

Hotfoot/41 Side A
Interview with Paul Chiapparone
November 16, 1981

KF Shall we?

PC Yes.

KF Tape 41, continuation of the interview with Paul Chiapparone and it is the 16th of November. Did we talk about you speaking on the phone to Dallas, did you do that at that point?

PC Yes, after we had the reunion with Bill and some of the other people that were in the room there. Tom Walter had been on the phone with Bill Gayden so I did have an opportunity to talk with Tom. And he had seen Ruthie and I think I said in that case you're going to have to sign over Power of Attorney to Tom so he was in when we made with what she was doing in my affairs. That was a real good conversation, it really had done quite a bit and I got off to find out first hand how we were doing with Tom.

KF Okay, and she had bought, she was buying a house.

PC I think they had bought it at the time and the deal hadn't closed or as a matter of fact they had even closed on it and they hadn't moved in to it yet. But yea, they had bought a house, I say they, she had bought it, she and Tom together had bought it.

KF So Tom told you that and that she was fine...

PC She was fine, the girls were fine and everybody, and Jean, Tom's wife at that time was going to their other phone to call Ruthie to tell her that we had gotten out of jail, and in fact were safe in the hotel.

KF I see. You thought you were safe but at some point it must have started occurring to you that this was the beginning rather than the end.

PC Well at this point, as I say, from this point on, I probably had a sense of false security, in that having made our way to the hotel without being shot even though we weren't being shot at at any time. There were many, many shots being fired. I think we probably had a very false sense of security but we were kind of floating at that point. And I don't think we realized the danger that we probably were in at that point in time. Obviously Colonel Simons did when too long after that I thought we were going to stay in town for a nice night's sleep and he had other thoughts.

KF He got the show on the road.

PC That's right we moved out of the hotel.

KF Okay tell me the sequence of events, now after you spoke to Dallas on the phone.

PC Okay, I sat down had a nice drink.

KF What did you have?

PC Scotch, scotch and water, had something to eat, as a matter of fact I think we had a steak sent up, had steak, Bill and I did. I went and took a bath, I hadn't had a nice warm bath for two and a half months and as I recall...

KF Are you still in Gayden's suite now?

PC No, they had moved us down, they had taken two rooms on a different floor and they were adjoining rooms. I was down in the one I was in with Colonel Simons and Jay and then Bill Gaylord and Keane Taylor I believe were in the room right next door to us.

KF Did you move down before you ate?

PC No.

KF So you ate in Gayden's room.

PC No, I'm sorry we talked to Dallas, we had the drink in Gayden's room, we moved downstairs and ate downstairs.

KF Okay. And then you took a bath.

PC Yes.

KF Were you around when [REDACTED] came in with the news?

PC I don't think [REDACTED], I don't think I saw [REDACTED]. There was another fellow there named [REDACTED] who worked for us over there. Who did come into Bill's room while I was there and did see me then. But I personally did not see [REDACTED], although either Bill or Jay or Colonel Simons or somebody told me that [REDACTED] had in fact come into the hotel.

KF Now the Colonel put an end to the phone conversation with Dallas at some point, were you aware of that happening?

PC No, I do remember though the phone ringing in what turned out I believe to be the room that I was in, and the Colonel picking it up and nobody being on the other end. And I believe it was right at that moment that he had decided that we were going to leave. In fact I had put a pair of pajamas on and he had told us to change fast, which I did.

KF While you took a bath and put your pajamas on what did Bill do, do you remember?

PC Gaylord?

KF Yea.

PC He was in the next room, so I really don't know.

KF I see. Now Joe Poche is quite sure that when that phone call occurred somebody asked for Bill and Paul, but everybody else has told me that there was just nobody there. I mean you were actually, you actually recall seeing the Colonel pick up the phone and...

PC Nobody answered it.

KF Nobody answered.

PC And Jay, Jay was standing right next to the Colonel during that time I believe.

KF And Joe's in the next room with Gaylord.

PC I believe Joe's in the room with Gaylord. I don't remember Joe being in our room at that point.

KF So somebody must have said to Joe...

PC That may have been ...

KF Yea. So in other words, you are the eye witness of that. So your presumption is that you're right about that and Joe is wrong. Okay.

PC I remember being there. Now the other side of that is I only heard one end of the conversation and I remember the Colonel continuing to say hello. Now I don't, if somebody was on the other end, you know somebody could've been talking on the other end. But all he kept saying was hello and then he hung up the phone.

KF And then what did he do?

PC Then he said to me "change your clothes we're going to leave."

KF Just like that.

PC Just like that, and I said why, he said "change your clothes we're going to leave." And so I went ahead and changed and shortly thereafter he made some arrangements with Bill Gayden as to what they were going to do the rest of the group. And we, and my bags were in the room, that's where they had wound up. They had checked me out of the Hilton, remember I was in the Hilton before I went to prison, so my bags were in the room right there, so I had my own clothes there. All I did was put a clean set of clothes on, and we left very very shortly thereafter.

KF Matter of minutes, five minutes, ten minutes?

PC Ten minutes I guess.

KF In other words, ten minutes afterwards. You went downstairs this is the Colonel, you, Bill, Joe and Jay.

PC That's correct.

KF Who went in what car? There were two cars, two Range Rovers.

PC Two cars I remember getting out of the elevator, we were the only ones in the elevator and just as we got to the ground floor the Colonel said to us "now let's just walk out of here like it was a normal thing to do." And that's exactly what we did. Joe Poche drove the first vehicle, I was in the front seat and Bill Gaylord was in the back seat. And then the Colonel and Jay were in the vehicle following us.

KF Do you recall some revolutionaries driving into the forecourt of the hotel as you left?

PC I do and I do remember seeing people with guns but I didn't pay an awful lot of attention to that because that day I saw an awful lot of that. But yes I do remember a group of revolutionaries driving into the area of the hotel.

KF You were stopped at the roadblock at the Hilton.

PC Yes.

KF Do you recall Joe's conversation with the guard?

PC Yes, I remember the guard asked him, asked us where we were going. And I remember Joe saying something to the effect that we were going down to see his mother-in-law on Asadabad I just remembered. And there was some other conversation that took place, but I really wasn't paying, I was kind of looking off to the side I really wasn't paying attention. I didn't want to focus my attention directly to them just in case it may have been somebody you know looking for us.

KF You didn't want to catch his eye?

PC No, and I wasn't sure because it was a big city and this was one interesection and the chances of Dadgar having had somebody there at that intersection. But we were close enough to the Hyatt that I figured you never really so I was looking the other way. I didn't really say very much. I remember that point of the conversation but that was it.

KF So your sense of security is not complete?

PC That's correct, that's correct.

KF And then Joe drove you to the Dvoranchik's apartment.

PC Yes.

KF What did you do that evening?

PC As I recall I cooked the spaghetti dinner that evening, and we had a big feast as I remember feast being, you know we ate again. And then the Colonel and I stayed awake most of that evening. I just didn't really feel like sleeping very much. We kind of got to know each other and we talked alot about what I had done, we talked an awful lot about what he was doing. He and I had a very easy time talking to each other, it's just like it was natural. It wasn't like it was someone I had just met hours before.

KF What did he talk about?

PC He talked about, we got to talking about our families. He had asked me what my life as a youngster been without my parents. And we got to talking about his family, his wife, we talked a little bit about his son Harry. Things he liked to do, things I liked to do. He liked to ride motorcycles, I liked to ride motorcycles. He liked boats, I love boats I have one now. We just talked about, I don't know if there was a pattern to our conversation but it was a natural flow if you will. He liked to read, I liked to read whatever.

KF Did he tell you what he liked to read?

PC No not really, he just said he had done alot of reading, he liked to read, we really didn't get down to the titles of the things.

KF What did he tell you about Lucille, his wife?

