



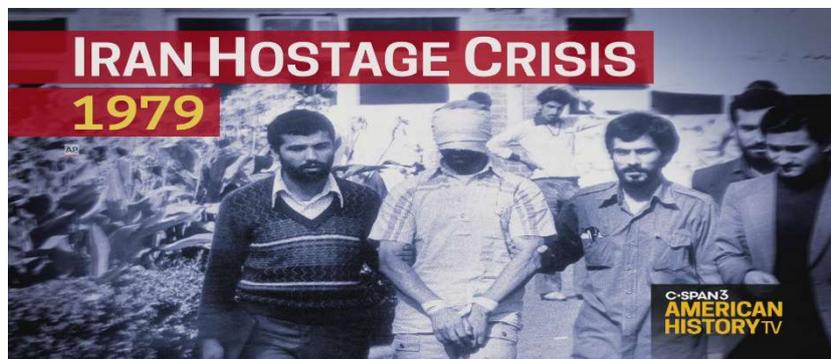
AtidMUN VII



# Crisis Study Guide

## Iran Hostage Crisis (1979-1981)

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## Chair, Crisis Director & Back Room Letters

### Director: Roi Nachlieli

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Iranian Hostage Crisis! My name is Roi Nachlieli, and I will be your Backroom Director.

This is my 8th year of MUN, and it will be my 7th AtidMUN. I have participated in 31 conferences in both the high school and the university levels. I delegated, chaired, back-roomed, and served as a USG of Academics and as a Secretary General. But the thing that I love to do most in MUN is teach - I have been teaching under Bronia (yes, THE Bronia) for seven years now, and in most conferences I served as an advisor to the Atid Lod team. MUN is so fun because of the people that are in it, and I have been lucky to teach alongside some of my closest friends as team coaches.

I am currently a third-year student in Tel-Aviv University, studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE). My dream is to go on to a PhD in Philosophy and become a professor of Ethics and Political Philosophy. Music is also a large part of my life: I play piano, compose, conduct and sing (as a Tenor in the Tel-Aviv Philharmonic Choir). In my free time, however, I enjoy being with friends, watching and re-watching shows on Netflix and coaching American Football.

It is my hope that this crisis would be challenging and rewarding, but overall the most important thing is that you - the delegates - end up enjoying it and remembering it as a great experience.

Best of luck,

Roi



## Backroom

### **Maya Schmeidler**

Dear delegates,

My name is Maya Schmeidler (don't bother trying to pronounce it, too many have tried and failed), and I welcome you to our humble Crisis Committee.

I absolutely love doing Crises (specifically as backroom) because I love the topics and the structure of the committee, and I can't wait to see how you will use the platform to achieve things nobody thought possible. I have been doing MUN for 5 years now, and I just know this experience will be unique and fascinating considering we've finally come back to life after COVID.

I just started University in Tel Aviv, and I'm double majoring in Psychology and Biology with a focus on Neuroscience. It is so hectic.

When I'm not doing MUN (which should mean a lot more free time than it actually does...), I enjoy doing puzzles, watching movies (and making people I care about watch my movies), reading, listening to and watching musicals - but let's be honest, I spend most of my free time sleeping.

I can't wait for this conference, and I am available via Email for anything you might wish to say to me.

Maya Schmeidler- [mayoki1000@gmail.com](mailto:mayoki1000@gmail.com)





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### Hadar Aharon

Dear delegates,

I'm honored and thrilled to welcome you to the ATIDMUN VII REAL Crisis Committee addressing one of the most fascinating events in the history of diplomacy, spawning from East to West and taking place for quite a few months. I will be a Back Room Cabinet member, and I am thrilled about which turns of events are waiting for us.

A bit about myself: I'm Hadar Aharon, I'm from Lapid, and I'm a senior at Atid Lod. I major in physics, computer science, software engineering and I have also completed Alpha Program in Weizmann Institute- where I conducted research in astrophysics. I love listening to awesome music (alternative/hard/classic rock, or any music that's at least twice as older than me), I'm addicted to "How I Met Your Mother", and "That 70's Show" (which I watched 4 times, and counting...). I have also played the piano ever since I remember myself, and I love hanging out with my friends, as much as I can during these uncertain times.

