam, and another one from a worker named Mozaffar 'Abbas. These arms have been turned over to the military garrison.

For the Chief of Police

Col. Hesan Vaziri."

~~HEN AND CHICKENS - PEN AND INK~~

The directors of the United Central Council had special code words which they used among themselves. For example, weapons were called "hen and chickens" or "pen and ink." The following letter was written by Eskandar Sarabi to Dr. Keshavarz.

22 April 1947

Dear Comrade Dr. Keshavarz:

"Since, according to the decision of the United Council I must deliver all the equipment to Mr. Sadegina, please give the pen and ink to Mr. Sadegina.

Eskandar Sarabi"

Below is a copy of the minutes of a meeting which was written with pencil on ordinary paper.

"Minutes of a Special Secret Meeting:

On Wednesday, the special meeting was called and was discussed. The following decision was reached; After nominations were made, three persons were selected who said they were ready to deliver the hen and chickens. Some of the comrades were of the opinion that these articles should be transported either by train or by Council car. Since there was no immediate means of delivery, it was decided that the articles will be delivered when the Council needs them. The articles are in the custody of Vali, Tavakol, and Bahadori.

(Signed) Masumi, Bahadori, Ali Ahmadi
and two others."

KILLING POLICE AND DISARMING GUARDS UNDER....PROTECTION

From the study of the reports of the governor and of the police of Mazanderan concerning the incidents of 22 Ordibehesh 1325 (12 May 1946) at Chalus, it becomes evident that the leaders of the unions and the Party used to get help from a foreign power in the fight against their own countrymen.

It is true that the foreign power had no legal right to interfere, and that it did refrain from direct interference; but the plans of those who wanted to create unrest were such that outside help was a necessity.

The report below indicates that provocateurs, in order to profit from the pressure of a foreign army used to shoot ----- soldiers, thus obliging soldiers of that power to intervene.

No. 1965 - 27 April 1946

"Your Honor, the Governor of Ostan No. II:

"I respectfully bring to your attention the report of the situation at Chalus, which I have personally investigated. Wounded guards, officers, policemen and the manager of the Hotel Chalus were interrogated. The investigation shows that Zia' Almuti, the leaders of the Tudeh Party was very upset and dissatisfied about the

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arrival of the company which was sent to Chalus. Therefore Zia' Almuti started to spread false propaganda among the workers of the silk factory. It should also be noted that for quite a while the group of workers had been coming to Chalus from Azerbaijan. Some of these workers had jobs, but others were idle and were continually travelling between the cities.

"Part of the above-mentioned company, which had been sent to Chalus, had camped about 7 kilometers from Chalus and a part was quartered in the local police office of Chalus, since most of the local barracks were taken up by ----- soldiers. (Name of foreign power is omitted throughout.) The local police office was located opposite the hotel where the ----- soldiers were billeted.

At 4:30 on the 22nd of the current month, a group of workers, after leaving the factory, rode on a bus and sang songs in Turkish. At the same time Zia' Almuti, the leader of the Shahsavari Tudeh Party; Mr. Hoshangi, leader of the Nowshahr Tudeh Party; and Mr. Mirshab, another official of the Nowshahr Party met in the telegram office building. Mr. Mirshab, who was suspicious of Major Samandari, spoke harshly to him and insulted him. The workers, who had been singing and had gone to Nowshahr, returned to Chalus. At this point a person named Saberi, who was drunk, started insulting the policemen and tried to incite the workers against the law-enforcement officers. Lieutenant Zamanian tried to scatter the crowd and the workers, but he was not successful; instead the workers started attacking the soldiers. Lieutenant Fuladvand, the commander of the company which had come to Chalus, went to the scene of the disturbance and ordered the Tudeh Party members to leave. When they refused, he ordered his men to fire a few shots in the air in order to scatter the crowd. As soon as the Tudeh members heard the shots they started shouting that they did not need any police in Chalus and that the police should get out of there right away. At this point, Tudeh Party members fired several shots from behind the police station in the direction of the quarters of the ----- soldiers. These soldiers immediately rushed out of their quarters and began firing with automatic rifles. A dispatch was at once sent to Nowshahr saying that there was shooting in Chalus and the Major Samandari was to come at once. Major Samandari sent a sergeant and 12 policemen to Chalus, but when they tried to get out of their truck, they were fired upon from all sides. Several of the policemen were wounded and the crowd fled to the nearby woods. According to reports, three policemen were killed, nine were wounded and one was missing. Of the workers, one was killed and one was wounded.

Zia' Almuti has taken away 12 rifles from the persons wounded or killed. In addition to that, he has robbed the local police station of six rifles and several cartridges.

According to the reports received, Zia' Almuti has returned five of the six rifles and some of the other stolen articles.

I have ordered that the 15 people who were arrested and released without their clothes be supplied clothing from the budget of the 15th Regiment. When Mirshab was questioned, it became evident that Mirshab was well informed on the whole incident. He came and told Colonel Moshiri, the Lieutenant Colonel, and myself all the details of the incident. It was decided that Mr. Mirshab and the Lieutenant Colonel should come to the capital to give their reports in person to the Prime Minister. If there should be any further developments, I shall communicate with you immediately.

Colonel Azadiganeh

Commander of the Mazandaran

Headquarters

WERE THEY CONNECTED WITH ANY FOREIGN POWER?

The following is taken from the report of the investigation of Mohammad Borumand, the First Secretary of the Workers' Union of Shahi and the Secretary of the Provincial Council of Mazanderan, dated 12 December 1946. The material is in Borumand's handwriting.

