

Coburn

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ken Follett
FROM: Jay Coburn
DATE: October 29, 1982

Someone woke me up about thirty minutes before touchdown. I was seated next to Col. Simons who was just waking, also. Don't remember who woke us up.

The Col. and I chatted about how good it was to get some sleep and I remember also thinking how great it would be to have a shower and clean clothes. I am a pitiful sight! (Still dressed in same clothing we wore leaving Tehran.)

I had not been drinking on flight and the last meal was the one served on board. It was a quiet time as I remember it. I was reflecting back on how lucky we all were and looking forward to a quiet existence at home with my wife and kids.

On departing plane, we had familiar drill going through customs and the next person I remember seeing is Merv Stauffer. We embraced and exchanged greetings -- all smiles. Then Merv hands me my wedding band! Now, to me this is remarkable. It seems like such a simple thing but keep in mind, Merv is responsible for the logistics of this entire episode and here he is remembering something as small but meaningful as this. In my mind he is the unsung hero in this entire affair. What a real friend and truly outstanding human being. (Oh well! Ken, I believe that's enough for the \$50 Merv slipped me for this testimony.)

My family was on a bus with the Perot's family and the Chiapparone's family. I filed on bus and greeted Margot and her girls first. Then there was what I was waiting for. All my kids jumping at me at once, teary eyed and happy -- not much dialogue, just hugging and kissing. Then a big hug and kiss with Liz. This was truly as good a feeling as one ever gets. Usually I am bordering on breaking down at these moments and this is no different. I am choking back the tears and pretty speechless. The bus ride to the Concorde room was about a week too short. I really wanted the bus to keep going home. But off we came and led through the building to Concorde room. I was flabbergasted/overwhelmed by the number of people packed in that room and the applause and shouting. What a sight! I remember first seeing David Behne -- a warm embrace and hand-shake, then he said it was really good to see us back. Then Dick Morrison -- hand shake and he said welcome back. Everyone I went by was shaking hands but don't remember any other words exchanged.

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Shortly afterwards Paul and his family came in and the crowd really screamed. I remember thinking what a great family affair this organization really is. The speeches were necessary and everyone kept it short knowing we all wanted to get home. The only thing I remember specifically was Col. Simons looking bored with this whole business and how sheepishly he accepted Ross's praise.

Later, I remember going home, spending a few hours eating and telling the kids about the trip. Then to bed.

JC/c1k