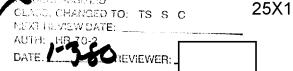
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NSC BRIEFING 26 January 1954

## STATUS REPORT ON IRANIAN ELECTIONS

- I. <u>Balloting for 136 Majlis deputies began on 16 January in</u>
  districts where government is strongest
  - A. Total of 22 deputies (from 19 of 82 constituencies) have been elected so far.
    - 1. This is nearly third of total necessary for quorum of 69.
    - 2. All successful candidates have been supported by DOCUMENT NO. 2 COMMENT NO. 100 CHARGE IN CLASS. ET COLOR SOURCE.

3. No voting yet in Tehran. AUTH: HB\_30



- 4. Defeat in Kashan (central Iran) of Kashani's son
  and Saleh, former ambassador in Washington and strong
  Mossadeq supporter, may be considered government
  accomplishment.
- B. Balloting has been suspended in eight areas because of opposition to government's attempts to control voting and confusion over whom government was supporting.

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- II. Government may meet more opposition as voting up to now

  has reportedly been largely in "sure" districts
  - A. Opposition has not yet appeared but will probably make a showing in such cities as Tehran, Tabriz and Kerman.
  - B. Balloting will probably continue for at least several weeks before enough deputies are elected to form 18th Majlis. Minimum of 69 needed to open Majlis.
- III. Elections for Senate are scheduled to begin in six cities,

  including Tehran, on 27 January
  - A. These elections expected to give government overwhelming control of Senate, especially since half of 60 senators are appointed by shah.
  - B. Opposition National Resistance Movement has published own list of senatorial candidates headed by former prime minister Mossadeq. Little chance that they will elect any sizable number.
  - C. Senate, however, has occupied relatively unimportant position in Iran.

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## IV. Conclusions

- A. Elected candidates bear out earlier impression that next Majlis will be no real improvement over past houses.
- B. It will contain a few capable men, many ordinary politicians, and a few downright crooks.
- C. When formal Majlis sessions begin, Tehran will again buzz with intrigue and behind-the-scenes activity, threatening any constructive government program.