

LOU GOELZ 25 November 1981

Q Right let's try and talk about this eternal

....

The first thing I want you to explain to me is the business of the Embassy holding peoples passports ...

...

A ...

person concerned. ...

Q And now tell me about giving the people that ask for them back ...And then what about informing the authorities of the passport.

A That's part of the deal with the government. In other words the deal with the government is that instead of they accept the word of the United States Government. The United States Government holds their passport. Anyone can at any time ask for its return, the United States Government would be bound to give it back.

...

Q Now, is that circumstances in which the people had no reasonable expectations to need passports.

A That would depend on circumstances. It would depend on whether they between

...

same relation to the two. And since they're all relative

you can't sort of judge the case contents.

Q OK. At ...

During all this chaos in Iran, the Embassy was fighting to keep Americans in Iran

It's been suggested to me that the Embassy went on rather too long saying this is temporary, this is going to blow over, everything will be alright. Do you think that's a fair judgement.

A Well let me put it this way. At the beginning of the

...

there were 40,000 Americans in Tehran. It just occurred to me that Tehran

And this was following the 14th and we had to evacuate any Americans that were left in Tehran. 3,600 Americans to evacuate. There were still some, we estimate about 2,000

...

So, that gives you a total of about 5,000, so when things really went to hell there were 5,000 of that 40,000.

Now the other thing about that,

there was over an extended period of time

by the Embassy to advise . There's one thing you must know, that we've had no authority, none whatsoever, except the fickle evacuation stage before Americans

out there. Everything must be done on the

if you are acquainted with Americans working abroad, you will know that ...

They will make their own judgements first on many considerations to determine just what they are going to want to do.

Q You've got a situation now in the same place. We had

A ...

...

The advice of the Department of State has been to get them out. We've talked in close confidence I myself assigned others to find out.

...

...

Q But everybody thinks similar situations exist in Tehran.

A Talk, talk, Some got out, some didn't, but in American countries, if there is the chance of making a dollar, are very reluctant to close down their office and abandon their investments. That's their reason.

Q Do you remember at what stage the Embassy started advising Americans to leave?

A No....

Further on, any time anybody would ask us we would advise them to

We didn't actually ask for actual close down of the American School, around Christmas time, they just did not open it after

...

You'd be amazed at the number of people who didn't even send their kids home.

We had truly the we were moving at 2

o'clock and

we divided up all the

the three of us, and we called them in in groups of about

5 or 6 and sat down with them and said 'listen people, at

least get your dependants out of here or at least get your

unessential people out of here.

Q Do you remember approximately the dates you had the

A Oh God no I can't, but this is a continuing process you know.

This doesn't happen over night. We don't throw a switch and say everybody go home. It's the same kind of thing that you gave up. Don't talk to people and you recommend that they don't bring anybody else in. Then you recommend that anybody going out for a little should go on and not come back until perhaps after their holidays. Until you see how the situation is going to be. And some companies actually did move a lot of people out

...

some of them came back in. Up until about a couple of weeks before, some companies were sending people back in to Iran. I mean it was crazy. The American companies

They do not want to abandon their investment.

...

tremendous investments.

UBS is a company

substantial investment in Iran.

...

Q Let's go back to the people who were in trouble with the law enforcement authorities. Now I want to talk about if Americans in a foreign country are going to be interrogated by a prosecutor. What help they should expect from the Embassy in those circumstances.

A Well of course it depends on various

What you can do

an American in a foreign country is subject to foreign law. ...

... the same as any national in the government.

...
And they had to go through the process. Now the legal process in most countries is entirely different from the processes you have here. You don't have the rights that you have here. You're subject sometimes to extremely difficult living conditions. And their jails ...
The Americans won't a situation like that

...
We advise, and we try to see them there as soon as possible.

Q Let's talk about before he's arrested, if he was just being interrogated.