PC Oh, he said, he told me they had a great life together. When she died things kind of came to a screeching halt for him. And he said quite honestly that was one of the reasons that he not enjoyed but that he wasn't opposed to coming on this mission. Because it really gave him a purpose in life again, you know those kinds of things. He didn't come on as being a hero, he just came on as being a human being. He had a tremendous sense of humor as I recall. One of the things that we

PC did is I would decode messages for him when Jay was out of the area. Once again we kind of got to know each other's habits very fast. In fact I was there when the message from Admiral Moore. You probably heard about the famous water quote, I was, he and I were there together when that quote took place.

KF I know you said the nearest water is the kitchen sink.

PC Yes that's right. Something it was really [not accurate in there].

KF Alright so.

PC One of the things that I found very interesting you know, the Colonel was an individual who was the leader who was always in charge. And it was interesting we'd get these messages from Admiral Moore and people like that, and he'd listen to them but he'd pass them off. But everytime we got a message whereas Ross said we ought to do this. It was interesting that Colonel Simons to me it appeared that he really thought more about the advice Ross was giving than an Admiral Moore to be quite honestly about that. He had a tremendous amount of respect for Ross. Now you know he ultimately wound up doing what he thought best and didn't know his coincide with ideas that Ross had. But I did notice that when I would translate a message through Merv saying that Ross suggested this. Then he would sit back... He would really think and evaluate and I found it very interesting.

KF What did he say to you about Harry?

PC He said that Harry was basically a good boy. You know got himself a little mixed up every now and then but overall he said "he's a good boy." And it was interesting he said the same thing to me right after the heart attack. I went to visit him in the hospital. In fact Merv and I went down the first day he had been in the hospital. I said Colonel Simons I finally got to meet Harry, and he said "yea, he's a good boy, sort of..."

KF Did he tell you any details about Harry getting mixed up?

PC No, he really didn't. He was it was like he, I didn't draw any conclusions to what he said, you know I just concluded that Harry was a normal American boy. You know, made a left turn and finally got himself back on center. So there weren't any details at all about that.

KF Looking back on that conversation do you think he was weighing you out?

PC Well as I talked to Jay now there was probably a purpose to his part of his conversation, at the time I did not. But that's kind of the way Colonel Simons was when you were around him you thought everything was being done in a very diplomatic manner. But once you really got to know him you could see that he was being polite all along. But looking back now, yea he was probably trying to find out what I was made of, you know things like that.

KF Yea, he seems to have done that with everybody.

PC Yea.

KF It's also interesting that everybody, not everybody but a couple of other people have said how much they felt they had in common. And I wonder if that was an impression that gave, in a situation like this one he was trying to draw you out, find out what you were made of.

PC Very possible, very possible, you know, a good Manager does that. Puts you at ease, makes you think that you're his best friend and you just kind of bear your ^{heart} soul to him. But I felt like that there was a, and I guess everybody did I felt like there was a special bond between us. Even after we got back here but probably no more than there was in anybody else. And that's good I mean, he probably achieved his purpose.

KF Did you sleep that night?

PC Very little. I was generally the one that didn't get any sleep, I was on a high that night.

KF Did you stay in the apartment for the next 48 hours?

PC Yes. I did not leave there.

KF Oh, there's something that I want to double check with you. Who helped you in the kitchen?

PC I believe it was Joe, I believe it was Joe Poche, that first night and the second night Keane was there.

KF Ah, that explains it.

PC And then we all did the second night we re-did it again in fact the second night we made such a good feast that Keane and I didn't get to eat very much of it, because it was, they all devoured it. The first night it was pretty much Joe and I and the second night it was Joe and I and Keane.

KF That explains why both Keane and Joe claimed to have helped you cook the spaghetti. It was two different nights. Now we get these little contradictions sorted out in the end. Okay so what did you do all that time other than cook spaghetti?

PC Oh, I pretty much partook in the discussions I listened alot and at the time I didn't know, if I had known I was going to drive one of the vehicles then I would have been acutely aware of what I was going on. But at the time I thought I was going to be a passenger out. I remember thinking about the fact, Colonel Simons had told us that there would be an excellent chance that we were going to go over the mountain by horseback. And, I distinctly remembered trying to figure out, you know, I'm going to have to get dressed warm. You know

PC because I don't have an awful lot to wear right now, my clothes are in the hotel. And, I thought that we were going to get the clothes back but that's when we subsequently found out that there was nothing to get back. They were all...

KF Shot up.

PC They were all shot up. But my camera was in there, my briefcase was in there. So we just it was interesting we went through drawers and poor Toni Dvoranchik she would be probably die of embarrassment. We just pulled out whatever we could and in fact that hat that Bill Gayden wore back. I don't know if you've seen it or not, but there's a series of pictures around here you ought to look at too. They were taking pictures throughout, that was Bill Dvoranchik's hat. I think I wound up with Jay's boots, Bob Young wound up with my coat. I mean we all just kind of split out and got the things that we needed. And Jay had even told me that driving the vehicles out was going to be very cold. He had done the test run it was extremely cold, but fortunately we had some warm weather. The days that we were driving the sun was out. So anyway when we think about, well we just kind didn't know what xxxxxx. We had I remember anxiously the time when Jay went to meet Farahad, you know, waiting for him to come back, he was late, you know different incidents like that...

Interruption

PC 48 hours.

KF About 48 hours. Did you do anything, did you read, play cards, drank.

PC I probably played a couple of, no there was no drinking. In fact I remember once in awhile Bill Gayden and Jay Coburn would sneak over and there was a little bottle of [Bambui] up in the corner and they would put into their coffee. But no we did not drink at all. And I remember Colonel Simons saying that saying was that if we had to

PC leave fast we would be much better without any alcohol in our system. "So those who want to drink feel free to do so." Interesting that nobody drank very much. Yea, Bill Gayden and I played a little gin. You know, there was alot of talking every now and then they would ask me about what went on in the prison. And I would ask Jay about, I remember asking there was a mix up, when Ross was there I had asked somebody to get me some warm clothes. Because I was freezing to death in that prison. Somehow, that message took awhile to get itself communicated, so you know we were kind of filling in the pieces of what happened here and what happened there.

KF I see.

PC You know I distinctly remember the situation with Jay going out and visiting ^{Abolhasan Majid} [redacted] and [redacted] deciding that he couldn't go with us, we were without anybody that night. And then ^{Rashid} [redacted] came, and I know that the Colonel talked with ^{Rashid} [redacted]. I remember ^{Rashid} [redacted] saying that he would go assuming that we could do it his way. And I was, ^{Rashid} [redacted] was like sitting here facing the Colonel and I was kind of off to the side the Colonel saying to ^{Rashid} [redacted], "anything you say ^{Rashid} [redacted]." and just kind of turned to me winking. And it was obvious you know, that he was definitely in command. But there were alot of incidents like that Ken that took place. I didn't talk to Ruthie you know from that house. I remember everytime the phone, oh the doorbell rang a couple of times and I had a few anxious moments with the doorbell. As it turned out it was nothing, the landlady upstairs was very very nice, I remember that.

KF I supposed when the doorbell rang you all had to scatter, there was only supposed to be Jay living there.

PC Yea, we all went in different directions. For awhile there when Rich and Kathy Gallagher and the whole group was there John Howell and everybody it was, it was quite a large number of people.

KF To hide.

PC That's right.

KF How many times did that happen I wonder.

PC I remember it happening twice.

KF Do you remember who was at the door those times?

PC No, because Jay never went to the door. The landlady answered it.

KF I see.

PC Jay was right behind the door but I don't remember him opening it I think the landlady from upstairs, I could hear her talking in Farsic... I remember the walk with the dog. I remember the Gallagher's dog.

KF What breed was that dog a poodle?

PC I think it was a poodle, yes.

KF Do you remember what color?

PC Black.

KF Black poodle.

PC And I remember the Colonel, Rich and Kathy Gallagher were, Kathy was sick so they were in the bedroom. I remember the Colonel's telling us that, telling Jay that there was an excellent chance that Jay was going to get some instructions to take the dog for a walk. He's to be back without the dog, it's very colorful. And you know it's very interesting the Colonel loves pets.