"Following are the names of the people who were connected with the foreign authorities of ----- . (Some of them were actually spies.)

1. Ali Ahangari, special agent
2. Yad-Allah 'Isazadeh
3. 'En-Allah N'emat'i
4. Mohammad Ruhi

These men used to wear ----- medals. If they wanted to frighten anyone, they would deliver that person to the foreign power authorities of -----, labelling the victim a fascist and an enemy of the government of -----."

In another part of the report, he writes, "I left the house and after I reached the circle, I saw 'Aziz Hashemizadeh standing there as if waiting for someone. At that instant a black automobile stopped in front of the Sovtrans office and Mr. Lankarani opened the door. Safai, Lankarani, and Eskandari, along with Mr. Hashemizadeh went up the stairs and into the office. I asked Hashemizadeh what was going on. He answered that the Consul of ----- and the special secretary were coming here to talk with the above-mentioned people. I said goodbye to Hashemizadeh and went home. When these people returned, I do not know. If you ask Mr. Hashemizadeh, he might be able to tell you. All I know is the next day Mr. Lankarani was very busy and that Mr. Eskandari and Safa'i went to Babil."

At his interrogation on 8 January 1947 Yusof Lankarani gave the following answers to the following questions:

"Question: What is the name of the Consul to whom Iraj Eskandari and Safa'i talked?

Answer: I don't know his name, but he is the Consul of ----- in Sari.

Question: You were ordered to go to Zirab after meeting this person?

Answer: The meeting was at night. The next day, Eskandari, in this same room which is now the office of the governor, ordered me to go to Zirab."

The above material is in agreement with the telegram below, which was sent on 8 January by the Governor of Ostan No. II to the Ministry of the Interior:

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

Copy of Letter Number 2,087

Dated 8 January 1947.

"Confidential

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His Excellency, the Governor of Ostan No. II:

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"According to the reports of the Shahi Police, Yusof Lankarani, the leader of the Shahi Tudeh Party and the head of the Fedaiyan group of Zarab, has been arrested. During investigations at the Shahi Police Station, he confessed to the following:

"One night before centralizing the Fedaiyan group in Zirab, Iraj Eskandari had a meeting with Abd-al-Saheb Feda'i, editor of the newspaper Safa, and with the Consul. After this meeting, Eskandari instructed Mohammad Borumand and me to take the workers who were armed and all available ammunition to Zirab and there to await further instructions. I was in Zirab for a while; but finally I wrote a letter to Iraj Eskandari in Tehran, and asked him for further instructions. A letter came back saying, "Stay there and try to resist the government agents if they try to disarm you."

Yusof Lankarani has also confessed to making bombs and grenades at the Shahi factories upon instructions from Hoseyn Ne'mati and Seyd Mohammad 'Ali Abd-al-Haq.

Any further results of this investigation will be reported as soon as they are available.

The Chief of the Mazandaran Police
Col. Sari-Eslani, 9,515, 4 January 1947

" A copy of the above-mentioned report is being sent to the Ministry of the Interior.

The Governor of the Ostan No. 11

Sa'yed Sami'i

This is a true copy of the original."

According to statements made by Messieurs Lankarani and Borumand, a meeting had taken place in the Iran-Sovtrans building in Shahi between the Consul, Iraj Eskandari and Abd-al-Saheb Saf'ai. Very serious action took place in Zirab after this meeting.

WHAT HAPPENED AT ZIRAB?

In Mazandaran, as in Azerbaijan, the workers wanted to create an autonomous state.

There are unimpeachable documents at hand that confirm the relationship of the self-governing community of Azerbaijan, the Tudeh Party and the United Central Council. All the demands for analysis of problems of the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan were supported by the newspapers attached to the Tudeh Party and the United Central Council.

Mr. Ardeshir Avanesian, in an article called, "Five Years of Work, Struggle, and Fight," which was in the Special Issue 829 of the newspaper Rahbar, writes the following:

"At last, our hope and good beginning is Azerbaijan. The Tudeh Party of Iran rendered a great service to this province by organizing the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan. It laid a strong foundation for the fight for freedom. In no other place was the fight as strong as it was in Azerbaijan. The masses have seen great losses.

If it had not been for the democratic movement in Azerbaijan, the goal of freedom in Iran would have been in danger. It is not clear what would have happened to the goal of independence for Iran. This is considered one of the strong fortresses of the freedom of Iran. Here is a great and fundamental bulwark."

Since the democratic party of Azerbaijan was to aid the United Central Council and the Tudeh Party of Iran, they wanted to have the same set-up in Mazandaran; the most sensitive point in Iran.

The plans were to cut communication from Mazandaran to the center in Zirab, and then continue with their activities. The description of the Zirab incident is given in the statements made by Mohammad Borumand and Hoseyn Lankarani, the chairman of the Provincial Finance Committee of Mazandaran.

"The Statement of Mohammad Borumand:

After Iraj Eskandari and Abd-al-Saheb Safa'i arrived in Shahi, very many people came to see them. When the people were gone, they gathered in the room of the United Workers Council, and Safa'i said to Lankarani, 'Now is the time to become active'. Mr. Lankarani motioned to Mr. Safa'i not to talk. After this, they all went to lunch at the house of Dr. Hasanalizadeh, head of the weaving mill. The following people were present at the dinner table: Iraj Eskandari, Safa'i, Lankarani, Borumand, Engineer Farkhian, and Dr. Hasanalizadeh. After lunch Mr. Eskandari talked about the situation in Iran and said, 'Azerbaijan wants to fight the Central Government, and we must be very careful here in Mazandaran. In general, the Government doesn't care for us, and doesn't want us to have a representative in Parliament.' Later, Safa'i said, 'I am going to Sari in car 308. I will send the car back for you to come there and stay in my house for several days.' Eskandari accepted the invitation.

