Iran Expels Newsman Over ‘Tone’ of Coverage

From News Services

TEHRAN, Sept. 1—Australian journalist Chris de Kretser, who reported from here for the London Daily Telegraph, was ordered today to leave Iran within a week.

The Iranian government and representatives of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini’s revolutionary regime have expelled at least eight Western journalists in recent weeks and instituted rigid restrictions for foreign correspondents in an attempt to control coverage of the turbulent country.


De Kretser, 32, said he was informed of the expulsion order by foreign press director Ali Behzadnia after being summoned to the Ministry for National Guidance.

Pars, the official news agency, said de Kretser was ordered expelled for failing to apply for accreditation as a foreign correspondent. Besides writing for the Daily Telegraph de Kretser had written in recent weeks for The Washington Post. De Kretser, who has lived here for 10 years, said he was already accredited with the government as a journalist for Kayhan International, an English-language weekly, and had assumed that accreditation covered all his journalistic activities.

He said Behzadnia also expressed objection to “the general tone” of his reporting.

Meanwhile, the government radio said Kurdish guerrillas attacked Bastam when they learned that Chamran was there. But withdrew when the fighters-bombers flew strikes against the attackers’ positions.

In Mahabad, the largest city held by the rebels, the outlawed ‘Kurdish