

TAPE #8
INTERVIEW WITH JAY COBURN
NOVEMBER 3, 1981

KFcars?

JC No, we got about 12 cars. I put three cars at each apartment, full of fuel.

KF Now, you say here, keys to apartments, the vehicles, fuel, etc. Is there anything that you put together?

JC Food.

KF How did you get that?

JC Out of the apartments. We pretty much knew...anybody that had commissary priveleges, military commissary priveleges, because the wife worked at the commissary..or at the military or something, those were the apartments where all the good food was. So we went to those apartments first. And I basically tried to collect all the food and put it in these four apartments. Now I didn't get all that done, I just, I started that process, I thought it was more important to do the vehicles, so I did the vehicles first. I didn't finish the process of going around and collecting food and that kind of thing, but I had started that. At least to have one apartment completely stocked to go to. And then there was one apartment, the Colonel had said, we are going to need an absolute safe house, that we have gone to only one time, and then we leave it totally alone. Okay, and we never go to it unless we absolutely have to. So, the apartment that I felt best fit the bill for that, okay, I really didn't go to. I just left it alone. So when I say four apartments, actually there were five, but I didn't go to that one. I left it totally alone.

KF Okay.

JC I'm trying to think if there were any other things logistically...oh, maps, policed up some better maps than we had been working off of before. But all the maps we had, at best, were bad. We really never had a good set of maps that the Colonel was satisfied with.

KF This is the street maps of Tehran? Why couldn't you get good ones, because they didn't exist?

JC They didn't exist. All the maps were outdated. Didn't show exact locations of buildings, names of streets weren't always correct, etc. Which I might add, an interesting thing happened. During the mission it became important to to us to find out more about this building, during the planning back here. He made some kind of contact with a person, he felt like..he knows about it, and I don't remember, it was sketchy details, but he made some kind of contact with one of his friends at either the Fintz Intelligence Agency, or the CIA or somewhere, to attempt to get more definitive drawings. He felt like in some kind of an area, kit, they have a...the Defense Department or the government had actual blue prints of all these government buildings, okay. And I can't remember what happened, but I do remember, he even went to the extent...I'm not sure if he went to see this fellow, or if he called him, or something, but I do remember that somebody was working on trying to get us...that's how detailed he wanted it to be. I mean he really wanted to have..and we really never got anything that was as detailed as he wanted.

KF He had worked on this in the U.S.

JC Yes. Prior to the project.

KF Now, you spent two days doing this, and on the third day the Colonel and Joe arrived. Now that's, I'm trying to keep track of these days, but that must have been the 15th.

JC Right.

KF What time of day did they arrive, and who met them?

JC They came in in the morning. And I met them.

KF And you drove them to Keane's place?

JC Keane's apartment.

KF Which was where?

JC It was...well, we need a map, because I should show you, and can't even remember if I remember the names. But it was in the northwestern portion of the city.

KF You spent the evening going over the situation and developing a route for reconnaissance of the jail.

JC Which he wanted to do right away, the next morning.

KF You presumably reported to him what you achieved in terms of apartments and vehicles and all that. And it sounds to me like you had done a pretty good job. Did he say anything?

JC No.

KF Did you feel you had done a good job?

JF Yes. You know, and I'm not sure I really expected him to say anything....He may have said something, now that I think about it, but you know, he wasn't...you know, it would have been something like, well that's great, let's go on. You know, he wouldn't have dwelled on it, he wouldn't have made a big deal out of it or anything, but it would have....and I guess I didn't expect him to dwell..you know, this was a very fast paced, busy time, and we had a lot to do, and he kept us all focused on the fact that timing is everything, and we need to get on with it. That's why I say he wanted to go to the jail the very first thing the next morning.

KF So you did.

JC So we did. And Joe drove. And the Colonel and I were passengers. If I remember, we were in a gray, Pacon station wagon.

KF And what's a Pacon?

JC Pacon is the Iranian, local Iranian produced automobile. Manufactured inside Iran.

KF Just to go back to staying at Keane's place, was his wife there?

JC No.

KF She had come back.

JC Correct.

KF Okay. Was Keane in on any of your discussions?

JC No.

KF He still thinks you are just planning to get the belongings back and maybe an emergency route to get the airport...

JC Even though, between you and I, I really believed that Keane was...oh, I left something out...in our plan..I mean, I told you we were dressed casually. We also had all grown beards.

KF Up at the lake?

JC Right. Started to grow beards. And by the time the mission would come off we would all have really good beards. And once we got into this vehicle we had electric razors in there, and suits. Okay, we were in the gangster type attire. We had suits and brief cases and

JC electric razors. We would shave..we weren't going to stay in the van
cont. very long. We had three positioned cars, okay, at another location.
And we would shave the beards off, get into the suits, grab the
brief cases, and split up and get into two automobiles, regular sedan
type automobiles and proceed on the way.

KF That was the people in the van. The people in the car couldn't have
done that.

JC No. We didn't figure the car would be under that much suspicion.
That would be more focused on the van.

KF Do you remember what time of day it was when you drove out...this
must be the morning of the 16th, to go down to the Ministry of
Justice. The time of day?

JC It was in the morning. The reason I brought up the beards, by the
way, I was talking about Keane.

KF Oh yes.

JC Me having a beard, and Keane being a bright fellow, and knowing my
background, and the fact that I came in unannounced, you know, he
came out and said, "why don't you tell me what you are really up to,
I think I know." And I said Keane, you know, let's just stick with
what we've got here. Keane and I know each other very well. Let's
just stick with what we've got here. And he said, "well I know what
you are up to." And I said, fine. So it was an awkward situation
between Keane and I. But I didn't want betray my trust with the
Colonel. I figured if he wants somebody else to know that will be his
decision, and we'll do it at the time. He had a discussion with Keane,
we were staying at Keane's apartment, so the Colonel wanted to get
updated on the situation. Who exactly is in this country, what are
they doing, etc., from the EDS point. He was just as concerned
about all the other EDS people there, as he was about Paul and Bill.

JC He never understood, in fact, why we had all those people there
cont. anyway. He never came out and directly confronted Ross with it, I
don't think, maybe he did. But I was never present when that took
place. But, he felt like having all these other people there was just
as bad as having Paul and Bill in jail. Because at any point in time
all these other people are going to get picked up, and then we would
have a worse problem on our hands. So let's get all these turkeys out
of here. They aren't going to be successful anyway, they are not
going to negotiate, you don't understand these people, these
people..I mean...This is the Colonel, his thought process, in my
opinion. He had a conversation with Keane to find out what was going
on, who was there, and exactly what they were doing. And he told
Keane that the reason he was there was to assist me in getting the
household goods and effects out of the country and that kind of
thing, initially, and the more they grew comfortable with each other,
then the more, you know the Colonel became more and more
comfortable with Keane. I don't think to the point that he was willing
to tell him about our plan, or anything like that, but he did become
comfortable with the fact that we needed Keane's assistance,
logistically, cover story wise, and who knows how else. And he only
disclosed to him what he absolutely had to, in terms of who was
involved, how many people, etc.

