Telegram from the British Embassy in Tehran to the Foreign Office, London, 2 December 1945

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FROM TEHRAN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

IMPORTANT

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The Shah, whom I have seen, is in good health. He is resolved to support the Prime Minister and not to give in to Russian pressure on any essential point. I asked whether discharge of the Mayor of Tehran[[1]](#footnote-1) (long a target of Tudeh attacks) was the prelude to a series of changes in ranks of high officials designed to conciliate the Russians. The Shah explained that the Mayor was unpopular with many people besides Tudeh. He said that although one or two changes were contemplated there would be no wholesale action which would, he said, in any case be insufficient to placate the Russians.

2. The Shah said he had been hard at work with the new Minister of Finance on a series of reforms though whether the irresponsible deputies would be induced to pass them into law was uncertain and unfortunately, the constitution did not permit of his dissolving the Majlis and holding fresh elections. Once foreign troops had left, constitutional problems must receive attention. I mentioned the Provincial Councils and the Shah said he had already told the Prime Minister that this was one of the essential reforms.

The Shah informed me that Qawam Al Saltana (see my telegram No. 1320, paragraph 4) had suddenly returned to Tehran from his estates in the Soviet zone. The Shah spoke of him with deep suspicion.

[TNA, CAB/121/655]

Keywords: post-war order, Iran

1. Ghomal-Hussein Ebtehaj, the Mayor of Tehran in 1944-45, had dismissed all municipal employees who were also Tudeh members in November 1944. Habib Ladverjadi, *Labor Unions and Autocracy in Iran*, 52. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)