

SUNDAY 2/11/79
FIRST TAPE

Bill Gaylord

Bill:

We have personally seen civilians armed in the streets.

T.W.:

Okay.

Bill:

We just got a call from one of our Iranians. He called and said are Mr. Gaylord and Mr. Chiapparone at the hotel yet? We said no, he said I can't talk from here and hung up.

T.W.:

Who called Bill?

Bill:

One of our Iranian employees. Tom they were moving up towards the hotel. We know of several of our employees who have joined the revolution. And they were in contact with us today. They were talking about the tanks they had knocked out and that sort of thing. So there is a two percent possibility that they found them. That they know that the prisons been overrun which was a distinct possibility. Military base just to the south of the prison was overrun and that's where they were getting a lot of arms from.

T.W.:

Saw that on the news.

Bill:

Okay?

T.W.:

Yes.

Bill:

Of all things, the Embassy was closed today. We did get to Dadgar and have a meeting with him. We also got to the Ohmran lawyer, talked to him and wierdly enough we're set to do the thing tomorrow if Ohmran will stay in place.

T.W.:

Okay.

Bill:

We asked Dadgar ourselves, since we had done everything, would he release them to the Embassy. He said the Embassy was not an Iranian prison, he could not do that. He then stated that the prison was safe. We pointed out to him that the fighting was moving up forward from there. And said well that's not a very good circumstance and he said well Chiapparone wouldn't have any problems. He could just walk with the crowds. We said, what about Gaylord and he said oh, he probably wouldn't make it would he. End of conversation.

T.W.:

Son of a bitch.

Bill:

Now this call we just got a minute ago could be nothing or it could mean something, but yall' call back later tonight. We'd like for you to use 1121 not 1120.

T.W.:

Right.

Bill: Okay, now I said all that very fast to just make sure we didn't lose this line because it was terrible when you hooked up on it.

T.W.: Yeah, I understand.

Bill: All right, now I'm going to slow down and go over it again.

T.W.: Okay.

Bill: About 1500 meters to the south of the prison, starting at 9:00 this morning, covering an area of a half a mile to a mile, it was, what I would term, extremely heavy fighting.

T.W.: Right.

Bill: It did not last for ten minutes or twenty minutes. It went on from 9:00 till we left at 2:30. News here has reported a number of buildings in the hands of the revolutionaries. The number of police stations overrun and oh, things like the xx palace, etc. The army has announced neutrality. That was at 2:00, 2 1/2 hours ago or 2 hours ago, but the firing still continued. Where we saw weapons ourselves was directly in front of our offices on Bucharest.

T.W.: Okay.

Bill: And in there, in the window, I saw guys walk by in the streets with them in their hands. If xx and the Sunshine Boys are approximately 3 blocks from our offices as of ten minutes ago, they reported that there was still substantial fire in that area, but they couldn't understand, you know, this neutrality thing. Hold one. And that, hold one please. There has been a report that Backtiar has resigned, that doesn't seem to slow things down here.

T.W.: Okay.

Bill: Two confirmed reports in the hotel are that the xx are coming in tomorrow to pull their people.

T.W.: The who is Bill?

Bill: Cummins.

T.W.: Okay.

Bill: These are unconfirmed reports Tom.

T.W.: Okay.

Bill: That the swiss are coming in tomorrow. And that El Al is coming in. Once again, it is reported today that the Israeli Embassy was overrun, taken over and this why I think it's just a rumor.

T.W.: Okay.

Bill: Situation at the hotel is calm. Nothing going on around us. An hour ago couple of tire fires in the street below us. At this time, not much going on.

T.W.: Okay.

Bill: xx no real substantial news verified. You probably have better reports. We are geared for tomorrow, situation permitting. Go to the bank first thing. Dadgar has committed, he'll do our job.

T.W.: Okay.

Bill: He got our meeting with the Embassy. I tried to reach the Embassy. No one was there. I finally reached people in their homes. Please tell Mitch that I told the Embassy not to follow through on any instructions they receive since my guys were already sitting in Dadgar's office.

T.W.: Okay.

Bill: I didn't want to upset Dadgar under the circumstances.

T.W.: I understand.

Bill: Okay?

T.W.: Yes.

Bill: If anything does happen, they then go back and I will get most of my people out.

T.W.: I agree with you Bill.

Bill: I haven't yet made up a list of who I will keep.

T.W.: Okay, I understand, I understand.

Bill: Okay, that's kinda it and I rushed it more than I wanted to Tom, just to make sure you got it.

T.W.: Yeah.

Bill: But, you know, we're essentially back up in the hotel because curfew is coming up on us and xx.

T.W.: Yeah.

