

SIDE B--TAPE #4

BG ...Plus, we could tell that Coburn was involved in something. He was starting to sprout a red beard, which was unusual, for the same reason that I was growing a mustache. But perhaps, that was just he had suspended shaving while he was there in Iran, but he was not calling on us at the jail on a regular basis like the others were. He always seemed to be off doing something else. There was one period of about a week, I think it was shortly following Ross' visit, where one of the Iranian employees who usually came along didn't come along. And it may have been mentioned, "he and Jay have gone somewhere", which was unusual, because, why would they go somewhere, where would they go, for what purpose. We thought all the action was right there in Tehran. So, just from some casual comments, and maybe some specific ones, maybe Paul had, or that I had, there seemed to be the pieces for...if all all fails, if we can't get the bond paid, if the American Military doesn't help us, if the State Department doesn't help us, we may, you know, the helicopter may come over the compound and the ladder will come down, and he maybe slipped a note. Who knows what exactly is going to happen, but be prepared, if the time comes, you know, be prepared.

KF Was that all the warning you got? Those general things, or did you later...

BG That was all that I got, perhaps Paul got more.

KF Okay, just to jump ahead for a moment. When the mobs stormed the jail you did not know that this had been organized by Colonel Simons?

BG No, we had no way of knowing that.

KF Okay, let's go back to this day. You discussed with Ross some changes in the wind at EDS. That's interesting that you should talk about the company while you are in the predicament. Do you remember which changes you talked about?

BG I think another one was a modification of the dress code, where the fellows would wear colored shirts, as opposed to straight white shirts. The mustache...that was a modification.

KF They weren't computer related things, they were...

BG No, they were more the result of a review of EDS' employment policies and practices and rules and guidelines. We'd paid to have an employee attitude survey taken, which was participated in by all of the employees in Iran, you know, everybody in the company participated, and as a result of the findings the officers and the board sat down and reviewed, maybe we should raise our pay scales, maybe we should do this, maybe we should do that. And he just chatted about some of those.

KF Okay, the colored shirts don't seem to have come in, or have they?

BG Well, we didn't...Well, I'm sorry...they're in.

KF Oh, they are in. Does this code exist in writing?

BG It used to. It used to, for the reason that it was easier for people to understand what you wanted them to do if you wrote it down for them, than if you tried to be dependent of word of mouth. I think it is...I haven't been hired in a long time, so I don't know whether it's still given to new employees or not.

KF Okay. Now let's go to Sunday, February 11th. The shooting had gone on all night long. Did you sleep that night?

BG Yes I did, which was strange, because there was a great deal of anxiety by all of us as to what was happening out on the street, what was going to happen than night, the next day, what have you. But, I don't know whether you are physically or psychologically, when you get tired enough, you are lying down on the bed you can go to sleep. I guess soldiers go to sleep in fox holes with bombs bursting around them. I guess you become climatized to what is happening, and you can shut it out and go to sleep. But I was surprised when I woke up, maybe at 6 the next morning, that I had slept, and I had slept well.

KF Did something wake you?

BG No, it was morning, as a matter of fact, it was quiet. I think everybody was off having their morning tea, or everybody who had been fighting in the streets all night had decided to get some sleep. So It was kind of a quiet period.

KF What did you do when you woke up?

BG The normal things in the morning, you brush your teeth, shave, get dressed. We had breakfast that morning.

KF And then what?

BG And then, sometime 8 or 8:30 the firing began again. It built, it kept building, and building, and building, and now bullets are whisteling through the trees outside, and bouncing off the buildings. We can see helicopters hovering over parts of the city with firing going on, at them, and them down at the people on the streets. You know, it's like a war is now going on.

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KF Any bullets fall in the compound?

BG Oh yes. As a matter of fact, Paul and I were standing right outside..he was standing right outside to door to our building, and a bullet hit the three, the wall and wound up right on the ground beside him, which he picked up and showed to everybody around.

KF By 12:00 o'clock you felt it was obvious that the mobs were going to capture the prison. What made you think that?

