

Name: _____

Source 2: Excerpt from the National Security Council Assessment of the Situation in Iran, November 1952

Instructions: The National Security Council advises the U.S. president about foreign policy. Below is an excerpt prepared in the final days of the Truman administration. As you read, use different colors to mark 1) words or phrases that you don't understand; 2) 3-5 sentences that you think are most important; and 3) any sentence that refers to events described in your reading. Answer the questions that follow with your group. Be prepared to share your answers with your classmates. Use additional paper as needed to record your answers. You should prepare to summarize your findings to your class.

November 20, 1952

**TOP SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION**

**STATEMENT OF POLICY
Proposed by the
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
on
THE PRESENT SITUATION IN IRAN**

1. It is of critical importance to the United States that Iran remain an independent and sovereign nation, not dominated by the USSR. Because of its key strategic position, its petroleum resources, its vulnerability to intervention or armed attack by the USSR, and its vulnerability to political subversion, Iran must be regarded as a continuing objective of Soviet expansion. The loss of Iran by default or by Soviet intervention would:

- a. Be a major threat to the security of the entire Middle East, including Pakistan and India.
- b. Permit communist denial to the free world of access to Iranian oil and seriously threaten the loss of other Middle Eastern oil.
- c. Increase the Soviet Union's capability to threaten important United States-United Kingdom lines of communication.
- d. Damage United States prestige in nearby countries and with the exception of Turkey and possibly Pakistan, seriously weaken, if not destroy, their will to resist communist pressures.
- e. Set off a series of military, political and economic developments, the consequences of which would seriously endanger the security interests of the United States.

2. Present trends in Iran are unfavorable to the maintenance of control by a non-communist regime for an extended period of time.... At the same time, nationalist failure to restore the oil industry to operation has led to near-exhaustion of the government's financial reserves and to deficit financing to meet current expenses, and is likely to produce a progressive deterioration of the economy at large.

3. ...It is clear that the United Kingdom no longer possesses the capability unilaterally to assure stability in the area. If present trends continue unchecked, Iran could be effectively lost to the free world in advance of an actual communist takeover of the Iranian government. Failure to arrest present trends in Iran involves a serious risk to the national security of the United States....

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Questions about Source 2:

1. When was this document written? _____

Who was president of the United States at this time?

2. According to this document, what was the primary concern of the United States regarding Iran?

3. List the three most important sentences from this document. Explain your reasoning.