

Iranian general is killed; leftists, Kurds suspected

Tehran, **Iran** (Reuter)—Gen. Mohammad Vali Gharani, Iran's first armed forces chief of staff after the revolution, was shot by unknown gunmen in his home yesterday and died later in a hospital.

There was immediate speculation that General Gharani, in his late 60's, was the victim of leftists who considered him pro-American or of Kurds who resented his tough line against a Kurdish uprising in the northwestern town of Sanandaj last month.

The general was appointed February 12, the chaotic last day of the revolution against the shah, by Premier Mehdi Bazarگان. His appointment had the blessing of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the religious revolutionary leader.

But he was fired March 27 after severe criticism of his handling of the Sanandaj uprising.

The general airlifted crack commandos of the shah's former brigade of per-

sonal bodyguards, the Immortals, to fight Kurds who were seeking greater self-rule. He was alleged to have ordered helicopters and gunships to machine-gun Kurdish civilian areas.

By the time of his dismissal, rumors also had spread that he tortured prisoners during the shah's regime.

General Gharani was head of Army intelligence when Premier Mohammad Mossadegh, who forced the shah into a three-day exile in 1953, was in power.

When the shah returned and Mr. Mossadegh was ousted, the general survived in office, but was dismissed in 1957. He was in retirement before his appointment at the end of the revolution.

Nine more persons linked with the shah's regime, including a police general and a mullah, or Muslim clergyman, were executed yesterday by revolutionary courts in the eastern town of Mashhad and Bandar Abbas on the Persian Gulf coast.