I have had the great opportunity of flying abroad to participate in the open European debate championship in Stuttgart, and to participate in MUN conferences of CAHSCHOOL MUN in Vancouver, Canada and PORG in Prague, and have participated in almost 20 conferences overall, including the Crisis Committee at TIMEMUN 2019. I love the fun and excitement of MUN – and I want all of you to enjoy and make the most of the short time we'll have together. So, if anything is unclear, or you need any help or anything else: feel free to email me anytime!

The fun of MUN and the excitement throughout the session are why I have been doing this for the past four-and-half years – and if some of you are a bit shy, or nervous, just know that this is alright, and our committee will be safe haven to debate, to engage and to meet some awesome people :). All the Dias of the ATIDMUN VII Crisis Committee are here for you, and we guarantee you that we will do our best to make sure that we make the most out of that day, and have a blast together!

Sincerely,



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Hadar Aharon

Any questions? Just ask at: [hadaraharon3@gmail.com](mailto:hadaraharon3@gmail.com)





## American Cabinet Chair Letter: Netta Budnisky

Dear delegates,

It is the pleasure to be chairing the Crisis Committee at the upcoming ATIDMUN conference!

I'm a 12th grader at Atid Lod High School for Excellence and Scientific Leadership in the , and I am majoring in physics and computers. I've been doing MUN for four years and this is going to be my 8<sup>th</sup> conference and my second one as a chair. During my MUN experience, I have made a lot of new friends, improved my English proficiency, learned a lot about international crises and relationships, and mostly, had lots of fun! I also have experience in crisis committees at TIMEMUN 2019 and AtidMUN 2019. In my opinion, a crisis is an amazing opportunity for you to be creative and improve your MUN skills.

I find the topic of our committee extremely interesting, and I think (and know) that our committee will be the best at the conference. If you have any questions about the committee or your preparation, you can send me an e-mail to [nettabud@gmail.com](mailto:nettabud@gmail.com).,  
Can't wait to see you!

Sincerely, Netta Budnisky





## Iranian Cabinet Chair: Amit Vainzof

Dear Delegates,

My name is Amit Vainzof and I am most honored to chair in AtidMUN 2021 and to welcome you into the Crisis committee.

I am currently studying in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, in Atid Lod High School for Science and Majoring Physics and Computer Science and may I say, enjoy every bit of it.

This is going to be my fourth year doing MUN. For me MUN is about leadership, saying no to indifference to the problems of the world, having fun, but most important, self-improvement and that is what I wish for our committee. I hope you will not only enjoy but also learn and improve your world knowledge and skills.

I know from experience that preparing for conferences can be overwhelming at times, so please feel free to ask me any questions you can possibly need an answer to, and I'll do my best to answer you.

I hope you'll have a great conference and to see you soon.

Amit Vainzof- [amit.vainzof@gmail.com](mailto:amit.vainzof@gmail.com)





## How does Crisis Work?

**First of all, the Crisis team would like to welcome you to AtidMUN first true Crisis Committee.**

Generally, Crisis committees are fundamentally different from your average MUN Committee in a couple of major ways.

The first difference is how you act. In an ordinary committee, you will find out that the goal is to pass a resolution that reflects your country's policy, which will theoretically go into effect in the future. In a Crisis Committee, all the directives have immediate effect and consequences. How is this done? Through a backroom-- a group of people that facilitate the committee's chosen actions (e.g. "Send Nukes to Chile"). They approve these actions and explain precisely what actually happened (e.g. You accidentally nuked Chile, a classic mistake, but now the US has declared war on you). Backroom members are responsible for the truth, and the delegates need to speak to the backroom to get to know any information before sending directives, and all sent directives are brought to the backroom. Directives are lists that specify a delegate's or a room's actions, which are then taken to the backroom for approval. They are the equivalent of clauses or resolutions for they entail the actions of the room, but they differ from them in that they are the means and not the ends. Directives must include details of what the delegates wish to accomplish and answer the "WH Questions." (Who, What, Where, When, Why, and most importantly HOW?)

The second difference is the delegates. While in an ordinary committee delegates would represent the nation they were assigned, replicating the concept of UN representatives, in Crisis committees the delegates are given actual real people who exist at the time of the Crisis, and act in the interests of the person they are representing. This is possible because Crises Committees usually address a historical crisis that happened in the past, which was handled by real government bodies, and then, the delegates represent the members of the cabinets of those governmental bodies. So, as a delegate, you represent a



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real human being who exists in the crisis given, and your objective in the game is to improve your political situation as much as possible.