Bill: Have yall' heard any news you can report to us?

T.W.: Bill, I'd say that the news, the evening news last night, can you hear me all right?

Bill: Yeah, I can hear you fine now.

T.W.: Okay, the evening news last night was very consistent with what you saw. Intense fighting around in the vicinity of that air force academy. Number of the air force academy guys coming out, joining the ranks, bringing weapons with them. Some cases, on film, when that happened, army guys changing. . .

Bill: You're fading out on me Tom. Please repeat.

T.W.: As the air force guys were coming out of the academy, they brought their weapons with them. As this happened, a number of soldiers just change sides right midstream with their weapons. Film showed substantial number of people in the streets carrying M16s.

Bill: Right, and I don't know where the hell they're getting them, because that's not. . .

T.W.: Well, they're getting them, they, this, pardon?

Bill: That's not their infantry weapons.

T.W.: Well, it looked like an M. . .

Bill: That's what we saw in the streets today.

T.W.: Well, I wonder if the air force people brought them out.

Bill: Could be Tom.

T.W.: That's what the news attributed them to.

Bill: What finally got us out of there was those guys with the guns and they clicked off a round about twenty yards from us.

T.W.: Yeah. Well, the other thing Bill.

Bill: We went home then.

T.W.: Yeah, the other thing that they showed on film is they had put out a call. .

Bill: You cut out on me.

T.W.: Okay, they had, Kohmeni people had put out a call for people who had military experience to rally at certain points and pick up weapons, which they showed films of them doing.

Bill: A few weapons or a lot?

T.W.: Couldn't really tell from the films Bill. I would say a few, because there were certainly a lot of people coming out of those areas that didn't have them.

Bill: Tom, is the other side from what we saw today, from the top of the roof, the other side wasn't well armed?

T.W.: Yeah.

Bill: It was a damn xx.

T.W.: Okay. Well, you know, don't . .

Bill: I don't think I would be exaggerating to you if I said we heard 100,000 rounds.

T.W.: Well I'd say, from the films I saw, that one out of every twenty-five had a weapon. Something like that.

Bill: They also took another armory today.

T.W.: Okay, well I think that's where . .

Bill: They might have 10,000 weapons out there.

T.W.: Yeah, that's where they're getting them. Okay.

Bill: That's all I got to report.

T.W.: Other than that, a quiet day, huh?

Bill: Military told us a short while ago that the Embassy was taken over. That there's been nothing done around any of these, no suggestions on the part of the military. Not a hell of a lot they can do because there's only a couple hundred of them here. My suspicion is that they will do nothing. My analysis is, that unless they decide to make a direct target of hotels, that we're probably in one of the safest places to be.

T.W.: Yeah.

Bill: Also, my analysis is that it's gotten beyond xx and the Americans and the people are more interested in the critical aspects of it.

T.W.: Okay. Let's go back to the strange phone call about Gaylord and Chiapparone.

Bill: You're going out.

T.W.: I said, back to the strange phone call about whether Gaylord and Chiapparone were at the hotel yet.

Bill: He made the call, said I can't talk, I'll call you back.

T.W.: Who made the call Bill?

Rashid

Bill: [REDACTED], a very loyal young Iranian. Not one of the ones I knew was in the streets today.

T.W.: You said he was one?

Bill: Was not.

T.W.: Was not. Wow.

Bill: And, you know, it's just a general period of panic here and it could have just been something that those guys saying the prison was overrun and just wondered whether we got them together or not.

T.W.: How long ago was that Bill?

Bill: Oh, no more than five minutes before you called.

T.W.: Okay.

Bill: In fact, when your call came, we thought it was them calling back and that's why had xx in the room.

T.W.: Okay, so you got that line open now.

Bill: Yes.

T.W.: Well, I don't know, that could mean something or it could not.

Bill: I can't, Tom I can't tell you anything, but it's . . . hold one. I wanted to ask Keane, but my analysis that he 100% percent agrees with is that this thing, took a very strong turn from November and December.

T.W.: Oh, yeah. I got, let me catch that. . .

Bill: xx on the way home, a young man running out of his house, jumped in a car with four or five other guys and they weren't in a bad neighborhood. But there were a lot of people in the streets on our way home. They seemed to be excited, seemed to be all taken up with this thing. A lot of V signs in the air, the horn honking, etc.

T.W.: Okay, alright Bill, while we got the line, let's talk just a minute. What if we, if we lose the ability to contact you on the telephone.

Bill: Repeat.

T.W.: I said what if, do you got any ideas of how we should try to work if we lose contact with you on the telephone?

Bill: xx Tom.

T.W.: Huh?

Bill: Keep trying.