BG Well, as I said, the firing is increasing, and it's getting closer, and closer, you know, in the days previous we heard firing, but it was off in that part of the city, or down south in that part of the city, but had never been, you know, like right outside of the wall. But it was...we didn't have bullets bouncing off the trees. And the guards up in the towers are firing now.

KF Oh, they were firing out.

BG Well, we're not sure exactly...it's hard..you can see them through the windows, and they are firing, but it's impossible to say who and for what, you know, what they are shooting at exactly, while we are in our building. Once we got outside in the courtyard, we could see that they were just shooting down at anybody.

KF At this point you were staying indoors?

BG Yes.

KF Now then, this is still 12:00 o'clock, the officers...are these Army or Police who are....

BG Both, and its...they are almost interchangeable, they serve together, and its...let's say the Army has the officers, and the police were more the enlisted men, but they served together, and I think, as I understand it, perhaps the only thing that really distinguished them was that if you joined the police it was like you were going to be in it the rest of your life, if you were in the Army you were serving X-number of years before you finished your tour of duty and got out.

KF Okay. When you say the officers changed into their civilian clothes, what exactly did you see?

BG Well, a little bit earlier, say about 10 or 10:30 we see a number of officers kind of going in one direction through the central part of the jail compound, like off to a meeting or something. And a little bit later we see them come back and they are really scurrying now. They are hustling back to their individual buildings.

KF How much later, a few minutes?

BG Half hour.

KF Half hour later?

BG It's really hard to tell how much time passed. There is a fellow that's in charge of our building was, I believe, a Major, a Major or a Colonel. He comes back to the building and changes out of his uniform into civilian clothes, and he's got a little, usually he has a BMW parked right outside of the wall around our compound. Either he has his BMW, or he's got his Iranian Pacon, which is like a, maybe a small Ford. He has his car there, and he's carrying some things out, putting it into the trunk of the car, we see him close the trunk, get in it and drive out. Well, this is much earlier in the day than he normally goes home.

KF And in the meantime he's changed.

BG He has changed, he is no longer in his uniform.

KF Okay, so you saw them all scurry back from what appeared to be a meeting, go to their individual buildings, the man in charge of your building came into your building?

BG Yes.

KF He would have gone to his office?

BG They had an office there, and he had his own room.

KF You would have seen him go to his own room? Or you assumed that?

BG I didn't. I assumed that he did. He changed something.

KF And then at some point later you see him, and he's back out in the compound, he's wearing civilian clothes, and he's putting stuff in his car like he's just cleaned out his desk?

BG Who knows. But he's putting some stuff in his car and he's getting ready to get out of there.

KF Okay, but you must have...it looked to you...that's why I say he's cleaned out his desk. It looked to you like he was getting ready to go. Now, what thoughts passed through your mind when you saw that?

BG Well, maybe that's a good deal. Maybe all the officers and all the, you know, people with uniforms on, if they all leave, maybe we can just walk out of here.

KF If never occurred to you that this might have been arranged by EDS?

BG No. No.

KF Okay. About half an hour later the intensity of the attack seems to be increasing, and now the enlisted men change into civilian clothes. Now tell me again exactly what you saw?

BG Now, it was more than just saw, don't forget, our roommate speaks English, he's an Iranian that speaks English. There is at least one other Iranian there that we know that speaks English. And some of the information that we are getting from them, and these other foreigners that are the room down at the other end of the hall who all speak English...some of them speak more Farsic than we do...they are picking up what it is that's going on. So it isn't just seeing, we're hearing that the officers are leaving, and they have turned control to the enlisted men.

KF I see. You couldn't have been sure that that was true. You must have wondered if it was true.

BG It appeared to be that a lot of the police and army officers are kind of in a panic in the various courtyards, and are going back and forth, and having seen the officer in our building...he's not the only officer, but he was the ranking officer, he was the only one who had a car parked right outside. But it appears to be true, what we are hearing, that in fact, they are fleeing.

KF And so, half an hour later, half an hour after the officers appear to be getting, the enlisted men appear to be getting out. Now this is again a combination of what you see, and stuff that people are telling you, presumably some of the men there who Farsic are speaking to guards who walk pass, and say what's happening?

