

Iranian students do not celebrate silver anniversary

By Alice Hrnicek

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the U.S.-aided reinstatement of Iran's political ruler, Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

But members of the Iranian Student Association found little to celebrate about.

According to an informed member of the UNL chapter who wishes to remain anonymous, living conditions have become critical enough that Iranians are willing to risk death rather than remain repressed.

Unemployment is high, farming is being deserted and the few people who can obtain factory jobs work 10-12 hours for less than \$10 a day. Yet the cost of living is nearly the same as here, the member said.

Iranians are even resorting to building houses out of garbage cans, he added.

He reports that only a few years ago SAVAK, the Iranian secret police, would "arrest, kill or torture, anyone who spoke out against the government"

In more recent times, respect for the absolute ruler has plummeted, he said.

"People are demonstrating and destroying anything with a trace of the government. They are not afraid of anything because they know the worst that can happen is they'll get killed."

ISA main function

The ISA is an international organization

whose main function is to inform others of what is going on in Iran and to involve native Iranians "more deeply in it," the source said. Members are students who are Iranian natives.

Lincoln's group organized in the fall of 1977. The member said that he lived in Iran until five years ago but plans to go back.

All members who are concerned about their country will go back, he noted, because the "real battlefield is in Iran."

We feel we have the responsibility to discuss problems of our own country."

He said he believes the problem has not been discussed enough in the American press because of the U.S. government's direct involvement in supporting the shah.

Vested interests of American business are what has kept the shah-U.S. relationship alive, he said. Oil, shipping, cheap labor and an excellent market are key factors in the arrangement.

"Everything is imported from the U.S. You can tell by walking into a grocery store."

Movie theater burns

The American government hurts more than it helps, he added, by selling arms and planes to the shah.

One of the most shocking incidents of recent months has been the burning down of a movie theater in Abadan, resulting in

the death of 600 Iranians, he said. The doors were locked and chained, allowing no escape.

Although Islamic extremists were accused of setting the blaze, he believes the shah was responsible because of the political theme of the film. Three members of the ISA were killed in the fire.

Also of major concern are riots which have broken out recently, he said. Scattered incidents of small revolts, usually with the rioters being arrested or slaughtered, are becoming more frequent, he said.

The people's attitudes are changing for tolerance to rebellion, he added.

He said he believes riots which have broken out and have been suppressed indicate that it won't be long before the people overthrow the present dictatorship. "What lacks now is good leadership. Before, the people tried to revolt with sticks and stones but now they realize that they need arms," he said.

'Revolt depends on shah'

"The most important thing is that the

people are fighting back," he emphasized.

How soon a revolt will happen depends on the shah, he said. "Either the shah will commit a mass murder or the people will get organized and get arms and eventually free the whole country."

Since American interests would be cut off he believes the American government might send in troops to help the shah. "This is why it is important for the American people to know. It will be the American people who fight and the American taxpayer who support it."

The possibility of another involvement such as the one in Vietnam has not been totally eliminated. The group's motto, "Iran the next Vietnam," has become one of the strongest appeals to the American people. In this instance, he believes the "American government doesn't represent the American people."

In Lincoln, the ISA has tried to show this with demonstrations and mock executions.

Californians dreamin'...

Californians for Nebraska, an alumni booster group, will make its 15th straight migration to cheer the Big Red against the University of California Golden Bears.

The group was formally established as "The Southern California Alumni Association of the University of Nebraska" in 1914.

The Californians do more than cheer from the stands, they provide scholarships and loans for UNL students from California.

The scholarship loan fund began with \$2,000 in 1966 and has grown to \$62,701 today.

For the 1978-79 school year, the group awarded eight scholarships at \$1,000 each according to Edward Hirsch, vice president of Public Relations and Development at the NU Foundation. Scholarship recipients are chosen scholastically. Hirsch said the club also provided \$50,000 for astro turf on the baseball field last year.

The association's annual activities also include a summer picnic, charter day dinner and dance, football broadcasts of the Big Red games in Southern California and the special charter flight program.

Hirsch said the money allotted for scholarships and loans comes from club dues and the charter flight trips.



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