

S E C R E T

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
HISTORIAN'S NOTE	1
SUMMARY	111
I. PRELIMINARY STEPS	1
II. DRAFTING THE PLAN	5
III. CONSOLIDATING THE OPERATIONAL PLAN	12
IV. THE DECISIONS ARE MADE: ACTIVITY BEGINS	16
V. MOUNTING PRESSURE AGAINST THE SHAH	22
VI. THE FIRST TRY	39
VII. APPARENT FAILURE	44
VIII. "THE SHAH IS VICTORIOUS"	65
IX. REPORT TO LONDON	78
X. WHAT WAS LEARNED FROM THE OPERATION	85
 APPENDICES	
A Initial Operational Plan for TPAJAX, as Cabled from Nicosia to Headquarters on 1 June 1953	
B "London" Draft of the TPAJAX Operational Plan	
C Foreign Office Memorandum of 23 July 1953 from British Ambassador Makins to Under Secretary of State Smith	
D Report on Military Planning Aspect of TPAJAX	
E Military Critique - Lessons Learned from TPAJAX re Military Planning Aspects of Coup d'Etat	

June 18, 2000

Editor's Note:

The C.I.A.'s history of the 1953 coup in Iran is made up of the following documents: a historian's note, a summary introduction, a lengthy narrative account written by Dr. Donald N. Wilber, and, as appendices, five planning documents he attached. On April 16, 2000, The New York Times on the Web published the introduction and several of the appendices.

The Times has now decided to publish the main body of the text after removing certain names and identifying descriptions. The editing was done after consultations with historians who believed there might be serious risk that the families of some of those named as foreign agents would face retribution in Iran.

The introductory summary and the main body of the document are inconsistent on a few dates and facts. In its reporting on the document, the Times has relied upon details presented in the main body of the text.

The table of contents provides navigation throughout the document. Each entry is linked to the relevant section of this file. The table of contents page appears at the end of each chapter.

CS Historical Paper
No. 208

CLANDESTINE SERVICE HISTORY

OVERTHROW OF PREMIER MOSSADEQ OF IRAN

November 1952-August 1953

Date written : March 1954
Date published: October 1969
Written by : Dr. Donald N
Wilber

S E C R E T

HISTORIAN'S NOTE

This paper, entitled Overthrow of Premier Mossadeq of Iran, was written in March 1954 by Dr. Donald N. Wilber who had played an active role in the operation. The study was written because it seemed desirable to have a record of a major operation prepared while documents were readily at hand and while the memories of the personnel involved in the activity were still fresh. In addition, it was felt advisable to stress certain conclusions reached after the operation had been completed and to embody some of these in the form of recommendations applicable to future, parallel operations.

Documents pertaining to the operation described in this paper are in the Project TPAJAX files which are held by the Iran Branch of the Near East and South Asia Division.

All proper names mentioned in this paper have been checked for accuracy and completeness. A serious effort has been made to supply the first name and middle initial of each individual. The omission of any first names and middle initials indicates that such information could not be located.

Dean L. Dodge
NE Division
Historical Officer
March 1969

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
HISTORIAN'S NOTE	1
SUMMARY	111
I. PRELIMINARY STEPS	1
II. DRAFTING THE PLAN	5
III. CONSOLIDATING THE OPERATIONAL PLAN	12
IV. THE DECISIONS ARE MADE: ACTIVITY BEGINS	16
V. MOUNTING PRESSURE AGAINST THE SHAH	22
VI. THE FIRST TRY	39
VII. APPARENT FAILURE	44
VIII. "THE SHAH IS VICTORIOUS"	65
IX. REPORT TO LONDON	78
X. WHAT WAS LEARNED FROM THE OPERATION	85

APPENDICES

- A Initial Operational Plan for TPAJAX, as Cabled from Nicosia to Headquarters on 1 June 1953
- B "London" Draft of the TPAJAX Operational Plan
- C Foreign Office Memorandum of 23 July 1953 from British Ambassador Makins to Under Secretary of State Smith
- D Report on Military Planning Aspect of TPAJAX
- E Military Critique - Lessons Learned from TPAJAX re Military Planning Aspects of Coup d'Etat