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SO 4.013 Issues & Answers

CIA 1.01 TURNER, Adm.

P- Clark, Bob

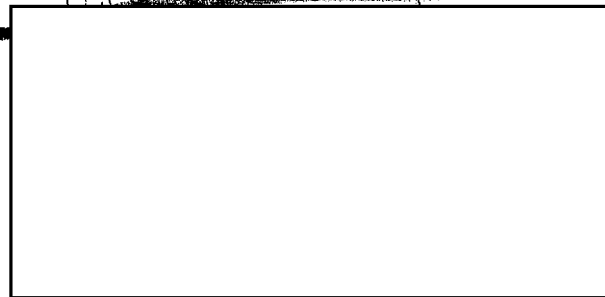
CIA 4 IRAN (Estimate)

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PROGRAM Issues & Answers

DATE February 4, 1979 12:00 Noon

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SUBJECT Full Text: An Interview with Director Turner

BOB CLARK: Our guest is Admiral Stansfield Turner, the Director of the CIA. Admiral, welcome to "Issues and Answers."

ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER: Thank you.

CLARK: Iran appears to be near political chaos at the moment with the return of the Ayatollah Khomeini and his threat of a holy war unless the Bakhtiar government steps down. Can you give us an appraisal of the seriousness of the situation there, including the danger of it all degenerating into civil war?

ADMIRAL TURNER: Well, we have a difficult situation with the forces of Ayatollah Khomeini, on the one hand, wanting very rapid change of both the personalities and the form of the government, and the forces of Prime Minister Bakhtiar wanting to insure that any change that takes place is done in a constitutional manner, in accordance with the Iranian Constitution. The next few days, it seems to me, are going to be very critical in this process to see if an accommodation, an arrangement can be made so that this happens peacefully and smoothly.

I can only say, Mr. Clark, I think we all must hope that the Iranian people who've suffered considerably in the past several months are going to come through these next few days in a peaceful and quick solution to this problem.

CLARK: Would you be assured that we are getting adequate intelligence on what is going on in Iran at the moment, that we are on top of the situation and up to the minute on developments that are occurring there?

ADMIRAL TURNER: I believe we have very good information