Safa'i left for Sari, and the next day Eskandari went there in car 308. Eskandari was not welcomed by the people in Sari; therefore, he returned immediately to Shahi. When I went to Dr. Hasanalizadeh's house about 6 o'clock, I saw Lankarani talking to Eskandari who was very nervous. Since I did not know what had been going on, I asked them and they told me the above story. Mr. Lankarani added that the people could not have done such a thing by themselves; it must have been work by the opposition. After staying there for an hour, I told them I would like to go home and go to bed since I had not slept the night before because of the strike."

The next day I came back to the Workers' United Council. I saw that Mr. Safa'i had returned from Sari, people were coming and going as on the previous day. About 6 o'clock in the evening, Colonel Davalou came to see Mohandes Eskandani, the disciplinary agent of the factories. Mohandes Eskandani accompanied Colonel Davalou to the house of Hassanalizadeh and then to the room where Iraj Eskandari was. Mr. Eskandari instructed us all to leave the room; Lankarani, Hassanalizadeh, Mohandes Fakhrian and I left the room. After about 2 hours of conversation, Mr. Safa'i entered the room. I followed him with Mr. Lankarani, the director of the Sahi factory, and his assistant after me. Colonel Davalou (Dowlu?) inquired about the beating of two soldiers at this time. I told him that I would see that the guilty persons were taken to the local police. The Colonel asked me about some of the workers. I answered, 'With your permission, I will come to your office at Shahi and report the whole case.' I hoped, by this means, to see the Colonel alone in order to speak to him about the recent happenings. However, after the Colonel left, my comrades revealed that they did not like the idea; they were very angry at me and said, 'Since the situation in Semnan is not very good, we would like you to go there.' Then we left the house.

Mr. Safa'i approached for Release 2001/09/07 : CIA-RDP83-00415R009900070003-2
house together, as if we were going to dinner. If Colonel Davalou's soldiers are in the vicinity, they will not get suspicious.' When we reached the street near the circle, I saw Hashemzadeh as if waiting for someone. A car stopped near the Iran-Sovtrans office and Lankarani opened the door. I saw a few people enter the office building. Mr. Hashemzadeh, Safa'i, Eskandari, and Lankarani went to the same office. When I asked Mr. Hashemzadeh who those people were, he told me that it was the Consul and his secretary. They had come to have a meeting with the above-mentioned gentlemen. The following day, Mr. Lankarani was very active, and Safa'i and Eskandari went to Babol."

"I also saw Mr. Amir Bahram and Eyn-Allah Nemati talking to the workers. I became very suspicious, followed them, and saw them talking to another man. It was at this time I realized they were making ammunition. Mr. Pahlavan delivered the ammunition to Amir Bahram and told them to move it to Zirab. I left they went home, and told my wife I was going to go out of town for 48 hours. I returned and joined Mr. Pahlavan at a place where he informed me that some policemen were watching my house. They put the ammunition in the ambulance and left the town. After I left them, I went toward the fruit cannery and then left town with the factory car. On the road I saw the ambulance parked. Mr. Lankarani arrived with a car and they put all the ammunition from the ambulance into the car and started towards Zirab. About 6 o'clock Amir Bahram arrived with the other part of the ammunition toward the mountains where there some workers and Mr. Lankarani started spreading propaganda among the workers. I got a chance to tell the workers that it was false propaganda and they should mind their own business. The following day, I approached Lieutenant Ra'ef and asked where the Colonel was. The Lieutenant informed me that the Colonel had gone to Tehran."

Not finding the Colonel, I returned to Shahi. At this time Mr. Safa'i, who had gone to Tehran, returned and asked me what I was doing there and why I had not gone to Tehran. He informed me that I might be arrested and that I should leave town as soon as possible. I told him I did not care if they arrested me. I could prove that I had not molested anyone and that I was innocent. I left him and on my way to the house of Engineer Qoharian, I met Mohsen Keshavarzi who also informed me that it would be advisable for me to leave town as soon as possible. However, I did not pay any attention and went to Engineer Qoharian's house. The next day when I was lunching, the police and military personnel came and brought me to the police station.

"This is all I know. If you wish, you can ask the above-mentioned persons and see that whatever I have stated here is true. If I am guilty, then I am subject to punishment."

"The Statement of Hoseyn Lankarani:

13/10/25

Q - Give your full name

A - Name, Yusof; Son of Hoseyn; Lankarani - Native of Resht; 32 years old; Subject of Iran.

Q - How long has it been since you left Resht?

A - I left Resht in 1313 (1934-1935) and entered the air corps.

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Q - Who recommended you for the Air Corps?
A - They had advertized for volunteers; so I put in an application and was accepted.

Q - Who was your guarantor?

A - They did not want any one as guarantor.

Q - How long were you in the service?

A - I served until the year 1321. (1942-1943).

Q - Why did you leave the service?

A - Since I had only enlisted for 7 years, my service ended.

Q - After leaving the service, what sort of job did you have?

A - I used to bring coal and wood from Mazanderan to Tehran and sell it.

Q - How long did you do this?

A - I did this for about 2 years; then, in the month of Bahman 1323 (Jan.-Feb. 1944-45)

I started receiving a salary from the Tudeh Party.

Q - Where did you join the Tudeh Party?

A - I joined the Tudeh Party in Tehran.

Q - Who were the ones that recommended you to the Tudeh Party?

