

James A. Bill to lecture

January 7, 1980

"America knows astonishingly little about Iran," says James A. Bill, one of the few academicians in the nation who specializes in the domestic policies of Iran. "Few American officials have had the linguistic fluency, intellectual curiosity, personal fortitude or occupational time to pierce the crust of Iranian society."

Bill, professor of government and acting director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, will discuss recent developments in Iran in a public lecture at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, at the University of California, San Diego.

In his lecture, "America and the Iranian Revolution: An International Watershed," Bill will examine current events in the light of Iranian history and U.S. policy in the Middle East. The lecture will be given in room 2722 of the Undergraduate Sciences Building on Revelle campus.

Bill is the author of "The Politics of Iran" and co-author of "Politics in the Middle East." His article, "Iran and the Crisis of '78," which appeared a year ago in "Foreign Affairs," attracted attention for its analysis of the weakness of the Shah's regime. The Iranian government's "most serious recent tactical shortcoming," he wrote then, "concerns its policy toward the religious leaders."

Bill has been highly critical in the past of the American diplomatic and intelligence missions in Tehran, and of the American national press, whose reporting of Iran has been "consistently sparse, superficial and distorted," he says.

The lecture is sponsored by the UC San Diego Department of Political Science.

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