
Text F: CIA Report of Intercept of Radio Tehran Broadcast, Aug. 19, 1953

The text below is a declassified excerpt from a 1998 CIA history of the 1953 coup.

The broadcast in the afternoon of 19 August was confused and chaotic, but there was no doubt that pro-Shah forces had captured and were controlling Radio Tehran.

The first indication came when the announcer said, 'The people of Tehran have risen today and occupied all the government offices, and I am able to talk to you all through the help of the armed forces. The government of Mossadegh is a government of rebellion and has fallen.'

Seven minutes later, amid much confusion and shouting on the air, a Col. Ali Pahlavon said, 'Oh people of the cities, be wide awake. The government of Mossadegh has been defeated. My dear compatriots, listen! I am one of the soldiers and one of the devotees of this country. Oh officers, a number of traitors...wants to sell out the country to the foreigners.

'My dear compatriots, today the Iranian royalists have defeated the demagogue government.... The Iranian nation, officers, army, and the police have taken the situation in their hands.

'Premier Zahedi will assume his post. There is no place for anxiety. Keep tranquil.'

The broadcast stopped. After seven minutes it continued with a woman shouting, 'Oh people of Iran, let the Iranian nation prove that the foreigners cannot capture this country! Iranians love the King. Oh tribes of Iran, Mossadegh is ruling over your country without your knowledge, sending your country to the government of the hammer and sickle.'

A major from the Iranian army said that he was an infantry officer '...retired by Mossadegh, the traitor. We proved to the world that the Iranian army is the protector of this country and is under the command of the Shah.' Much confusion followed, after which Radio Tehran played the national anthem and then went off the air.

Notes: