The Ambassador of Iran, by special previous arrangement and at his own request, was granted an extension of his time with the President in connection with the presentation of his credentials at 19:30 p.m. today.

The Ambassador said that he was not a career diplomat and that he had accepted his new post of Ambassador here entirely through the sense of crisis at the turn matters were taking in his own country, with a desire to do whatever might be possible to improve its relations with the United States. He mentioned the fact that he had always been pro-American and that his early education had occurred in an American Presbyterian school in Iran. He had always had close American friends there and had done all he could to promote the best possible relations between Iran and this country.

He said that the present political situation in Iran is critical. He described the situation there, both economically and politically, as deteriorating from day to day. He described certain elements there, concentrating their efforts through the Tudeh Party, as working hard to throw Iran into the Soviet camp. He said that these siren voices were gaining a constantly increasing hearing among his people who, though basically friendly to the United States, felt that we had not always been fair in our dealings with Iran.
He said that he felt called upon to speak to the President in this direct and frank manner because of the urgency of the crisis now developing. He described the sentiments of his people as gradually turning away from the United States, due chiefly to the association, in their minds, of our recent policies as being parallel to, and bound up with, the unpopular policies of Great Britain. He said that his people had a distinct resentment against past encroachments both of Russia and Great Britain, but that there was a danger now that the subsequently Great Britain would become increasingly important in their minds. He said, more specifically, that it was very distasteful to Iranians to hear about recent oil policies in which the names of President Truman and Winston Churchill were associated. The implication of what he said was that the Americans, through this type of association, were rapidly becoming as much disliked as the British had always been.

The President replied emphatically in the sense that we always followed our own independent policies and that these policies were in no way governed by those of Great Britain. As regards Churchill, he pointed out that it was the Churchill Government and our own Government who, acting separately but in unison, had prevented the Soviet Government from seizing large parts of Iran at the close of the Second World War.

He said that these things should be remembered and that the United States is, and has always been, a great friend of Iran and deeply interested in doing anything it could to help solve the problems of that friendly country. He said that he personally had always been interested in Iran, both from a historical viewpoint and in connection with its recent oil problems. He made it abundantly clear that we have no interest in anything but a peaceful and just solution of Iran's present difficulties, and that our attitude is one of complete independence and not one of following any lead proposed by the British or any other Government.

The President told the Ambassador that he would be happy to discuss these difficult problems further at a future time, but that the Ambassador should appreciate the strong interest and disinterested attitude of our Government in the solution of the present vexing questions.

John F. Simmons
Chief of Protocol

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