

HOTFOOT #17--SIDE A  
INTERVIEW WITH JOHN HOWELL - NOVEMBER 5, 1981

KF Bob Young is a lawyer in your office, a colleague of yours?

JH No. Tom Luce is.

KF Who is Bob Young?

JH Bob Young is an EDS employee, he had been one of the people originally involved in the study for the ministry contract, and one of the early managers for the ministry contract in Tehran. But fairly early in the project, say, I believe around 6 months to a year into the project he had been transferred to Kuwait, where he was the country manager for Kuwait. And when we got into assembling a Tehran negotiating team he was a good choice, because of his managerial experience, plus his familiarity with Tehran and the commissions there, but was not a high profile person at the time, because he'd been out of the country for a year and a half.

KF Okay. You arrived the 13th of January. You went to EDS the 14th, yes the 14th of January.

JH Actually we went to the EDS offices that afternoon for the first time.

KF This is the Bucharest office?

JH Yes. It's actually an alley off of Bucharest Street.

KF Now, I'm fairly clear on most of these problems with the bail, and paying, and the bank, etc. The letter of credit. But here you have a sentence I don't understand. I explained that the condition of the bail was not whether or not EDS had done anything wrong, but only whether or not the two people would appear for trial. How as that a condition of the bail?

JH That is traditionally what bail is. Bail is a guarantee that a person in lieu of, keeping a person in custody, so you know they are there at a certain time, you require a bail to be posted, such that if they do not return at the time you want them, then they forfeit the bail. I think that's....the concept of the bail. Dadgar's argument was, you say your company did nothing wrong, but why would you post the bail, if you've got nothing wrong, then you've got nothing to fear. And I was trying to point out that that was not the case. Whether the bail would be forfeited or not was not a question of whether in the long run EDS would have been established as doing anything wrong or not, it was a question of whether Paul Chiapparone and Bill Gaylord would choose to come back to Tehran at some point in the future to stand trial.

KF I see.

JH I didn't know of any legal way to force him to do that, and I didn't know if I could recommend it.

KF Oh, I see. So Dadgar..You say Dadgar...Sorry, Dadgar says...Start again...You say EDS has done nothing wrong. Dadgar says, so why haven't you posted the bail. You say, bail's got nothing to do with that. But the real reason you haven't posted the bail was that you couldn't make arrangements to get the money into the country.

JH That's right. The mechanism to do so was not in place, and we didn't foresee how difficult it would be at that time. We thought we could have the mechanism in place within a few days. And we were frankly hoping to get the bill reduced in the very near future. We perhaps naively thought that we could explain that a terrible mistake had been made, and it would go away, or at least it would become much more reasonable.

KF But in any event, the basic point...I just want to get clear..the basic point, that even though it was 13 million dollars, EDS would have paid it to get them out of jail and kissed it good-bye.

JH Yes.

KF And the only reason it wasn't paid was for these practical reasons.

JH Yes.

KF Couldn't get 13 million dollars into an Iranian bank.

JH Let me say this. This is, I guess, would have been Ross' decision, that he was there in country at that time, we were actively trying to get the mechanism in place to post the bail. At that time I had not been given independent instructions that if the situation arose that I do it with the snap of my fingers, that I'd do it, and if I had gotten to that point, I probably would have checked with Ross to say, are we ready now. Later on we did get to that point, where we had blanket authority to do the deal if we could. And we never got to the point that we could.

KF But nevertheless all the time you were working on the mechanism so you would be set up to do it.

JH Yes.

KF At the drop of a hat. SSO, Social Security Organization, is that not the same as the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare?

JH Not exactly. That was one of the big issues in our law suit. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare is one of the principal cabinets of the Iranian Government. I'm not sure what the equivalent would be in the British Government, but it's equivalent of what used to be our Department of Health and Education and Welfare. Social Security Organization was a suborganization within the Ministry. They also had a health organization that was responsible for health insurance for Iranians, and a rehabilitation organization that was responsible for rehabilitation type services. And there was a bank, Bank Reppah Corregon, or something like that. It was a commercial bank, and also a kind of funding mechanism for the other branches of the ministry.