KF I may be getting a little ahead now, but did the rest of the team that
had been at the lake ever get there?

JC Yes. Well, not the whole team, we've got to qualify that, but two of
the other members did come in at a later time.

KF Okay, well we'll get to that. Tell me a little bit about this drive down
to the Ministry of Justice. You say you got caught up in a number of
demonstrations.

JC Yes. I had steered away from the downtown scene during the two days that I was there by myself. I had concentrated on apartments up in the north, and you know, there's not any traffic, and no demonstrations or anything. It's like the suburbs out here compared to downtown, easier to get around, all that kind of stuff. And there was no reason to go downtown. In fact, the Colonel said, don't. So I didn't. So we hadn't been down there in a while, and it was...there were people everywhere, some organized, most disorganized, but there were a number of organized type parades, demonstrations, where they are carrying the Khomeine...you've seen newsreel after newsreel of the same thing, okay, with the banners, and words you can't read, because they are Farsic, and pictures of Khomeine, and the military is sitting on the sidelines, you know, watching all this, and the people were putting flowers in the tanks, in the territs of the tanks, and in the soldiers lapels, and you know, it was that kind of thing.

KF No shooting at this time?

JC In fact, my understanding is, that the Military was just allowing this to happen, they were instructed not to. I only know that because, I think General Heiser was in the country at this point, working on the military not to take action. I mean, because under normal circumstances, I don't think a lot of the demonstrations would have been allowed to continue. We encountered these demonstrations, which caused long delays, because of the long lines of people coming down the street, and they just had traffic cut totally off, and there was no way to get around these demonstrations. And we would sit. No one seemed to be concerned about the fact that there were three Americans, you know, in the car. The Colonel was beginning to look very Iranian. Could very easily, if he didn't open his mouth, pass for an Iranian. Getting longer white hair now, white beard, he was dark complected, with the Arabian type nose, big nose, he was beginning to look very Iranian. If you gave him some wary beads, you know, in his hands, he could stand out on the street corner for

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JC hours and everybody would pass by him and think he's Iranian, cont. there's no doubt about it. But Joe and I, obviously don't look Iranian. And they didn't really pay much attention to us. In fact, I got out of the car at one point, while we were sitting at one of these things and went and bought some bread. You know, they have little bakerys along the way, and went and bought some bread, and then we chewed on bread and waited. But we eventually made it down to the jail area. And we were in conversation the whole time in the car. The Colonel was very occupied with the history that we were in the midst of. He was a history nut to begin with, and had studied, I guess, various revolutions, and he was comparing this revolution to others, and making comments about the fact that it was really neat that we were sitting here in the midst of this history. He said, you know, there are not very many people that are going to be able to say that. We were right in the middle of it. He seemed to be taken by that. I didn't seem to be taken with it. I wasn't enamored with this at all. I was just rather concerned about all these people being around. Because, you know, we are in the one little car, and there is this mob of people. But we worked our way down to the jail area and drove completely, we drove right by the front of it, and around and looked at all the buildings surrounding, you know, got a good layout of the surrounding area...and then drove by it again. So we actually only passed in front of the place twice. We drove around the area a lot, but right in front of the jail twice.

KF And at this point you must have discovered differences?

BG Yes.

KF Okay, what were those?

BG The major difference was that, visible to the eye, there was no courtyard at all that we could see. So...

KF Did the Colonel say anything?

JC He said "Oh, shit". I think that was his first comment. Because..it wasn't an impressive place at all in terms of security. But, there was no courtyard. The best we could determine, the place that was reported to us was detached from the building where they were being held, it was a little further down the way. Okay, it didn't have anything to do with the jail complex at all. So, what we didn't understand, there had to be a courtyard, there had to be an exercise yard, or that wouldn't have been reported to us. We just couldn't see it, and that was a concern of our. Not counting the fact that these steel doors....and it seemed...yes, there was barbed wire on the top of anything associated with temporary partitions (?) there. So it just wasn't the same scene that we had prepared for. Not that, you know, we could have penetrated or anything like that, it was just that it was different.

KF Okay, as I understand it now, there was...at the side of this block where the jail entrance is, there was, in fact, a wall about 12 feet high. Is that right?

JC Well, there was...looking at the front of this place, there was..it wasn't a wall, they were tall doors. They were metal doors, they were very tall. I'd say at least 12 feet, maybe 14, but they were very tall. There was a building that this thing was hooked on to that you could see with barbed wire going across the top of the building. It was no fence, it was a building. You know, literally the wall of a building.

KF Blank wall, or windows?

JC It had little, long narrow windows there at the top. Now, on this side of the thing is another building. And what it is, is an approximately three or four story building that goes back this direction. This building went this direction. This building here went back that way, long. Now, we could not tell all this at the time, but eventually I went in there, so I understand what's on the other side of here. But,

JC at the time, looking at this thing, really no wall at all, really, it's cont. building and doors, and there was a peep hole type affair in these doors. And really, that's all we saw when we passed in the front of the jail. Now, the fence that we had planned for was down here, there was another..you couldn't really tell it at the time, but actually this was another building over here. There was a little cut out or something right here. But then, in fact, there was a yard, like a garden type thing, sitting on this corner here. It had nothing to do with this jail at all though.

KF Is there another street here?

JC No, no street, there is a little street going over here. And there, in fact, is...just like we had planned on, two or three feet high, concrete structure with bars. Well, ██████████^{Majid} thought that was the place where they were exercising. In fact, that wasn't the place they were exercising at all, had nothing to do with the jail. Now if that had been the place we would have been alright, because that was just about what we had planned on, it was about the same dimensions, would have been a piece of cake. There was a sidewalk there, I mean, you know, it was just about as we had planned. The problem was, that didn't have anything to do with the jail at all.

KF But could you tell that at the moment?

JC Driving by?

KF Yes.

JC Yes, yes you could tell it.

KF ...what's behind the fence?

JC Just a garden, just an open land, a few trees, shrubs and things like that.

KF So it was pretty clear.

JC No guards.

KF So it was pretty clear that was not a prison though?

JC Had nothing to do with...family apparent that that had nothing to do with it. Because over here you had the barbed wire, you could see the guards, I mean, you know, it was totally separate, it was a separate entity. So we pretty much knew this was....It didn't make sense to the Colonel, at least, when we talked about it going back in the car. That they would walk these prisoners out and around to that courtyard. Possible, but not likely.

