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CAMPAIGN TO INSTALL PRO-WESTERN GOVERNMENT IN IRAN

AUTHORITY:

Approval by [redacted]

[redacted]

21 July 1953

TARGET

Prime Minister Mossadeq and his government

OBJECTIVES

Through legal, or quasi-legal, methods to effect the fall of the Mossadeq government; and

To replace it with a pro-Western government under the Shah's leadership, with Zahedi as its Prime Minister

CIA ACTION

Plan of action was implemented in four phases:

1. [redacted]

to strengthen the Shah's will to exercise his constitutional power and to sign those decrees necessary to effect the legal removal of Mossadeq as Prime Minister;

2. Welded together and coordinated the efforts of those political fac-

~~tions in Iran who were antagonistic toward Mossadeq, including the power-~~

fully influential clergy, to gain their support and backing of any legal action taken by the Shah to accomplish Mossadeq's removal;

3. [redacted] disenchant

the Iranian population with the myth of Mossadeq's patriotism, by exposing his collaboration with the Communists and his manipulation of constitutional authority to serve his own personal ambitions for power;

[redacted]

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Simultaneously, conducted a "war of nerves" against Mossadeq designed to reveal to Mossadeq and to the general populace that increased economic aid would not be forthcoming and that the U. S. viewed with alarm Mossadeq's policies:

- a. A series of public statements by high U. S. officials implying that there was little hope that Mossadeq could expect increased U. S. aid;
- b. U. S. press and magazine articles which were critical of him and his methods; and
- c. [redacted] absence of the American Ambassador, lending credence to the impression that the U. S. had lost confidence in Mossadeq and his government.

[redacted]

RESULTS

The original D-Day set by CIA misfired when Mossadeq, learning of the plan through a leak [redacted] took immediate counteraction to neutralize the plan.

[redacted] was launched in the interim period between the original and final D-Days to educate the Iranian population to the fact that, in view of the dissolution of the Majlis (effected by Mossadeq at an earlier stage to prevent its voting

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him out of power) and the Shah's decree removing Mossadeq as Prime Minister, Mossadeq's continued exercise of the powers of that office was illegal and that authority to govern the people rested solely and completely in the hands of the Shah.

The Nationalists and the Communists during this period inadvertently assisted our cause through their premature attempts to promote a republican government. This theme was contrary to the public's opinion, whose sympathies were with the Shah. The Shah's dramatic flight out of the country served to further intensify his people's sense of loyalty to him.

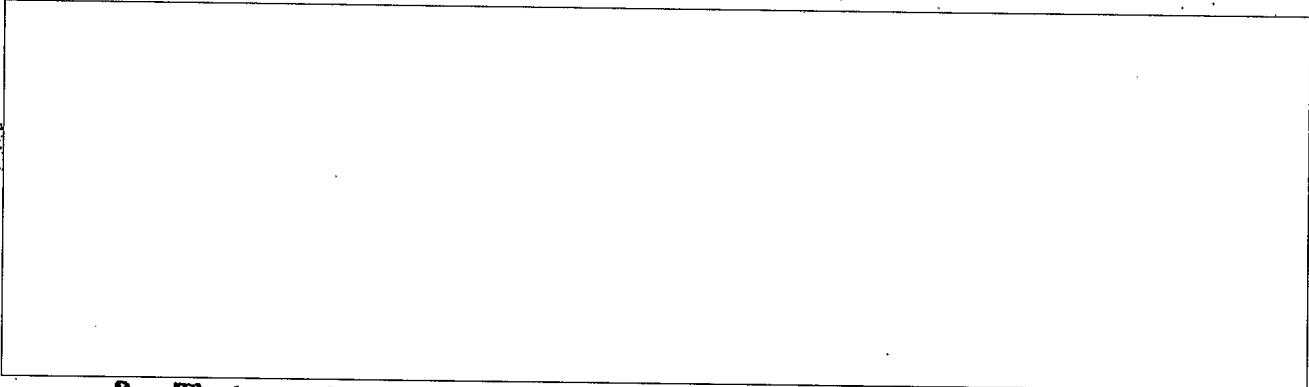
These actions resulted in literal revolt of the population,

and security forces joined the populace, Radio Tehran was taken over and military were forced to act in quelling the riots and gained strength on the and Mossadeq was forced to flee on 17 Aug 53 momentum of the situation in support of the Shah.