KF I see. Okay. The Iranian Randoni.

JH Italian.

KF I knew he was an Italian I was just checking the Iranian ...

JH I didn't catch that proofing it.

KF Who met with the President of the Italian company?

JH I think the person that ended up meeting with him was Paul Bucha. That arrangement was made, I believe, and it get's kinda confusing here, because I was in Tehran at the time, but it's my understanding that it was through a Swiss lawyer that was a friend of Vestor Hughes in our firm, Hughes & Hill, and also happened to be a friend of either the council for the Italian company, or the President of the Italian company, some connection with the Italian company, arranged for the meeting, I believe Paul Bucha was the one that actually met them.

KF Do you remember the name of the company?

JH No, but I can probably find it if you like. It was a construction company, one of the largest construction companies in the world. Condotti dAcqua.

KF Do you remember the name of the president?

JH No, I don't beleive I ever had that information.

KF So the president gave you the name of Aliaz Asmiash. And basically what they had done is Condotti dAcqua had made a bride. <sup>paid a bribe</sup> paid a bribe

JH Well, that we're not sure about. The president of the company had a meeting with Paul Bucha, as it relayed back to me, second or third hand, said, it was not a strictly legal solution, and remember that Iran will always be the same. And that's one of the traditional stories about Iran. Is that things were better done under the table, or at least more quickly done under the table than over the table.

KF Okay. So he gave you to understand that....

JH Exactly..As we understood the kind of, at least the obvious facts of that situation is there was a construction project, apartments, or condominiums, I guess we'd probably call them in this country...a large number of Iranian citizens had prepaid for their condominiums, and the arrangement between the Italian company and the Iranian partner was the Italian company would build them and the Iranian partner would fund most of the building costs. What happened was the Iranian partner ceased to funding, and the Italian company stopped building, leaving the Iranian citizens, who had prepaid for their apartments in the cold, Randoni was picked up...the official was that the Italian company agreed to continue the building with its own funds. In effect, pick up the slack with the funding. And Randoni's bill was substantially reduced and later released. As I indicated to you, there were some hints given that there were other things involved to make that happen.

KF Okay.

JH When we met with the lawyer Asmiash, he essentially outlined the same type of approach for us is that, view this as a business problem, and present a business solution, and then I'll convince the judge to make the law fit the facts. A little background there, we came to understand that one of the traditional ways for a bribe to be paid to a government official in Iran was under the guise of a lawyer's fee. The Iranian lawyer would make something happen, and then present you with an abnormally large legal bill, which you would pay his legal fees. So that's part of the background in that kind of thing.

KF Okay. You say prior to arriving in Iran you got indications from two different sources that what you needed was a Persian (?) solution. Was one of these sources the Italian company?

JH No.

KF Okay, who were the two other people that said this?

JH One of the persons was one that I believe Jay Coburn talked about in his summary, and I presume he described that situation a bit. Do you remember Jay?

KF Yes.

Deep Throat .

JH He was a guy named [REDACTED]. Background on....

KF Well, I haven't heard that name before, but I may have heard the incident, but tell me anyway.

JH Lloyd Briggs, who I mentioned before the interview started was one of the people that stayed in country when the evacuation order about the 28th took place...had come out of the country in early January to meet with us in New York. And one of the reasons he did so, was to tell us about the situation with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was an American citizen...  
Deep Throat

KF Do you remember the date of that meeting with Lloyd Briggs in New York.

JH I believe it was the 6th of January. He left Tehran, I believe, preceding morning. I guess two reasons he had preceived some of them, a telephone caller talked to a young lady, Bunny Blieshack, who I mentioned earlier, who had indicated that the investigation in and around the EDS contract was still very active. And then he had needed to discuss what to do with the overture from [REDACTED] and the other guy that I talked about in my memo, which he didn't feel he could really talk about over the phone, because we were fairly sure that they would be tapped. That's one of things that Bunny Blieshack had told us, that our phones would be tapped. [REDACTED], as I said, was an American citizen, who had been living in Iran for some time, I forget the number of years.  
Deep Throat

Deep Throat?

