

MUSADDIQ 'S MEMOIRS

By: Dr. Mohammad Mosaddiq, Champion of the Popular Movement of Iran and Former Prime Minister

Translated by: Hassan Amin, Editor, Hafiz Monthly and Former Professor of Law at Glasgow Caledonian University

MY ELECTION FROM ISFAHAN TO THE MAJLIS

In the early days of the post-Constitutional era, the constitutional system had not yet been adequately developed in Iran. Primarily for this reason and also because membership of the Majlis did not carry any salary, there were few candidates to become MPs. It was therefore quite easy for me to enter Parliament, like many of my peers, as a representative of an accredited class of people. What prevented me from doing this was my big less than thirty years of age. Later, when the credentials of some of the MPs less than thirty years old were approved, I too contemplated entering the Majlis. As there was no room for me to seek election from Tehran I accepted the candidature of the city of Isfahan for the following reasons:

1. There had been nobody elected to represent the upper class and noblemen in that city and therefore the nomination had not been filled.
2. My wife owned two pieces of property in Isfahan, one known as Kaj and the other known as Khatun-Abad. This property interest had resulted in my becoming acquainted with a number of noted personalities nobles in that city.
3. Prince Sultan Husain Mirza Nayyer al-Dawleh who was then the governor of Isfahan was on good terms with me. He was one of the prominent landowners of the city of Naishabur in the province of Khurasan and was also that city's governor. We knew each other because I had been the official accountant of Khurasan.
4. I also had other friends who could be of great help to me.

One thing, however, I did not know. In that par-

liamentary session, as all successive ones, the credentials of those representatives which were presented to the Majlis before the official opening of the House, were passed without any objection. On the other hand, those credentials which were submitted later, namely after the opening of the House, were doomed to run into trouble. As such, my credentials as a deputy for Isfahan (which were presented after the opening of the House) were the subject of objection in the appropriate Majlis committee.

The Majlis committee of investigation was composed of a number of representatives including Mirza Javad Khan Mu'tamin al-Mamalik who was the representative of Kirman in the Majlis. He knew the exact date of the death of my mother's first husband,' the late Murtiza Quli Khan Wakil al-Mulk, the governor-general of Kirman. On the basis of that historical fact, he argued that if my mother had married my father four months and ten days after her first husband's death, and if I had been immediately conceived and after nine months of marriage born, I would still not be thirty years old. This argument was absolutely foolproof. I had no answer and had to withdraw. This reasoning, which in that parliamentary session was used against me, was used to my advantage in the sixteenth parliamentary session.

When Vusuq al-Dawleh² became prime minister, although the 1919 Agreement had not yet been approved, the British-inspired policies of the Vusuq government were quite evident. So I decided to leave Iran and take residence in one of the European countries. Of course to do this I needed a passport. By a regulation resolved by the council of ministers, a passport was issued only to people who could produce a number of documents including a birth certificate. The exact date of my birth was recorded on the and was also that city's governor.

We knew each other because I had been the official accountant of Khurasan.

4. I also had other friends who could be of great help to me.

One thing, however, I did not know. In that parliamentary session, as all successive ones, the credentials of those representatives which were presented to the Majlis before the official opening of the House, were passed without any objection. On the other hand, those credentials which were submitted later, namely after the opening of the House, were doomed to run into trouble. As such, my credentials as a deputy for Isfahan (which were presented after the opening of the House) were the subject of objection in the appropriate Majlis committee.

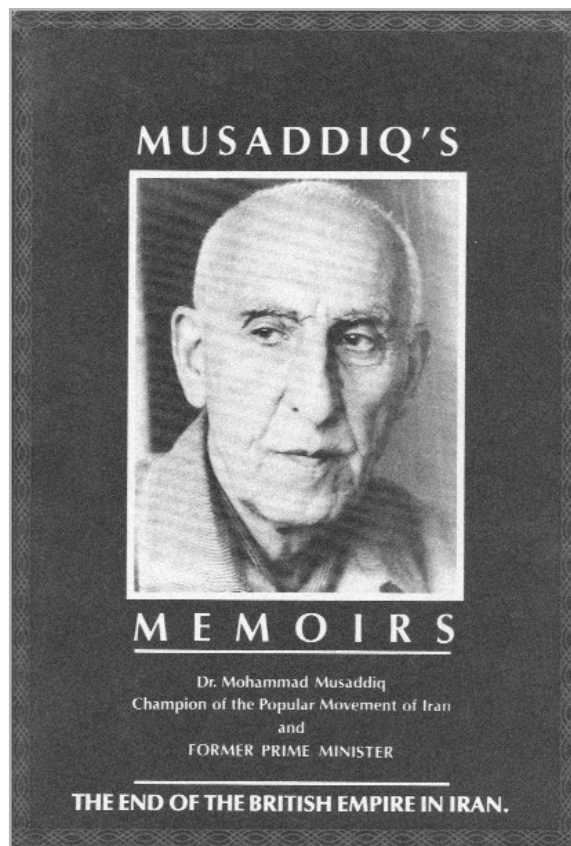
The Majlis committee of investigation was composed of a number of representatives including Mirza Javad Khan Mu'tamin al-Mamalik who was the representative of Kirman in the Majlis. He knew the exact date of the death of my mother's first husband,' the late Murtiza Quli Khan Vakil al-Mulk, the governor-general of Kirman. On the basis of that historical fact, he argued that if my mother had married my father four months and ten days after her first husband's death, and if I had been immediately conceived and after nine months of marriage born, I would still not be thirty years old. This argument was absolutely foolproof. I had no answer and had to withdraw. This reasoning, which in that parliamentary session was used against me, was used to my advantage in the sixteenth parliamentary session.