KF Yea.

PC Really loves pets. In fact when you get down to Florida I think they probably still have some of the dogs that he had then. I know they did when Merv and I went xxxxx xxxxx.

KF I don't quite understand why the landlady could answer the door, was there an outer door and then two inner doors one to the upstairs, one to the downstairs?

PC Yes, well the bell rang and it rang loud enough to where you know, well the way it worked was Ken is don't forget this house every house had a fence or a stone wall around it. What they would do was they would press a bell outside the stone wall.

KF Oh I see, at the street gate.

PC Yea. And they would probably maybe one two bells, maybe one bell rang everything, the Iranians weren't too particular on that sort of detail. So what would happen is the bell would ring and they lived upstairs and she opened her door and I guess she yelled at whoever was outside the wall.

KF I see, so nobody rang the bell for you guys?

PC As it turned out, I don't think so. I don't know, Jay probably remembers what the incident was at least the first one, the second one, I don't remember either.

KF Tell me as much as you can remember about the Colonel's conversation with [REDACTED]. You told me that [REDACTED] said so as long as I can do it my way and the Colonel said anything you say.

PC Yea, I think the Colonel described what we were going to do. We were going to attempt to drive to the border the story we would tell everybody we were businessmen the airport was closed, we wanted to

PC return to our families so we would just drive to the border. And that was an excellent chance that we would go across the border on horseback because that was the way that he arranged this. And you know really incidents like that we really needed [REDACTED] to, and you know he would ask [REDACTED] alot of questions. What do you think about this what do you think about that. [REDACTED] would say well I think this would work and I think we ought to do that. I don't necessarily remember the specifics around that. But in retrospect I think he was doing you know, the same thing, obviously he knew, I don't know if he had ever met [REDACTED] before. That I don't know, but it was obvious that had a little bit respect for him. [REDACTED] a young boy, a small boy. I think he was kind of feeling [REDACTED] out the same way he was probably to feel me, I don't know. To develop a sense of feeling about the individual, which only he could do it as well as he could.

KF Okay. Did you sleep the second night in the apartment?

PC Yes, yes I did. I think I slept on the couch in the living room, Colonel Simons slept on a chair. When I say slept he dozed.

KF And what about the last night? This is after you had divided up.

PC The last night I did but not too well because I knew we were leaving that morning and I was kind of anxious I remember we were all, I remember when we got up we all were working bringing things out and getting the gas ready, into the vehicles. And I say at this point I still didn't know I was driving the vehicle, in fact this was decided as we were all getting into the vehicles to leave. We knew which vehicle we were going in, but I assumed Jay was going to drive the vehicle. As I think Jay probably assumed you know that he would drive the vehicle. And it was at the last minute that [REDACTED] suggested that I drive because I looked Persian.

KF Oh, it was [REDACTED] idea? Oh.

PC I remember [REDACTED] telling me that and I also remember the Colonel looking over you know giving me one of these so, it was okay. And I think his point probably was that at the roadblocks you could drive through if they saw two Persians driving, maybe they wouldn't be too suspicious I gather, but as it turned out you know, [REDACTED] and I were frisked at most of the places we stopped. And then at some of the places everybody was.

KF What were you wearing then Paul?

PC A pair of dungarees which I still have at home and I'll show it to you on Friday if you want. They're kind of. I had a couple of sweaters on. And I had somebody's jacket and I don't remember who. And I had a pair of long johns on and I had a couple of pairs of socks on, because I had money sandwiched in...

KF Between the two pairs, under your sole, under your foot?

PC Yes I had the money under the sole in between was on both feet and I had it sewn inside my under pants.

KF Inside your long johns.

PC Remember the ones, because I remember you know, when we were arrested or detained in Mahabad or Rezaiyeh everytime you walk into a room you had to take your boots off. And I kept saying well, we were laughing about it, not laughing but it was a joke because we all had to get our boots off but we had to hold carefully into the second pair of socks because you know if I were to pull these boots off and all this money would splatter out I'm not sure I would have been able to explain where I got that from. So...

KF How much did you have roughly?

PC I think I had, probably had probably about \$10,000, I think I probably had that. You know, most of the guys had some, Colonel Simons had some. You probably heard about the money that we had in the oil can. Yes.

KF Yea. Do you remember anything else you did that morning before you drove off?

PC I remember making alot of trips in and out of the house and loading the vehicle. I remember I was also in charge of putting some food together for us, subsidies. You know and we splitted that out, split out in two cans. I remember Jay kept saying to me be sure you get the tapes. There was a couple of cassette tapes and you know Jay wanted music on the way out. He kept telling me be sure, I think they wound up in the other vehicle though. But anyway I remember making alot of trips and we all did, Bill and myself.

KF What sort of food did you put together?

PC They had gone to the commissary, I remember we had these dishes of puddings, we had like cupcakes, bread. It wasn't gourmet food by any stretch, it was miser food.

KF Packaged up food was, because it required not preparation. Doesn't sound too nourishing.

PC Not at all but it kept us going. Probably crackers, cookies, we totally went through Bill's refrigerator but I think he had some porkchops there, one night we just cooked porkchops until the cows came home. The one night we all ate dinner that Kathy and Rich and everybody, there's alot of people to feed. So we wiped out their entire refrigerator. But we did not bring alot of nourishing food no we just brought things to you know eat, junk food. And we figured that would be a one day trip so...

KF Yea. While you were doing this or perhaps a little before [REDACTED] did a little reconnaissance trip around the neighborhood.

PC Yes.

KF And I think Jay may have gone out.

PC I don't, well Jay may have gone out to get the gas. In fact Jay and Keane may have gone, or Jay and Joe may have gone to get the gas, I don't know if they went to get it that night or that morning. I'm a little vague on that. The 55 gallon drums of gas. Oh he went, no, Jay went out about 5:00 o'clock to see [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is the one I told you who had come into the hotel that I saw.

KF Is his second name [REDACTED]

PC [REDACTED]

KF And he, [REDACTED] didn't know it but he was the communication point.

PC That's right Jay went out, that's right, Jay went out to talk to him about if somebody called you would say this, or if I called but you know, I didn't give him any indications that we were leaving.

KF No, so at about 6:30 you sat down, apprehensive?

PC I probably was until I found out that I was going to drive and I happen to enjoy driving. So I remember Jay was kind of, I think Jay was apprehensive about me driving. But once we went up a couple of miles he saw I was fine and you know, he and Bill Gayden I think was in the front with me and Jay was in the back. You know the three of us made light of the situation. A little apprehensive yes, you know probably knees shaking until I got around the first turn. Because I had no idea what was going to be there and we had heard reports the day before that the entire city was sealed off. And [REDACTED] had made this

PC reconnaissance trip and he was able to go five or ten miles or so. But that was nothing compared to what 500 kilometers whatever distance it was that we had to travel. So, yes, I would say very apprehensive. Not scared you know, I was scared out and that was in the village square in Rezaiyeh, because I felt like we were going to go back man it was all over. But I was apprehensive but I don't know that I had alot of fear.

KF When did you encounter your first roadblock from xxxxx?

PC We were just past the airport going into the town called Karaj, and they pulled us both over and I'm surprised we'd gotten that far without being stopped. So I noticed the traffic was alot lighter than it normally is and [REDACTED] and I had to get out of the vehicle and they actually did a body search on us and then they had us open up the back of the vehicle and went through and virtually inspected, or did a cursory inspection of the things that were in the vehicles. I don't remember at that roadblock whether everybody got out or not Ken, but I do remember that I definitely got out. The revolutionaries did a body search on them and were closing in on us.

KF These guys were armed, but they didn't point their guns at you.

PC Not at that particular location.

KF Okay.

PC I say that, I don't remember seeing them point, the ones doing the body search, there was other revoultionaries in the area kind of walking around, and yet they weren't aiming at us, if you will. Like they were later on during.

KF And then you stopped for gas soon after that.

PC Yea.

KF What was the next incident?