Lastly, please note that Crisis committees are not an attempt to recreate historical events, meaning everything that happens after the starting date of the crisis has not happened yet and will not necessarily happen, everything depends on how the Cabinet members act. So please, act well. Good Luck!

### Introduction

In order to properly grasp the key players in the hostage crisis and in the tense situation that led to its eruption, we must look to the past. In this guide, the crisis team will attempt to give delegates all the history that led to the hostage crisis. It is important to note that all information in the guide is what is directly relevant to the crisis in your future, and so to fully grasp the scope of your actions as delegates in the committee it is more than highly recommended taking a look at global politics during the years leading up to the crisis.

The Iranian hostage crisis began on November 4th, 1979 when students of the Islamic Republic invaded the American Embassy in the middle of an anti-american protest. This served as the event that caused Iran-United States relations to completely burst into flames after 38 years of close diplomatic relations. We will now take a look at how this happened.

Part of the story begins in 1908, with the discovery of oil in Iran, in a province called Khuzestan in the Southwest. The oil was discovered there by British businessman William D'Arcy, who received a license from the British to obtain the oil in most of Iran and sell it. In 1909, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (APOC) was born, which controlled 100% of Iranian oil, and by 1914, Great Britain had purchased 51% of the shares of the company, thereby staking solid British claims in Iranian oil. The abundance of Iranian oil made a significant impact in worldwide British influence, and was a financial gold mine. APOC, which later with the integration of the endonym Iran, was renamed AIOC (Anglo-Iranian Oil Company), had originally made a deal with the Shah of the time that



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Iran would be paid up front £20,000, and 16% of all future profits. (Just make a note of that figure) By the 1920s, Iran was in the top five oil producers worldwide, thanks to the British built worldwide refinery in Abadan on the Persian Gulf. The dissonance between the amount of influence Iranian oil had at the time, and how much of that wealth made its way to Iranians was a major source of tensions in Iran for more than half a century.

The other part of the story begins in World War II, with the invasion of both the UK and the Soviet Union in Iran. Iran declared neutrality and tried to balance between the axis powers and allied forces while simultaneously speaking out in support of Hitler (Reza Shah believed he and the Führer were two of a kind); and as a result, when allied forces invaded a majority of Iranian territory, the Shah was immediately deposed, and his 22-year old son was placed in his stead. The old Shah (Reza Shah Pahlavi) had been a controlling dictator, who had been an experienced Brigadier General in the Cossack Brigade and now had to relinquish all authority in favor of an indecisive child.

The new Shah, Muhammad Reza Pahlavi, also known as the last Shah of Iran, assumed his position on September 16th, 1941. In the beginning, he was utterly incompetent, giving most of the ruling power back to the Parliament and to the Prime Minister. This took the pressure off of him and allowed him to mainly be a figurehead in the eyes of the Iranian. Even so, the political climate that he inherited from his father greatly concerned him. The royalties that Iran would be paid as a result of the deal that his father made with AIOC were viewed as his responsibility; also, he was dealing with a British and Soviet invasion, all the while watching his generals desert the military, and with the recent rise of Iranian nationalism, he had a lot on his plate. The public welcomed him with very open arms, but it seemed to stem not out of respect for the new leader but out of relief from the deposition of his father. Throughout his life Muhammad Reza was enchanted with Western influences, particularly French art and poetry, and Hollywood action movies, which heavily influenced his policy making. Immediately after the abdication of his father's throne, the Shah overturned the forced unveiling policy, and forgave all political figures who his father had humiliated. From 1941-1951, he dealt with several political crises with surprising grace, namely the Azerbaijan Crisis of 1946.



## The Coup d'état

Until this point, not a word has been said about American involvement (other than the Hollywood movies comment), but things changed in 1951.