KF There appeared to be no way into that courtyard from over here?

JC No.

KF I see, Okay, I've got it.

JC Now, on the back side of this building, the Ministry of Justice was actually in front of this street over here. And the typical government building type scene, when we drove around this side. People coming in and out, typical office type scene, nothing out of the ordinary. No guards, you know, to speak of, you had normal building guard policemen type people, but you know, nothing military or guard oriented and all, that we could see. No heavy weapons positions. So it was still possible to do something here. We just had to get back and...

KF And think again.

JC Right.

KF The traffic congestion due to the demonstrations was another thing that you hadn't planned for.

JC Yes. That would be an impossible situation, if your primary means of exit was vehicle, because it wasn't predictable, you know. They weren't demonstrating at night, but they weren't exercising at night either. So, you know, it was really...we were going to have to go to work on that.

KF Okay, so you began to think about an altered plan, but one of the things you did was, you went inside to reconnoiter the inside of the jail. Now, let's talk about that before we talk about your new plan. Because I presume the information you got was essential to the plan.

JC Yes, right.

KF You went in...would this have been the day after the reconnaissance, the first reconnaissance?

JC No, because we had to wait for their next scheduled visit. It must have been a couple of days later. They were going in there to see Paul and Bill twice a week.

KF So now we are talking about, probably the 18th of January, this was liking to be. Alright, tell me how the Colonel briefed you for the reconnaissance?

JC There were, at least at this point, we had still in front of us the option of snatching Paul and Bill. We also had an option of maybe some time of infiltration and snatch. So the Colonel felt like during this visit we wanted to accomplish, not only getting as much mapping out of the interior, and the distances, and you know, just mentally...because I can't take notes or anything, but you know, mentally observing. And he went through a drill, you know, these are the kind..you know, this is what you need to look for, and pay attention to these kinds of things, you know, that drill.

KF But tell me what he told you to look for?

JC Pay attention to high, overlooking windows, whether they've got things up against the windows, or whether they are open windows, certainly look for anyone that has any type of uniform on, certainly notice what kind of weapons they have on, specifically what kind of weapons they are, not just that they have, but what kind they are, are they automatic, or revolvers. Numbers of people, he was especially interested in the person in charge, where that location was. I had to find that out, who was in charge and where that person was, physically in that compound. What the routine was, meaning if we are going to do an infiltration type thing, how do we sneak somebody in, you know, unexpectedly, and so he was very interested in the routine. You know, could you get in there, for example, armed, could you get in there with explosives, that kind of thing. What am I leaving out?

KF Well obviously you have the map the interior.

JC Right. Take Paul into our confidence, in such a manner that he can give us exact details on what cell they were in, and where it is, and the dimensions and all that kind of thing, the guard routine that we couldn't see, meaning in the rest of the operation. Don't say anything to Bill.

KF Why was that?

JC No need having more than one person exposed. You can tell him when the time comes.

KF Any reason why Paul was chosen other than Bill.

JC Yes. We felt like he would do a better job, more detailed mind. Probably...well, he was the obvious leader of the two, meaning...

KF He was senior in EDS?

JC Yes. And we had a problem, because our intelligence indicated that there was always an English speaking person in the room where we were actually going to be meeting with Paul and Bill. I need to give Paul some instructions, not a whole lot of details on us, but what he needed to do, period. So we needed some kind of preoccupation with the person, the English speaking person in the room. The Iranian employee ^{Majid} [REDACTED] is beautiful at that kind of thing. He's a great conversationalist, happened, as it turned out, to know the Colonel in the jail a little bit. So he engaged the Colonel and this other fellow in conversation. I might add, a loud conversation, while I was talking to Paul. And the other gentleman that was with me spent the time talking to Bill. I didn't hardly talk to Bill much at all, because I really needed to cover some things with Paul. And the other thing the Colonel wanted them to do was start exercising, if they wanted, I mean more vigorous exercising, to get in shape. Not only get in shape for the actual snatch itself, but you know, who knows how we're going to get out of the country at this point, and they need to be in shape, because we might have to do a lot of walking in the mountains and whatever. By the way, that is something we have not worked on at this point, is getting out of the country is something we have not focused on yet.

KF Well now, Ross had a promise from the Air Force that if he could get them out of jail, the Air Force would get them out.

JC That's right.

KF Were you to any extent relying on that promise?

JC Yes, well I forgot, yes we were, to a certain extent. Now the Colonel didn't like to rely on anything, so he knew he was going to have to get around to this at some point, but that wasn't something that we could do a lot of outside of the country. You needed to be inside to determine what to do. But...and I left this out, in fact, Docian

JC Toppe was the Military Airport closest to town. There were actual cont. American Military planes there, American Military employees there, etc. And in fact, some of our wives of the employees worked at Docian Toppe.

KF This was how far from town?

JC This was almost in town. This is a close in type facility. No more than five or six miles, from actually, where they are.....and one of the thought processes was, you know, we've got the van, we switch to the vehicles and we go to Docian Toppe, and the Air Force gets us out of the country. To get in Docian Toppe, we have Iranian guards at the gates, as opposed to American. And we didn't know if they would come in handy, but we decided that we all needed Military ID cards. So we made our own Military ID cards back here in the States before we ever left.

KF Forged them.

JC Yes. We had...a couple of the people had these ID cards that were used to get in and out of Docian Toppe, because their wives were employees. So we took those and we just made our own from those. They looked pretty good too. So we each had one of those. We didn't know how they might come in handy, but we had them.

KF Did you have them for Paul and Bill?

JC Yes. And the Colonel.

KF You would have got the originals from wives who were here in the U.S. having been evacuated.

JC Yes. How they got those I don't know, I mean, without causing...I don't know Merv got them.

KF I must ask him that.

JC So we are toying with that idea. We don't know if it's going to work, but at some point we get more specific about toying with it, by the way, when we find out that it's probably not a real possibility. But at this point, you are right, I think there is a, falsly so feeling on all our parts, that if all esle fails we could just turn ourselves into the Military and they'll take care of us.

KF Let's go back to your visit. Well you've told me what the Colonel told you to do and I presume you did, that's what you did. You made those observations, and you went in...

JC Oh, even to the point that he wanted me to go down there wearing the clothes, that if we ever did a job, that I'd be wearing at the time. Just to see what kind of impact that clothing had on the guards. I mean, you know...

KF Then you did that?

JC Yes.

KF And that was...