A - Those who want to enter the Tudeh Party must know two people who are members and who will recommend them to the Party. The two people who recommended me were Asad-Allah Bahar and Dr. Radmanesh.

Q - What salary did you receive?

A - When I first entered the Tudeh Party, I was a member but I had my own job selling wood and coal. I had this job for about 2 years; but, upon insistence of Ehsan Tabari, I started receiving pay from the Party. My salary was 500 tomans per month.

Q - Where did Ehsan Tabari put you to work?

A - In Sari. He made me the Chairman of Financial Affairs of the Provincial Committee and I worked for the Provincial Committee.

Q - How many persons comprised the Provincial Committee, and what were their names?

A - Up until the month of Ordibehesh 1325 (April-May 1946), Mr. Tabari was the chairman of the Provincial Committee. The same month, the membership increased to 11 people,

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as follows: Abd-al-Haji Safa'i, Dr. Sajadi, Mohammad Zaman Pahlavan, Mohammad Zaman Pahlavan, Ibrahim Golestan, Seyd Ebrahim Hashemzadeh, Martin Sarukhian, Ibrahim Saheli, and one person in Pol-i-Safid who was a member of the railroad. It has been about 5 or 6 months since he left the Tudeh Party. I do not remember his name.

Q - What kind of activities did the people engage in in this committee?

A - The jobs were so divided that each person was doing something different. Ibrahim Golestan was responsible for propaganda. Mohammad Zaman Pahlavan and Mohammad Jazi were responsible for organization. Dr. Sajadi, Safa'i, and Pahlavan were on the executive board. Seyd Ebrahim Hashemzadeh and Martin and Ibrahim Saheli were just members of the committee. They did not have any specific job.

Q - What was the purpose of the executive board?

A - The purpose of the executive board was to carry out the will of the majority. They also used to direct the secretariat of the Provincial Committee.

Q - What types of decisions were made which these 3 persons were commissioned to execute?

A - These 3 people were the liaison between the Committee and the various offices. They would do this work.

Q - You mentioned your job as being responsible for the financial affairs of the Committee. Would you please state what the financial section of the Committee means? What was it?

A - All the property of the Party as well as the monthly budget of the Party was under my control. I had to attend to all those who used to get paid by the Party. If there was any need to buy something, I used to buy it.

Q - What was the monthly budget of the Party?

A - About 10,000 tomans.

Q - What was the source of this money?

A - Mostly from the Central Committee of Tehran and sometimes from local income.

Q - I understand about the Central Committee of Tehran. What do you mean by local income.

A - The Committee had 3 trucks and we used to transport coal from Kaland Rud to Shahi. This was one source of income. Until the month of Tir (June-July), most of the money used to come from Tehran. Afterwards the budget was cut, and instead we relied only on local income.

Q - How much money did the Committee make through these enterprises?

A - About 60,000 - 70,000 tomans, which the Committee spent all of it.

Q - At the time of your arrest, how much money did you have?

A - I had 2,820 rials.

Q - Where were you stationed?

A - I was stationed in Shahi.

Q - If you were station in Shahi, what were you doing in Zirab?

A - I left Shahi because one day Iraj Eskandari told me and Mohammad Borumand to leave Shahi and go to Zirab. He told us that we might get arrested since we had weapons. Therefore, I went to Pahlavan's house and asked him for the ammunition. I told him to load the truck and leave for Zirab. Then I went to the house of Ebrahim Saehli because some of the ammunition and money was in his house. I received the money from his sister-in-law, but could not get the ammunition. It was in the cellar, and Saehli himself had gone to Tehran. In the evening, I arrived in Zirab. Pahlavan and some of the workers arrived later in Zirab with ammunition. After I had stayed there a few days, I received a message from Eskandari telling me that I should stay in Zirab until he sent further instructions from Tehran. We stayed in Zirab and were lodged around the mines. We had to be separated into 3 groups. Some of us stayed at Mr. Farahmandi's house near the mine; some of us stayed at the room of the director of the mine. One day the soldiers came and we started to retreat into the woods. When we heard the soldiers firing guns, we were already quite far from that place. We escaped to Kordabad and in Kordabad Mr. Seyd Ali Kordabadi helped us to find a couple of guides to lead us toward Shahi. We then went to Gavband, and in the woods found a couple of houses. We stayed there; some of the workers from Zirab there too. Altogether, we numbered about 34 people. Some of us came to Sorkh Kala. Seyd Jalal was arrested, but I managed to escape. Some of the workers were separated from us. Those who went towards Babol gave their ammunition to us. That is, to say, we were 9 people with 11 rifles. We hid the rifles and moved towards Shirgah. When we saw the police approaching, we lodged near Shirgah and sent someone to bring us news. We escaped in the direction of the woods, but lost 4 of our companions. Anyway, Mr. Afzali and Sa'yed Ali Akbar said they were going to head toward the sea, I decided to go toward the sea, I decided to go toward Sari. When I got to Sari, I went to the house of a relative of mine, called Larijani. Mr. Larijani and his wife, who is my cousin, were not at home, but the servant let me in. When he arrived Larigani was very upset by my presence. I begged him to give me some food, at least, since I had not eaten for days. He fed me although he told me to leave his house as soon as possible. I left the place and 10 days later the government agents arrested me.

Q - When you entered Larijani's house, what type of weapon did you have?

A - I had no weapon in my hand since I left the one I had in Shirgah.

Q - What is the name of the place where you stayed in Shirgah, and where you left your pistol?

A - I do not know the name of the person at whose place we stayed. It was there, however, that they arrested Isadi and the others.