PC That may have been the gas stop where money put in the gallon drums. I remember seeing him walk in with the gallon drum and I remember seeing him coming back out. We were stopped every couple of hours I mean routinely, I mean it got to be very routine. The first couple we were quite apprehensive, because we didn't know. And you know my thoughts were gee, you know I sure hate like hell to go back into that jail. But after the first couple, well it's not too bad, I mean they'd believe our story and everything will be fine. I remember driving out, I remember the countryside be very very pretty, it had snowed very recently but the roads, you know it's like a day after the snow when the sun would come out the roads are clear but the whole mountainside was snow. And the mountain side of Iran is usually very very pretty and I remember being amazed that there were points when you forget about what's happening to you and think you're just taking a Sunday drive. You know, the sheer beauty of it. And I remember it being not very cold, I remember Jay saying it's supposed to be cold, etc., ect. I remember one incident along the way, either Bill or Jay may have told you about. It was probably early afternoon where we had gone through a number of these very successfully. Bill turned to and said something to the effect, you know, this is too easy, wouldn't it be something if we just got out of here without having one incident? I said let's not be too sure about that and I think the next town was Mahabad. That's when things kind of fell apart for us right then and there.

KF Okay, about what time of day did you hit Mahabad?

PC I think it was about 3:00 or 3:30 in the afternoon. I recollect it was...

KF Okay, tell me about that.

PC Roadblock, normal roadblock. We had changed drivers just before that maybe ten minutes before that. I was you know Bill asked me if I was getting tired, and I really wasn't, but finally I said yea just go ahead and take it because it didn't seep into your problems when you just change drivers so Bill Gayden was now driving into Mahabad. And I'm off to the side and Jay is behind me. And we went through what appeared to be a normal roadblock. They didn't, they continued to talk to [REDACTED]. Yea, [REDACTED] and it seemed to me that something was wrong because they were talking too long. In [REDACTED] it's hard to tell from his expressions what's going on, he looks like a young innocent boy. And it's really difficult to tell what's going on. And most of the conversations going around up front, there were some revolutionaries in the back, but as I say, most of it was going on up front. So we, I remember then some revolutionaries got into our vehicle and into the vehicle up front and we were driven to one particular area and one of the revolutionaries got out and came back and I think we may even driven to another area and the same thing. Finally we were taken to what they call the [Amene] in other words the head of the Islamic of the Islamic council for that particular area. And we walked into a room that was just a bare room with a persian rug, it didn't have any furniture in it, this is where we had to you know... And I remember we parked in an alley we were being marched into this room and there was alot of people around, I wasn't really sure what was going on quite honestly. I remember we had to take our shoes off and we all sat around this circular area. There was a man there who could speak English. We were all there, the guy that was in charge the [Amene] was here and then this guy who would speak English and then Bill Gayden and then myself, the rest of the group. There was alot of discussion going on about what were doing there this that and the next thing I remember this one man translating that we were going to be put on trial, or [REDACTED] one of the two, said ~~we were going on trial~~. We're sitting there saying oh, do them one of these you know. That's a shame we had gotten so far and somebody had translated to us that the [Amene] had recently spent 25 years in prison had just gotten out. And somebody told me that he was a communist and I can't remember if it was translated or heard it later or what Ken. But, I do

PC remember I carry around that this guy was a communist. And he'd been in prison for 25 years he opposed the Shah and had just gotten out. He was dressed in a suit as I recall, the rest of them were dressed in, we were starting to get into the Kurdish territory. You see pictures of the Kurds they had kind of unique dress, they dress a little bit different. They wear I would say like old western clothes, very baggy pants and things like that. Well, before we had left Tehran Colonel Simons had suggested that we get rid of anything that would tie us to EDS, PDS, our Persian company or anything like that. Now, that wasn't a problem with me because I didn't have anything but everybody else did. And they were asking us what kind of work we do, why were you there. There were a number of us that were talking, Colonel Simons would talk to [REDACTED] who would then talk back, we would talk back, it was I wouldn't say a business meeting but it was that type of a round table discussion. They appeared to want to be nice but weren't sure. Now concluding that from the one who could speak English, I couldn't tell that from the rest of them because they couldn't speak any English at all. Finally they asked us some identification. You know can we prove we're with this company EDS. What went through mind was, gee it's a shame everybody got rid of all their identification. That's when Keane pulled out his health card, and they said okay fine. We'll give you two options one is you're free to continue on to the border, or you can stay here as our guest and we will usher you to the border the next morning. And I don't remember who made the decision, or what the decision was. We may have said to them what do you suggest something like that, I just don't remember. I kind of think we said, well what do you recommend we do. You know not knowing whether we were being put up or would be arrested or what have you. And I remember them we surely suggest that you stay with us this evening and we'll escort you to the next three towns tomorrow. We weren't sure, we were pretty sure that they didn't believe us and that they were holding us. As it turned out I don't know what their thinking was but at any case we stayed with them that evening. That's when we stayed in the famous guest house that I'm sure you've heard. Bill Gayden and I stayed together up in

PC the room that night. The guest house was very pretty, very, very pretty. The town Mahabad is a typical Iranian town very dirty and everything but when you got into this guest house you went up in hills, boy you were kind of in a different world. Kind of like going from Purgatory into Heaven. We went out to eat that night, and we ate in a restaurant, and I remember we all ate chelaw kabob, which is an Iranian specialty. And I remember Khomeini was on t.v. And somebody was translating it, it may have been this guy who could speak English. I remember him saying...

KF Khomeini was in the country by then?

PC Oh yes. Khomeini I remember the day Khomeini came into the country because I was sitting in a big jail watching it on t.v. and boy just saying to myself Jesus it's a shame this guy's coming now you know. But I felt like when the Shah left and the chances we had of getting out nice and safely disappeared with the Shah. But anyway Khomeini was on and I remember somebody translating it says "that Americans were not to be killed, they were allowed to leave the country." I remember feeling very good about that. As I say, we ate that night. A lot of apprehension, working in fear, I know if was out and out fear but there was a lot of apprehension, things weren't going as smoothly as they had been going throughout the day we had finally hit our thing. And I remember Jay, I remember at one point I was talking to Jay, Jay said he was supposed to call back to I guess to Tehran that night to leave the message. And I remember Jay said trying to figure out how you're going to get these guys to go let him make a phone call. But anyway, after dinner we went back to the Shah's guest house, this all sounds easy, because it wasn't, because nobody could find the key. It was typical Iranian, if anything could go wrong, it would. That's the way things happened in Iran, well it was a long time before we could get into the gate and could get into where they could find the key and then we finally we had to get into the rooms. Anyway Gayden took a shower, used up all the hot water. I then took a cold shower, which I was accustomed to by this time. And we all sat around and spoke for awhile and Gayden and I went to sleep. And I

PC think Jay and Colonel Simons stayed awake that whole night [could not hear]. Then we got up the next morning and they asked us if we wanted breakfast, we said no, we just wanted to go. We got into the car, I remember we drove around Mahabad again for quite awhile and just kept stopping at different places. It may have been to get one of these notes made up I don't know.

KF Yea, I think you had to get a note from the Mullah.

PC Okay.

KF I think that was what that was all about. Once you were on your way out of town, didn't the, now wait a minute. The Iranians got an ambulance to escort you.

PC A big white you know these big wide trucks, like a square truck. I remember them writing something in magic marker on the side of the truck. [REDACTED] probably knows what it says, something to the effect that [couldn't hear] or something like that, I don't know.

KF Didn't they want to stop for breakfast on the way out of town?

PC They did for some reason we all said we weren't very hungry or we may have, I don't remember, if we did we'd stop for tea or something like that, I just don't remember.

KF And they took you as far as Rezaiyeh.

PC Yea it was the big ambulance and then I don't know if it was a revolutionary car in the first vehicle or not. I know there was one of our vehicles. Yes that's when we were in Rezaiyeh.

KF That couldn't have taken you long, it's not all that far between the two towns.

PC Oh a couple of hours.