JC You know, our big' bulky...We all bought oversized coats, all different colors and everything, to conceal the weapons. And so, I had that big coat, it looked like the Michelin Man, the Michelin Tire Man, I mean, you know, I had this big, down, nylon jacket with the...they didn't search me at all. Did absolutely no search at all. I could have had anything on me, inside that big coat. I could have had eight weapons on me. We stood outside those gates, the guard opened the peep hole, closed the peep hole, we walked in, they escorted us around, as it turned out, this building, that we could see from the street was where the visitors room was, it's also where the commandant of the jail's office was, there were a few other offices

JC inside this little building. There was a courtyard, as it turned out, cont. the courtyard was just on the otherside of these gates in this building. And there was another building back here. This thing was surrounded on at least two sides, by overlooking buildings, and offices..the courtyard was. It was like a circular drive. When I say courtyard, evidentially with time this had changed, but what it looked like was a driveway. You know, at some point they were driving cars in and out of there, you know, they weren't at that point, but that's what it looked like it was. And this is where the guys were exercising, was in here. This is also where the guards assembled in the morning, where they had their morning formation, according to Paul. He didn't know exactly how many...and then they disbursed throughout the compound, and you know, that was about all he knew during that first visit. Guards were...I never saw any weapon outside of a hand gun. Some of them were not even armed. Some of the guards were not even armed, they were uniformed but not armed.

KF Did you ask Paul to get further information, to use his eyes?

JC Yes.

KF What questions did you ask him to answer?

JC What I said earlier, guard numbers, routine, day, throughout the day and evening, exact location inside the building, figure out some way to depict that to me as to where they were located. Now he told me approximately where they were while we were sitting there that day. But you know, more information about hallways, and how you get there and that kind of stuff. Told him he needed to be exercising. I don't think I ever mentioned Colonel Simons name to him, in fact, I'm almost positive I didn't. But I did indicate that we had the best person on retainer that exists in the world today, that was working on this project.

KF Just think about what you said to him right at the start, when you first walked into that little building for visiting?

JC Well, it was emotional to begin with. We got there before they did, they were still in their cells. So we were seated. I could see out the window when they were walking towards, you know, across the courtyard up to the building...It was an emotional scene.

KF Did you sit opposite sides of the table, or did you shake hands with him?

JC No. Yes, we shook hands.

KF And what was said.

JC I'm trying to think of the words. One of the two of them, I don't know whether it was Bill or Paul said something like, what the hell are you doing here. Now Keane and I also had a beard, which has got to be foreign to them, when we don't wear beards in EDS.

KF And you are wearing a great big...

JC Right, and I'm not in my suit. So that's got to be a little...Now, they were at least aware enough, and had the presence to know that this English speaking person, and they can't be open with their comments and what not. Either that, or it never dawned on them that I was up to no good. Now Paul has said later that the minute that he saw me, first of all, why the hell am I there, and I think it was Bill that said, you know why are you here, or something like that, Paul never said that, but he said he was thinking that to himself. There could be only one reason, and he said he got a tremendous sense of..he didn't know for sure what was going on, but he always suspected that every possible avenue was being explored, and he said when he saw me walk in with that get up and the beard, that he knew right then that..in fact, he also said, and you can talk to him about this,

JC but he said, when they moved them to the other jail, he thought that cont. was the time, that we had arranged the move. He thought the whole time they were in the car, headed over to the other prison, that at any moment in time they were going to get sprung loose. And, like I say, he had no idea what the plan was, or anything, but you know, that's what...

KF But the Colonel had said to take Paul into your confidence. And as soon as he saw you he guessed something was up. Did you explain something to him, or...

JC Right then?

KF Yes.

JC No. The initial conversation was, you know, again, I wanted to get...I wanted to let Ahmir to have a chance to get into his routine over there with those guys. So, we talked about, how are you doing, typical type things you'd be talking about...I was introduced to the Colonel of the jail as a good friend of Paul and Bill's, and that we're doing, and he seemed to be genuinely concerned about Paul and Bill, he really did. I was amazed at that. Spoke relatively good English. And you know, through ^{Majid} [REDACTED], had genuinely expressed concern over Paul and Bill, he was worried about them.

KF So Paul and Bill come in, Bill says something like what are you doing here? You shake hands with Paul, and you say how are you doing and stuff like that and you are waiting for ^{Majid} [REDACTED] to get into his act. Then he gets into his act.

JC In fact, now that I think about it, I think I spent initially, the first few minutes knowing that I needed to talk to Paul for a long time. So it wouldn't seem unusual that I only talk to one of the two, I think I spent the first minute or so talking with Bill, how are you doing? Emily is okay, I talked to her right before, you know, things like that. We're standing.

KF You are standing in this room.

JC The other gentleman that was with me, Rich Gallagher, I believe, is the guy that was with me..took then, Bill off to one side and they began talking, and then Paul and I got off to one side...

KF Was Rich briefed to do that?

JC No. It just happened.

KF And if it hadn't happened you would have made it happen.

JC That's right.

KF Once you got together with Paul, and ^{Majid} [REDACTED] was doing his act. Did you then say to him, now listen, I've got something to tell you or did you just say to him, I need some information from you. What...

JC I said, Paul, if you haven't guessed it already, we're making preparations to get you all out of here. And if we have to, by force. And there is, you know, we've got carte blanche, in terms of doing everything to do that, so don't concern yourself with all the details with that, but I'm going to need your assistance. It was a very short...You know, and Paul's got a...well, you've met Paul.

KF Yes, briefly.

JC He has a very disciplined mind, and he can cut through the bullshit real quick. And so, he's a disciplined enough person that that didn't bother him, okay, the fact that I went right to the issue. And that is, tell me everything you know now, but then here are the things that you need to do in the future, and on my next visit in you can tell me these things. So it was pretty quick, it didn't take long. The whole conversation probably didn't last more than, you know, five or -

JC six minutes. And I was trying not to do things like whisper, and you cont. know, look around with my eyes and things like that. I didn't want the crowd over there to get suspicious when they looked over, so we tried to make a normal conversation type of....

KF The Colonel was the one you were worried about, because he understood some English?

JC No, there was another gentleman in the room that we knew, through the Embassy, or somebody had told us that there was always a translation person, I mean a person that really understood English in the room at all times.

KF But ^{Majid} [REDACTED] could identify this man.

JC Oh yes.

KF And he talked to this man, and to the Colonel.

JC Right, all in Farsic.

KF All in Farsic. Alright. When you left you presumably went back...are you still staying at Keane's apartment now?

JC Yes.

KF And you went back and presumably the Colonel and Joe were there. The Colonel debriefed you.