In 1951, Muhammad Mossadegh was chosen as the new Iranian Prime Minister during a time period when Muhammad Reza, the Shah, had allowed the political climate to appear democratic on the one hand, but on the other hand, reinstated the Iranian Senate a body of 12 officials, 6 of whom were nominated directly by the Shah. The Shah was wary of Mossadegh specifically because he was of the Qajar bloodline, and could theoretically challenge the Shah to the throne, similarly to Reza Shah's actions in 1921. Mossadegh did not believe that it was the Shah's position to take such political power, looking (ironically!) to western constitutional monarchies as examples of how the Shah should be behaving. This banded together the other six members of the Senate as well as other opposition members to the Shah under Mossadegh, and his new coalition "the national front." Together they championed a cause the Shah supported as well (taking away his power to act on it): Oil Nationalization. By the end of the year, the bill was passed, the National Iranian Oil Company was founded, negotiations with the British regarding the state of AIOC had begun and ended (the British vehemently opposed the 50/50 split the Iranians offered) and found themselves under a tight British embargo on key items, such as sugar and steel. They also succeeded in owning 60% of their own oil reserves for the first time in history, and to forcibly remove the AIOC. The problem was that the previously mentioned embargo lasted for two years and devastated the Iranians. The British, in an attempt to retain control, turned to the Americans for help. They painted a picture of Mossadegh's nationalization plan as an act of catering to the Tudeh Party (the Iranian Communist Party), and he did seem to have their support at the time. In 1953, which was in the midst of the Cold War, the Americans caught the bait very easily, and in Operation Ajax (courtesy of the CIA), Mossadegh was overthrown in a coup d'état, and replaced as Prime Minister.

Americans were hesitant in the beginning to meddle so obviously in another country's internal affairs, but after the coup succeeded, and after the consortium of 1954 gave



American oil companies full control over how much petroleum Iran could sell and how much it could sell for, it developed a taste for micromanaging, and with Muhammad Reza demanding their support of him at every turn (lest the Soviet Union should try to invade), the US began to appear behind the scenes more and more in Iranian interests. The consortium of 1954 gave the Americans control of Iranian petroleum, shares of Iranian petroleum, and control over what appeared to be a modernizing western power in the Middle East.

### The Shah's Rule

Using the successes of Mossadegh whom he had fired, the Shah began to modernize Iran, and in 1963, he would begin the White Revolution.

The White Revolution was so named, because it would be completely bloodless, for it included women's suffrage, the creation of a literacy corps, a compulsory education program that included a meal a day, didactic education reform, introduction of social security, national insurance and public healthcare, and nationalization of forests and the supply, abolishing feudalism, etc. The Shah wanted all Iranian citizens to live good lives, and was trying to curry favor with the lower classes, because he had historically alienated the upper middle classes in order to keep them subservient. The White Revolution made Iran very developed, modern, and even Western in the eyes of some. This was, of course, amazing by the Shah, and the Americans pulling his strings, but the popular opinion in Iran was a backlash to the westernization they felt around them. At this point, this had the potential to lead 2 major ways, either from secularity to radicalism, or from the Western bloc to the Eastern bloc...

This did not bode well for the Shah who had done everything he could think of to be popular, and had even single handedly led the country out of economic ruin and into a flourishing time. Another problem this caused for the Shah was that it brought about the rising popularity of Ruholla Khomeini. Khomeini spoke out actively against the White Revolution, specifically the land reforms program, which resulted in a failed "trickle down" economic catastrophe that only angered landowners, but didn't make it any easier