KF And in Rezaiyeh things started to get heavy.

PC Yea, I have a vivid memory of the parade where soldiers wearing carnations, once again Jay and I were sitting in the back. I think Gayden was driving at this point in time, a revolutionary guard was up front. This parade I remember looking over that way and Jay saying to me "don't look now but somebody's pointing a gun at your head." I said that wasn't a very....

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

KF It's a wide one way street that reminded you of...

PC 66th Avenue New York with this whole group of people coming towards us and here we are in these two vehicles with these revolutionary guards standing around our vehicles with their guns and everything. But I remember it sounded like there was a conversation going on that wasn't friendly even between the people that were marching and the revolutionary guards. We finally got out of the parade area. Oh, even before we got to the parade area or maybe right at that same spot is when we got stopped in Rezaiyeh. And the revolutionary guards were not able to, you know with their pass or whatever they had didn't work apparently. The people from Rezaiyeh or the revolutionary guards from Rezaiyeh took over and as it turned out, this Mahabad group was a very friendly group compared to the guards in Rezaiyeh. They appeared to be hostile and just their actions. As it turned out the ones in Mahabad once I guess once we showed them once Keane showed them his I.D. card and [REDACTED] talked to them, they apparently believed that we were okay. And they were giving us traditional Iranian hospitality, we didn't know it at the time but they really were. Where as the group in Rezaiyeh were never they didn't give us any hospitality at all. We finally got ushered around Rezaiyeh quite a bit and then wound up at what appeared to be the head Mullah or the [Amen] I think they call them in Rezaiyeh. I remember a big, big, big courtyard I remember being marched through the alley again and people kind of talking to us, looking at us, they could tell we were Americans. They were saying things and just from their tone you could tell they were apparently they knew we couldn't understand them.

KF What was this place like where everyone did that? Were there shot up cars in the courtyard?

PC Shot up cars in the courtyard and what was happening was a lot of people getting weapons coming out, and I think what somebody had told us was that Tabriz had not fallen. And these people were going to Tabriz to help the revolution. And it was like an army depot, no army there were civilians people getting weapons. The area was I remember walking to the end of this big circular area inside like this, there was a building off to the side and off to there and we were kind of we were over here and we were talking to somebody and that's when, and there was someone there that spoke English too by the way. That's when we were explaining our story again and that's when this guy said okay fine. We'll call Tehran to verify your story, you know. What they did was they made us go to this point over here. And that's when we thought we had kind of bit the farm, I guess if I was scared of it all coming out it was right there. Scared and dejected, once again we were almost there, I figured by this time word was out in Tehran, Dadgar had definitely got the word out that you know that we couldn't be found. And they would describe our group, they would describe us and it would be all over they would send us back. I figured if we ever went back, my thought was that the rest of the guys would be okay, but Gaylord and I would be whatever.

KF Back in jail.

PC Back in jail if we were lucky, we would be back in jail. That's the time my mind really started thinking about this, I remember Gayden and I sitting in this chair over here was a bench, each other saying well, I said to Bill well I really appreciate your coming I said but it's a shame I think we've had it. Then you know, we were both smoking we tried to make small talk but none of us were very happy at that point in time. The thing I remember is that [REDACTED] disappeared. We were all here the Colonel was here, Jay was here, there were some guys that kind of roughed Jay up as we were walking in, I don't know why. I remember somebody pushing Jay. But anyway we were all sitting there and we weren't saying very much. It appeared to be a long time Ken, maybe an hour, maybe two hours, it just seemed long to me, maybe it was only 15 minutes. But I remember sitting there and

PC the Colonel you know, we were kind of looking to him for direction. But he, there wasn't a lot of direction that anybody could give us right now. I remember as people were coming in, they were all looking over us, you were kind of on display if you will. In any case, I remember [REDACTED] and this guard coming back and I figured well this was it. And then this revolutionary guard the one that could speak English from Rezaiyeh saying "your story checks, you're clear to go." And I just couldn't believe it. At this point remember I kind of was walking around with a star on my head anyway, just because I had made it through that one day. At this point I'm saying to myself boy this is wild, absolutely wild. As it turns out [REDACTED] convinced them to let him make the call to Tehran, to the revolutionary council. And I remember him telling me, I said [REDACTED] what did you say? He said, well "I said to them that I had been a Khomeini soldier for 15 years." I said [REDACTED] you're only 20 some odd years old, he said "I told them that, I said, I told them that my instructions were I was to escort these gentlemen out." And then he gave the phone to the local people, somehow [REDACTED] said they all said okay. So the guards that were with us though, they were still hostile what appeared to me to be hostile. Not like Mahabad, you see at this point in Mahabad everybody got very friendly to us, we just didn't trust them. Here even though they said we were okay, these guards they just apparently didn't like Americans being in their country. So we wound up going to this hotel, this sounds easy but it's difficult, because there's a lot of people with a lot of traffic jamming it up. Weave our way through, I remember the parade is still going on, there's a lot of chanting going on. So we make our way to this hotel, it's not a nice, it's definitely not the Shah's palace, nor is it the Hyatt nor the Hilton. It's one of the lower class hotels.

KF So it's a local hotel, not much frequented by the Americans.

PC Yea, that's exactly right, that's exactly right. So we make our reservations and we're in maybe four or five rooms and we doubled up, and the rooms weren't very pretty. I remember cots and things like that. And then we parked, there was like an alley here, this was the street out in the front, the hotel was right here. Oh, one of the

PC hotels I think wouldn't accept us, as I remember correctly someone may have told you that. I think one of the hotels wouldn't accept us or this one wouldn't accept us. I remember us having trouble getting into this hotel. Finally they accepted us because the revolutionary council pretty much demanded that they put us in there. They didn't want to make a to do of this. So we parked the vehicles in back, all right there was an alley here, there was buildings here and here and here's the street, hotel was right there we parked the vehicles in the back. And then we went in and checked in.

KF Now are you sure that you had permission to leave at this point? Sure that didn't happen a little later?

PC It may have, I remember them coming out and them saying that they had called Tehran and everything was okay. Now, obviously I guess we didn't have permission to leave because we went in and checked in the hotel. I was kind of in the background, Colonel Simons had kind of told at least me anyway to not be in the forefront of the conversation. Once again not knowing what kind of communications they had, it was obvious the telephone communications, so if somebody else told you a different version, I would rely on their version Ken. I do remember us going into the hotel though and checking into the hotel and I remember [REDACTED] leaving, and being gone for an awful long time. Then I remember us going down to eat. It was kind of starting to get dark so I remember this being like maybe 5:00 or 5:30 in the evening. And I remember us ordering and we ate. I don't remember what we ate again, I remember feeling anxious that boy I'd really like to get home, you know, because Jay had told me we're not far. If we can ever get out of here, we're not far. We were all eating and not alot of discussion going on and [REDACTED] walked in sits down and says to us, "well this will be the last meal in Iran." Boy the first thing that went through my mind was, we're caught, we're going to get shot, and he saws all look and he said, "no, no, no I don't mean that, what I mean is we're going to leave Iran." And he told us that he had made it to the border and you know, once again didn't say an awful lot, I mean [REDACTED] wasn't one for telling us what was going on. And you know

PC those of us who have been around data processing like a lot of detail so we were operating you know, he and Colonel Simons were up front and there may have been a lot of discussion going on in the front vehicle. Where we were there wasn't an awful lot. Anyway we checked out of the hotel...

KF Before you get to that point, hadn't there been some unpleasantness with one of the guards while you were in the hotel.

PC Yea, he was fooling around with his gun, he was sitting in one of the rooms he was saying "Carter donkey, Americans donkey, Savak donkey, Shah donkey."

KF Donkey?