JC Debriefings with him, by the way, were a daily exercise. Let me give you the routine in Tehran. He felt like I had already been exposed, therefore, why expose anybody else. So if there was no reason, absolutely no reason for he or Joe to go outside, they didn't. I was the outside person at all times. If anything had to take place outside of the apartment, outside of the actual recons that we all had to do

JC together, I was the outside person. So these briefings took place all cont. the time. And he said, after the first few days of this, he said, Coburn you are playing games with me. And I said, what do you mean playing games with you. He said, well, you intentionally leave out information to test me to see if I can get it all out of you. I said, no, I mean, when I'm going through it I may forget some things, but I said I'm certainly not doing it intentionally. He said, there's too big a pattern, you've got to be doing this on purpose. I said, no, I'm not doing it on purpose. But he had a way..and I guess just through experience, but he had a way of getting things out. Things that you would not have remembered. I would not have remembered a lot of the things, except for his ability to question, ask the right question, and get the answers. And I guess that just comes from experience of doing it. It's amazing how much you can remember. I was amazed myself. You know, just from that one episode, he was interested in everything. And he got everything, I'm sure, out of me. Even though I didn't get it all out the first time. He questioned. He was very good at doing that.

KF Given now, pretty good intelligence about the temporary detention center, you and the Colonel and Joe developed a modified plan. What was that?

END OF SIDE A--TAPE #8

SIDE B--TAPE 8

JC ...as we had before, that the courtyard and what not was out. First of all there was not way to get the truck up there and ladders. It was not the same set up. He did feel, however, that there was a very good possibility because of the looseness surrounding the routine. And the minimal number of people that I had seen, in the way of guards, that you know, we could get a couple of people in there on visitation day, and get them out of there, in a short amount of time, and not get anybody hurt. And that's what we went to work on. We went to work on a scenario, that included, basically taking the place by force for a long enough period of time to get Paul and Bill out of there and into a van and all. And that required a little different type of operation that what we had initially planned for. Because we weren't really going to be engaging anyone by force unless we had to. Now your intention is to subdue the various guards in order to get Paul and Bill out of there without getting...so it was a little different operation. But that's what we went to work on. He needed more information, or we needed information about the numbers of guards and their ability to react and all those kinds of things, which we felt like we could get from Paul, with time. Because it was apparent, based on what Paul had said about their routine, that they had pretty much freedom, to walk around in the halls, and you know, that kind of thing. So, even though Paul hadn't been nosing around, you know, he now could be our inside case, to case the place, and get the information out to us. The next time we went to the jail to talk to Paul we got some bad news. There are a lot more guards there than I detected on the first visit. That's when Paul then told us about the guard formation in the morning, how many there were, the weapons that they had, they all had rifles, the fact that they were disbursed throughout the compound, not visible to that courtyard scene, and that kind of thing. When I reported that after this next visit....

KF The visit must have been about the 20th of January now.

JC The Colonel was fairly discouraged that we would be able to pull it off without getting somebody hurt, keep in mind, that was the objective. We didn't want to hurt any of those guys, and none of us wanted to get hurt, you know, and obviously, in the reverse order, we didn't want to get any of us hurt. But we also didn't want to have to kill anybody. He felt like, that without some type of inside cooperation from the official, in leaving the official some out...that it would be difficult to do without getting somebody hurt. The real thing that bothered him more than anything else was all this high ground around the low ground that we were on. Meaning these windows...

KF Around the courtyard.

JC Around the courtyard. He had absolutely, we didn't have a large enough force to secure the courtyard, basically. And that's the only way you could really ensure that no one was going to get hurt. Anybody could have walked up to any of those windows at any point in time and saw what was going on, and had you in a bad situation. So, we went to work on the idea of getting to this Colonel. And since he seemed to be concerned, he seemed...there seemed to be a soft spot there, and since he seemed to be concerned about Paul and Bill in the first place, we felt like through [REDACTED] that we may be able to get to the Colonel, and figure out some way to buy him off, do our thing, but basically, do it in such a manner that we've got, you know, his blessing and cooperation and leave him tied up or shoot him do something, you know, not kill him, you know, so he's got an out, like he wasn't involved in it, okay. So the Colonel was enamored with that idea. Maybe even to the point where the Colonel would just take them home one night and he would give them to us, I mean, you know, who knows. But at least pursue that option. So [REDACTED] went to work on trying to find out more information about the Colonel. In the mean time, they moved them.

KF So the second plan never really got developed to a detailed, precise operation?

JC Not near like the first one.

KF It was...you were still discussing and talking about how it could be done?

JC Oh yes.

KF Let's talk, before they were moved, let's talk about the other things that were done in the meantime. Now who has come in now. Somebody else has come in, because all of a sudden Glen Jackson is here.

JC No, Glen is still in Paris. Jim and...Jim Schwebach and Pat Scully have arrived. By the way, we have moved from Keane's place to another apartment.

19th January.

KF Okay, which happened first.

JC We had moved first. The Colonel got suspicious about Keane's...we were only at Keane's place four or five days. But since Keane was coming face to face with Dadghar all the time, or occasionally, not all the time. Even though Keane was not staying at his apartment, the Colonel got a little suspicious that maybe at some point they might try to figure out where Keane lived, and what not. So we moved out of Keane's place.

KF Where was Keane then?

JC At the Hyatt. And I would meet down there in the evenings with them to get a briefing on the day's activities, and bring that back to Colonel Simons.

KF The day's activities on the legitimate side of the operation?

JC Right.

KF I understand why the Colonel moved you out. And you moved to one of the apartments, do you remember it's address and who it belonged to so we can identify it someway.

JC I don't remember the address. I can point it out to you on the map, once we can get our hands on a map. A good friend of mine's apartment, in fact. It's not very far from our Bucharest office, just north of it, just up the ways a little bit from our Bucharest office. It was what I felt to be our best location, for what we were in...it wasn't in downtown, so you didn't have to worry about the congestion, but at the same time it was close enough. It was a more central location, I guess, than some of the other options. It was more central than Keane's.

KF Do you know who it belonged to?

JC Bill Duranchek.

KF Okay, so that's the one that you stayed in most of the time then.

JC Well, it was a good situation. We were on the bottom floor, so we didn't have to worry..see, any time you are on the second floor, which we were at Keane's, and there is someone living, like the landlord living below you, if there is more than one person's footprints walking around, well, you know, you automatically become suspicious to the people down below.

KF Now, in Durancheck's apartment you were living on the ground floor, and the landlord lived above.

JC Yes.

KF So it was better from that point of view, and it was full of food, and there were three cars, all full of petro. When you filled it up with food did you put any booze in, was there any...did Colonel have a no drink rule?

JC Yes, we had a no drink rule, but there was booze there.

KF But you didn't drink it?

JC No.

KF It was a no drink rule for the whole team. Okay, now....

JC There was booze pretty much in all the apartments. The guys down at the hotel, the negotiating team had gone through and raided a couple of them.

KF When did Pat Scully and Jim Schwebach get in?

JC You know, I don't remember the date.

KF It was after...

JC Let me think about it, I can figure it out. It was definitely after we moved. But, it was before Paul and Bill were moved. Yes, it was before Paul and Bill were moved.