BG Yes, and some of the guards are walking back to our room, and it's not like they are making a big secret of the fact that they are leaving, it's some of them flee, and are in the first wave to get out, some of them kind of hand behind, and you know, appear to even feel its their job to tell some of the prisoners that are going on...and don't forget, some of these prisoners are fairly high in the station in life and somebody that a guard would look up too, rather than down on.

KF I see.

BG The class distinction was not removed in jail, it still remained.

KF It must have been then, about 12:30 that the remaining enlisted men started unlocking the cells, and saying to people, you can go.

BG Now the cells that were unlocked were the ones down on the ground floor, where in particular the mental patients were kept locked in their rooms. The rest of us, during the day time, our doors were not locked. So we were free to come and go, at least within the confines of our compound.

KF Okay. Did somebody come up to you and say, you are free to go, or what happened? Do you have that information from somebody else?

BG We have it from someone else rather than the guards saying to Paul and I, you are free to go. It is one, we see this billionaire that's there in our compound, we see him, look out the window, and see him, his head is shaved, this beautiful handlebar mustache he had is gone. He doesn't have on his camel coat with the mink inside. He's dressed kind of plain and ordinary, but he's prepared to move fast, you know, he's down to a shirt and his pants so he can go..he's got two henchmen with him. He frequently has visitors, and today it was like knowing what was going to happen, these two henchmen are there early to escort him, you know, to escort him out of the prison. And we see them running toward the back of the prison, they are among the first to flee. It was like, you know, they had gotten the word, and

KF So at this point you were beginning to think to yourself, people are going to get out of this jail?

BG Oh yes, we can see other people in our compound...our roommate, he is filling up big bags with all of his clothes. He's a practical escapee, he's going to take all his clothes and belongings with him. He's not going to leave them behind for the rif-raff to get. But we see some of the other prisoners that we recognize, at least by sight, they are fleeing, and there doesn't seem to be anybody in our compound stopping us, even though there are some guards around, they don't seem to be stopping anybody, and then, there is a lot of going and coming, so it's hard to keep track of they were there, and then they weren't there. But at one point in time we realized that there are no guards here, they have opened the door for all these patients, it is our decision now, whether we walk out of this building, whether we walk out of our compound. Do we go, or do we not go?

KF At what point did you realize that the door was unlocked?

BG I guess as we saw other prisoners leaving our compound, out into the general courtyards of the prison, we knew that the gate was unlocked.

KF Was this the mental patients?

BG Could have been any of them.

KF At some point you looked....

BG Mental patients, medical patients or mental patients, or even the other foreigners in our compound.

KF But at some point you looked out of the window and you saw people who you knew should have been in jail with you and they are walking out.

BG They are running out.

KF They are running out.

BG Nobody is walking.

KF And what did you say?

BG Paul and I talked about it, you know, what should be do, should be leave, or should we stay. If we leave, which way should be go. What about the firing, you know, are we more likely to get killed on the outside than we are here. There is, and many of the other prisoners are going through the same process of discussion and thought, you know, if I run out of here, and I going to get shot for sure, but this is a chance to leave, maybe I should go, and so we are kind of in a period of indecision. It appears like we ought to try to get out of here, but you kind of look both ways before you step out into the street, because the traffic is going pretty fast.

KF Now at some point the guards in the towers stopped firing into the courtyard.

BG Well, they had been firing, you know, during the morning, and we don't notice that they are firing directly down into the courtyard until you go out in our courtyard of our building and out into the general compound of the jail, then you can see them, see them directly firing.

KF Where are you at this point? Are you in the little courtyard outside your building, or are you actually still in the building?

BG No, we are out in the courtyard of our building. Paul and I stopped, there is a fence with metal a metal gate, it's the fence around our courtyard, we walked through that, that's what's usually locked to keep us in, but that's open, we step outside of that and we're trying to decide to go to the back, where a lot of people seem to have been running, but we've never been back there, and we don't know what's back there. And then there's the front, well, we've been to the front of the jail before, and we at least have some idea what's up there. But there seems to be a lot more people up there, there's, you know, just absolute chaos up there.