PC I think that was the word he was using. He didn't speak English very well. I think he was using donkey for ass or I can't remember what. But yes, this guy very definitely was not very pleasant on us. And I do remember that incident. So then as I say, we checked out. I remember [REDACTED] had bought some pictures of Khomeini that he taped on the vehicles. I'm back driving again now, it's nighttime and I'm all refreshed so I drive. And I'm not sure if I have the sequence right or not. I think the first thing we do is get gas, I may have this reversed alright. I remember we would go up to an area, we saw a roadblock and we'd turn around. Finally I see [REDACTED] flag down a cab, and once again we're all, we're parked to the side he talks to this cab, the cab leaves. As it turned out the cab I think had a fare that he had to deposit and [REDACTED] made a deal with this guy to drive us past the roadblocks the back way, he says "I'm going to pay this guy some money." As I say I may be out of sequence on the gas, we may have gotten gas right after that or we may have gotten right before that, I don't remember. I remember Jay wondering why we were stopping for gas since we didn't have that far to go. But I have a feeling the Colonel probably wanted a full tank of gas, you know thinking maybe we had to detour. So we start driving out and we drive through these, the taxi comes back and he leads us out. And we're driving

PC through alleys, definitely not going through the front way, going through the back way of town. And we get out past all the roadblocks. And then the taxi leaves and we start going. And we're driving and driving, you know everything is good, I mean, it's a nice evening the stars are out. And Jay says well pretty soon we're going to be able to see the lights of the town, I think it was called [Touro] I forget what the name of the border town was but we'd be able to see this border. And we come upon this bridge and the first vehicle stops there is a chain across the bridge and there's two revolutionary guards there. So I stopped behind them, [REDACTED] gets out, oh, nobody gets out yet. There were two guards, then two more came out, then two more came out, and there must have been 20 something that came out that were on the side of the bridge there. [REDACTED] gets out, the boy walks right in the middle of them, and starts talking to them. We pull over to the side and they ask for passports, okay. Now Bill and I have two passports that are not ours, okay, but they kind of look like ours. There was a group in the back, they looked at mine, Jay's and Bill Gayden's and gave them back to us. There was a lot of discussion going on up in front and as I found out later they, Bill the fellow who's passport Bill had was a little bit heavier than Bill and they did not, they thought we were CIA or Savak or what have you, because that passport didn't match and somebody told me that [REDACTED] was explaining to this guy that Bill had been sick and lost weight till therefore that's why. Now Jay is next to me and I'm in the driver's seat and Bill Gayden's in the back, I remember an incident where Gayden says to Jay, "lock the door." And in this vehicle all you have to do is kind of flip the little thing down. Jay says, "I'm not moving." This was very funny at the time with guards all around us, we've got the windows up and I remember Gayden just saying "Jay, lock the goddamn door." And Jay saying "Gayden I ain't moving." So in any case they all get out of a vehicle and pile into an additional vehicle. A guard gets in with me and I think a guard gets in with [REDACTED]. And we drive to this mud hut village Ken in the middle of nowhere. I remember thinking to myself God if they wanted to wipe us out, they

PC would never find us here. I mean we were literally in the middle of nowhere. I equate it to an Indian village you know in the middle of a mountain area where nobody's there. So we pull into this village area.

KF It was about how far from the main road?

PC Oh, a four or five minute drive, not very far at all. We pull into what appeared to be this village area, we shut, there were a lot of vehicles inside the area. I saw a lot of men, I don't remember seeing any women at all. And we pull into this one area, and we go inside again, once again into a room with a Persian rug and a stove and nothing else. And here we go taking the boots off again. Wait a minute, for some reason, little things different things worry you, I kept worrying about having to take these boots off, but I never moved the money because I felt like that was the safest place to hide. If they frisked me there was a good chance they were going to frisk inside the boots so I figured I was okay there with the money. So in any case, we go into this room again and we sit down and this group was not friendly. Our group is around a semi-circle, here's the head village guy again, he's dressed in a western suit, everybody else is dressed like Kurds. And there must have been 20 Kurds like, the room was maybe it was twice this size if that big. And there were 20 of them lined up in the front of the room with their guns. So we're all there and [REDACTED] is having this discussion in Farsi with this guy, the discussion appeared to be not a friendly one, it appeared to be a fairly hostile. And [REDACTED] asked us for our passports and we all gave them to him and [REDACTED] holds like them like this and gives them to the head man of the village. And he's kind of going through them not carefully but you know. And all of a sudden I see somebody come into the room, this took a lot longer than I'm describing, but we're quite apprehensive in this area. I see somebody come into the room and I remember having seen this guy at the bridge, okay. And what had apparently happened is this guy had gone to call Rezaiyeh to check us out, as it turns out. He talked to the head man there and the head man then does something like this, he just kind of you know like you would hand something to a king or something. And he hands the documents back to [REDACTED]. And they

PC apparently in Rezaiyeh, naturally we were known, they say we were okay, then they wanted us to spend the night. Now the Persian hospitality comes out. And this was like Mahabad again. The only town we didn't really see this was in Rezaiyeh, you know because these revolutionaries just were not friendly at all. Then the hospitality comes out, they serve us tea. And they were insisting that we spend the night. So we had the tea, and I remember Jay was spilling, the tea was hot, and [REDACTED] saying "well I think we ought to go because we have to go soon," to make sure that none of us accepted this invitation to spend the night there. So we were drinking the tea and I remember Jay sitting next to me was spilling this tea on the rug. I said Jay don't spill it, he says "it's too hot I can't drink it." And you've got to drink it right. So we get all done with the first and we have to have another glass of tea because the village custom says you must drink two glasses of tea, right, and we're going to drink tea again. And it's getting very jovial right now. And there's a little boy maybe oh I don't know, 10 or 11 years old. Keane may have told you this. And Keane says the man, says to [REDACTED] "tell him that I have a son that age." And everything was great and Keane I even think pulled out a picture of the boy, and they're kind of talking a little bit and [REDACTED] says "I think they want to have their picture taken." So Keane's goes out to get his camera or has it, I forget which, he comes back and he's sitting there and he says to me he says, "I don't have any film." I said Keane don't worry about it, take the picture right. So these guys go into motion like this you know, it's all very jovial very happy right now, so we kept thinking it's a shame we didn't have any film because those pictures would have been, I mean you would have cherished those for life. Here we are in this dingy mud hut village in the middle of nowhere in the middle of the night with these revolutionaries. So anyway we then had to shake hands with virtually every male member of the village, it was kind of like a line up, right. So we throw our boots back on, and get back in the vehicles again and I'm driving again. I forget who's in front, I think Jay's in front and Bill Gayden's in the back, and [REDACTED] driving in the front with Colonel Simons and then Bill Gaylord went in the back of the other vehicle. So the revolutionary guards come with us to a certain

PC point and apparently what happened is they had their territories and they'd guard their territory, they let us go, okay. They got out and then they went back with the vehicles themselves, we got to the bridge they took the thing off and we all left. So we think we've got it made, now we can see the lights of the village we're at the border, because Jay has been here before and he's describing all this to Bill and I. We're driving down this road and I remembered seeing a gas station out in the corner of my left eye. And as we're approaching the gas station I see these revolutionary guards coming out locking and loading you know putting the clips in the guns. So [REDACTED] stops the first vehicle I stop the second vehicle and we go through the whole thing all over again. Once again a very hostile, they don't know who you are, [REDACTED] walks out right in the middle of them and starts talking to them and is showing them the notes and everything. They take us to their village at this point we're sitting in the vehicles, we don't get out of the vehicles, a lot of time goes and a lot of discussion goes on and these people are acting very nervous walking back and forth. [REDACTED] just sitting there you know, calming as ever and then I hear Colonel Simons would say something to him. I guess there was a lot of strategy going on up front between he and Colonel Simons. But anyway, finally the head of this village comes out and once again dressed in western attire and embraces [REDACTED], which is a Persian way to greet people. Two men embrace each other and they kind of kiss each other on the cheeks. As it turned out [REDACTED] was stopped by this group the afternoon when he went to the border, and that's the group he had made the plans with. But we didn't know this in the back, so we're all, we see all this and we figure gee everything is all right. Meanwhile, Jay figured that the next stop was going to be the border and you know so, this is when Jay says, "you'd better let me drive." Because I don't have anything, I don't have a license, I've got a passport that's not mine, I get in the back and I say fine Jay, and I just kind of huddled up like this. So the revolutionary guards come with us and they take us all the way to the border, okay. And we're at the border and I'm worried, the whole time the only thing that's really been worrying me is the border scene. I was one to go over on horseback because I know my name has been on the list at the airport,