A Well there's not much we can do about that. As I said we're subject to the situation, we subject to the laws of

... Our first advice to anybody being is to get a lawyer. That's the first advice you'd give to somebody here! If you get into trouble with the law you get a lawyer. And our first advice to them abroad is to get a lawyer. And whether it is a civil situation in which you may not be arrested at the moment, you know alternatives, or if he's in a criminal situation and that you are under arrest.

Q You see, Gaylord and Chaperroni say that they were advised by the Embassy that they would not need an attorney and that they would not need a consul from the Embassy with them in the meeting with which they were interrogated. What I have to ask you is under what circumstances might the Embassy think there was no need for that.

A ...

...

I can't comment on that.

depend on the circumstances. It is not always possible for us to attend

And it depends on what your circumstances, in some cases the people themselves will voluntarily

...

So you know it depends on the circumstances involved in a particular case, but our recommendation to everyone anywhere is get in a lawyer.

It's commonsense at least. They have them in the large Corporations

corporations have

lawyers and we have two very good ones. The higher the investment, the better the lawyer. ...

Q What assumptions would be made about the people's guilt or innocence by the end ...

A That's not our business protection.

We're only there to assist Americans ...

...

Q What's the EA?

A Enforcement Agency ...

Put him in and take him out. ...

That's just what we're there for, to assist Americans in case of difficulties. Whether it happens to be

...

Q OK. While I think of it tell me exactly what your title was in the

A Consul.

Q OK, you were there to assist Americans who get into trouble, but what can you do when people are arrested? In particular what can you do when they're arrested and they're not entitled, or don't seem to be entitled to the process.

A Well you could only try to ensure that they are given the same that a person in the country would be given. ... local procedures,

All you can do is to attempt to secure for them the same treatment

...

Normally what you do is try to get a better hold of the situation, in which you try to get them into a separate cell,

...

can have visitors

...

food,

starve in an Iranian

jail, but we do now have

...

...

But we do whatever we can to make them

...

try to keep in touch with their lawyers and if necessary

working with their lawyers and try to

case

to local authorities, all of which was done

Q Now you said a couple of times that Americans in a foreign country are subject to that country's law and not American law, and that's something that you have to live with and try and work with, but don't you think in a place where there

really is no law and order in a country, the Embassy ought to perhaps impose it

A No I don't!

Q No, not impose it, but

A That's what you were asking, that we go out and subject, set the rules for a country another sovereignty.

Q No.

A And that's a entirely which hopefully and have let Americans out of Vietnam.

Q No, I'm suggesting I understand that. All I'm suggesting is that you might break the rules because there's no law and order in the country.

A Again, as I say, it depends on the circumstances. If there was no law or no authority of any kind, that's one thing, but up until December 12th and the actual revolution there was a government in power, that had, at least technically had, control of the situation. There was a legal procedure in operation for Iranians and for everyone else. That did not it did not operate in the proficiency as in previous times, but it was still in place. There were immigration authorities in the country who still have authority. In fact immigration authorities carried over after the revolution. And immigration laws in Iran are pretty strict.

what you have to do when you come in, and we used to be working day and night with the immigration authorities to be able to get permission for Americans to leave . I mean it's a miracle that 25,000 got out. We worked very closely in the days when the banks were closed, and airports were closed, roads were closed. We worked with the local authorities in a team.

So therefore you do not want agreements with these people who you depend on to get 30,000 Americans out and say

...

the situation that such that afterwards that we

...

...

how you get Americans out of the place

...

to get to the airport.

Q What about allowing Americans to stay at the Embassy.

A Americans were staying at the Embassy.

Q In particular - was there at the Embassy, was told he couldn't.

A

Q You think so?

A Was there anything I could do?

Q ...

A That's right. And afterwards to the

such dealings with people as you probably know.

Q Let me tell you when I think he was in danger. If Gaylord and Chaperroni were worth 12 million between them. Perroni [Perot] was worth 100 million.

A That's right, and we advised not to pay.

...

because it's against the original

...

it's not likely that I would get the

Q Oh you would, absolutely But he's talked to me about it.

