

October 27, 2000

To: AIC Board of Directors and Advisory Council

From: Dr. Hooshang Amirahmadi
President, AIC

Since our last board meeting on July 24 of this year, AIC has experienced an acceleration in its activities. August and September were certainly not spent at the beach!

- 1) The restructuring program approved at that meeting is being gradually implemented. Chairman Pelletreau and I met on October 3 to put a first draft of our proposal together. I am asked to continue to build upon that draft and report back to Bob. I am hard at work on the plan and I am sure at some point in the near future you will hear from us.
- 2) Our staffing has been consolidated and we have every reason to believe that the turnover of the past is behind us. As you know, Roshan Khadivi has left. In her place, with the title of Special Assistant to Dr. Amirahmadi, John E. Burns III will assume her responsibilities, in addition to his previous duties as in-house accountant and editor. Mr. Burns is a graduate of Dartmouth College, with a BA, double majoring in economics and psychology. He has had a successful career in the investment business, working for such firms as Merrill Lynch Capital Markets (vice president), and the Bank of New York, among others. He has a keen interest in foreign affairs and institutional development. Better yet, he has firmly agreed to stay in place for at least a year. Janet Anderson has expanded her part time hours with us to three days, and does a wonderful job of writing, editing, and organizing. Both live within walking distance of our office.

Finally, we have reason to believe that the long wait for Trita Parsi is about to end. You may recall conversations about his possible employment with AIC. Trita is a young Iranian-Swede with two Master's degrees and a few years of work experience in the US Congress and the Swedish Mission to the UN. He has been very active in the Iranian-American community. Trita reports that his

lawyers are confident that his work visa will be secured by January 2001, after which he could settle in this country. He will be concentrating on fund raising and membership development.

- 3) There has been a strong feeling on the part of our Board and other substantial contributors that AIC must formalize a coherent business plan. To that end, we have painstakingly re-examined what it is that makes AIC unique, and have ready for presentation a text that we feel will greatly enhance our development efforts. Included of course is a detailed, formal budget that clearly shows what we wish to do and how much it will cost. We wish to emphasize that the fund raising goals outlined in the business plan are realistic, attainable *and* sustainable. We already have broadened our donor base to include private foundations and businesses outside of the energy sector. Continuing this is a crucial goal over the next twelve months.
- 4) We are about to finalize our 1999 tax return. We are pleased to report that we closed last year with contributions up approximately 60% from 1998. Our operating deficit was quite low. When the numbers are complete, I will get them to you just as soon as possible. The year 2000 should show further improvement.
- 5) As I mentioned, our activities have quickened. As many of you know, we were the lead organizers for an historic reception at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on August 30, 2000. At this reception, members of the Iranian Parliament, including the Speaker, Mehdi Karroubi, met with members of the US Congress. Among those attending were Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Representatives Gary Ackerman (D-NY), Eliot Engel (D-NY), and Robert Ney (R-OH). The Iranian delegation included Morris Motamed, Elaheh Koulaei, Esmail Jabbarzadeh, and Davood Hasanzadegan-Rousadi. In all, about 170 people attended this reception, which was covered by the *New York Times* (August 31), the Associated Press (two stories, August 31), *USA Today* (August 31), the *International Herald Tribune* (August 31), and on CNN's *World News Tonight*.

In addition to this meeting, we held two roundtable discussions in Washington, the topics being frozen Iranian assets and narcotics interdiction. Congressman Jim Leach (R-IA), Chairman of the House Banking and Financial Services Committee, hosted the financial roundtable, and led the discussion. Senator Specter was

kind enough to address the narcotics gathering. Both took place in the Rayburn Congressional Office Building, and were well covered by the media. The event brought Iranian officials to the Hill for the first time in twenty-two years.

- 6) Our plans for future projects include sponsoring a luncheon speaker, Ambassador Mohammad Amirkhizi, at CSIS on November 13. The Ambassador, a prominent member of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a Senior Policy Advisor on Crime Control and Crime Prevention with the UN in Vienna, will discuss the nature and gravity of the narcotics distribution in the region and how the US and Iran may cooperate in meeting the challenge. We are also planning a carpet auction in February 2001, and a second Nowrouz Gala in March of 2001. More details of these will follow.
- 7) We are considering hiring a legal consultant, initiating an independent audit of AIC's accounts, and moving to purchase Director and Officers insurance for our Board.

I wish to thank our Board of Directors and Advisory Council for their continued support, and look forward to initiating this type of report to you on a reliable, regular timetable.