Q - Who was the original owner of the pistol which you had?

A - The pistol was purchased by Assad-Allah Bahar from Tehran.

Q - Was it bought or was it just sent to you?

A - It was purchased for me from the same place.

Q - Did you know the mine is located there? : CIA-RDP83-00415R009900070003-2

A - No.

Q - All the weapons which you mentioned you and the others hid somewhere on your escape route. Did you get them back?

A - Yes, the agents gathered them together.

Q - With whom did Iraj Eskandari come to Shahi?

A - Iraj Eskandari came to Shahi with Abd-al-Haji Safa'i.

Q - Did these two people come there from Tehran?

A - Yes.

Q - Who else came along with Eskandari and Safa'i?

A - Just these two came.

Q - Did they come to Shahi after this mine incident or before?

A - They came to Shahi a couple of days before the mine incident.

Q - Did Eskandari and Safa'i come to the mine?

A - No.

Q - At that time, were you in Shahi or at the mine?

A - I was in Shahi.

Q - What kind of instructions did you get in person when you were in Shahi?

A - He told me to go to Zirab and wait for further instructions. The night before I left the place, Safa'i, in this same room of the Governor's offices, told me that the car of the Consul in Sari was going to be in front of the Iran-Sovtrans Building. It was the same night that Colonel Lavalou talked with Eskandari about the soldiers. After he left, all of us - Safa'i, Eskandari, Borumand and I - approached the club. It was then that the car arrived and the above-mentioned people entered the club. However, Mr. Borumand and I went home; the next day we received instructions to leave for Zirab immediately.

Q - Before leaving, did you ask Eskandari what your duties in Zirab were to be?

A - He told us to gather all the ammunition and take it there, form a point of resistance and wait for further instructions.

Q - In what place did you form your point of resistance?

A - We formed our resistance in 3 points: One at Farahmand's house, one at the office of the mine, and the other at the top of the mine.

Q - Under whose supervision were these three points?

A - Farahmandi's house was under the supervision of Amir Bahram. The office was under 'Aziz Za'if Nezhad and the top part was under Hoseyn Hendi.

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A - I actually did not see the car when it approached. I just saw Safa'i, Eskandari, and the two people enter the Iran-Sovtrans Building. Then I immediately went home.

Q - How many Shahi rifles did you take to Zirab?

A - Altogether we had about 30 rifles.

Q - How many hand pistols did you take?

A - There were many. Each worker had one which he had bought with his own money. The rifles were bought with the money of the Organization.

Q - How did you transport the ammunition to Zirab ?

A - Mohammad Borumand and Pahlavan transported it by truck belonging to the Organization and brought it to the mine.

Q - Did they bring it in the daytime or at night?

A - In the daytime.

Q - Did the truck come near the top of the mine or did it wait at the bottom?

A - It came to the house of Farahmandi, near the top of the mine.

Q - In whose house was the ammunition unloaded?

A - In Farahmandi's house.

Q - Who were the driver and the riders in the truck?

A - Mohammad Borumand, Pahlavan, Ne'mati, Amir Bahram, and a few others. These persons should be asked about the identity of the others.

Q - Did the director of the mine, Bahman Shiva'i, know anything about all this?

A - He knew that an armed group had entered the mine.

Q - Did Shiva'i used to come to the Committee?

A - He used to come to Shahi.

Q - Did he used to Meet Eskandari?

A - When Eskandari came here, all the engineers and the managers of all the factories came to see him.

Q - The daily wage of the mine workers, which totaled about 50 thousand rials, was deducted. How was it spent?

A - It was given to buy ammunition in Tehran. Before the ammunition was bought this incident happened.

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- Q - By whose instruction were the workers' one day's wages deducted?
- A - It was deducted all over Iran, and the money was sent to Tehran. The deduction at the Zirab mine was made by Farahmand and others.
- Q - Who was 'Ali Akbar Farahmandi? What was his position? What make weapon did he have in his hand? How many cartridges did he have? Where did he acquire this weapon, and why did he have it?
- A - 'Ali Akbar Farahmandi was the chairman of the Party and of the Mine Workers' Union. He personally had a rifle, and everyone knows that he owned 100 cartridges. Once he even asked me for some cartridges. I believe that he had a pistol which he had provided for himself. He used to tell everyone that we should have weapons.
- Q - Who was the chairman of the Zirab Committee?
- A - 'Ali Akbar Farahmandi.
- Q - Was this Committee a secret one or was it not? How many members did it have?
- A - It was not secret. In Mazanderan we did not have any secret committees. All these happenings that you know about took place by the vote of the majority. The members of the Zirab Committee numbered 9 or 11 people. I remember a few of them: Asghar Hashemi, Fath-Allah Siahi, Isa Mazheri. I do not remember the rest since the Committee was organized in Zirab.
- Q - Please identify the following people: 'Ezzat Babati, Ekhtiar Shir Mohammad, Abd-Allah Razaqi, Salim Hashemi, and Asghar Hashemi, Khalil 'Alizadeh. In what capacity did they serve the Party? What were their activities?
- A - These people whom you name were either members of the Committee or members of the Investigation Committee. 'Ezzat Babati was the provisions agent; Ekhtiar Shir Mohammad and the others were active. They managed the activities in Zirab.
- Q - Who organized the work and gave the orders? What were the duties of the agents?
- A - The orders were carried out by the disciplinary agents. They numbered about 72 people. The founder of this group was Ebrahimzadeh.
- Q - Who were the following people and what were their duties? Mahmud Rahmati, Hojjat-Allah Khalkhali, and Ebrahim Taqi?
- A - They asked us to buy ammunition saying that they were threatened by some people and that the police were helping these people. It was for this reason we took money from the workers and sent it to Tehran to buy ammunition, but we never received the ammunition.
- Q - Where did the two automatics come from?
- A - One automatic was bought by Hoseyn Nuri from Qazvin and the other was bought in Tehran and sent to us by a chauffeur named Avaz.
- Q - Altogether how many Feda'is were there in Zirab?
- A - Most of the workers of Feda'i and the disciplinary agents were the ones who had weapons.

