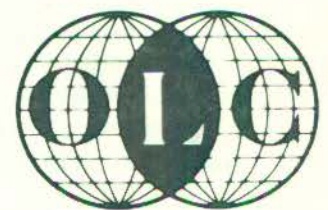


Washington, D. C. 20019

An Analysis of US-Iranian Cooperation in Higher Education



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**Overseas Liaison Committee
American Council on Education
Washington, D. C.**

TABLE I

Enrollment in Modern Primary, Secondary,
and Higher Institutions in Iran
1935-1965

^{1/}
(in thousands)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>INCREASE</u> (percent)	<u>SECONDARY</u>	<u>INCREASE</u> (percent)	<u>HIGHER</u>	<u>INCREASE</u> (percent)
1935	177.1		16.2		1.5	
1940	287.2	62.2	28.2	74.1	n.a.	
1945	293.7	2.3	29.4	4.3	n.a.	
1950	525.2	78.8	82.1	79.3	5.5	
1955	816.5	55.5	140.7	71.4	10.1	83.6
1960	1,436.2	75.9	281.9	100.4	19.8	96.0
1965	2,181.6	51.9	493.7	75.1	28.9	45.9

But importantly, the expansion was not evenly distributed over the three levels of education. Secondary schools experienced far greater expansion than did institutions of higher education.

The results were predictable as revealed by Table I. From the middle of the 1960's, immense pressures for admission were placed on the system of higher education. In 1963, approximately 15,600 applicants sat for the entrance examinations at the University of Tehran. In 1964, the number had risen to 18,000. Only one year later the number had risen to 29,000 climbing in 1966 to 35,000 candidates and in 1967 to 37,500. The problem was not merely that more and more secondary school graduates were competing for a stable number of places, but that rejected applicants not able to find their way abroad (increasingly to the United States) were retaking the entrance examinations each year, hoping for a change of luck.

This sudden burst of pressure on university places was accompanied by other

^{1/} 1935 refers to the 1935-36 academic year, etc.