



S.I.S. NEWSLETTER

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Address all communications to:

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All SIS members are encouraged to send items of interest to be printed in future issues of the newsletter. Please send material to the above address.

ELECTION RESULTS

The following have been elected to serve on the SIS Council for the term 1983-85: Peter J. Chelkowski, Guity Nashat and Ehsan Yarshater. They are replacing Ali Banuazizi, Richard Cottam, and John Perry, who completed their three-year term in December 1982. This year's election was overseen by Pierre Oberling at Hunter College, to whom we offer our thanks.

THE JOURNAL

The first issue of Volume 16 (Numbers 1 and 2) is currently at the printers and will be mailed out at the beginning of July.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

For those of you who have not yet sent in your 1983 dues, we would like to remind you that SIS's survival depends, to a great extent, on membership dues. So please send us your payment as soon as possible. The rates are as follows:

	Single	Joint	Student
1 year	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$15.00
2 year	\$45.00	\$55.00	\$28.00
3 year	\$65.00	\$80.00	\$40.00
	Contributing	\$30.00	
	Supporting	\$50.00	

Please send checks (in U.S. dollars) to SIS, c/o CMES, Harvard University, 1737 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02183, USA. Thank you.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to encourage all SIS members to invite friends and colleagues to become members of the Society. The rates for new members are the same as above and membership applications and information can be obtained from the above address.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Conference: Religion and Revolution: Iran's Revolution and the Middle East

Held on May 4, 1983 at the Brooklyn College Student Center (Brooklyn College of The City University of New York), this conference was the last in a series presented by The Humanities Institute and Departments of History and Political Science, Programs of Studies in Religion and Society in Change. It focused on the Islamic revival in Iran, examined its populist roots, domestic imperatives, and regional and global consequences. Proceedings will be published within the year. SIS members who participated included:

- Ervand Abrahamian: Closing remarks
- Mangol Bayat: "Shi'ite Islam as a Functioning Ideology in Iran: The Culture of The Hidden Imam"
- Richard Cottam: "Iran's Perception of Big Power Global Strategies"
- William Hanaway: "Symbolism of Revolutionary Poster Art"
- Nikki Keddie: "Significance of Islamic Revivalism in the Middle East"
- Farhad Kazemi: "Iran and the Arab Israeli Balance"
- Barry Rubin: "Iran and United States Strategy in the Region"
- Jim Tagavi: "The Iran-Iraq War"

Iranian Oral History Project

In autumn of 1981, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, launched the Iranian Oral History Project. This project will provide scholars endeavoring to study the contemporary political history of Iran with primary source materials, consisting of personal accounts of approximately 150 individuals who either participated in or observed from close range the important events and decisions of the last four decades. More specifically, the project is attempting to provide: 1) a picture of the way the political system functioned in practice; 2) the background and reasons behind major political events and decisions; and 3) a more complete sketch of the key personalities of the period.

An in-depth study of the internal workings of Iran's political system is difficult at present, as there are few reliable sources available for this purpose. The Iranian revolution of 1979 and the immigration of a large number of former high officials and political leaders to the West has provided a unique opportunity to fill the vacuum. Many of these individuals have already demonstrated their willingness to give their personal accounts of the events and decisions in which they participated.

Approximately 150 individuals, representing all political groups and institutions, are being selected and interviewed from a master list of about 350. More specifically, the list includes: members of the Ghajar and Pahlavi dynasties; all living former prime ministers and cabinet ministers; key members

of the legislative branch, the judiciary, and the media; leaders of the tribes, political parties, opposition groups (including those who for a time held office in the Islamic Republic) and the private sector; commanders of the armed forces; high officials of the security agency (SAVAK); and foreign diplomats, as well as foreign nationals, who were involved with and in Iranian politics. The narrations, averaging 6 hours in length and totalling 900 hours by the end of the project, are being transcribed and indexed in English. About one-third of the transcripts will be translated into English.

It is hoped that the collection, preserved at the university's Houghton Library, will provide scholars with a unique and detailed source material for the study of contemporary Iran. Gifts from individuals and organizations, as well as the university's own resources, have funded the project to date. Any member interested in learning more about the project may wish to contact Habib Ladjevardi.

PROBLEMS FACING IRANIAN STUDENTS IN THE U.S.

In an article entitled "Money Woes Afflict Iranian Students; Colleges Fear Most Will Drop Out" (The Chronicle of Higher Education; Vol. XXVI, No. 15: June 8, 1983), Malcolm G. Scully cites examples of several Iranian students at different universities having difficulty continuing their education in America.

The serious financial problems began in 1982 when the Iranian government issues restrictions on transfer of money from Iran to students in the U.S.

Thomas Hoover, acting director of foreign-students' office at the University of Wisconsin at Madison feels that "Unless the Iranian government changes its monetary policies, I expect that colleges and universities nationwide will be in danger of losing virtually all Iranian students." He goes on to say that these restrictions have placed the students in a financial Catch-22:

"Their government requires them to be registered in an academic program before it will release the money to them. At the same time, the university must have reasonable proof from a foreign student that he or she has enough money to pay expenses -- including tuition."

According to Douglas R. Boyan, editor of Open Doors, the Institute for International Education's annual report on foreign students in the U.S., preliminary statistics show that probably fewer than 27,000 Iranians are enrolled on U.S. campuses this year, which is a 25-percent drop from 1981-82 (a period which also showed a 25-percent decline from 1980-81). He expects the decline to continue, one sign being a preliminary analysis of the nationality of students enrolled in intensive English-language programs (generally used to bring skills up to an acceptable level before enrolling in a college or university) revealed few Iranians.

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