The

The ouster of Mossadeq was successfully accomplished on 19 Aug 1953.

NOTE

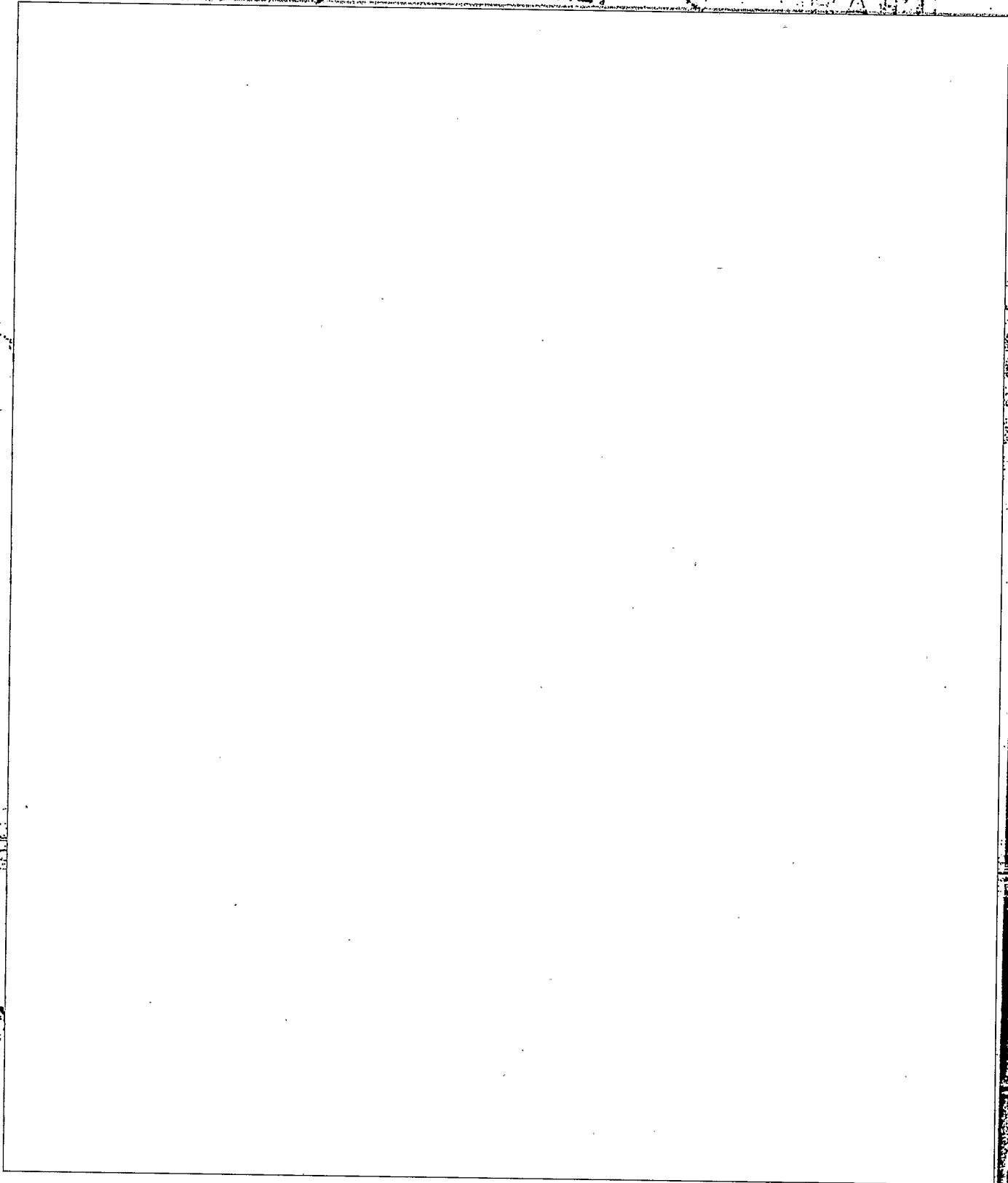


2. That an adequate amount of U.S. interim economic aid would be forthcoming to the successor government.

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