

OFFICIAL STATEMENT • 11

Subject: What to do about the political groups who confront the Islamic Republic
The official: Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
The occasion: Interview with the magazine *Ayandesazan*
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Question: We would like students to know what to do about the political groups who are now confronting the Islamic Republic. Explain the political nature of these groups, their goals, their contradictory positions, and tell us the responsibility of the Students Islamic Associations in the schools regarding the influence of these groups?

Answer: . . . [The] nature of the [Tudeh Party] is extremely clear. They have never had a shining record. They fought the previous regime as part of the anti-government movement and their own particular slogans [and tenets.] Even if their struggle has been beneficial in the past, the nature of this party is not good at all. They are against religion. The only thing that we fight for, and will continue to fight for, is Islam, whereas their texts and their thoughts are atheistic and misleading. Young

people who have joined them with their youthful zeal, solely for the purpose of [joining] the struggle, [have been misled] and are misguided. The Tudeh Party made poor decisions during Dr. Mossadeq's government. After Dr. Mossadeq, many of them went back and made a deal with the regime. The regime infiltrated them, and took away their oppositional character. Therefore, they betrayed the struggle. [Of course] one cannot expect anything other than that from a group with atheistic and Communist roots. In my opinion, they can never respect spiritual concepts. [And as far as we are concerned] we do not even accept [and recognize] them. At our most optimistic, we consider them a bunch of misled persons. And if we want to be pessimistic, they do not have a favorable situation, politically.