KF Is that [REDACTED]?

JH Right.

KF Do you remember his first name?

JH No, I don't...Jay Coburn...I'm not sure I ever heard him referred to by any other name other than [REDACTED]. <sup>Deep Throat</sup> He was the one who became known as Deep Throat. He had become somewhat of a management consultant to American companies doing business in Iran. This was prior to the fall of the government. Presumably because of his longevity in Iran, his understanding of Iranian customs, and he would hold kind of management seminars for American companies. The do's and don'ts about getting along in Iran, and make sure your employees do this, and don't do that type of thing. Lloyd Briggs had gone to one of those seminars and early in the situation, I think it was early December, when we thought we had a contract problem, we hadn't been paid and we needed some money collected. Lloyd Briggs asked him...had engaged him as an independent consultant to look into the situation to see if he could figure out what our problem was. He at that time had come back with what in retrospect had misestimated as a kind of outlandish story about investigations going everywhere and that for some fairly astronomical sum of money [REDACTED] <sup>Deep Throat</sup> could arrange to have the file closed, and EDS given a clean bill of health. And Lloyd's reaction was, you know, we're not interested in paying any money, we're trying to get somebody to pay us the 8 or 9 million dollars that they owe us.

KF <sup>Deep Throat</sup> Wasn't he who warned...You mentioned later...was it [REDACTED] who warned that Paul and Bill would be picked up?

JH That was Bunny Blieshack.

KF <sup>Deep Throat</sup> Oh. Well go back to [REDACTED].

Deep Throat

JH I'll go back to [REDACTED], we'll pick up Bunny a little later. After Paul and Bill were first notified that they were going to be detained in country, that was December 5th...

KF Wait a minute, that's the first I've heard of that I think. They were notified that they were going to be detained in Iran. Told they couldn't leave.

JH Yes, not officially...What the exact mechanism was, was one of the Iranian employees, a young lady named [REDACTED]<sup>Fara</sup>, who was the daughter of [REDACTED]<sup>Majid</sup>, that you have heard about in other interviews, was the local liaison with the police. And one of her administrative duties was to keep everybody's residence permits, and working permits up-to-date. And she would interact with them on an almost daily basis with these administrative details. She had gone down to the police station that morning, December 5th, and the police chief had called her in...I say the police chief, the head of that area of the police department, had called her in and said, [REDACTED]<sup>Fara</sup>, I need you to provide me with the passports, residents permits and the work permits for the following people, and named four EDS employees. Chiapparone, Gaylord, Paul Bucha, and Jim Nyfeler, who were kind of the predecessors as far as managers to Chiapparone and Gaylord. And she came back...Well she said that only two of them were in country, Chiapparone, Gaylord, and I forget the exact scenario now, but he more or less deputized her, put a kind of a heavy trip on her, saying, [REDACTED]<sup>Fara</sup>, it's your duty to bring those things to me, you must do it. And so she came back fairly scared, to the office, and that was the first inclination we had that there was anything amiss, other than our contract problem. The obvious effect of requesting those documents would be to prevent people from leaving the country. Most directly the passport, but even with the passport, as I remember, it was a 90 day period, if you had been in country more than 90 days, to get out through passport control, you would need a residence and work permit. It coincidentally it happened that both Paul and Bill had

JH been out of the country and back within 90 days, so they could have cont. gotten out with just their passports, but the Iranians didn't know that. They were assuming since they were resident that they would not be able to leave without resident...

KF So you weren't exactly notified that they would be detained. This other thing happened...okay...

JH That was the effect though, of requesting those documents.

KF Where were we before...

