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511.882/1-1452

XR 988.40

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

per file

[Signature]

FROM : AMEMBASSY, Tehran

308

January 14, 1952

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

FEB 1 2 36 PM '52

AIR POUCH

PRIORITY

REF :

MESSAGE CENTER

JAN 21 1952

SUBJECT: IE: Local Newspaper Item on USIE Radio Scripts

no action necessary

2
For Dept.
Use Only

JAN 29

ACTION

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INFO

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INDEX

The Embassy wishes to call attention to an item which appeared in a Tehran newspaper, FARMAN, on January 12. In translation the item said this:

K.B.

PRESS AND PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT
RUN BY AMERICAN EMBASSY

"Since the return of the Prime Minister from America, the Department of Press and Propaganda has been run by the American Embassy. Even scripts of programs for one-fifteen p.m. are being prepared and sometimes read by American Embassy personnel.

All foreign news broadcast by Radio Tehran is being selected and edited by the U.S. Embassy.

Bashir Farahmand is the go-between and for services rendered he has lately been appointed head of the Department. It is believed that the American Embassy has been paying sums of money to the Press and Propaganda Department with a view to using that Department as a means of propaganda for the United States. Bashir Farahmand has had his share of the funds and is believed that the split between him and Shojaeddin Shafa was caused over the sharing of the American Embassy payments.

Because foreigners supported Farahmand he won the bet."

The reference to scripts is to the series of scientific and industrial subjects prepared by a local employee in the USIE Radio section. These programs were recently moved from the evening to 1:15 p.m. which is considered a good hour since people are at home at that time. This type of assistance to Radio Tehran is of long standing and the subjects of the last few months were prepared at the express wish of Mr. Farahmand, who suggested the subjects himself. He was at that time Deputy Director of the Department of Press and Propaganda although in the past week he has replaced Mr. Shafa as Director.

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Authority WPD 852913
By BC
Date 7/9/92
NARA

IE Message	ACT	Info
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PR		bet."
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	REPORTER(S)	

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PREPARATION TIME

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MAR 19 1952

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This change was foreshadowed in advices from the Department even at the time of Dr. Mossadeq's visit (Deptel 866, October 24, 1951.) As for the reference to foreign news, this presumably involves the USIE News Bulletins which are delivered to the Department of Press and Propaganda as a matter of course.

In a conversation with Mr. Farahmand, the radio officer received this report:

During the recent absence of Mr. Farahmand on a trip to Ahwaz, an employee of the Department of Press and Propaganda found in the office a script addressed to Mr. Farahmand from USIE. He took it and the covering note to a former director of the Department, Esfandiar Bozorgmehr, who in turn passed it to opposition members of the Majlis and opposition papers.

Mr. Farahmand was summoned by the Prime Minister, Dr. Mossadeq, and was asked for an explanation. He pointed out to the Prime Minister that scientific subjects were important to Radio Tehran and that the series was of long standing. Dr. Mossadeq gave him permission to continue using the USIE scripts.

Mr. Farahmand asked the USIE radio officer to omit the covering notes in the future and to send the scripts by messenger. The covering notes have been mere formality such as:

"Dear Mr. Farahmand:

Here are three more scripts by Mr. Shahbaz on the New Industries series. One is on fertilizer production and the other two on the automobile industry.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

Walter C. McPherson
Radio Officer"

Most of the news story is, of course, only amusing invention. Investigation discloses that the editor of Farman formerly worked for Radio Tehran and that he recently has written several articles to discredit Mr. Farahmand in one way or another. The radio scripts prepared by the USIE local employee, Hassan Shahbaz, have dealt with such subjects as

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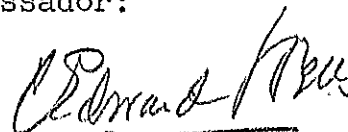
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malaria, typhoid, tuberculosis, vitamins, and the common cold. They did not neglect to present the result of the latest research in the United States and to make rather prominent mention of the country. This is also true of the present new industries series which have covered such things as plastics, rayon, diesel engines, chemurgy, frozen foods and fertilizer.

All the scripts are discussed by the radio officer with Mr. Shahbaz and an English version is submitted before translation.

For the Ambassador:



C. Edward Wells
Public Affairs Officer

Enclosure: *att*

✓ press clipping

not att 3-12-52
JmD

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