

Without Shots or UN Arguments, Strategic, Oil-Rich Iran Becomes a Soviet Satellite

DUCK SOUP FOR STALIN: 85% of Iranians go hungry on arid farms. Politicians embezzle millions. Industry? Oil and carpets (made by children, 6-10).



Teheran (pop. 700,000) is capital. Iran, 4 times size of California, has 15 million Moslems, 3 million of them nomads. Under 1921 treaty, USSR can move in if foreign power sets up bases there. US, Britain & USSR occupied Iran in W.W. II to keep Nazis out. 100,000-man army has US military mission but gets very little US arms aid.

Abadan is world's largest refinery. Anti-British riots there preceded nationalization of Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. Iran (British still call it Persia) produces 31 million tons a year, 5% of world's oil. Russia: 7%.

Bahrein Island, pouring out oil for US, was thought dry by British—until an American oilman struck the black gold.

There's a USAF base at Dhahran, HQ of Arabian-American Oil Co., which has exclusive concessions in Saudi Arabia. US gets 44 mil. tons a year from Middle East. Domestic US oil production: 271 mil. tons. World output 522 mil. (oops)

Quietly Reds Encoil Iran—Key To Middle East

Abandoned by the U. S., Iran banned the Voice of America, scrapped the British-owned oil monopoly and signed a trade pact with Russia, to cheers from a virulently anti-American press. Stalin needs Iran's oil to tank up for long-range conquest, but he doesn't need to risk war with the West over Red invasion. Infiltration does it. The outlawed, Communist-led *Tudeh* party mushrooms; Soviet "traders" abound; rich Iranians jockey for deals with Reds. Shah Riza Pahlevi toured U. S., dazzled the ladies but got no big loans. Honest Premier Ali Razmara sought oil agreement with Britain and agricultural reforms, exposed 1/3 of Parliament as flagrantly corrupt. The deputies laughed. Razmara was assassinated.

Unhappy dervish, *r.*, symbolizes Iran's backwardness & poverty. Also symbolic is what happened the morning after new premier Mohammed Mossadegh forced oil nationalization. The British & U. S. ambassadors waited anxiously to see the premier. But the Soviet envoy was already with him.



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