KF By my calculations you must have moved on about the 18th. About the 20th you must have had your ^{second} ~~section~~ meeting with Paul. Do you think they came in in between those two times. In between...they came in after you moved house, but I think you said they came in before your second meeting with Paul.

JC It seems like that was the case.

KF Okay, it's not certain, but our best guess is...

JC I'd say it's around the 20th. Somewhere in that area.

KF The best guess is around the 19th of January Pat Scully and Jim Schwebach came in. Now, the Colonel did another thing. He sent Glen Jackson from Paris to Kuwait.

JC Okay, I mentioned to you earlier, we hadn't really focused on any departure options.

KF But about now you start to think about it.

JC That's right.

KF Okay.

JC While we are trying to develop this information on the Colonel, inside the jail, that's not...there wasn't anything specifically that we could do about that, other than try to react to the information that was being provided by Ahmir. And that was a slow process. That's one of those things you can't just bust into the Colonel's office and say, hey, tell me all about you..so you know, it was going to be a slow process. So during that time, it was felt, let's develop, let's start focusing on how we're going to get out of here. How we're going to get out of the....And it appeared, out of all of the options, I mean you could go north, south, east or west. If you go north you've got Russia, so that's probably not a good way. Where you go is depending on your neighbors. North was not an option. We didn't feel we'd get much help from the Russians. Going to the east you have Pakistan, that might be alright, but it's a long way across Iran in that direction. South you have the Persian Gulf, which is okay, but you got a lot of water to go across. And you're not sure how the Kuwaitis are going to react on their border, where you start smuggling people in and things like that. It appeared, and not only

JC that the Colonel had been in Turkey, he's been stationed in Turkey.
cont. So he, right from the very beginning, of all the overland things that we talked about, in the surrounding countries, and the assistance we'd get. He was more comfortable with Turkey.

(Phone interruption)

JC Oh, we were on getting out. He really favored Turkey. It's close, like 900 kilometers from Tehran to the border. It's driveable, good roads. He was knowledgeable about Turkey itself, specifically Eastern Turkey, and felt like that offered the most promise in terms of getting out. Now we looked at everything under the sun. I mean no stone was not...I mean, we turned over every stone. But even right from the beginning I felt like that was what we were going to end up with. You know, I just felt he was leaning in that direction. But he sent Glen down to Kuwait. We have an operation in Kuwait, EDS does, therefore he's got a way to operation legitimately inside the country. Take a look at the beaches over there, types of activities going on, water type activities going, smuggling, make some contacts if he could, you know all that kind of stuff. We also sent one of our Iranian employees that worked, to the...to drive from Tehran, down to the Iranian side of the Persian Gulf, to do that very same kind of thing, and see what the roads were like going down there, what kind of problems, get used to it and that kind of thing. But since he felt like the overland route to Turkey was going to be the one, he wanted to go on that one personally. He wanted to see...Before we get to that though, because the recon trip is fairly eventful, I think we were talking about Jim and Pat coming into town. They were not there that long. Because shortly after they arrived was when we determined that we are really talking about a totally...they moved Paul and Bill, okay, different location. Taking that place by force was not an option in the Colonel's mind. If your objective is not to get anybody hurt, that's not an option. Still wanted to get somebody inside there, you know, a look at what's going on inside, and determine what some inside options might be, but you know, definitely from the outside...and we physically drove by there

KF Okay, we'll get to that in a minute. We are still in the waiting, the period now...

JC Right. So he, you know, he felt like once we had seen that place, and determined, you know, why have all these people in the country. Let's get back to a minimum number of people.

KF But wait a minute, have we finished on the options of the ways of getting out for now?

JC Well, no, I didn't mention any of the options other than the two overland... I mean we looked at smuggling them out through the airport as cargo. We looked at dressing them up in airline uniforms and having them go out with one of the airlines. We even, you know, toyed around with the idea of just having them go out as themselves. But...in the Docian Toppe option...the American Military option. But anything surrounding airports he was extremely skeptical of, too risky. And once you get had, you are had.

KF Can't get away.

JC Right. We can't get away. Too much military activity around the airports, etc. He was not very comfortable with any of the airport options, not counting the fact that he didn't really know how capable Paul and Bill might be of pulling that situation off..or at least it was his feeling...the worst enemy in that case are the people that are going through that, meaning if they can be very calm, and cool, and collected, and all that, they've got a real good chance of pulling it off. But if they can't....

KF And he didn't know them, whereas he knew his team.

JC Right.

KF So at this point then, you are considering options, no final decision has been made, but the overland route to Turkey looks likliest.

JC Yes.

KF Okay, about now Pat and Jim come in, and about the same time they move Paul and Bill. Now how did you learn that Paul and Bill had been moved.

JC In my debriefing in the evening at the Hyatt.

KF So, who would have told you that, Keane?

JC Yes.

KF You wouldn't know how he knew? Now what...that must have been a real blow.

JC Yes it was...well it first it was a source of optimism.

KF Because they might be letting them out.

JC Or, they might be in a better place, I mean, we didn't know where Gasre prison, what it was, or anything.

KF So you went back in the evening to the apartment and you said to Colonel Simons that Paul and Bill had been moved to another prison, what did he say?

JC He said, where is it? Let's go take a look at it. Do you know anything about it? Immediately started asking questions, the optimism again.

KF And when did you go and look at it?

JC The very next day.

KF The first thing in the morning I imagine.

JC Yes.

KF Alright, you drive out there and you see this place. What did the Colonel say?

JC He was really impressed with this place. I mean, it is a fortress, to include guard towers, and sand bag gun placements, and, you know, forget it, basically. But he was impressed with it. We spent a little time driving around the general area, and clocking, as we always did, figuring out how long it took to drive from point A to point B and all that kind of stuff. But basically we ruled out the possibility that this was a good deal.

KF And once again it would have been the three of you?

