

175

30 September 1953

[Redacted]

FROM: Mr. Roosevelt

[Redacted]

On 28 September Prime Minister Zahedi expressed the following views [Redacted]

- A. Zahedi has not yet decided whether to convene the present Majlis whose term end in four months.
- B. Although the Majlis gave former Prime Minister Mossadeq plenary powers, Zahedi states that he did not inherit them. In order to solve the oil question Zahedi needs the Majlis.
- C. If Zahedi were to dissolve the present Majlis he feels that people would say that Mossadeq was right in dissolving the Majlis. On the other hand, new elections would involve much time and trouble.
- D. If Zahedi convenes the present Majlis for four months, he believes that he would encounter very little opposition from the Majlis members. Zahedi states that the twenty-three Majlis members who did not resign are loyal to him. In order to have a quorum in the Majlis, Zahedi would have to hold elections for fifty-seven seats. He believes that the fifty-seven new deputies would support him during the remainder of the legal term of the Majlis since they would want to be re-elected. At the end of the Majlis session, Zahedi feels that he would then be in much stronger position to influence elections for the next Majlis.

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