PC I knew that because somebody had told me that, I forget who. Somebody had told me that in Tehran they knew that my name and Bill's name was on the airport list. So I figure my name and by now pictures and everything is all over the place, right. So I say, gee what do I do, I'm not sure what to do. Jay said, "just be cool and don't worry about a thing." And I still got this other passport. So I get to, oh, we pull up to the chain, okay, and the revolutionary guard gets out of the first vehicle and talks to what appears to be revolutionary guards manning the border. And they talk and finally the chain drops and we drive up to the next chain and we're still on the Iranian side, right. And the other guys come running up and they appear to be trying to get the chain down but they can't, it's locked and nobody's got a key, the whole thing, oh Jesus. So this goes on for awhile until finally we all get out of the vehicles and they're making a commotion and the Turkish guards hear this commotion they walk across the border. So we're kind of, it's cold now, it's nighttime, I guess it's midnight. It's cold and chilly and we're quivering, so these Turkish guards come over and they say "does everybody have passports?" Yep, we didn't give them but we all pulled them out like that and put them back in. So at this point Gayden and I are off to the side and Gayden says to me, "well, you know, you need to decide what you want to do with those passports." I said what do you mean? He says, "well you know, there's a \$10,000 fine for using the passports and there's a jail term, he says, "I'm going to pay the fine but you're going to serve the jail term." I then proceeded to give Bill the passport. So the Turks were making motions like you guys sleep here tonight and go back tomorrow. Colonel Simons is saying to me, "you're about to get sick." I said what do you mean? "If I tell you you're about to get sick." And I gathered what he was going to do was use me for an excuse I'm very sick and I have to get across. In any case [REDACTED] is still talking to these Turks and as I gathered the communications is a little difficult because you know, even though they are border to border, Persian and Turkish is not exactly the same. So it appears that [REDACTED] convinces these Turks to let him come across and make a phone call on the other side of the border. So we're all milling around and smoking and whatever you do at the border. And [REDACTED]

PC comes back and says it's okay. So I said what do you mean and the Colonel, and Jay just grabbed me and we started walking and Colonel Simons starting walking with Bill, we're going across and I very vividly remember Jay saying, "just keep walking, just keep walking, just keep walking, just keep walking, just keep walking," and he just kept the pace going and he says, "just keep walking, just keep walking, we've made it, because we're across right. I'm still worried about the damn passport. Not having a passport now, right. So anyway we go in to the Turks, and...

KF The others have followed you?

PC No, they hadn't come across yet, or they're slowly walking. I don't know, in any case, I remember the four of us being in with the Turks ourselves. And I remember us having to go through the passport incident without the rest of the group, so they were slowly following us or I don't what they did. Because it was shortly after we got through our passport incident on the Turkish side that I remember everybody else was there. So, Colonel Simons says, "don't you talk, you let me do the talking." So anyway, they asked for passports, Jay shows them his Colonel Simons shows them his, they turn to me and Colonel Simons in broken English and apparently Turkish explains to them that I was in the hotel in Tehran, Bill and I were, the hotel was set on fire and we had to leave fast, and we left our passports behind. So this guy then speaks back to Colonel Simons in Turkish and then Colonel Simons turned to us and said, "what he said was, you're in Turkey now, not to worry, you're in Turkey now not Iran." So we shook their hands, thank you and everybody else came up and so now we're on the Turkish side, right. Boy everything is great we're having a great old time. So we, they looked at the rest of the passports and so forth and so on. We then go into this room you know, of the Turkish, this building over there. And, I remember them lighting a wood burning fire and we all just kind of waited there. And apparently [REDACTED] had talked to Ralph Boulware.

KF I see.

PC Okay, when he went across, I guess because he had talked to them, and the guy that Ralph had with him probably told [REDACTED] that everything, or told the Turks that we were okay. So anyway it may have been an hour or two later Ralph shows up, brings a bottle of scotch, and we had a very emotional reunion with Ralph. And I kidded him for being late, and we downed that bottle of scotch in absolutely not time at all. So we all kind of dozzed on and off, on and off. And the next morning is when the bus showed up, with the other members of the Turkish rescue team. [Jui Knocht] and Dick Douglas the pilots for the helicopter to fly to Africa.

KF Sculley and Schwebach?

PC Yes.

KF Davis?

PC Davis.

KF And Jackson was still in Ahman?

PC Yes, we didn't see Jackson until we got back to the states.

KF There was a poker game that night.

PC Yea, that morning. Very successful one for me in fact.

KF You won did you?

PC Yea, I won one hand, I won about \$1,400 in one hand. Really bluffed Keane out.

KF Did you?

PC Yea, Keane had a full house, and I had a full house and my full house was higher than Keane's and I knew it. And Keane was raising and Bill Gaylord was raising and somebody else was raising and I was just floating the money in, and I won the hand.

KF How did you know?

PC I could tell, because I could see he had, I think I had kings buried or I had aces buried, I think I had three aces buried and I could tell from reading his cards that he also had a full house.

KF Oh, it was the kind of poker where you have some cards up?

PC Yes, seven cards, four up and three down.

KF I see. So you knew he must be using...

PC I figured I had a higher full house than he did and he thought, I think he had three kings which is pretty high.

KF But his kings were showing?

PC Two of his kings were showing so I figured he had the third one down and another pair or something. Whereas I have three aces in the hole. So we played for an hour or so and the guards were watching us, they were amazed at all the stuff...

KF But you must have been playing with EDS money?

PC Yes, at the time I was. But somebody had to cough up their own when they got back. Whereas I wound up with an extra \$1,000 or so.

KF Alright. Big reunion when they all show up the next morning.

PC Yea.

KF And you get on this bus.

PC Right.

KF Weren't there some other people on the bus, no wait a minute, before that didn't you take on one of the border guards, didn't you take him to Ankara as a part of the deal?

PC I guess, there were other people on the bus that I didn't recognize. One of the border guards was one of them. But see these discussions with Colonel Simons

KF And you get on this bus.

PC Right.

KF Weren't there some other people on the bus, no wait a minute, before that didn't you take on one of the border guards, didn't you take him to Ankara as a part of the deal?

PC I guess, there were other people on the bus that I didn't recognize. One of the border guards was one of them. But see these discussions were going on with Colonel Simons and Ralph and the Turkish soldier. Yes alot of that happened but I can't really tell you why or what was happening to it. I do remember one of the places we got stopped in fact and it was a fairly violent scene as a matter of act it wasn't a punch thrown but it was a lot of verbal abuse going on. And I couldn't remember, these people in the back of the bus when and hid. And I remember asking Jay what they were doing there. In fact he was sitting next to me on the bus and even Jay said "I'm not sure." So I don't have any idea who these people were. But I remember the guard there, his wife was there, there child was there. I remember us not having passports really complicated things in Turkey. What we had to do was we had to go to the police in the first building, we must have spent an hour there where this guy typed up everything that was going on. And then there was somebody translating in Turkish for us. And every town, apparently they kept passing us from place to place. We finally got to the airport, Colonel Simons didn't like the airport at all there. But you know in eastern Turkey, in fact we were all a little concerned in eastern Turkey, because Ralph had told us they would kill for a dollar over there, literally. God only knows if they knew what a catch they had with us. So we, we just kept going from place to place and I remember worrying about having to miss the plane. Because I remember this was a charter plane Ross had coming in to take us to Anchorage.

KF Ankara.