JC Yes. We also, somewhere in here, around this time, in one of the evening sessions at the hotel, it was mentioned that one of the angles that they were working on was to get Paul and Bill released, since everybody was worried about their safety and the prison being overrun, as the situation in the streets deteriorated. So maybe getting them to release Paul and Bill, well, always along the line there was a possibility they might get released for bail. We were trying to put up the bail. So the Colonel, and what made me think of this is that Jim and Pat arrived. And we were developing a scenerio to jump bail. We figured they would allow them to get out on bail, but they would be watched, or house arrest, or something like that, so we were trying to determine, which location do we want them to be put in house arrest that's best from our point of view. Determine which apartment. And a scenario for getting them out of the apartment, and without anybody knowing, and away for a long period of time before anybody noticed. So we worked on that plan a little bit. And after we had that pretty much planned...and this went to the extent that we had street routes market out, you know, in case

JC we were tailed, you know, ways to block the tail off, I mean, you cont. know, it was a fairly involved process. And that's when it dawned on us that we needed some vehicle to vehicle communications. Because it was a very complicated process, getting rid of tails and keeping up with each other and that kind of thing. There was a lot of vehicles involved. And we didn't have the luxury, in the Colonel's opinion, of not having the vehicle communications. We did in all our other scenarios, but in this one we didn't. So we needed radios. We looked through the apartments for radios, maybe some kids had some walki-talkies. And in fact, we came up with a couple of walki-talkies. They didn't have very good range and that kind of thing. So minimize the number of people in town, we'd done all the planning that we could do, you know, in terms of having that many people there at one location. Let's get Jim and Pat out of here. They need to go get our radios and we need better maps, they are going to try to do some work on maps. Not necessarily maps of Tehran at this point, but maps of outlying, you know, like Turkey, that kind of thing. And they were going to police up those kind of things and be standing by to come back in, depending on what happened. So I'm not sure how many days they were there, but they weren't there that long. I don't know how many days it was. They'd probably remember, since it was them staying.

KF So now you've seen this new place, you are working...It seems to me as if the Colonel just never stopped planning and thinking about what would I do if I can't do this.

JC Always, endless, ENDLESS, amount of planning, options, what if's, just amazed me. And you know, really, as it turns out, that's a lot of...improvisation was the watch word with him, you know there weren't that many situations, I guess that he'd ever been in, military type situation where the plan actually worked. I mean, he said that. The plan never works. And you've got to think about all the what if's and you've got to have everybody prepared for the what if's. And he

JC was a big believer in it. I mean just endless amount of detail in cont. planning. And I say detailed, I keep saying it over, because it was. It wasn't just big picture stuff, it was DETAILED. That's just how he thought.

KF Okay, because of the possibility that they might be let out on bail, and a house arrest, and you might want to sneak them out that way, and because you don't really need Pat and Jim now, because you know you can't rush the fortress. You send them back. And you start to consider ways of getting them out of the fortress without trying to take the place, which you know you can't do with less than the Air Force on your side.

JC Right.

KF And here we have two options. An inside job or breaking in when there is a riot outside, or snatching them during a visit. Tell me a bit about the discussions you had about those options. How they seemed. One, two and three.

JC Well, let's talk about one. There were a lot of cars. I made a visit inside there.

KF Okay, when would that have been?

JC It just so happened, it was the same visit that Ross made. I went in with Ross. In fact, the Colonel was very apprehensive about Ross going in at all. But when Ross insisted, the Colonel said, Jay, you go with him. So I went with Ross, and that was the first time I'd actually been on the inside.

KF This must have been, I suppose about the 24th. I may have the date, let's see if I've got it.

JC Ross probably remembered the date somewhere.

KF No, he's very bad on dates.

JC Oh, he is.

KF No, we don't have that date. Sounds to me like it must have been about the 24th, I think. Anyway, go on. You went in with Ross.

JC Yes. And we ran into Ramsey Clark and all that stuff. But you know, the place was a lot better organized than the other one. That's the thing that stands out in my mind. It was big, it was troops living inside barracks. I mean it was a full blown Military Complex, is the word that comes to mind. But on the inside they had a little road type thing that we walked down to get back to this little officer's club where we were going to meeting with Paul and Bill. I think it was the officer's mess, is what it was. Ornate looking building. And a lot of cars inside there. The guards drove their cars in. People that worked in there, I suppose, drove their cars in. And they had these double steel doors at the beginning, and the routine with the cars is, they would open the front doors and the car would come in and they would close those. Once those were secured then they would open the second set. You know, in between there I suppose, is where any search of the vehicle took place, I'm guessing, I don't know but I'm guessing that that's what that was all about.

KF Because you weren't allowed to drive in.

JC We were not allowed. They took us in through a door. There was a door cut into the door, kind of like we were showing you, so they took us through that. And so you could see this metal door, you know, apparatus this double metal door situation...And into an administrative office off to the right where we waited for a little bit. And then they took us...they did a search here, by the way, unlike the other place. And then, they took us from there, they escorted us back to this double door routine, into the compound, and into the general, or whoever the head of the jail's office. I assume he was a

JC general. I'm almost positive he was a general. And his was a nice cont. waiting room type office, and that's where we ran into Ramsey Clark. And Ross was, you know....but anyway, I'll have Ross tell you all about that. We waited there for a while, chit-chatted with the general, had tea with the general and that kind of thing. Tea all the time. And then we were escorted to this officer's mess. And then Paul and Bill were brought to that building. But this entire time I'm really impressed with the inside of this place. It's a compound, and there's a routine there, it's fairly secure. Double brick walls surrounding it, besides this double steel gate business, and double brick walls, which seemed to me about maybe a five or six foot space in between them.

KF How high?

JC I'd say at least 12, at least. Guard towers on the corners, and reinforced bunker type, sand bag type gun placements right in the very center above and to the right of these steel doors where we entered. It was the roof actually, of this little administration building that we went it, as it turned out.

KF So you are doing the same routine.

JC Yes.

KF A routine that you are used to by now. Noting things, memorizing things, looking. But basically it's clear, your still pretty clear, you're not going to be able to storm that place?

JC No, and we used the same approach. We felt like...they were moved there to begin with because of security reasons. And other people...Paul and Bill told us about the fact that they were relocating prisoners from other jails throughout the country even, outside of Tehran, you know, into this place. If in fact, this general who came across again, as a fairly westernized type individual. And [REDACTED] Majid [REDACTED] went to work on that angle with the general and found out

JC that he had two daughters here in the country. I believe it was
cont. daughters. You know, the Colonel wanted to pursue that, maybe even
to the point of the same kind of scheme. Have the general, you
know, get one of his trusted guards to put them in their car and
drive them out. I mean, who know. At least make a deal with him
that if it really gets bad, if it really gets bad we'll make sure your
daughters are taken care of, you know, forever and ever. Finest
education, you know, whatever we had to say or do or commit to,
that if the situation really got bad, take care of these two guys, you
know, take them to your house, whatever. And he seemed like the
type of individual that you could engage in that type of thing. As it
turns out, ^{Majid} [REDACTED], this guy was a major, ^{Majid} [REDACTED] had
been in the Shah's prison as well. And the guy was a major at that
time, and ^{Majid} [REDACTED]...when ^{Majid} [REDACTED] was in this same prison, ^{Majid} [REDACTED] was in
Gasre prison..it's an interesting little twist..He was one of the big
land owners, the chief of his tribe out in western Iran.

^{Majid}
KF [REDACTED] was?

