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Sadeq QOTBZADEH
(Phonetic: GAWTBzaDEH)

IRAN

*Member, Revolutionary Council;
Minister of Foreign Affairs*



On 28 November 1979 the Revolutionary Council appointed one of its members, Sadeq Qotbzadeh, as Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was chosen to replace Abol Hasan Bani-Sadr because Bani-Sadr seemed to be working for some sort of compromise with the United States on the hostage situation at the US Embassy. Qotbzadeh has followed a hard line with this country. He [Redacted]

[Redacted] had a 25-year career as a student activist and leader and as a revolutionary. His political base lies in his long association with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Should the ayatollah's star wane, Qotbzadeh might try to shift his allegiance to other religious figures in his pursuit of power. [Redacted]

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Khomeini probably uses Qotbzadeh (and others) on the RC as a window on the world—a source of information and an instrument of policy. To carry out these functions, Qotbzadeh must remain in contact with the RC. [Redacted]

[Redacted] Should circumstances suggest the need to replace him as Foreign Minister, Khomeini would remove him as suddenly as he did his predecessors. In late December 1979 Qotbzadeh announced his candidacy for the presidency in the 25 January 1980 election. [Redacted]

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Professional Revolutionary

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[Redacted] Born into a middle-class merchant family, Qotbzadeh is the youngest of three brothers (neither of his brothers holds office in the regime). As a youth he was the most religious member of his family. He did have a brief flirtation with Marxism, but he returned, at least outwardly, to a militantly Islamic orientation. Qotbzadeh received some of his early education in Tehran and some in

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Canada. Along the way, he became a member of the anti-Shah National Front and a follower of Prime Minister (1951-53) Mohammad Mosadeq. After Mosadeq's fall, Qotbzadeh was imprisoned for antigovernment activities. When he was released in 1959, he came to the United States to continue his studies and to agitate against the Shah. During 1958-59 he was a student at Howard University in Washington, but he left after he failed to achieve a leadership position in the student organization. Along with Ebrahim Yazdi (Foreign Minister from May to early November 1979) and Mostafa Chamran (now Minister of National Defense), he founded the Islamic Students Association of the United States. [REDACTED]

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Qotbzadeh may have attended the University of California at Berkeley for a short time; he eventually studied languages at Georgetown University in Washington. While attending Georgetown, he had frequent hostile verbal exchanges with Ardeshir Zahedi, then the Shah's son-in-law and Ambassador to the United States. In 1961 the Iranian Government revoked Qotbzadeh's passport. Expelled from Georgetown for missing too many classes—because of illness, he says—he was deported from this country in 1964, an action he blames on the Shah. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] During 1967-68 he was a student at Notre Dame Junior College in Nelson, British Columbia. He left with a B.A. degree [REDACTED]

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Qotbzadeh subsequently traveled in the Middle East and Africa, establishing contacts with a spectrum of groups he believed would be helpful to his cause, including the Palestine Liberation Organization. He established residence in France in 1969 and attended the University of Paris from time to time during the early 1970s. He became active in the international Confederation of Iranian Students but was expelled because of his differences with its leftist elements. Once or twice a year, he went to Najaf, Iraq, to visit the then exiled Khomeini. Qotbzadeh occupied a leadership position in the Union of Iranian Students in France until he began to play a more active role in the group around Khomeini. During his stay in France, he competed strenuously with Abol Bani-Sadr for preeminence among Iranians in Europe. When Khomeini left Iraq in October 1978 to go to France, Qotbzadeh accompanied him. He subsequently became one of Khomeini's spokesmen and principal aides. [REDACTED]

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Qotbzadeh returned to Iran with the ayatollah on 1 February 1979 and was given the key position of director of the National Iranian Radio and Television Organization (NIRTO). He forced leftist staff members to follow the propaganda themes of the Islamic revolution and removed over a hundred who balked. He irritated many Iranians by banning all

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entertainment programs and substituting political lectures and speeches, patriotic songs and inspirational poetry. In early December 1979 a committee replaced Qotbzadeh at NIRTO, ostensibly because he was too busy with other duties to continue in the job. [REDACTED]

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Personal Data

The Foreign Minister likes to wear fashionable suits, silk ties and loafers [REDACTED] An enthusiastic talker, he speaks English, French and a little Arabic. His full surname is Qotbzadeh-Esfahani, but he does not use that form. [REDACTED]

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9 January 1980

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