A He's getting your side of the story. His side of the story.

Q Yeh, I know, he wants me to have your side of the story.
He's not as bullheaded as he comes across.

A He's very charming ...

...

security would have American consideration
and he could deliver the goods.

Q Except let him stay at the Embassy?

A Well I don't I didn't say he
couldn't stay at the Embassy. I wasn't staying at the
Embassy. Everybody else was staying there. The Ambassador
happened to live there and so did the DCA.

Q Nobody would pay 100 million dollars ransom for you or me
but they would for us.

A Oh I don't know, but ...

The situation was not such that, we did advise him not to come.
I don't think his presence there did any real

...

Q On let me see 12th, 13th, 14th, on the 13th of February there
were five people and a dog who were in my story who stayed at
your house. Were they asked to at the Embassy?

...

A

Q They stayed in fact until the Friday of that week I understand
and on Friday they moved into the Embassy.

A Well they moved in not travel the streets

in Tehran unless

So we got them down there and what we did on evacuation, we called everybody in, processed, brought them in before dark.

Process them through the evening, kept them overnight, and at the first light

so that that's why they stayed there until the day they were brought down for processing, and

...

Q Wednesday the 14th of February must have been an exciting day for you. Have you got time to tell me a bit about it.

A ...

Q So tell me how it started that morning.

A Well it started morning, the first place

...

So about 10.30 or so

to do what we had to do. We had some problems with

...

...

it's a bad time but we're getting there. Together we had problems. We had to start

....

Then about 10.30, we all had

...

everybody was told to just stay

Q When you say there were no troops, I presumed you meant no Iranian troops. There were still American troops at the Embassy.

A ... Marine Guards.

Q Marine Guards, that's what I meant.

A Yes, there were about ten guards. There were no troops. ...

And they were out

two people, but I couldn't save their lives. It's a wonder

we didn't have a . But two people, one was

the Ambassador, he just told everybody else

surrender when we can. The obvious thing was that he was

...

start shooting people

Actually I found out later that they had started about two

blocks back, taken all the apartment buildings and

attacked

Which is the organised operation. I don't believe it wasn't.

You know, the alarming mob that just under the clear blue

skies had organised obviously some very

strange Specially behind the

Well PLO directed, but I may

be wrong, I don't know for sure

And we were there

because the amnesty did have

...

...

Q Any bullets come in the room where you were.

A ...

...

And then they finally broke in the doors of course

They they started

breaking in the other side of us ...

....

...

And so we finally head up to the second floor.....

...

You had to watch where you walked or sat because those were not too secure. couldn't penetrate the rest of the country. So everybody retreated there and then the other person, who was

...

and the poor guy had never seen a body parked his car, was walking he dropped to the ground and eventually got a low gentle

...

We were ready to surrender all alone but how the hell do you tell somebody to surrdner when they're firing at you continuously.

Q What was his name, the man who went out and negotiated.

A Algorni (phonetic).

...

...

...

Q How many people we there in Sullivan's office?

A Three. But the guards were so nervous that shooting. I thought they were sure but anyway they calmed down

...

search some of our clients. We were taken out and all lined up against This is it.

But it was actual ground detention because they had supposedly the big guys

...

However they were snipers...

...

...

They wanted us to go to a cafeteria to get some sandwiches and stuff. They didn't release us until about 7 o'clock that night because they which of the areas were clear enough for us to get through. They didn't want us going out there and getting ambushed again .

I notice you haven't asked me anything about the prison parade but we had to do things that comments!

I couldn't comment too much to except to say that we had several other Americans in jail there at the same time and they escaped at the same time, all Americans escaped at the same time, going over the wall one after the other so that we could know our friends were loose. And the other two persons, just in time to

Q And you got them out?

A Sure.

Q Did you now.

A Oh, my God, how. I'm not going to give you any details on that either. But they were, they escaped from Jail at the same time and eventually came to us. And I say they got to us in time, just in time, to be taken first time on the 14th. But then they were released later

....