JC Yes. And ^{Majid's} [REDACTED] family. So you know, when they did the land
reform thing, when the Shah took the land and split it up, and that
kind of thing, well, you know, the [REDACTED] tribe rebelled. And as a
result, General [REDACTED], in fact, was eventually assassinated, I believe
it was in Iraq, I'd have to go back and look at the history of the
thing. But ^{Majid} [REDACTED] was put in jail. Hovata, in fact, was the prime
minister that jailed ^{Majid} [REDACTED]. And of course, ^{Majid} [REDACTED] never forgot that.
At any rate, getting back to the general...So they had really struck
up an old acquaintance. And I guess political prisoners, unlike the
common criminals, that wasn't uncommon, that they were aware of
who their captors, you know the guards, or the officers involved, or
you know, whatever. And there is a lot of payoffs that are going on
inside the prison, with the political prisoners, since most of them
have money, you know to get better food, and better conditions, and
whatever. So ^{Majid} [REDACTED] knew the general. It was like old home week for
^{Majid} [REDACTED] with the general. And I'm not sure what point we got to in

JC that whole thing, and I don't know if it was ^{Majid} [REDACTED] that convinced the cont. Colonel that that wasn't a good idea, or what about it bothered him, or what. I'm really not sure. But I know that eventually that approach was abandoned, you know, we didn't go as far as to approach the general direction.

KF Did it ever occur to anybody to kidnap the general's daughters?

JC Oh yes. It occurred to the Colonel.

KF What did he say about it?

JC He said...well looking at all the options..we were talking one night and he said, yes, you can offer a million things and all that, but the other side of that is, you can also use another tactic of kidnapping the daughters and use Paul and Bill as a way to get them from the general.

KF And then what happened.

JC I don't know that that was any different than any other options that we were looking at.

KF Was it ever discussed with anybody else. Did anybody ever say, no, this is one thing we can't do, or did it just never get discussed much?

JC I think I probably mentioned it to Ross. I don't know that anybody ever said, no, this is something we can't do. I don't remember anybody saying we couldn't do anything. I mean, after all, if you go so far as to plan a snatch operation in a foreign country, I'm not sure there are any taboos. We had a little thing, and I need to tell you about it, because it is kind of comical. And this is one of the times that it came up, and the Colonel's comment was, if you guys could get rid of your badges long enough...now I need to explain to

JC you about the badges. He constantly would dig all of us on the team
cont. about the fact that we were Jack Armstrong's, and that's the word he
used, Jack Armstrongs, meaning do-gooders, and that we had to get
out of our Jack Armstrong mode and get more in the mode of doing
this job that we had to do. And that's where the badges came up,
you know, he somehow, put badges, Jack Armstrong badges on all of
us. And slowly with time he said that our badges, the guys on the
teams badges were turning a little green around the edges, you
know, during the operation, but that we still all had this Jack
Armstrong approach, when the bribe things came up. The Colonel
said, well that's certainly an option, but I'm sure all you Jack
Armstrongs couldn't relate to that. So that was kind of in there, and
when we talked about the kidnapping, I almost swear he made some
comment about our badges again, but he was kidding us a lot about
that. But I don't know that there were any taboos. I never heard of
any.

KF Okay. Did you consider other guards, or was it just the general that
you talked about?

JC No, he talked about trying to approach one of the guards, and we'd
probably have to do that through Paul and Bill, meaning the
psychology behind guards and prisoners, you know, playing on that
psychology, guards and prisoners get fairly close. And probably that
would be the best avenue to get to a guard. The guards begin to
relate to their prisoners... I forget what they call that, the
Stockholm Syndrome or something like that, there is a name for that.
I think it is the Stockholm Syndrome. But I think other than
those the Colonel and the guard idea through Paul and Bill, those
were the only inside things that we talked about. The second option,
and he talked about a lot, you know, he began talking about it even
before it was apparent that our original snatch operation was not
feasible. And that is to the extent that the more unorganized the
current forces are, the better our chance of pulling off the snatch
and departing the country. It never dawned on me, I'm sure it did on

him, but it never dawned on me that the extension of that is that you could get into a situation where there would be total anarchy and you basically could do what you wanted to do. I mean the strong survive. But that didn't enter my...I'm sure he had thought of it, but that didn't enter my mind. But as time wore on and you saw this transformation taking place in the streets and people were beginning to arm themselves, and that kind of thing. He began to talk about this more. That it's a piece of cake. I don't know how many times he said to Joe and I, he'd say "it's getting closer, and it's going to be a piece of cake, the people are going to do it for us." You know, and we'd sit up on the roof in the evening and listen to some of the chanting and weapons being fired and all that kind of stuff going on, and he said, you could always count on it, he said "its getting closer." You know, he never really laid the thing out, I guess I envisioned most of it in my mind rather than him laying it out in terms of the mobs taking over. But having been down there in enough of those demonstrations and being around the city, you know, I was out more than they were. I could see what was happing, it didn't take a...to figure out, at some point these people are going to take all this frustration that they'd built up for the Shah, and the establishment, all these years of being dictated to, okay, that there is hardly anything that's going to stand in the way of that. And there are going to be some targets. Obviously Americans were the things that were talked about alot, is a target. But the Embassy was a target, I felt. Anything that represented...the Shah's palace was certainly a target. Any American Military installation was a target. The prison, where political prisioners are being held is a target. So, you know, he didn't really have to spell it out, I mean he talked about it on occasion but it wasn't really difficult to figure out where he was headed. Now, the extension of that is that during any snatch operation, he felt like the timing for that was very critical in terms of our departure. Just because you are ready to go do the snatch doesn't mean you do it. You've got to have this escape out of the country planned, wired, and you know, you gotta wait for the right time. So it became apparent to be that, you know, as anarchy

JC approached that that really is the time you want to do it. There is
cont. very little way that the people that are...you know, as you are
making that transition to one form of control to another, that period
in there is the time when you've got the best shot at basically doing
what you want to do. As long as you don't get accidentally killed in
the process.

KF And you also considered snatching them by means of an outside visit?

JC Well, that is... I'll tell you what that...

KF Oh you mean them coming out.

JC Right.

KF Oh, I see.

JC That's more related to the house arrest situation failed, that kind of
thing.

KF So Jim and Pat went back. Glen is in Kuwait. What happened to
Ralph?

JC I think all three of these, excuse me, Ron and Ralph...the reason
by the way, they are black, okay. They are two black members of
the team...Now that's not significant in that, you know, there were
alot of blacks in the country, when there were alot of Americans.
Well, the Colonel, being few Americans in Tehran at this point, you
know, really felt like these guys, we'd taken and orderd them out of
risk until the time came when we absolutely needed them. That's the
reason they didn't come with Jim and Pat.

KF I see.

JC I mean again, after the risk thing they never came in after that.
Ralph went to, when we got into the radio thing... Ralph went to...