

This broadcast given by Charles Collingwood, with the addition of the following record sent in by Lowell Thomas, Jr.:

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This is Lowell Thomas, Junior, reporting from the Middle Eastern city of Teheran, capital of the nation of Iran, a third of the way around the world to the east.

Iran, homeland of the Aryans, is the Persia of today. It constitutes a monarchy of seventeen and one-half million people, sandwiched in between southern Russia and the Gulfs of Persia and Oman. Iran is important to us these days, largely for two reasons -- because of its strategic location at the threshold of Russia and its tremendous petroleum wealth. A third of the world's known deposits of oil lie in the Middle East, and Iran in recent years has been the world's fourth largest oil producer. Teheran, where Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin held their world-famous conference in 1943, is situated

at the foot of the towering Elburz Mountains, many of whose peaks rise to an altitude of 12,000 feet and serve to hold back the damp weather of the Caspian Sea, to the north. The climate here during the summer is similar to that of southern Arizona - dry and very hot, with rarely a cloud in the sky. Rain at this time of year is almost unheard of.

At first glance, this city of eight hundred thousand people seems as modern as the average European city. Its main streets, wide and asphalted, are swarming with late model American cars and there are many lovely parks with flowers, and statues of the late Shah Riza Khan Palevi, father of the present ruler, and the man who started Iran down the road to becoming a modern state. Teheranians, for the most part, are dressed like in New York or Paris and store windows are full of American, British, and European products, but, in spite of Teheran's outwardly modern appearance, there is much of the Oriental past that remains. Picturesque camel caravans can still be seen ambling awkwardly down paved streets. Occasionally

jamming traffic as they wend their way into the city's bazaar. The same holds true with strings of melon bearing donkeys, and flocks of goat and sheep, on their way to Teheran dinner tables.

Then there are the rubes, gutters of rushing water, and a topic of conversation this is, especially among visitors, along with the weather. These jubes play a large part in Teheran life, for they provide drinking water for many of the city dwellers. Water that is brought down from the mountains in subterranean canals. Unfortunately, this jube water is used for bathing and to carry off much of the city refuse. So, by the time it has run a few blocks, it is highly contaminated. Still, many Teheranians must rely on it for drinking purposes. An up-to-date system for the supply of pure water has been planned for a long time. It no doubt will soon be installed.

Another oriental hangover is the remendous amount of governmental red tape, the formalities and rigmarole in obtaining permission to do anything in Teheran, are almost

beyond belief, especially to Americans, who are apt to be a bit impatient. One of the greatest causes of trouble and delay is the camera. Foreigners are not allowed to take pictures without permission of the police. The unavoidable impression one gets from such treatment is that Iran has something to hide, but away from the frontiers there are no military secrets. So security is not what they have in mind. Instead, they are afraid pictures have been taken that would hurt Persia's reputation. Too many foreigners in the past have aimed their lenses at camel caravans and beggars in the streets, concentrating on the quaint, the old unchanged, to the exclusion of aspects of modern life. Iranians realize they have a long way yet to go before becoming an entirely modern state, and quite justifiably are sensitive to too much criticism and not enough praise for recent accomplishments.

Now, as they say out here in Iran (a Persian expression was used), So Long, and back to New York.

July 1949

LT tape  
from  
Honolulu.

F

Aug. 1, 2, 4  
tape

Aug 3  
Re arrival  
in Tokyo

Aug. 4. tape  
interview:  
Emp. of Japan

Aug 5 tape  
inter: Sep.  
Parl. ~~has~~

20 - Mr. Thomas off the air.  
Chas. Collingwood substituting.

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21 - Mr. Thomas, from Honolulu.  
And Chas. Collingwood

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22 - Mr. Thomas off the air  
Chas. Collingwood substituting.

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25 - Chas. Collingwood substituting

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6 - Chas. Collingwood substituting

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7 - Chas. Collingwood substituting

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3 - Chas. Collingwood substituting

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- Chas. Collingwood substituting

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JULY 20 - Mr. Thomas off the air.  
Chas. Collingwood substituting.  
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JULY 21 - Mr. Thomas, from Honolulu.  
And Chas. Collingwood  
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JULY 22 - Mr. Thomas off the air  
Chas. Collingwood substituting.  
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JULY 25 - Chas. Collingwood substituting  
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JULY 26 - Chas. Collingwood substituting  
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JULY 27 - Chas. Collingwood substituting  
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JULY 28 - Chas. Collingwood substituting  
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JULY 29 - Chas. Collingwood substituting  
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AUGUST 1 - (Mon.) Mr. Thomas, by tape  
Chas. Collingwood also.

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AUGUST 2 - Chas. Collingwood substituting

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AUGUST 3 - Mr. Thomas re: arrival in Tokyo

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AUGUST 4 - Mr. Thomas, by tape, with  
interview: Emperor of Japan,  
in Tokyo  
Chas. Collingwood also.

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AUGUST 5 - Mr. Thomas interviews some of  
the Members of Parliament.  
Chas. Collingwood also.

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AUGUST 9 - Chas. Collingwood substituting.

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AUGUST 10 - Chas. Collingwood substituting.

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AUGUST 11 - Chas. Collingwood substituting.

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AUGUST 12 - " "

" 15 " "

" 16 " "

" 17 " "

" 18 " "

" 19 " "