

236

DR. MOSSADEQ AND REZA SHAH

Dr. Mossadeq has claimed for many years that he is a liberal born and bred. He has claimed to be Iran's greatest champion of the individual freedoms, of free speech, free press, and freedom to assemble. He has claimed to support a free executive, a free legislative, and a free judicial branch of the government. He has claimed to favor free elections and the abolition of coercion by the police or other officials. He has claimed to be completely devoted to the independence of Iran and determined to eradicate all foreign influence. He has claimed to be the staunchest upholder of the constitution.

Dr. Mossadeq fought for many years against the dictatorship of Reza Shah and came to be thought of as one of Reza Shah's greatest and most courageous opponents. He fought Reza Shah's control of all branches of the government, he fought Reza Shah's censorship of the press, he fought Reza Shah's imposition of martial law and the unfair trials and torturing of prisoners, and he fought Reza Shah's rigging of elections. Even as late as the 16th Majlis, Dr. Mossadeq fainted when he visited a prison and fainted again while denouncing the use of martial law. At the time of the Sixteenth Majlis he told Ali Mansur that he could not cooperate with the government unless martial law was removed. And twice in this period he took refuge at the Court and pleaded with the Shah to intervene in his behalf - a favor that the Shah readily granted.

Now after two years as Prime Minister, Dr. Mossadeq has written his record clearly so that all can read it and we are able to judge for ourselves just how liberal is Dr. Mossadeq.

Dr. Mossadeq fainted when Ali Mansur invoked martial law, but he shows little reticence at invoking martial law himself. Even though the Majlis has not

APPROVED FOR RELEASE: 21 JUN 2011

CLASSIFICATION REVIEW EO 12958
CONDUCTED ON _____
DERIVATIVE CL BY _____
 DECL DOWNGR TO _____
REVW ON _____
DERIVED FROM _____

approved Mossadeq's edict invoking martial law, which makes any enforcement of that martial law illegal, Mossadeq has directed the police and the army to enforce it. Now the great liberal Mossadeq throws men in prison at the slightest pretext and refuses to tell them why they are jailed.

Dr. Mossadeq once fainted at the ill-treatment of prisoners but now that he is the man in charge he has lost all of his qualms and seems to take a sadistic pleasure in the punishment of prisoners. Just a few months ago Dr. Mossadeq ordered the torturing of Mr. Khatibi. Mr. Divshelli described the hideous torture that Mr. Khatibi underwent before he confessed. It seems Dr. Mossadeq is learning well from his Tudeh associates the technique of torture. The communists can force a prisoner to confess to anything. Dr. Mossadeq has yet to reach this stage of proficiency, but we are sure that under such expert tutelage Dr. Mossadeq's technique will improve.

Dr. Mossadeq bitterly lamented the brutal censorship of the press by Reza Shah and wept crocodile tears at the imprisonment of opposition editors. But Dr. Mossadeq is no longer in the opposition and the Press Law that he authored and pushed through the Majlis is far worse than anything seen before in Iran. Every month many papers are suppressed, presses are destroyed and editors are beaten and imprisoned for daring to oppose the government. But it is interesting that one set of "opposition" papers suffer only occasionally - the Tudeh papers.

Dr. Mossadeq condemned in the strongest possible language the dictatorial control of Reza Shah and the contravention of the constitution by Reza Shah. But today Dr. Mossadeq has greater powers than Reza Shah ever had. The Plenary Powers Law makes a fiction of the free legislature and the free judiciary that

Mossadeq swore to uphold. Mossadeq is the entire government and he can and does ignore the Majlis and the justices. He stopped the national elections when he thought they might go against him, and then when even the rump Majlis refused to do his bidding, he had his stooges resign, and thereby he tried to destroy the effectiveness of the Majlis. When the Supreme Court refused to do his bidding, Mossadeq forced the highly respected justices to resign. Mossadeq is attempting to force the Shah - the man who twice intervened in Mossadeq's behalf - to leave the country and he is attempting to so weaken the army that it can no longer uphold the constitution. Mossadeq laughs at the constitution he once defended at such lengths and under his rule it has become nothing but a piece of paper. It is ironic that Dr. Mossadeq led the fight to prevent the granting of plenary powers to Dr. Millspaugh and to Dr. Nasr. He said that there was great danger of dictatorship in making such a grant. How right you were, Dr. Mossadeq!

So now we see how liberal Dr. Mossadeq is. He has outdone Reza Shah in contravening the constitution and is depriving the Iranian people of their personal freedoms. All the principles that Dr. Mossadeq, the great opposition spokesman, swore to uphold in his many speeches to the Majlis, faded when Dr. Mossadeq rose to power. Dr. Mossadeq is no more a liberal than was Reza Shah and in many ways Mossadeq has modeled his dictatorship on that of Reza Shah. But there is one great difference. Under Reza Shah's dictatorship we had order and security. Under Dr. Mossadeq's dictatorship we have confusion, disorder, poverty and insecurity.