T.W.: Well no, but I mean, is there anything, you know, how. .

Bill: All right, the only thing I could suggest you do if we lose contact on the telephone is see if Mitch and Ross can crank up DOD, okay? Aimed for you, I'm sure you have these.

T.W.: Let me be sure.

Bill: General Gast, Colonel T. Barlow, Sargent Major Don Golden, got those?

T.W.: Okay, Bill you were cutting out. I got General Gast, Colonel Barlow and a Sargent Major Golden.

Bill: I repeat, General Gast, you have that.

T.W.: Yes.

Bill: Colonel T. Barlow.

T.W.: Right.

Bill: Sargent Major Don Golden. Do you have that?

T.W.: G, Golden G, or D?

Bill: old as in David en.

T.W.: First letter.

Bill: G as in George.

T.W.: Got it, I got it, okay.

Bill: G as in George, do you copy?

T.W.: Yes, I copy. I have it.

Bill: Okay, now that is, starting with the Sargent Major, a good friend of Kathys'. Barlow's her boss. Evin Hotel, copy?

T.W.: Yes.

Bill: Is in same complex as Hyatt.

T.W.: I understand. Bill?

Bill: Under the circumstances, you would have to open that though.

T.W.: I understand. Bill, the other question is . . .

Bill: In the meantime, if things deteriorate, I will ship out some people.

T.J.: I understand.

Bill: Copy?

T.J.: Yes. Okay. Okay, Bill? How far physically are yall' from where General Gast is headquartered?

Bill: Air miles, five.

T.J.: Okay, long way then.

Bill: Understand they were packing classified materials today. He may well move over here.

T.J.: Okay, just because of the geographical location.

Bill: Air miles from us to prison, probably seven.

T.J.: I understand.

Bill: And twice that, xx. Not quite ten.

T.J.: Right, okay.

Bill: For your information, location of our personnel. Sunshine Boys are where Merv can contact them.

T.J.: Where who can contact them?

Bill: In the location they have been at.

T.W.: All right.

Bill: Copy?

T.W.: Go ahead, you cut out Bill on location of Sunshine Boys.

Bill: They remain in their same location. Merv has phone number.

T.W.: Okay.

Bill: I will give you number now.

T.W.: All right.

Bill: 6247, I'm going to repeat, I may have given that to you wrong.

T.W.: You cut out, I didn't hear it anyhow.

Bill: Okay, 628467.

T.W.: Let me read it back, 628467.

Bill: Okay, all I got were the last two digits. Please repeat.

T.W.: All right, here I go, 628467.

Bill: Tom, I don't copy you.

T.W.: Okay.

Bill: xx five seconds you might do better.

T.W.: All right. I will try again. 628467.

Bill: Correct.

T.W.: Okay, Bill what, should we have the Sunshine Boys move up to where you are?

Bill: You cut out.

T.W.: Should we consider moving the Sunshine Boys to your location?

Bill: You cut out.

T.W.: Okay, should we consider moving the Sunshine Boys to your location?

Bill: I have discussed with them, I am not sure what good they are to anybody down there.

T.W.: That's my point.

Bill: But they can't do me much good either.

T.W.: Yeah, but just for their safety Bill.

Bill: We think they're better off down there Tom, but I just don't believe it. It is now too late anyway, for today.

T.W.: All right.

Bill: xx analysis, please repeat to home run.

T.W.: All right.

Bill: They're staying under, no longer are necessary or beneficial. Do you copy?

T.W.: Yes. I understand, and I guess I'm saying, for their safety, they're better off up with you, they can get out of the country better from where you are, or if you should need any help to go get somebody, you got them, you know, they're there.

Bill: I agree to discuss that end.

T.W.: All right, we'll discuss in time, for them to move tomorrow, if it makes sense.

Bill: Okay.

T.W.: Okay. How do you feel Bill about the chances about the bank being there in the morning and being able to pull it off?

Bill: I don't have any idea Tom.

T.W.: Okay. I sure don't either Bill.

Bill: Copy?

T.W.: Yes, and I understand.

Bill: You just have to get out in the streets and try it.

T.W.: Okay. Okay.

Bill: I don't expect anything to develop. I think you should try another call shortly. Do you copy?

T.W.: Yes, do you want to just keep the line open for a while?

Bill: No, not this one. There's not anything you can do Tom.

T.W.: Well, I was just thinking if anything developed on the previous call.

Bill: Well, let me put Bob on this line for a little while and go do some conversation, and I'll come back and give you my answer.

T.W.: Okay Bill? Mitch would like to hear from you, but we didn't want to try and transfer the call until we got everything covered. I'm going to see if I can . . .

Bill: I don't copy.

END OF TAPE