Khomeini Decrees Islamic Republic After Vote in Iran: Khomeini Says Balloting Establishes Isl

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By Ronald Koven
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TEHRAN, April 1 — The Iranian revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, proclaimed an Islamic republic today without waiting for official results of the two-day national referendum on establishing a new system to replace the deposed monarchy.

"This is the first day of God's government in Iran," said Khomeini, decreeing that it become a national holiday. Joyous gun bursts and chanting of "Allah is great" were heard throughout Tehran far into the night.

The interior minister said more than 98 percent of the electorate voted and 97 percent said yes to the Islamic republic.

This did not seem to take into account results from regions like separatist-inclined Kurdistan, where heavy boycotts of the referendum were reported.

Khomeini Says Balloting Establishes Islamic State

IRAN, From A1

Khomeini said the next step is election of a constituent assembly to approve a new constitution. Spokesman Entezam said a text of the draft constitution will be published next week and that the people will have about a month to discuss it before voting for the assembly's membership.

Asked in an interview why voters were required to do their balloting in the open, where the different colored "yes" or "no" ballots could clearly be seen by partisan observers, Entezam said there had not been enough time to provide booths for the country's 18,000 polling places.

Nobody watched anyone else and it was "a completely free vote," he

added.

The head of a four-man delegation of French lawyers invited by the government to observe the voting said: "This is not the way we do things in the West, and it does not meet our criteria of democracy."

Entezam said that he did not yet know whether voting for the constituent assembly would be done in the

same public way.

In the debate on the Islamic republic, Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan made it clear that he opposes a radical rupture of Iranian society. Bazargan told a French interviewer that he had told Khomeini he is and always has been a gradualist and that, if the ayatollah did not care for that approach, he should replace him.

"The problem," said Bazargan, "is that the populace is still in a state of revolution, while we are a normal government and, in addition, a transitional government. We want people to return to work. Maybe the next, elected, government will be revolu-

the revolutionary committees with their thousands of well-armed but poorly trained Khomeini supporters providing law and order in much of the country.

There is a race against time to see whether the revolutionary committees will be forged into an effective national military force under Yazdi before the regular armed services are reconstituted.

Bazargan chooses to blame the breakdown in military discipline wholly on Marxists rather than Moslem revolutionaries like Yazdi's followers in the Army's soldiers' commitees.

"The Marxists," he said, "want to annihilate the Army under the pretext that it is imperialist. We had to fire the whole command of the Army because the soldiers demanded it. The extremists are pressing against all the officers. They are doing the same in the police and the gendarmerie so that the government will be 100 percent disarmed."

Bazargan's new defense minister—the old one was relieved apparently for ordering dissolution of revolutionary committees in the Navy—made it clear today that he is on the same wavelength as his predecessor, Adm. Ahmad Madani, and Bazargan.

The new minister, Gen. Taghi Riahi, said it had been a mistake to retire

the generals en masse.

"We need a national Army," said Riahi, "but the decision will be made by Khomeini and the premier. This is a political matter. They must decide. We will take their orders, whatever they decide upon."