Deep Throat

JH We were talking about [REDACTED]. After that event happened, it pretty much changed the complexion of our problem in Iran. Lloyd got back in touch with [REDACTED] and turned him back on.

Deep Throat

KF Do you remember how much [REDACTED] needed to settle the whole thing, in those early days, before Paul and Bill passports weren't requested?

Deep Throat

JH Okay, I may have mis-spoken a little bit. I'm not sure that [REDACTED] ever came back with a report between, when he was engaged, which my notes show on December 2nd, and the time we were notified of Paul and Bill's problem, which was December 5th. So I think is was mistaken there. I think the first report, according to my notes, were on approximately December 24th, which was after we knew that they were being detained in country, and figured out they were wanted for questioning by this guy named Dadgar, who we still hadn't met. But we still thought that we were fairly comfortable based upon things that the State Department was telling us, the Embassy was telling us that they were wanted for questioning only as witnesses. We were busy trying to arrange that meeting. On December 24th [REDACTED] came to the office and said that he had got through to the Ministry of Justice and that on 6% of the contract price, was the price he quoted then, 6% of approximately 40 million, so it would be 2 and 1/2 million dollars. He could get the file closed and EDS a clean bill of health.

KF And at this point you don't realize the danger to Paul and Bill, and your reaction, or rather, Lloyd's reaction is...

JH As I described earlier.

KF Don't be silly, we want them to pay us.

JH Our problem is they owe us 8 or 9 million dollars, rather than us paying them 6 million dollars and, what's this clean bill of health. There was nothing wrong, it was completely unacceptable. After the arrest on December 28th, a few days later, the scope of our problem changed again, and the direction of our problem changed again.

KF And Lloyd turned...

Deep Throat

JH Recontacted [REDACTED] and said, hey, let's talk a little bit more about what you previously said. [REDACTED] <sup>Deep Throat's</sup> first reaction, according to my notes, this is a debriefing with Briggs when he came out on the 6th of January when we met with him in New York. Was, well, they are mad at you now, it's going to be harder than ever, but I'll see what I can do. The way...I think that's the way that it was pretty much left with [REDACTED] until Lloyd left the country and met with us in New York. He had been, just the day before he left, I guess about the 3rd or 4th of January, he had a telephone call from a guy named Mars Attar, who is the guy that I talk about more in my memorandum. He's the guy that Keane Taylor and I ended up dealing with. Mars Attar was an Iranian accountant who had worked for EDS, and he called Lloyd and said, long time no see, how are you, I understand you have a problem, I have some friends that have some friends, can you come see me. And Briggs went to his office...

Deep Throat

KF And this is his office where?

JH In Tehran. Mars Attar's accounting office. He professed to have some general understanding of the situation, and Mars evidently gave us beefs that he kind of reiterated later to Keane and I, saying that in the Iranian system things are done out of friendship. You need the friendship of this man Dadgar. There are several ways that you can acquire this friendship. If it were me, I might go lay on his doorstep for weeks and days, and plead my case to him, but the quickest and easiest way to obtain his friendship is to buy his friendship. You know, at that time Mars, according to my notes, said something like this, usually it cost 100 to 200 thousand dollars, and as a favor to you, since we are old friends, if you are interesting in pursuing that I will undertake to see if that's possible. And that's kind of where Lloyd decided that he needed to...it's not something to discuss over the phone, he needed to get some guidance as to where we going on these overtures.

Deep Throat

KF So you have, at this point, Aliaz Asmiash, [REDACTED]...

JH Now Asmiash happened a little later, after we got into the country. So far what we've been discussing with respect to Lloyd Briggs all happened in late December, early January, it was the preliminary stages.

KF This is before you went, you personally went. So we have, at this point, we have [REDACTED] <sup>Deep Throat</sup> who has been brought into the picture by Lloyd, and we have Attar.

JH Mars Attar.

KF Mars Attar, who has also been brought into the picture by Lloyd.

JH Yes, now he brought himself into the picture.

