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Americans Helped Shah Regain Throne

By FULTON LEWIS JR.

WASHINGTON: There now appears to be no doubt that representatives of the United States were directly involved in the recent Iranian revolution which brought the Shah of Iran back to his hereditary throne.

The full and true story of events leading up to the overthrow of Premier Mohammad Mossadegh and of the actual revolt, still are known only to a comparatively few persons, but fragmentary reports seeping back from the oil-rich but money-poor Middle Eastern empire make it clear that it involved all the cloak-and-dagger elements of the best of E. Phillips Oppenheim.

The key public figure, of course, was the Shah himself. But grapevine tales make it evident that behind the scenes, equally important roles were played by a small group of Americans and by the Shah's twin sister, Princess Ashraf.

Among the Americans who appear to have been involved to a greater or lesser degree are Loy Henderson, our Ambassador to Tehran; Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency; and Brig. Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf.

Eisenhower's Reply

Briefly, the story leading up to the revolution might begin back in late May, when Mossadegh wrote President Eisenhower asking financial help for his country and hinting broadly that if it was not forthcoming immediately, he would be forced into closer cooperation with the Communists. Mr. Eisenhower let that one cool for a month before he replied with a flat "no, thanks."

In July, Henderson bade adieu to Tehran and flew to Switzerland for a vacation. In early August, Allen Dulles left Washington—also for a vacation in Switzerland. Princess Ashraf turned up in the same country following a visit to her brother. And Gen. Schwarzkopf, winding up a vacation trip through Syria, Lebanon and other Middle Eastern countries, blandly turned up in Tehran.

All of these comings and goings, as well as those of several other persons who over the years have become versed in Iranian lore, along with the concentration in Switzerland, may have been sheer coincidence. However, the revolution that finally occurred on August 13 appears to have been well planned. Military operations went off with no hitches. Arms, men and supplies happened to be where they were needed. There was no lack of finances. Somebody had a good idea of what troops would be loyal to the Shah, which ones would stick to Mossadegh.