Q When the Embassy was taken on the 14th, those two people who had escaped from prison were taken back to prison?

A No, they were picked up with all the people on the compound, and they were held for a while, interrogated, and then released.

Q I see, but they were held after the rest of you were released?

A No. The Iranis did not know they were escaped prisoners.

They just treated them as two more Americans

compound. And of course the British prisoners were not about to tell them.

Q So they got out with the evacuation on the Saturday?

A Yes, but that's, yep. We got them out with the evacuation.

Q But not necessarily on the Saturday.

A We evacuated

Q I see. OK. So if Paul and Bull had gone to the compound they might have got out in the normal, no, ..

A Don't know.

Q Because on that plane when they were on that plane on the runway on the Saturday, the Iranians appeared to be actually
[Gaylord]
looking for Gale or Chaparone

A Searching the planes. They were looking for a number of people. Among them . They were nothing

Q Were they also looking for the two other escaped prisoners?

A I don't think so. I don't know.

Q I haven't heard anything to that effect.

A Well we don't know exactly who they were looking for, but there apparently were some who they thought, many types, South African types

[Gaylord]

Q Well they did, the names they gave were not Gale or Chaparone but there were two other names, I forget now but it was Bill Denson or something and Paul John they asked for.

Those names were read out on the plane, and eh. Oh I haven't asked you about the prison break because I presume it's not within, you weren't there. I'll talk to the people who were there.

A You've talked to the other persons who were there?

Q Oh no. But I'd be very happy to if I could contact them.
I don't even know who they are.

A I don't remember their names. If I had them I couldn't give them to you.

Q I think I know what's on your mind, you're sceptical that this prison break was organised by ...
Am I right?

A I can't ...

Q OK. Let's talk about that last day, that Saturday, it's the last day for me, it wasn't the last day for you of course. There appeared to be that they were looking for somebody, you said you weren't aware of the specific people they were looking for,

A Well of course they were looking for those two, but ... other people, saying that they were not

Q I see. Now I don't know whether you would have any knowledge of this. EDS got a call from the ... here, a rather panicky call saying that that plane can't get off the ground because they're looking for your people, and if we have to in order to get that plane off the ground, we're going to take ... people off it.

A As far as I knew there was nothing to prevent people from leaving. EDS people were leaving the same as everybody else.
...

Q Well it sounds a crazy story to me, but I thought I better check it with you. Somebody made the phone call, there's no doubt about that

A ... things were rather confused
in those days.

...

...

people were communicating and they weren't doing ...
about it. ...

...

Q Do you know why Gaylord and Chaparoni didn't go to the
Embassy when they escaped from the jail?

Well I know they didn't trust the Embassy, they didn't think
the Embassy would protect them. They got two paramilitaries
to arrange ...

A

...

besides the five.

Q Yes, there were the five who stayed at your house and then
there were Paul and Bill and another five who went out over
land.

A Not all of them

Q Yes, I realise that, I mean I was just, the reason ...
they feel so strongly that the Embassy must ...

They put that point to me so strongly that I can't

the story. And such was that, that their
feeling was so strong that they didn't seek refuge in the
Embassy, when they actually escaped from jail because they
didn't think they'd be safe there. Do you think that was
irrational of them?

A The other people did escape from jail. We've had proven
charges, one for murder, they were in jail for murder

.....

and certainly is not true.

Our job is is
to assist the Americans as best we can.

Q OK, those two Americans, I don't their names, I don't think

I want to, but there was a woman who had been convicted of murdering her husband I understand

A She had been accused of

... There was a man who was convicted of murdering his wife, and there was a lady who was convicted was under charges for murdering in Iran

...

Q I see. OK. I've asked you all my questions. Are there any questions I should have asked you and didn't.

A I've got to tell you what they were!

Q Please do.

A At a later date

I've obviously been talking far too much!

Q I don't think so. But I do wish you would tell me what I should have asked ...