



SPECIAL EDITION

This is a disaster for Iran and the ayatollahs have never been more vulnerable. The smell of regime change is in the Tehran air

ANDREW NEIL SEE PAGE 11

ASSAD IS TOPPLED BUT IS WORSE TO COME?

As Syria's tyrant flees and Islamist rebels seize control, Western leaders warn of great 'risk and uncertainty' across region

SYRIAN tyrant Bashar al-Assad fled to Moscow yesterday as rebel forces swept into Damascus.

After 50 years of bloody rule

By **Chris Pollard**

by his family, a humiliated Assad escaped on a private jet as the capital was surrounded.

But US President Joe Biden said it was 'a moment of risk and uncer-

tainty' because the Syrian rebels had a 'grim record of terrorism'.

Assad's regime crumbled after its allies Iran and Russia, preoccupied with their own problems, failed to

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A Damascus fighter stands on a smashed statue of Assad's late father Hafez