

NNNNVY ESB011BRA333
OO RUQHR
DE RUEHC #6891/02 2210221
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 0900312 AUG 79 ZPFS
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUQHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 3942
INFO RUEADWW/ WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 2500
BT
S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 03 STATE 206891/02

MODIS

A MAJORITY OF RELIGIOUS MEN ON IT AND WILL BE EXPECTED TO FINISH DELIBERATIONS WITHIN A MONTH. ENTEZAM SAID CURRENT PLAN IS TO HAVE REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION IN MID-SEPTEMBER AND JOINT PRESIDENTIAL/PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS A MONTH OR SIX WEEKS LATER. KHOMEINI IS A GOOD MAN WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE IN "AKHOUNDISM" -- CLERICAL DOMINANCE OF EVERYTHING -- BUT HE IS UNDER CONSTANT PRESSURE FROM RADICALS AROUND HIM TO OUST THOSE WHO ARE MERELY "GOOD MOSLEMS" AND REPLACE THEM WITH CLERICS. ENTEZAM IS RESIGNED TO FACT THAT CLERICAL TYPES WILL PROBABLY WIN MORE THAN HALF OF SEATS IN NEW PARLIAMENT AND CAUTIONED US AND OTHERS THAT THEY MAY HAVE TO DEAL WITH CLERICS FOR FOUR YEARS. ENTEZAM EXPRESSED HOPE (BUT WITH DOUBT IN HIS VOICE) THAT MODERATES COULD CONTINUE TO DOMINATE GOVERNMENT AFTER ELECTIONS. HE SEES THIS AS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL TO RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN MIDDLE CLASS AND GETTING ECONOMY GOING.

8. IN REPLY TO DIRECT QUESTION ABOUT BAKHTIAR'S EMERGENCE, ENTEZAM PASSED MATTER OFF, SAYING BAKHTIAR WAS "PROBABLY TRYING TO PROMOTE THE BOOK HE'S WRITING." HE SAW BAKHTIAR AS NO THREAT TO THE PGOI. NATIONAL FRONT AND NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT SIMPLY CAN'T COMPETE WITH RELIGIOUS PARTIES AT POLLS, AND THEY ARE NOT PRONE TO VIOLENCE. KHOMEINI'S ISLAMIC REPUBLICAN PARTY UNDER AYATOLLAH BEHESHTI WILL EMERGE AS STRONGEST GROUP. THIS BOTHERS ENTEZAM, SINCE BEHESHTI AND AYATOLLAS RAFSANJANI AND MOUSAVVI ARE PRINCIPAL AMONG THOSE URGING

KHOMEINI TO TURN TO CLERICS FOR HIS GOVERNMENT. ENTEZAM ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR KHOMEINI TO MOVE TO TEHRAN, WHERE PGOI COULD SEE HIM MORE THAN THREE HOURS EVERY WEEK.

9. ON QUESTION OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, ENTEZAM SAID TALEQANI AND BEHESHTI WILL RUN, EVEN THOUGH TALEQANI