When Vusuq al-Dawleh² became prime minis-

ter, although the 1919 Agreement had not yet been approved, the British-inspired policies of the Vusuq government were quite evident. So I decided to leave Iran and take residence in one of the European countries. Of course to do this I needed a passport. By a regulation resolved by the council of ministers, a passport was issued only to people who could produce a number of documents including a birth certificate. The exact date of my birth was recorded on the first page of a copy of the Holy Qur'an but that copy was not available to me at that time. Thus I gave my date of birth to the police station No. 3, in Tehran, without giving much atten-

tion to its accuracy and without noting the difference between the lunar calendar and the solar calendar. That date of birth was confirmed by the police, upon which a birth certificate was issued to me. In accordance with that birth certificate I was more than seventy years old at the time of my election to the sixteenth parliamentary session. This would have disqualified me from being elected to parliament. Thus I sent for a photograph from the tombstone of my stepfather, the late Vakil al-Mulk Kirmani from Najaf (Iraq). This had engraved the date of his death in letters. I sent the photograph

of the tombstone to the ministry of the interior. Using the same argument and reasoning which Mu'tamin al-Mamalik had used to prove in the First Majlis that I had not been thirty years old, I proved in the Sixteenth Majlis that I was less than seventy years old. This was accepted by the committee responsible for supervising elections in Tehran and accordingly my credentials were approved by the Sixteenth Majlis.



FOOT NOTES

1. Tr. The elections to the first parliamentary session were made on the basis of different accredited classes of people.
2. Tr. Dr Musaddiq's mother (Najm al-Saltaneh) married three times. Her first husband was Murtiza Quli Khan Vakil al-Mulk Kirmani (d. 1879). Her second husband was Mirza Hedayatullah Vazir-Daftar (Dr Musaddiq's father) who died in 1892. Her third and last husband was Mirza Fazlullah Khan Vakil al-Mulk (Hishmat al-Dawleh, Senator Vala-Tabar's father). It should be noted that the first and third husband although both shared the title of Vakil al- Mulk had no connection with each other.
3. Tr. Hasan Vusuq al-Dawleh a leading Anglophile Iranian politician. He concluded the unpopular 1919 Agreement with Great Britain which was designed to protect British India and to contain Soviet expansion southwards. Under this agreement, signed by Vusuq and Lord Curzon, Iran's financial, military and external affairs would be subject to British control. This proposed arrangement, which was never enforced, was similar to the protection treaties that the British government had signed with the Arab rulers of the Persian Gulf emirates. For details see S.H. Amin, International and Legal Problems of the Gulf, London, 1981. The government of Vusuq fell in July 1920.

4. Tr. Dr Musaddiq's mother (Najm al-Saltaneh) married three times. Her first husband was Murtiza Quli Khan Vakil al-Mulk Kirmani (d. 1879). Her second husband was Mirza Hedayatullah Vazir-Daftar (Dr Musaddiq's father) who died in 1892. Her third and last husband was Mirza Fazlullah Khan Vakil al-Mulk (Hishmat al-Dawleh, Senator Vala-Tabar's father). It should be noted that the first and third husband although both shared the title of Vakil al- Mulk had no connection with each other.
5. Tr. Hasan Vusuq al-Dawleh a leading Anglophile Iranian politician. He concluded the unpopular 1919 Agreement with Great Britain which was designed to protect British India and to contain Soviet expansion southwards. Under this agreement, signed by Vusuq and Lord Curzon, Iran's financial, military and external affairs would be subject to British control. This proposed arrangement, which was never enforced, was similar to the protection treaties that the British government had signed with the Arab rulers of the Persian Gulf emirates.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

سیاس و پوزش

مقاله‌ها و آثار متعدد دیگری راجع به مشروطیت (از جمله مقالات دیگر سردبیر، علی‌رضا رزمگیر، داود نادمی، داود شهیدی و...) به دلیل کمبود جا فرصت چاپ نیافت. سیاس و پوزش ما را بپذیرید. شماره‌ی ۳۳ با تکیه بر کودتای ۲۸ مرداد ۱۳۳۲ در آخر مرداد ۱۳۸۵ منتشر خواهد شد.



خط از: عبدالصاحب ملکی (مشترک ماهنامه‌ی حافظ)

HAFIZ MONTHLY

A JOURNAL OF IRANIAN STUDIES

Issue : 32

August 5, 2006

ISSN : 1735-1421

All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor:

Hassan Amin, Ph.D. (Glasgow), Advocate (Edinburgh)
The Encyclopaedia of Iran Publications
Mehr Building, 2 Palestine Street, Enghelab Avenue,
Tehran, Iran, Post Code: 14168
Tel: 009821-66968488

- Editor-in-Chief : Professor Hassan Amin, Ph.D.
- Executive Director: Hojjat Heydari, BSc.
- Design Consultant: H.R. Mohseni, M.A
- Librarian: Manouchehr Raesi
- Typesetting & Layout: Azam Daneshjoo, B.A.
- Public Relations: Akram Heydari

Hafiz Monthly, is an independent Iranian journal - dedicated to Iranian studies. It covers a wide range of subjects - including Persian literature and history, as well as the cultural, legal and political developments in the present-day Iran. The varied essays and reports represent all the major cultural, legal and political trends in the contemporary Iran.

In each issue, **Hafiz Monthly** publishes several detailed research articles and interviews, along with a number of shorter works by contemporary Iranian scholars, writers and poets. The contributors range from leading professors, well-known authors and scholars to younger and upcoming writers and poets. **Hafiz Monthly** also disseminates information on recent publications and cultural events in and about Iran and highlights social and economic issues which are of interest to its readership.

Hafiz Monthly is a refereed journal. The selection of all published material is processed through a qualitative assessment by the Editorial Board - with the help of outside experts and external assessors.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

برای اشتراک ماهنامه‌ی حافظ

هزینه‌ی اشتراک + هزینه‌ی پست در داخل کشور / یک‌سال: اشخاص ۱۲/۰۰۰ تومان؛ موسسات ۱۵/۰۰۰ تومان
هزینه‌ی اشتراک + هزینه‌ی پست در خارج کشور / یک‌سال: اشخاص ۶۰ دلار (معادل ریالی نیز پذیرفته می‌شود).
۱- برای اشتراک درون مرزی، وجه اشتراک (اشخاص حقیقی ۱۲۰۰۰۰ ریال / اشخاص حقوقی ۱۵۰۰۰۰ ریال) را به حساب سیبا، شماره حساب ۰۱۰۲۰۰۱۸۴۳۰۰۸ نزد بانک ملی، شعبه‌ی دانشگاه تهران کد ۸۷ به نام حجت‌حیدری واریز فرمایید.
۲- برای اشتراک برون مرزی، وجه اشتراک را (۵۰۰۰۰۰ ریال / معادل تقریبی ۶۰ دلار به حساب سیبای بالا یا ۶۰ دلار به حساب ارزی پس‌انداز شماره‌ی ۹۹۰۳۶ بانک سپه شعبه‌ی میدان هفت تیر (کد ۲۴۷) به نام حجت‌حیدری واریز فرمایید.
۳- برگ اشتراک (فرم زیر و یا نامه‌ی جداگانه) را همراه رسید بانکی به نشانی مجله ارسال فرمایید:

تهران - تقاطع فلسطین و انقلاب - ساختمان مهر - دفتر ماهنامه‌ی حافظ - کدپستی: ۱۴۱۶۸

برگ درخواست اشتراک ماهنامه‌ی حافظ

نام و نام‌خانوادگی متقاضی:
در صورت تمدید اشتراک شماره‌ی اشتراک موجود:
آدرس پستی برای ارسال مجله: شهر:
یا: خیابان:
کوچه:
پلاک:
کدپستی:
تلفن (در صورت علاقه‌مندی):
صندوق پستی:

دعوت به اشتراک مجله‌ی حافظ



شماره‌ی ۳۲ - چهاردهم مرداد ۱۳۸۵
HAFIZ MONTHLY

۱۳۰