KF At the front?

BG Up toward the front of the jail.

KF So, is it while you are sitting there, standing there wondering which way to go that you see the fire.

BG No, well, we see it then, but we had seen in prior to that when we are out in the courtyard before we'd actually...

KF Before you went through the gate?

BG gone through the gate.

KF Okay, and was that the event that decided you to go through that gate?

BG No, the....we're standing kind of on the front stoop of our building wondering whether to go or not go, and then, we see up toward the front of the jail, that they have..several buildings have been set on fire, and there is a lot of smoke, and it was that event, I think, that speeded up our decision. It seemed to remove the fact that we had even a decision to make. Because it then appeared to us that if we don't leave, this fire could easily consume the entire jail. So we have to go.

KF So you go through the gate that gets you out of your compound, you are now in the courtyard, you head for the front part of the jail. Now what can you see, is it just a wall, with a gate in it, or is there a building you have to go through?

BG We are coming down a street inside the prison, and we are passing buildings we have passed before. We come to this officers club building where we had the meeting with Ross, and there seemed to be a lot of people going in and out of it, like maybe that's where all the officers had their food and belongings. Along the street there are, prisoners are breaking the windows out of the trucks and the cars that are parked there. And I presume that those had belonged to the guards. And many of the prisoners are just euphoric that they are out of their cells, some of them may have been out of their cells for the first time in years. But everybody, it's like a human wave of people moving toward the front of the prison. And as we get up there what you see is, over here on this far right side, and it's like looking down on this compound, and I'm talking about way over here at the front gate, it's a good distance away, the buildings are burning way over on the right hand side. Adjacent to that are these huge, steel doors that are the main doors into the front of the prison. And those doors are closed. It's clear nobody is going out those doors. But they have pulled trucks up, I don't know whether they just pushed them up, or jump started them, and they've got trucks backed up to the front of the doors, and it's like they are trying to get up on top of the trucks and get up onto the wall or

BG over the gates. And then kind of...there are other buildings, but
cont. then you kind of panorama to directly in front of you, and there are
people in trees, trying to climb up to the top of the wall, there
are...I can still remember people, like...with boards, leaning up
against the wall, and they are climbing up the board to get up to the
top of the wall. And there are people on top of the wall letting down
other...whether it's sheets, ropes, what have you, dangling them to
people down, and in some cases they only come about half way down
the wall, and you know, but they are trying. And there are a lot of
people milling around, you know, many of these prisoners are
enjoying more freedom than they've had in quite some time. They
probably have different sense of safety/danger, depending on who
you are. The foreigners, we wound up, all of a sudden we are with
them, these other fellows that had been in the building with us. And
they have some other foreingers, that we didn't know were in the
prison are with them. And we are all in agreement that we need to
get out of here, out of this prison, but there is no clear consensus
on how best to go about doing this.

KF How many foreigners now are in this group?

BG Maybe ten.

KF Okay, having a discussion about what's the best way out.

BG Not so much discussion, just talking, and everybody is looking
excitedly for, what should we do. Paul and I are probably still close
together. So most of us are very concerned, and some of us, this one
New Zelander, who had, I don't think he was ever concerned about
anything, he think's its a lark, isn't this great, isn't this wonderful
fun. So there are all different kinds....

KF He was one of the dope smugglers?

BG Yes, he had been arrested in the hotel there, he claimed he was innocent, but then one of the phenomenon's we learned in prison is everybody is innocent inside the prison. And when they meet you, one of the first things they will say is, "and I'll bet you are innocent too."

KF Do you remember what he said that made you think he thought it was a lark?

BG Just, he had, you know, just his facial expression. He had a very good sense of humor, you know, for somebody in jail he was, you sometimes wondered if he was in touch with reality. But he was not one of the prisoners that I would call as concerned about his safety as most of the prisoners were.

KF Now then, let's....(reading from something) as a group we happened to find one (can't understand what he's reading) Was the building actually attached to the wall?

