

Bazargan

Doc Number: KP000103

asks to leave key Iran post

Tehran, Iran (AP)—Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan asked to be relieved of his duties yesterday and called on the people of Iran in a midnight television address to ask Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to take the reins of government.

"I have tendered my resignation a long time ago. I would be pleased to be relieved of my post so that I can go home to relax and give others the chance to come and take over the government," Mr. Bazargan said in his hour-long nationwide telecast.

"I plead to the people to request Ayatollah Khomeini to come to Tehran and take over the responsibilities of the affairs of the country," said the 72-year-old former university professor, who has been sharply criticized recently for the bloody fighting in the northern province of Kurdistan.

Spiritual leader Khomeini, 79, established his base in the holy city of Qom, 100 miles south of the capital, after he inspired the Islamic uprising that overturned the monarchy of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in February. Ayatollah Khomeini appointed Mr. Bazargan to head a provisional revolutionary regime, but he