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- Q - Identify the following gentlemen: Afzali, Nariman, Seyd Ali Eslami, Aqa Bala Izadi, Hoseyn Mohammad 'Ali. Why did they have weapons? What kind of weapons did they have? And why were they hiding with you in the woods?
- A - Afzali was the chairman of the Farmers' Union. Aqa Bala Izadi was the secretary, who was receiving a salary of 1,500 rials. Nariman was a worker from Shahi. Hoseyn Mohammad Ali was a foreman in Zirab. Afzali and I went to the woods when the soldiers started to fire at us and these people were in the woods. As to the weapons, they had their own personal weapons. Neither the Organization nor I had anything to do with it.
- Q - Why did this incident take place in Zirab?
- A - We went to Zirab upon instructions from Iraj Eskandari.
- Q - I mean why did such an incident happen? Were you ordered to attack the security forces and upset the principles of the constitution and the internal security?
- A - We went to Zirab upon instructions from Iraj Eskandari. He told us to stay there to resist and to wait for further help. The instructions from the Central Committee in Tehran came and said, 'Don't do a thing. Just wait.' For this reason, we moved towards the woods and separated when the soldiers came there. The soldiers put their weapons down partly of their own volition and partly upon instructions from Hashemi.
- Q - What happened that caused you to hide all the weapons in the woods? What did you do with the owners of ammunition? What kind of instructions were they given?
- A - When this incident took place and when we were in the woods, we ran into the workers of Zirab who were very worried about their families. Finally, we decided that no matter what happened they must return to Tehran, at least to save their families because many people we would meet in the woods would tell us all kinds of stories; such as, they are killing your wives and children and taking all your property away.
- Q - On that particular evening, why did Iraj Eskandari and Abd-Al-Haji Safati go to the Iran-Sovtrans Club? Did they have such an arrangement all the time, or was the meeting unplanned?
- A - I really don't know anything about what kind of arrangement they had. As I told you before, I just saw them going to the Club with the Consul. I do not know what the reason was for this meeting.
- Q - Who in Shahi gave the instructions to the workers in Zirab?
- A - As I told you before, Mr. Iraj Eskandari ordered Borumand and me to take all the important and armed workers to Zirab and wait for further instructions.
- Q - Did he tell you through whom he was going to instruct you later?
- A - I sent him a letter by Mir Aqa Hashem. He answered and told us to wait. I read the letter to Afzali and Amir Solymani and then we tore up the letter.
- Q - How and where did you receive the letter?
- A - I received it through Mir Aqa Hashem in Zirab.

- Q - Did you and the armed workers go to Zirab after or before the meeting of Iraj Eskandari, Safa'i and the Consul?
- A - It was after the meeting that Iraj Eskandari gave me orders.
- Q - Did the group that came to Zirab from Shahi have grenades too?
- A - Yes. When Pahlavan came, he brought all the grenades that were in Shahi.
- Q - How many grenades did he bring?
- A - I don't know the number of grenades. Maybe Zolfaqari, Mahmudi who was in charge of the ammunition, knows. All I know is that the container of the grenades was very heavy. We took a few of them and the rest we gave to Farahmandi to hide in the mines. He hid them with the help of Mahmud Khandani.
- Q - Have they recovered the grenades and the two trunks of cartridges?
- A - I think they have found them.
- Q - How many of the grenades did you take?
- A - The workers took a couple and we hid them in the same place where we had hidden our weapons after we retreated to the woods.
- Q - What was the purpose of taking the grenades?
- A - They were part of our arms.
- Q - What was the purpose of such a weapon?
- A - It was part of our arms, and our purpose was to throw them.
- Q - Did you have orders to throw grenades?
- A - Nobody had ordered us to throw them, but it is obvious that at a time of resistance, grenades are meant to be thrown.
- Q - Who was providing the grenades?
- A - They were made by 'Abbod Haq, who was at the weaving mill.
- Q - Where were they prepared?
- A - 'Abbod Haq would prepare the outside cases of the grenades in the weaving mill and then Pahlavan would take them home and fill them. They used to get dynamite from Zirab.
- Q - Who had ordered them to prepare these?
- A - Pahlavan and Sahali used to prepare them, but I gave orders only once.
- Q - If they had already been prepared by the above-mentioned persons, why did you order some more?
- A - The ones that had been prepared were used in catching fish.

Q - How many did you order them to prepare?

A - Amir Bahram and Pahlavan know the number.

Q - Who gave the rifle to Aqa Bala Izadi?

A - Aqa Bala Izadi had his own rifle, but later in Zirab when we received some ammunition from Shahi, he exchanged it. Each of them had about 70 to 80 cartridges.

Q - How much ammunition was there in the truck which carried the ammunition to Zirab? How many large or small weapons? How many grenades?

A - Pahlavan and Borumand brought the truck from Shahi to Zirab. Amir Bahram and Zolfaqari who took the weapons and ammunition should know the amount.

Q - When the weapons were brought to Zirab, to whom were they given? By whose orders were they divided?

A - The workers who came from Shahi already had weapons. About 3 rifles were given to Nemat-Allah Yuof and 2 to Amir Soleymani.