BG Yes, it was like the wall was there first, and on the other side of the wall they were adding a building, just taking advantage of a common wall to service one of the walls for the building. But, I guess to facilitate construction, or whatever purpose they were building this building, they had set into the wall, like a metal gateway, like you might see in a ship, you know, where they are going from compartment to compartment in a ship.

KF Okay, but on the inside, there was no building at this point. The building was outside?

BG On the outside.

KF So you saw a metal door in a wall, you could see the building on the other side, and this metal door had been opened?

BG There was someone over there. There was an Iranian prisoner over there, and without looking at him continuously for five minutes, we saw him over there, and then saw him open the door, kind of look in, and then kind of give a wave to nobody in particular, or everybody in general, you know, over here, over here. And we saw that, I think we were among the first people to see him wave, and for lack of a better place to try to get out, and not knowing what was in this doorway, we went running over there to find out.

KF You went through that door, into a room of this building under construction. The prisoners had succeeded in smashing a hole through the brick wall, which provided access into another room. Was this just a wall with...a room with four black walls that you had found yourself in?

BG These are brick walls. There is a dirt floor, I guess they put the cement floor down last. There is like, the floor is dirt, the walls are brick, construction tools are lying on the ground, picks, a shovel, who knows what else. They just picked up anything off the ground and they've hammered at this brick wall and they've knocked a hole in it. And we wait until they make it big enough and they go through and then we go through, and we are into the next room.

KF But it was black walls all around, the room that you found yourself in. Or what color, I wonder what color room it could have been?

BG I'm sure that there were.. you know probably doorways off to another room, or something like that, but we're concentrating our attention on is, you know, is going forward toward the street, and this hole that's being knocked into the wall...it's kind of follow the leader. They seem to know where they are going, and we are following behind.

BG They seemed to be going in the right direction, toward the outside of cont. the jail. And it's light in the room, and I can't...I don't know whether they had electric lights in the room, or the sunlight was simply coming through unfinished construction, or what?

KF So in between the time you saw this Iranian going like this. You saw him go like this, you all started to run, but some other prisoners got there first, picked up the tools that were lying around and started knocking a hole in the wall. And you can't now remember why it seemed so logical that you should knock a hole in the wall rather than walk through doorways and see if there was another way out. I guess probably best all to stick together.

BG No, I think it's kind of like herd fever...

KF You went through that hole in the wall, they smashed a hole another wall, you went through that and you found yourself in an open courtyard with a 12 foot high wall. Now you and Paul are still together?

BG Yes.

KF You see this wall, some of the Iranians stopped climbing the wall, and you are going over the wall, now what happened, somebody reached down to help you?

BG Yes, that was occurring...this wall has got a small step attached to it that's maybe a foot to two feet oof the ground. So you could get up onto that step and be part of the way up the wall, and yes, there are people down below pushing you, you know, up to the top, and there are people then at the top, kind of hanging down....

KF So exactly what did you do? You stood up on the step....

BG ...step, and I was able to, as I recall, get up to the top, get my arms over the top, I have the distinct feeling that I was probably being pushed from down below, everybody was helping each other to get up and over this wall. And then as you kind of roll over the wall, drop down to the street, I realized, we are out on the street, we are out of that prison.

KF You didn't pause at the top of the wall?

BG If we did, it was only briefly. Paul and I are going up simultaneously, you know with several other prisoners, it was, kind of, as fast as you go to get up to the top of the wall, and get over that wall.

KF And now you are on the street, and Paul and you land on the street. This is how high..it's a fair drop, 12 feet. You didn't care.

BG It didn't seem very far. We'd have dropped 30 feet if that's what it would have taken.

KF Okay, and now you are on the street. Did either of you speak?

BG Oh yes, well, I'm sure we...No we...I don't recall whether we laughed, cried or cheered, or what, we were obviously..it was..We're out. Where should we go now? And we talked about..first you have to..the scene is such...we stand there and we're watching what's going on, we are trying to take in what's happening, and what we should do next.