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to buy land, and also women's suffrage. His speeches eventually got him exiled that year, after he issued a manifesto bearing the signatures of eight other senior Iranian Shia religious scholars. He proceeded to list the various ways in which the Shah had allegedly violated the constitution, condemned the spread of moral corruption in the country, and accused the Shah of submission to the United States and Israel. He was then exiled from Iran spending most of his 14 years of exile in Iraq. However, as American influence grew, so did Anti-American sentiment, and so did the influence of the clergy which only continued to grow for the next decade and a half... Interestingly enough, during the 1970s, the Shah began to take completely independent strides from the United States, even refusing to continue the 1954 consortium agreement which was to expire in 1979. He felt powerful enough to act like this for two reasons; the Iranian secret police (SAVAK) had stifled political dissent within Iran, and the 1970s energy crisis, which had led the Shah to realize he could let prices skyrocket, because the world depended on Iranian petroleum. The prices increased tenfold, and finally, the nation accrued substantial revenue, which allowed for the advancement of the Iranian military, extreme modernization efforts, and industrialization projects. During this time period, suddenly the US, the UK, and France, experienced *stagflation*, and the Shah made a public spectacle out of donating spectacular sums to the UK and France saying, "I have known the most dark hours when our country was obliged to pass under the tutelage of foreign powers, amongst them England. Now I find that England has not only become our friend, our equal, but also the nation to which, should we be able, we will render assistance with pleasure," He would proceed to state that since he felt that Iran was a European world country, the Shah did not want that world to collapse economically. The issue was that this new wealth was a shock to the Iranian economy, and caused instability and rising inflation. So the simultaneity of these events began to destabilize the legitimacy of the Shah in the eyes of the public, and the majority began to look to other sources of influence. They found Ayatollah Khomeini and the clergy, or the The People's Mujahedin Organization of Iran. Both organizations were intensely anti-Shah because of his Westernist behaviour. In 1977, after the death of Khomeini's son, the first militant anti-Shah demonstrations began. In response to the protesting, the Shah tried to debase



Khomeini by releasing an article that claimed horrendous things against him. This only further provoked the public and caused more protesting in the streets of Qom. However, it is around this point in time that the Shah was diagnosed with cancer. Muhammad Reza withdrew into himself and became incapable of making decisions, which had an immediate impact on the country. In this situation, what is done in Iranian law is to enact martial law. But the lack of orders from the Shah caused a lack of training of troops, who after the enactment of martial law, would often open fire against civilians, causing the nation to refuse to recognize the legitimacy of martial law. An example of this was Black Friday, a massacre executed by the Iranian military at a religious protest in Tehran's Jaleh Square on September 8th, 1978. Hundreds if not thousands were killed. From that day onward, the revolution was imminent. On November 3rd, 1978, a SAVAK plan to arrest about 1,500 people considered to be leaders of the revolution was submitted to Mohammad Reza, who at first tentatively agreed, but then changed his mind; and then, two day later, went on Iranian television to say, "I have heard the voice of your revolution" and promise major reforms. Two days later, Mohammad Reza freed all political prisoners while ordering the arrest of the former prime minister Amir-Abbas Hoveyda and several senior officials of his regime, a move that both emboldened his opponents and demoralised his supporters. He began to look for leaders from the National Front (his opposition within the government), and after realizing that the leaders of the western nations were gathering to discuss the crisis in Iran, he understood that he had lost US support, and the loyalty of his people, (in addition to his physical health); so on January 16, 1979, he fled the Peacock Throne, and Iran.

## The Current Situation

After the Shah abdicated the throne, Shapour Bakhtiar and a regional council took control. That time period was short lived because a month later, rebel forces attacked the troops loyal to the current government and overpowered them, granting power officially to the leader of the Islamic revolution-Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. By the start of February, Khomeini was officially recognized as the Supreme Leader of Iran. Over the



course of the past year, all of the rebel forces have made an attempt to gather influence and power, so far the picture is still unclear.

In the meantime, in the US, the Carter Administration came to power in 1977, and worked on a number of issues including the stagflation caused by the energy crisis. It has not been easy, but Carter has already announced he's aiming for re-election in 1980, and now it seems the pressure of American public opinion is what will define the results of these elections, and that is a very fickle thing.

Oh, and one last thing: Just two weeks ago, on October 22, 1979, the sick Shah was admitted to the US after he left Iran. Seeing as the Shah was considered by the Iranian people' "the most wanted", this has caused a surge in protests and riots, and in the level of violence involved in them. It seems that the protesters are fighting not only against the Shah, but against the western influence the Shah was under and was trying to bring to Iran . So, now, the Shah being protected from the Iranian people by the Americans is viewed as a personal blow, and the Iranian people will do anything to strike back just as strongly, and we hear protests are planned for tonight.

That's where our Crisis begins.

## Characters' Bios

### The Carter Administration:

**Chair: President Jimmy Carter**

#### **Cyrus Vance - United States Secretary of State**

Born in 1917, in West Virginia. American lawyer serving as United States Secretary of State under President Jimmy Carter from 1977-1981. Prior to serving in that position, he was the United States Deputy Secretary of Defense in the Johnson administration.