KF He called Lloyd.

JH Yes.

KF Okay, and these are the two sources who have indicated that you need a ~~personal~~ solution.

<sup>Persian</sup> Persian

JH Yes.

KF You say here that you had discussed that possibility with an Iranian lawyer in the states.

JH Shahe Agian.

KF Agian, his name has come up before.

JH He had been involved in the original negotiation of the contract back in 1976. And he happened to be in New York at that time. And when Lloyd left Iran and came to New York, he and Bill Gayden, Tom Luce and I met and discussed the things, you know, just talked about...Agian was also in country, I think we previously met with him a day or two ago, and we met with him again. And among other things said, okay, Shahe, here's the new wrinkle in the situation that has been presented to us. What do you think?

KF Okay, and he made these comments about one way is to pay him, the other way is to pretend to pay and then blow the whistle.

JH Exactly.

KF Shortly after you arrived in Iran, you had meetings with...Now would this have been [REDACTED]? Deep Throat

Deep Throat

JH No, I never met with [REDACTED]. As I understand the situation...Oh, and I believe it was January 8th, just a couple of days after the meeting with, in New York, at the meeting with Lloyd Briggs and Shahe Agian would be the 6th and 7th of January. It was pretty much decided that we would send in country, as a negotiating team, at that time Rich

JH     Gallagher was in Iran, and Keane Taylor who had left with the post  
cont. arrest evacuation, but had gone only as far as Frankfurt and then he  
turned around and gone back in, went in country. Bill Gayden had  
decided to send Bob Young from Kuwait, because as we discussed  
previously, his managerial experience, as well as his familiarity with  
the country and the contract, and me as a legal representative. There  
was some debate between Tom Luce and Bill Gayden as to whether it  
was advantageous to send me, with Tom arguing that there was no  
identifiable reason to send a United States lawyer into the country,  
there was nothing that anybody could identify that I could do, and  
Gayden arguing that what we needed to do was have as wide a  
possible resources on hand to do whatever came up, and of course,  
they were both right, I finally decided this is ridiculous, so, I'll just  
go to Tehran and see what's happening there. So on January 8th, as I  
remember it, Lloyd Briggs and I left from Dallas to go to London and  
met Bob Young, who was coming from Kuwait. And we were to meet  
there with Lloyd to brief Bob and me as to what was going on, and  
also to attempt to contact [REDACTED] <sup>Deep Throat</sup> from the hotel in London. And I  
think that Lloyd was successful in doing that. Got a phone call  
through, kind of a, had to leave the country to discuss matters, some  
people will be in touch with you in a few days type phone call. And  
then unfortunately we got delayed in London because of snow, they  
had to close the Tehran airport at that time. There were delays first  
at three of the airports, alot of the major airlines were reluctant to  
start flights back in, because of the xxxxxxxx. So we had, Bob Young  
had made arrangements through Arab Wings the charter service in the  
middle east, to fly on a charter plane from Amman, Jordan to Tehran.  
And then, somewhat surprising to us, Ross Perot, in fact, caught up  
to us. He came to London and was going to Tehran, which we had not  
originally contemplated, and were not aware that was in the plans. So  
the three of them flew to Jordan and took the charter flight into  
Tehran. Meanwhile, Jay Coburn, through, I think through  
Switzerland, I found out later, had also got into Iran. And Ross  
dispatched him to meet with [REDACTED] <sup>Deep Throat</sup> to see what was going. At that  
time [REDACTED] <sup>Deep Throat</sup> had come up with a scheme to put 6 million dollars, I  
believe it was, into a Swiss bank account, that was the next step in

JH the process. And we talked a little about it, we had just been in the cont. country a day or two, Dr. Humahn, and Iranian attorney, a prominent Iranian attorney was still telling he could get the bail reduced substantially. And I'm not sure if it turned the tide, but I remember saying to Ross at one time, I hate to do that, but the straw that I've been clinging to through all of this is that we've done nothing wrong, and somewhere, someday, somehow, somebody is going to recognize that, and all this will evaporate, and so I hate to give up that straw. And Ross, after considering all the factors told Jay to turn [REDACTED] off, that we are not interested at that time in putting 6 million dollars in some mysterious Swiss bank account in the hopes that a deal was wired. We had no kind of assurance or proof, or anything, just [REDACTED] word.