KF What usually happens to people in situations like that, were in jail for no reason, and you don't know when you are getting out. Is that..and what I'm thinking of is concentration camp, people before the war, when the Germans used concentration camps. What they felt was, they began..they felt very angry at the people they loved outside, for not getting them out. Quite irrationally, I mean that was

KF a phenomenon, regardless of what their families were doing, and many cont. of their families were selling everything they had. It was the psychological phenomenon, they got angry at the people they loved most. Did you experience that at all?

BG No, I think really, just the opposite. What I felt, was you learn that you can do without everything that you, or that you had. You can do without the cars. You can do without the house, you can do without the fancy food, you can do without, other than just basic clothing to keep you warm, the room you are in doesn't have to be clean, bugs going across the walls are really not that big a deal. The Persian toilets are really not that big a deal. The only thing...everything that you've had in life kind of gets stripped away and you get right down to it that you have that really does count is your family, well, at least that's the way I felt. My wife and my children..these fellows that had been able to come in to visit us had taken letters out for me and Keane Taylor had read them over the phone, international long distance calls to my wife. He was Cireno DeBourjourac via the telephone system. They had brought into me a photograph of my son that had been taken at Christmas, and that was a real link, you know, kind of back to hope to the only thing that really mattered. I don't recall feeling any feelings about being mad at that, that they were doing what they could to help. Now part of it ws a practical thing, I knew from what my wife could do in the United States to help us was almost nil. Plus I did know that our people there in the country were doing a great deal. So maybe that's what changed that.

When?

KF Yes, I suppose that's what makes the difference. That in fact you had daily contact with EDS people, and you knew that a great deal was impacted....

Cireno de Bourjourac

BG Well, it wasn't quite daily, it was more like every three or four days, because of the danger in the streets, or simply because the prison would not allow us to have visitors every day. We generally saw somebody every three or four days, now, it may not have always been our people, it might have been somebody from the Embassy, might have come down as an alternative. And you really got used to it, you really looked forward to those visits. If it had been every day I think you would have taken it for granted, but every now and then instead of three days would pass and nobody would show up and it would turn out to be four days, but it's, you know, it's back to the no fixed schedule thing. Without knowing, when they missed that third day, you don't know they are going to be there the fourth day, and visit, until they come, and you are very glad to establish them, because that's the contact with the outside world. There is still somebody here who cares, who is trying, they haven't all gone away and forgotten us. I think for the American Hostages, there at the Embassy, who had no visitors, had no contact, it must have been terrible for them, for all they knew...particularly after a year had gone by. Well hell, maybe they've forgotten us, maybe they don't care anymore, maybe they think we are dead and they've given up trying. That would, I think, be a real wait.

KF We left it at the point where you were standing on the outside of the prison wall.

BG What I remember, across the street there are solid apartment buildings, maybe two or three stories high. And there are people in every window, looking out across the street at the prison, watching all the prisoners scrambling to safety, and what have you. And if they are high enough they could probably see over the wall into the prison. There are a lot of people on the street, and they seem to be having a fairly good time of it, everybody is fairly euphoric about the prison escape, and so forth. There are a lot of armed revolutionaries in the streets, riding up and down the streets with the guns sticking out the car windows, every now and then firing off

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BG a round of bullets. And it's like something from an old Humphry
cont. Bogard movie, in Casablanca, there's just all these different things
going on. The people in the windows reminded me of a tenant area up
in New York City where people spent their entire days with their
elbows on the windows, just looking, watching life go by, and that's
what these people were doing. They were watching what might have
been the Mardi Gras Parade from their windows. And as we
went...just down the street we even came to sidewalk vendors with
their fruit stands, you know, which were there every day. And it
kind of like, it was a little bit of piece and quiet right there in the
middle of all this turmoil, it was like nothing different was happening
for the sidewalk street vendor, selling his fruit.

KF The real fighting had obviously stopped by now, in this little area?

