

Kissinger Says Weak CIA Led to Shah's Departure

LONDON, Feb. 10 — Former secretary of state Henry A. Kissinger has attributed the shah's loss of power in Iran in part to the "incompetence" of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Had the shah been spared press and congressional inquiry and new restrictions, the shah's opponents would have been "unable to destroy the monarchy," the CIA is in itself a "strategic handicap," said Kissinger.

Interview with The Economist. "Twenty-five years ago, the shah was overthrown in Tehran and ousted, the shah and thereby aided his return to power."

Kissinger contended that the oil states along the Persian Gulf

are now "under a great deal of stress and need reassurance of the security of the region."

Elaborating a point made in an earlier interview, Kissinger argued that the Carter administration's "policy" in the Iranian "revolution" was leading for the shah to act on human rights at a time when he was "under duress."

He said that the shah's human rights record was "under attack" by "revolutionary" forces. He said the shah's "policy" was leading to "inflammatory" actions.

Kissinger did not mention the Carter administration by name, but his remarks are clear enough to provide fellow Republicans and other administration foes with the intellectual framework to ask, "Who lost Iran?"