Deep Throat's

KF So that was the end of that solution.

JH Right.

KF Now, as I understand it...

Deep Throat

JH That was the end of [REDACTED], there was still Mars Attar.

Deep Throat

KF Yes, okay, that was the end of [REDACTED]. Now, as I understand it there was alot of cloak and dagger stuff about Jay's meeting with [REDACTED]. Jay had to call a certain number, and give a code, and all this stuff, and it surprises me to learn that [REDACTED] had been dealing openly with Lloyd up until this point. Any idea why that might have been?

JH Not really, except that it had gotten much more, I guess, serious, where at the original stages he was acting as a consultant on an hourly rate, just investigating this information...he had made this kind of preliminary overture to Lloyd as to, you guys got big troubles, I think for 6% of the contract we can make it go away, and Lloyd said, forget it. And then Lloyd had called him back up and said, hey, get into it, see if there is really something there, and get back in touch with us. And so, it's just speculation at this time, I

Deep Throat

JH would guess that [REDACTED], if he had any sense of truthfulness about cont. him, had done some ground work, got to bed with some people he didn't trust too much, and therefore had a much higher sense of security consciousness. Another possibility might be it was a complete bluff, and he thought it would get some credibility to us, bluff to get into the cloak and dagger business. A kind of a game with mirrors here.

KF But that's interesting, I must check with Ross, whether his decision not to pay the 6 million dollars was influenced by your remark, about having done nothing wrong so far. I'm not sure it's true that you've done nothing wrong so far, because you did at a point have a mercenary army in Dallas, Texas.

JH Well, yes, I was not really aware of that...

KF Oh, I see, no, of course you wouldn't have known..

JH That was kind of a situation where the decision was made in New York to kind of establish the, what became known as the Tehran negotiating team. And when we came back in a day or two, between that time and we actually left, I got some indications that other things were going on. Ross told me at one time, see, Oh, I forget his name, he didn't mention Jay's, but Pat Scully or somebody in Tehran, don't worry about. I said, okay, I won't worry about. And Ross and Merv had a brief conversation, in my presence, about whether they should show me the Bull's picture, so I'd recognize, and decided that wasn't necessary. And I decided not to be over inquisitive at that time. So I had some minor inclinations that there was something else going on, but I didn't have any idea of what kind of trade the team had done.

KF I see, okay, so you didn't know enough to realize that, in fact, laws were being broken.

JH And I'm not sure that at that time any laws were being broken.

KF No, perhaps not. Okay. The second source of a personal solution...

JH Mars Attar.

KF Okay, we still haven't got to the accountant...Oh, Attar is the accountant.

JH Attar is the accountant, right. He is the one who had, in early January, had called Lloyd and offered his friendship as a medium to see about a way to work out.

KF Okay, and I have this now, so you...he explained the proper approach was to set to attain the good will of Dadgar. Did you have any reaction to that, I mean, you knew what Dadgar had been doing, you knew the way these people were dealing with you, I mean, when somebody says you have to attain his good will, did you have any sort of emotional reaction to that?

JH Not any particular reaction to that. The whole series of meetings with Attar were kind of clandestine, he tends to kind of a secretive person, at least in this context, I'd never worked with him in other contexts, so it was all kind of us whispering across the table. And he was reporting to explain, not just a solution to this problem, but the Iranian culture, how to fit into the scheme of things. So, no, that didn't bother me.

KF If I were in your place I would have mad at the idea that I had to obtain this man's friendship.