BG No, there is still a great deal of shooting going on, it's just you are
on the outside of the jail instead of on the inside, and there is now a
different perspective to all of this commotion, all of this shooting.
We're out there standing there, and we realize, that at least for the
moment, although we are in clear view of the people on the street,
nobody is attacking us, because we are Americans or foreigners, or
because we are prisoners escaping from a jail. But, still our first
impulse is, we need to get...who knows when the johndarms are
going to arrive and try to round up all the prisoners and get them
back into the jail, so we need to get as far from here as we can and
as fast as we can. And, so, we were standing there on the street
talking about where should we go, and I think the first place we
thought about was, a place that was not too far away was the
American Embassy, but we decided against that, they'd been totally
inept in being able to help us at all, they'd probably just turn us
back over to the authorities. And besides that they were in, the part
of town they were in was probably worse from a danger standpoint
that where we were, so that was not a good idea. We thought about
the French Embassy, since the Iranian's seemed to be on favorable

BG terms with the French and Khomeine had flown into the country from cont. France. But we didn't really remember where the French Embassy was, and that was a brief consideration. So then we set out, primarily to get away from the prison, secondarily, maybe we can get all the way back to the hotel where these people had been staying. Without knowing if they were still in the country.

KF That was the hotel...the people who were staying there were the people that had come in especially to deal with your case. You knew where they were staying so you thought these were probably the people? You knew, for example, Jay was staying there?

BG We knew that Keane Taylor, John Howell and Bob Young were staying there, because they had mentioned it. Assumed that Jay Coburn and anyone else that was in the country was staying there.

KF The intriguing thing is that at this point you still don't know that there is an escape plan. Did you know, for example, that the Army had promised..the Air Force had said, if you can get them out of jail we'll get them out of the country?

BG We knew that an earlier...I don't know about that specific promise, I think we thought that that was what was going to happen. If we could ever get out of that prison, then the American Military, or perhaps even the Iranian Military would see to it that we were safely flown out of the country. And that was one of the real shocks when we got to the hotel, and found out that there were no planes at the airport with the engines running waiting for us to arrive.

KF How long did it take you to get from the prison to the hotel?

BG Probably something on the order of about five hours. And I can set the time frame...lunch had been served...Paul ate lunch with a couple of the other prisoners. I didn't eat. It just didn't seem like eating was on my mind at that point in time. So it was just after lunch, and I know we got to the hotel something on the order of 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. So we probably had a five hour speed trip.

KF That was a fairly hair raising trip.

BG Yes, we started down the street to get as far from the prison as we could and we turned, first we turned north, we knew roughly where we were in the city, and if we could have walked in a straight line we would have gone straight north to the northern extreme of the city, and then just a little bit east of the hotel, so we started in that direction, and then that street was fairly deserted, and we..there seemed to be a main street ahead, where some cars..we could see them cross from time to time. We walked further up that street, and we got to this intersection, and it was now deserted, there was no cars, we were the only two people that we knew were even there. We got half way out in the middle of the intersection, and all of a sudden we heard shots being fired at us. And what it was, was in the Military complex in front of us, a guard somewhere, was firing warning shots at us to stop us, and turn us around. He could have killed us, but he didn't he just shot around us. We got the message, quickly turned around and went straight back down that street.

KF Did you run.

BG Yes, I think we probably were running or walking fairly fast. I don't think we were running, I think we were probably walking fast, because we were trying to blend in with the crowd, although there was no crowd, we were not trying to draw attention to ourselves.

KF So you wanted to look innocent?

BG Yes. So we got back to where we had been and just started off in another direction. And it was the type of thing, you'd go down a street and you'd come to, there would be a fire fight going on between the revolutionaries and the authorities, they were behind barricades, and they are shooting at each other, so you would go down a different street. It was just like trying to get to the east, but avoid these little pockets of battles going on, and try to avoid..we never knew when all of a sudden there might be police at the next intersection. It was hard to tell who was in control or command, and what would happen next, or would all of a sudden just the people in the street turn on us, for one reason or another, just because we were Americans or what have you. So we kept working ourselves away from the prison, generally east, and when we were a fair ways away, we then started going north, and it was fairly easy to tell what direction you were going in because the northern parameter of the city...END OF TAPE #4--SIDE B.