

## What the C.I.A. Accomplished in Iran

To the Editor:

Daniel F. Halloran's Dec. 8 letter on the C.I.A.'s covert action in Iran 25 years ago in reply to Representative Stratton's up-to-date criticism of C.I.A. Director Stansfield Turner [letter Nov. 30] reveals a complete lack of understanding of a very important part of the foreign affairs of the United States of America.

Without the C.I.A.'s covert action, America would not be where it is today. I know, because it was my privilege to be in charge of the supervision of all American covert action during the cold war of the 1950's and 1960's.

Mr. Halloran is correct in stating that the C.I.A. toppled Mossadegh's Government in Iran in 1953. Mossadegh wept profusely, sickened and died. Allen W. Dulles of the C.I.A. personally escorted the Shah back to Iran from exile. Mr. Halloran did not mention, however, that Mossadegh was a Soviet stooge who had ousted the Shah in order to open the door for a Soviet takeover of Iran and its oil, which is now keeping European industries going — and, incidentally, also keeping a vast number of American motor cars rolling on our highways from coast to coast. The C.I.A.'s covert action denied Iranian oil to Soviet Russia and secured friendly relations with an



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important nation in the Middle East.

Interestingly, the C.I.A. executive who was responsible for the success in Iran is Kermit Roosevelt, a grandson of our famous President "Teddy" Roosevelt. His covert action reflected his grandfather's admonition about speaking softly and walking with a big stick. The Central Intelligence Agency has done just that, since 1947, and the American public owes it a debt of profound gratitude.

HANS V. TOFTE  
Gilbertsville, N. Y., Dec. 14, 1978