JH I remember more reacting more to the concept of Attar explaining that his personal solution, if it were one of his friends, would have been to sit on the man's doorstep, and eat nothing, and drink for weeks, until he obtained the friendship, the good will..

KF Did it occur to you that you might do that?

JH Well, the thought briefly crossed my mind, I didn't think it would have the same effect, and I didn't know where his doorstep was to begin with.

KF Let's go on to the meeting with the SSO representatives. Tell be a bit more about that....Oh, just to finish off with Mars Attar, he eventually found out that Dadgar was interested in it, you couldn't bribe Dadgar.

JH That's presumably what he found out. Again, you get into what might be a game of mirrors. We had, this took place over a several week period of time, Mars kept meeting with us and was going through these layers, trying to get to the real nut, you can call it, with the price starting out at this 6% of contract price figure. The suspicious thing is that that was a figure that was batted about frequently, which gave us something in making of credance there. Another possibility may be, with the background I mentioned to you previously, is attorneys fees being one vehicle for passing things like this. I had found out in talking with Iranian lawyers that the legal fee structure, the Tehran Bar Association was basically 11% of the first few thousand dollars of the amount claimed, and 8% of the next few thousand dollars and then 6% of all above that. So the 6% was not that unusual a figure. It had clipped up another context. But in going through these layers with various gyrations, the price presumably was getting a little bit lower, and Mars was more in contact with people who were in contact. And when he finally got through to this guy, Benny Kazanief (?) he came back saying it was all a facade, that it was the layers around Benny Kazanief, who was the layer around Dadgar, that had been creating all the bribe, in effect, a false front.

KF So in fact, what Mars ending up discovering was that there seemed to be no possibility in bribing Dadgar, and that the people who had been asking for bribes had been people associated with Dadgar....

JH Or further removed from that actually. If you accept Mars' story at face, Dadgar was the center, Benny Kazanief was the first layer, and there had been several other layers outside of Benny Kazanief, who reportedly concocting the bribe story.

KF Okay. And presumably, if you had paid them they wouldn't have been able to do anything anyway.

JH Exactly. And as part of all this signal business that we got into from time to time, what they wanted to rely on is being able to provide us information from the file, which, again would indicate somebody with inside, but not necessarily anybody that could control Dadgar. And we are kind of, what I would call ambiguous signals, we were trying to do something very outlandish and definitive. But what we're not sure about, and I guess we'll never know is whether the fact that we were approaching it so carefully and so definitively, made the whole thing evaporate. I could have been a real scheme, where if we had early on said, fine, here's your 6 million dollars, everything would have worked, and by the time we went through all these layers, and were insisting upon these strong signals, they may have gotten cold feet, and said, this is not the game we want to play, and that you would have the same result. You would have got in and they would say, well, it's all a mistake, I'm a lawyer and I don't work for you but I can't do anything magic. So, we proceeded in either discovering there was no bubble there, or bursting the bubble, one or the other.

KF Now tell me about the meeting with the SSO representatives. What I'm particularly interested in is the personal grudges. You said the meeting disintegrated into a grudge session.

JH Right. Let me get myself into context a little bit here. Part of the problem is we had some many things going on in different areas activity at the same time that it was kind of hard to keep track of...

KF I have the same problem multiplied about five times.

JH Yes, I'm sure you do. Just for context. Our meeting with Alias Asmiash the lawyer from the Italian Grandoni was the 17th of January was when we made the contact with him in Tehran.

KF And that was just for information. You proceeded with no action on that, other than to take note of his advice.

JH Took note of his advice and told him we'd discuss it and get back in touch with him. We did find out later that he had contacted Dadgar, or at least the Ministry of Justice to try to find out more about the make up of the situation.

KF Let me just go back a moment. When you say you wanted definite signals, are you joking about wanting to xxxxxxxx file backwards?  
wear his tie? wear his tie?

JH I do not remember that as a specific example, but that was the time that the signal that I was suggesting to Mars, something that Dadgar would never do, other than pursue....

END OF SIDE A--TAPE #17