

own government. The United States did restore the Shah through almost open intervention by the CIA in August 1953, and helped set up his dreaded secret police, the SAVAK. But American influence over the Shah did not suffice to prevent him initiating the 1973 hike of OPEC oil prices. Iranians, a nation of

conspiracy buffs, paid more attention to such purely heedless American acts as the appointment of former CIA director Richard Helms as ambassador to Tehran.

Iranian misperceptions of the United States and its role in Iran are the Iranians' problem. For the United States, the general ignorance of Iranian history,

religion, and culture has made a direct contribution to the present impasse. "I am not suggesting that understanding would solve everything," says Ruhollah Ramazani, a political scientist at the University of Virginia, "but in a democracy you cannot afford not to be informed."

—NICHOLAS WADE

No CAT Scans in Mexico for Shah?

HUGH DOWNS: *The Shah had to come here? He couldn't have stayed in Mexico and got good treatment?*

BARBARA WALTERS: *Well, what he said is, and he keeps saying: He said that he had pills—pills, forgive me, I'm a little excited because I just left him a few hours ago—chills and fever the whole time he was in Mexico. He was being treated for malaria, and that made his condition worse. Then he had intense pain and jaundice.*

The reason he had to come there was for the diagnosis. They didn't know whether it was the gall bladder itself, or whether it was the tumor pressing on the gall bladder, and he had to have a very new and sophisticated instrument called a body scanner. They didn't have that there. They do have it here, and in order to find out whether it was the cancer or the gall bladder, he had to come to this country.

DOWNS: *I see.*

WALTERS: *He did not want to, he said, his doctor said—*

DOWNS: *He didn't want—*

WALTERS: *And the Empress, and they all said: You must, you must come. There are very few of these scanners in the world. They're very very new.*

On 22 November, Thanksgiving day, ABC News Correspondent Barbara Walters interviewed the ex-Shah of Iran in his room at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. No tape or film was made, for the Shah felt it would be played in Iran and could be misinterpreted. Walters did take notes, and the dialogue between Walters and Downs is from a report aired on the ABC News Magazine 20/20.

The idea that the Shah had to come to the United States for diagnosis unavailable in Mexico is challengeable.

Mexico has at least 16 CAT (computerized axial tomography) scanners. Nine are in Mexico City, three in Monterrey, one in Tlapan, and three in Guadalajara. Five of the Mexican machines scan only a patient's head, 11 scan both head and body. Of these, the newest are three machines built by Ohio Nuclear and known as Delta 2010's. These machines complete a scan in less than 5 seconds and are considered some of the best available anywhere in the world. Older scanners sometimes take 4 to 6 minutes. Estimates by U.S. industry executives put the world total of CAT scanners at 2600, some 1400 of them in the United States.

Body scans are most frequently used to diagnose suspected abdominal problems. A report published in August 1978 by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment says, "CAT scanning can image tumors in the liver, pancreas, kidney, pelvic and retroperitoneal space that are invisible on conventional x-ray films. In patients with jaundice, CAT scanning may reveal whether the bile ducts are obstructed. In cases of suspected tumor, CAT scanning

may reveal spread of the tumor, and thus differentiate patients who might benefit from surgery from those for whom it would be futile."

The Shah is said to have been battling cancer of the lymph nodes for the past 6 years. With chills, fever, weight loss, and jaundice apparently plaguing him in Mexico, a CAT scan as well as other diagnostic tests were needed to see if the problem was cancer, simple blockage of the bile duct, or both.

Experts are at odds over whether good quality CAT scans of the Shah's abdomen could have been made in Mexico. "He could have been taken care of down there without any problem," says the chief radiologist from one midwestern medical school, who has colleagues in Mexico City. "I'm sure they have what is needed."

Others say having a good machine is not enough. "There is a great deal of difference in terms of the experience of the people who are using them," says S. Lewis Meyer, director of marketing for English Medical Instruments. "If I wanted a CAT examination that would provide the maximum amount of diagnostic information, I probably wouldn't go to Mexico City. I'd go to Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Chicago, or someplace else where people have had systems installed for some length of time, and have developed the experience to know what they are looking at."

It appears that the Shah and his doctors felt the same way. On the night of 22 October, he was flown to New York. The next day doctors performed CAT scans of his abdomen. The three CAT scanners at New York Hospital range from the relatively old to the very new. Their General Electric CT/T 8800 is "the current state of the art," as a competing manufacturer put it.

Not just the United States and Mexico have the machines. General Electric, which entered the scanner market just 3 years ago, already has body scanners in Australia, Korea, Japan, Canada, Argentina, Columbia, Brazil, Norway, Sweden, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Russia, Syria, and Iran.

The diagnostic work at New York Hospital showed the Shah's acute problem to be obstruction of the common bile duct by a stone. It also revealed other stones in his gall bladder, and a "lymphoproliferative disorder," according to a press release from New York Hospital. The question of whether the operation on the gall bladder, the radiation treatments for cancer, and the removal of the remaining stone could have been carried out in Mexico or some other country has not yet been addressed. On the issue of CAT scanners and diagnosis, the record speaks for itself.

—WILLIAM J. BROAD