Q - Is it true that all 30 of the people who had taken a defensive position were armed?

A - They all had weapons, some rifles and some revolvers.

Q - What were the orders given to them?

A - The orders were to keep watch until instructions arrived from the capital. Most of the time we heard the opposition was going to come to the mines in the middle of the night.

Q - Did any of the workers from Pol-i-Safid come to Zirab?

A - They used to come once in a while, but none of the Pol-i-Safid workers were here with us.

Q - Were any dynamite or weapons sent to Pol-i-Safid?

A - No, no weapons were sent to Pol-i-Safid by me. I know that Mr. Gudarzi had three rifles in Pol-i-Safid, and most of the workers had small arms.

Q - If we prove that 18 sticks of dynamite were sent to Pol-i-Safid from the mines and that they were taken there by someone, what would you say to that?

A - No dynamite was sent to Pol-i-Safid at my instructions. Maybe Amir Soleymani, Farahmandi, or Afzali sent them.

Q - Did the manager of the mine, Bahman Sirani, have any connection either with you or Amir Soleymani, Farahmandi, or Afzali?

A - Yes, he had daily communications with Farahmandi and Amir Soleymani, and once in a while he used to communicate with me.

Q - Why did he used to communicate with you?

- Q - Did ~~Approved For Release 2001/09/07 : CIA-RDP83-00415R009900070003-2~~ he know that it was through his instructions that a day's pay was taken from the workers' wages?
- A - I do not know, but I do know that he knew that it was through his instructions that a day's pay was taken from the workers' wages.
- Q - Did Engineer Shirani know what was happening in the mine?
- A - Of course, he knew that some people had weapons. How was it possible to be so uninformed?
- Q - Did they used to make the workers stand guard in the mines? At the time of guard duty what kind of orders did they used to get?
- A - Before we even went there, because they were afraid of the opposition, they had watches and the guards were armed; most of them with rifles and clubs.
- Q - Was it the duty of the disciplinary agents to convey the orders of the Committee to the others?
- A - The Committee used to circulate the news. The disciplinary agents were supposed to stand guard or go about some other business.
- Q - When was it decided that the fortification should be prepared at the mine and that there should be guards?
- A - Farahmandi and Amir Soleymani know better than I. I had only been there for 10 or 15 days.
- Q - Why did they used to make Ostad Mosib, who owned a tea house, stand guard in the mine? Was that tea house the meeting place of the Feda'is and the others?
- A - When I got there, the tea house wasn't yet finished. It was a couple of days after I got there that this tea house opened. The owner used to work under Farahmandi's orders and stand guard.
- Q - What does Feda'i mean? Please make this point clear.
- A - Ebrahim Zadeh organized the disciplinary guard in Shahi when the Azerbaijan incident occurred, and they used to be called the Feda'is. So they used to call the disciplinary agents Feda'i. This expression was not very common in Shahi; it was only common in the mine. It means 'somebody who sacrifices.'
- Q - Who were Hashem Yazdani and Isa Mottahari? What were their activities?
- A - These two were the most active members of the Zirab organization. They conducted a great many activities.
- Q - Were the people who used to carry on operations in the mines ordered to do a certain job, or were they doing it on their own? They have done things which are against the law and the constitution.
- A - They have done it on their own. Nobody instructed them. If there were any instructions, they must have come from the Zirab Committee.

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A - During the past 15 days there was no need for propaganda, because the workers were already members of the Party or of the Union. If they needed any propaganda before, the Committee there used to take care of it.

Q - You said that in the woods you hid about 12 rifles. Was there anyone to guard them?

A - Yes, we used to take turns.

Q - Were there any weapons hidden in the tunnels of the mines?

A - I did not hide any, so I don't know. Maybe the workers have hidden some.

Q - You said that you had Branc guns which you told Farahmandi belonged to the artillery. Where did you get them?

A - There was a serial number on the gun labelled "artillery". Besides, I have been in the air corps myself.

Q - Why did you scatter into the woods? What was your purpose? From whom were you waiting to receive instructions?

A - After we scattered into the woods, everyone was trying to think for himself. We were not waiting for any instructions. It would have been pointless.

Q - Farahmandi has said that he went into the woods to wait to see what would happen in the Azerbaijan situation. He also said that they sent workers to Shahi in order to get in touch with the capital. Is that true?

A - No, the workers of Shahi were very tired of traveling on foot. They came to Shahi of their own free will.

Q - What decision did you arrive at on 7 December 1946?

A - The letter which I had written to Eskandari was answered. It told me to wait until the 15th or 16th of Azar. (6-7 Dec.). I had sent another letter which Kambaksh answered by saying to wait until the 20th (11 Dec.).

Q - What was the purpose of waiting until the mentioned date?

A - So that the situation might clear up.

Q - We understand that you told Farahmandi and others that on 7 December 1946 the workers were revolting in Azerbaijan. Is that so?

A - The mine had a radio and so did the club, and since they used to listen to it every evening and get the news about Azerbaijan and Tehran, no one had to tell them anything about war or revolution except just to wait until there was a revolution on the 15th or the 16th in Azerbaijan.

Q - Did the local Mazandaran Committees maintain any communication with the Azerbaijan Committees?

A - They had no contact.