#### **G William Miller - United States Secretary of the Treasury**

Served as the 65th United States Secretary of the Treasury under President Carter from August 6, 1979 to January 20, 1981. He previously served as the 11th Chairman of the



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Federal Reserve, having been an American economist and central banker. He was born in Oklahoma in 1925.

### **Harold Brown - United States Secretary of Defense**

An American nuclear physicist born in New York, in 1927, who served as United States Secretary of Defense from 1977 to 1981.

### **Zbigniew Brzezinski - Carter's National Security Advisor**

A Polish-American diplomat and political scientist. He served as a counselor to President Lyndon B. Johnson from 1966 to 1968 and was President Jimmy Carter's National Security Advisor from 1977 to 1981. He was born in Warsaw in 1928.

### **Cecil D Andrus - U.S. Secretary of the Interior**

An American politician who served as governor of Idaho, for fourteen years. He was born in Oregon in 1931. Andrus served as U.S. Secretary of the Interior from 1977 to 1981 during the Carter Administration.

### **Stansfield Turner - Director of Central Intelligence Agency**

Born in Illinois in 1923. An admiral in the United States Navy who served as President of the Naval War College, commander of the United States Second Fleet, Supreme Allied Commander NATO Southern Europe, and was Director of the Central Intelligence Agency under the Carter administration.

### **Walter Mondale - Vice President of the United States**

An American lawyer and politician who served as the 42nd Vice President of the United States from 1977 to 1981 under President Jimmy Carter. He was born in Minnesota, in 1928.

### **William H. Sullivan - Ambassador to Iran in 1977-1979**

Born in 1922, in Rhode Island. He was an American Foreign Service career officer who served as Ambassador to Laos from 1964–1969, the Philippines from 1973–1977, and



Iran from 1977–1979. He is not the Iranian ambassador during the hostage crisis, but he is most up to date as to the Iranian goings on, having just been replaced.

### **Thomas J. Watson, Jr. - United States Ambassador to the Soviet Union**

An American businessman, political figure, Army Air Force pilot, and philanthropist. Son of IBM Corporation founder Thomas J. Watson, he was the 2nd company president, the 11th national president of the Boy Scouts of America, and the 16th United States Ambassador to the Soviet Union. He was born in Ohio in 1914.

## **Council of the Islamic Revolution**

### **Chair: Ruhollah Khomeini**

### **Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani - One of the Founding Fathers of the Islamic Republic**

An Iranian politician, writer and one of the founding fathers of the Islamic Republic. He was born in Bahreman, in 1934.

### **Mohammad Beheshti - The Second Person in the Political Hierarchy of Iran After the Revolution**

Born in 1928, in Isfahan. An Iranian jurist, philosopher, cleric and politician who was known as the second person in the political hierarchy of Iran after the revolution.

### **Abbas Sheybani - A Founding Member of the Freedom Movement of Iran**

Iranian physician, university professor and conservative and principalist politician. He is a founding member of the Freedom Movement of Iran. He was born in Tehran, in 1931.

### **Ali Khamenei - Was in Khomeini's Inner Circle**

Born in 1939 in Mashhad. He was brought by Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani into Khomeini's inner circle.

### **Mehdi Bazargan - Head of Iran's Interim Government.**



An Iranian scholar, academic, long-time pro-democracy activist and Head of Iran's Interim Government. He was appointed prime minister in February 1979 by Ayatollah Khomeini, making him Iran's first prime minister after the Iranian Revolution of 1979. He was born in Tehran, in 1907.

**Abolhassan Banisadr - Head of Foreign Affairs under the Interim Government**

Born in 1933 in Hamedan. an Iranian politician, who served as Head of Foreign Affairs under the Interim Government.

**Sadegh Ghotbzadeh - Foreign Minister During the Iran Hostage Crisis**

An Iranian politician who served as a close aide of Ayatollah Khomeini during his 1978 exile in France, and foreign minister during the Iran hostage crisis. He was born in 1936 in Isfahan.

**Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi Kani - Iranian Shia cleric**

Was born in the Kan District in 1931. He was an Iranian Shia cleric, writer and conservative, and principlist politician.

**Abdul-Karim Mousavi Ardebili - Iranian Reformist Politician**

An Iranian reformist politician and Twelver Shi'a Marja. He was born in Ardebil, in 1926.

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