

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Control: 4044  
Rec'd: January 10, 1951  
9:47 a.m.

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FROM: Tehran  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: 1520, January 10, 8 a.m.  
PLEASE INFORM VOA.

FILE  
No reply necessary  
*John*

In conversation with Disher yesterday Propaganda Director Bayani said he will continue to hold university posts, indicating that his duties in Propaganda Department will be largely nominal (EMBTel 1500 January 6). This confirmed by Assistant Director Bozorgmehr. Latter meanwhile appears to be exerting active direction.

Bayani indicated belief propaganda must direct orientation of country toward West, but this must be unspectacular. Stated Iran must be friendly with all countries and must have commercial relations with all nations willing to deal with her. In private conversation with Bozorgmehr, as reported by latter Bayani expressed personal belief Iran propaganda, for moment at least, must follow neutral line.

Fact of Bozorgmehr's return in itself definitely to US advantage. He has been notable cooperative and indicates personal desire to turn Propaganda Department line closely toward that of US. While he intends to proceed in present situation with greatest caution, has informed Embassy he probably will begin with gradually increased emphasis on UN.

Bozorgmehr states dissemination by officials Paris agency of Tass reports being discontinued (Tehran editors also confirm dissemination stopped) and that he is searching for some formula for resumption of VOA relay at proper time. He has requested Embassy coordination in preparation radio programs and commentaries.

On basis present indications, Bayani appointment possibly intended as public gesture balancing Bozorgmehr's return.

Situation will bear close watching and any changes must be gradual and inconspicuous.

MAM:RC

GRADY

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