- Q - Can you give us complete information about Masha'-Allah Nur and the kind of activities he engaged in?
- A - I don't know the whole story, but I know that he was the head of the Union of the farmers of Sorkhabad. He used to receive about 1,500 rials per month. In Zirab he came to see me several times. He received 2 pistols and a couple of other weapons. When the soldiers came he was also in the mines, but when we separated, I don't know what happened to him.
- Q - When he came to see you, did he have a weapon?
- A - Yes, he had a weapon.
- Q - Why did he receive the pistol from you?
- A - Since Amir Bahram had brought about 17 pistols from Shahi, he took one from me.
- Q - When the soldiers came, why was Masha'-Allah in the mines?
- A - He had come from Sorkhabad to see me and he was in the mines when the soldiers came.
- Q - When Masha'-Allah came to ask you about his salary, who was with you?
- A - I don't quite remember. Perhaps Amir Soleymani, or Afzali or Farahmandi was there.
- Q - What instructions did Masha'-Allah Nur receive?
- A - He asked us why we were there and said that he thought we were going to have our resistance point in Sorkhabad. We had already told him to take care of the road so that the soldiers couldn't move toward that section.
- Q - Who were the 6 persons who were entrusted to him?
- A - One was Sattar, a worker in the gunny-sack factory. The other was a worker of Shahi, two of them were Afzali men, and one was Shir Aqa. I don't know the other one.
- Q - Who were these people who were entrusted to Masha'-Allah Nur? Identify them again.
- A - One was Salim, one Setar, and another was 'Isa Hamidi, factory workers from Shahi. Another was from Shahi, I don't remember him. The other two were local people, one of whom was Shir Aqa. I don't remember the name of the other one.
- Q - Were these six people armed?
- A - Yes.
- Q - For how many days were these people with Masha'-Allah?
- A - They were with him for a few days. When we separated, I don't know what happened.

Q - Did these six people leave the place with Masha'-Allah Nur?

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A - Yes, they went with him.

Q - Who was ordered to take the rails away?

A - Masha'-Allah Nur was instructed to take the rails away.

Q - Who ordered you to make such decisions?

A - This decision was made by me, Afzali, Amir Soleyman, and Masha'-Allah Nur. After exchanging ideas, we decided that Masha'-Allah Nur was to accomplish this action.

Q - Was this decision made by a written or oral vote?

A - Oral vote. It was this silly decision that has put us in the spot we are in.

Q - By what means and with whose support did you want to resist the Government?

A - These were our means of resistance which I mentioned. But when Eskandari told us to form the resistance point in the mine and wait for instructions, I thought the Party was going to send help from Tehran. Meanwhile, Asgar Ashraq had told me that Colonel Niu had left the army, and so we thought he was going to Mazanderan with a group to help us. Then I also received a letter from Borumand, who was in Shahi. He told us not to worry, that the Azerbaijan Democrats may come there by way of the sea.

Q - Who is this Asgar Ashraq who gave you such information?

A - He is a worker of the weaving mill of Shahi and he had been in Tehran.

Q - Where did he make this statement?

A - In Tehran. He had gone there to get ammunition.

Q - Was there a meeting with Colonel Niu in Tehran?

A - Yes. Asgar Ashraq had a meeting with him.

Q - Where was this meeting?

A - In the house of Colonel Niu.

Q - How many hours did this meeting last?

A - It lasted only a few minutes.

Q - What did you talk about at this meeting and what did he tell you?

A - The conversation was about Colonel Niu's coming to Mazanderan to observe the situation there. When Eskandari told me to go to Zirab, I asked him about Colonel Niu. He told me he did not know him but that he would go to Tehran and if he saw that it was necessary, he would send him.

Q - When you met Colonel Niu, what did he tell you about Mazanderan?

A - When I went to his house, we were served watermelon. Then we talked and he said, 'I would like very much to see you in Mazanderan. I hope to come there one of these days.'

- Q - You told him about the Mazanderan situation?
- A - The situation in Mazanderan had become the center of the railroad strike.
- Q - Did you tell him how much ammunition you had?
- A - No. I answered only the questions he asked.
- Q - Did no Ashraq tell you why Niu was going to go to Mazanderan?
- A - Ashraq told me that Niu was a Colonel in the Army, that he had left the Army now and that he wanted to go to Mazanderan. Ashraq himself wanted to provide some ammunition and bring it to Mazanderan. Maybe he knows more about it.
- Q - Was Colonel Niu a member of the Tudeh Party?
- A - Most probably he was. Kambaksh was in charge of the Organization. He might know about it.
- Q - How many automatics did you have?
- A - We had two. One was with Hoseyn Hendi and the other with Karim.
- Q - How many cartridges were there?
- A - I don't know. Maybe about 100.
- Q - When you were in the mine and the shooting started, did you use the automatic too?
- A - I could hear the machine-gun but I don't know how many shots were fired.
- Q - From what direction did the noise of the automatic come?
- A - From the opposite direction - that section under the leadership of Hoseyn Hendi.
- Q - Did you meet him after you had scattered in the woods?
- A - No.
- Q - Who are the following people: Amir, 'Aziz, Nariman, Hasan Farrash, Oshraman, Abu-al-Fazl, Pahlavan, Hasan Abada, and Mohammadi? Why had they come to the mines from Shahi? What kind of arms did they have? After they entered the mine, who gave them the instructions?
- A - These people are the workers who came from Shahi. They came to the house of Farahmandi and as I have already explained they were assigned to one of 3 positions.
- Q - Who is Seyd Jalal? What was his position?
- A - He was working for Afzali.
- Q - Was he also under the supervision of Hoseyn Hendi?
- A - I don't remember very well. It is possible that he was under his supervision.
- Q - Who was Ahmad Shahi and what sort of mission was he supposed to accomplish?
- A - Ashmad Shahi was a mine worker in Zirab and was at the section supervised by Hoseyn Hendi.