PC Ankara, yea. So I remember then worrying about the fact we were going to miss the plane. I remember then the bus driver was driving very fast, and then the mountains once again were cut beautifully, pictorial snow scenes some of them prettier than Switzerland. Pretty mountains and the snow in Switzerland, this was even more prettier than that. But anyway when we got to the airport we were trying to mold around the airport, and I was pretty uncomfortable there. Not worried about Iran anymore. Now I'm just worried about the situation in Turkey. Anyway we get on the plane, the plane takes off, and that's an exhilarating feeling, it was the first time I had been on a plane in I don't know how many months, we're off the ground and everything is great. We land in Ankara and once again we are singled out, you know and all that, we had to go into this room and sit. And then finally they had us, no Pat Sculley came to get Bill and I and then Pat, Colonel Simons and Bill and I went with this, got in a cab and went to the Embassy. That's where Bill and I got temporary passports. The guys had brought pictures of us, so we were able to get 60 day passports, which was the prettiest sight I just can't describe how beautiful that blue book looked to us. And the people at the Embassy were very very nice, I meant they were just latent, very very latent. I think while we were off doing this is when Colonel Simons went to the motor pool and emptied out the can. That's probably a very interesting story if anybody was with him. But he told it later, it was quite comical.

KF Cleaned the oil off the money.

PC Yes, right, right.

KF I can't remember who was with him, somebody was with him.

PC It may have been Pat, it was either Pat or I'm not sure who it was.

KF It was probably Sculley, Sculley works in London now doesn't he?

PC Yea.

KF So you were in Ankara.

PC Have our passports. And I remember when we got back on the plane we stopped and had a coke and everything and then we took a regular commercial flight from Ankara to Istanbul.

KF This must be now the late evening of Friday.

PC Yes. So we I remember when we got on the plane they did, they looked at our passports and they looked at our baggage, like they would here, and I didn't think very much of it. I remember Colonel Simons was carrying the money in like an attache case and I think they opened it up and saw it but they didn't do anything. See as I understand it, you are supposed to declare your money coming in to the country, well it was very difficult for us to declare anything then now. Because we all had it hidden plus he had money in this oil can. So when we got off the plane in Istanbul they looked at our passports again and they were obviously looking for him and that's when they hauled him off, and he got arrested that night, somebody else can probably adequately describe that story much better than I can. And then we drove to the hotel, and that's when we saw Ross. That was quite a, a very, very, good feeling to see Ross, and you know Ross was all smiles and we all huddled around and Ross had everybody go through their story. Had Bill and I talk about what it was like getting out of jail. We spent the next hour just kind of describing what had taken place over the last four days. And I remember being hungry and I was kidding Ron Davis that why don't you order some breakfast for us. And Ron did and we all had bacon and eggs and everything in Ross' room.

KF This is Saturday morning, is it breakfast time?

PC Well, it's early it's like 5:00 or 6:00 in the morning, I think we got there like 5:00 or 5:30 in the morning. And then Ross took us next door and introduced us to the pilot, the co-pilot, the flight engineer,

PC I think we met the stewardesses then. And then I went and took a shower, oh, and then when the phone rang, Ross says to me "you answer the phone." So I answered the phone and I think it was Merv, "who is this." Well who is this, it was one of these, finally he recognized my voice and oh, you know. So then they put me through to Ruthie, and that was the first time I talked to her since December 27th. So we had a really nice conversation. I remember asking her, I asked her how the kids were and all those types of things and asking her to get me some clothes because what I had on was the only thing I had, and most of it wasn't mine. So I remember asking Ruthie to go buy me some clothes, then I would ask her about the house. She told me that they were supposed to move in but the moving van with our goods was snow bound in New Jersey so the chances are she was not going to be in the house until right after I had gotten home. I told her that wasn't a problem not to worry about that. Then that morning, or later that morning we drove to the airport and took off and I had a very interesting time, I had always wanted to, I loved reading books about flying. You know I'm kind of a, I guess I would like to be a pilot just never had the time to do it. So I've always wanted to fly in a cockpit of a big jetliner, you know even when I fly domestic airways I always watch the doors open then they close them. Well naturally I had my chance, so I got to fly, I spent most of my time up in the cockpit of the airplane during this whole trip back. In any case, that was the flight back which reminds me that the plane was unbelievable. Ross was saying something to the effect, "wait until you see this Persian whorehouse that we got for you guys." So I also remember us placing the food order while we were in Istanbul to Merv and boys, I said I would like some good Italian cuisine, this guy wanted a steak, this guy wanted Chinese food, and as it turned out I understand if we ever, it's a shame we never got to eat, because we probably would have had the best meal we had in a long time, boy. So I remember us sitting on the runway, sitting in the plane there, and what John was trying to do the pilot, was trying to listen to that PanAm flight coming in right, as soon as it had gotten over Istanbul then John was going to take off and we were going to follow it to Frankfurt. I don't know what happened but he decided to take off

PC anyway, I don't know that we ever heard, he may have heard the flight but I didn't hear him. So anyway, [couldn't make it out], and landed in Frankfurt. I was very chipper, in fact what I was hoping to do was to be able to go do some shopping and buy Ruthie some stuff in Frankfurt. So we all checked into the hotels, and we're in Ross' room and Ross and Bill and Jay and I and Colonel Simons. And Ross is talking to the people in Dallas. He says, "what do you mean they have a" what's the treaty called?

KF Extradition.

PC "What do you mean they have an Extradition Treaty." And I said oh, no. So...

KF Did you take that seriously? Did you really think you might be sent back to Iran?

PC I said, you know, this can't be. But Tom Luce is on the other end and I really respect Tom Luce, and apparently Tom was telling Ross "if the Iranians call them, the Germans got to send them back." So I remember Ross talking to Colonel Simons saying "Colonel it's your show what do you want to do?" So the Colonel says, "well I remember seeing a couple of movies as we were going through the airport." And he had Jay, and I forget who went with Bill. But anyway he had them take us to these movies. And they were X rated movies, and they were really bad. Nothing worse than a bad X rated movie.

KF In German.

PC In German, right. That's exactly right. So we're in...

KF Remember what yours was called?

PC No I know I don't, I haven't the slightest idea.

KF Something about the South Seas.

PC Was what it was? Jay was with me so he might remember.

KF He vaguely remembers.

PC Although he fell asleep in the movie, he started snoring, but he didn't remember it, I stayed awake during the whole thing. I guess in the movie a good two or three hours. And finally Pat Sculley came.

KF It's a rather a cruel thing for a man who's been in jail for two months and you take him to an X rated movie.

PC To put him in a movie. That's right. So anyway.

KF Didn't you change cinemas though with Bill at one point.

Pc No I think we stayed in the same, we were going to but for some reason. There were two movies, one was a pretty good one, I just don't remember the title. Bill picked that one first, so they went to see that one.

KF I think that was Jaws II.

PC Probably yea, I remember it being a good movie and wouldn't have mind sitting through that one so Jay and I wound up with this other sleezy thing. We just kind of sat there, did what we could, but it wasn't an awful lot, so I remember Pat Sculley coming in and then we walked through the airport. We kind of walked separately, Jay and I walked together most of the time. Jay and I were kind of together throughout the whole time we came out. Bill...

KF Yea, he was watching you.

PC Yea, and Bill was with Keane most of the time. And Jay and I went and had a drink, a drink being a soft drink. And I remember seeing Ross and I remembered seeing Colonel Simons and I guess what they were doing was waiting for the PanAm flight to land and getting our

PC people back around. Then I remember us, this was all taking time, this whole, the worst time about this trip was the amount of time it took. You know sitting around waiting for something to happen. So we went into the went through passport again, which we have our passports now so everything is good, go through customs, had our passports stamped, we get on this little bus, and that's where I saw Bob Young, that's where I saw Joe Poche, and the guys that came out overland and John Howell for the first time. And that was a very nice reunion and that's when they started describing what had happened to that plane. That's when for the first time I realized how really lucky we were and how serious that situation could have been. When John was articulating you know what they had done with the passport searches, etc., etc., that could have been really bad. So we all got on our plane again and I'm up in the cockpit I'm going watch it take off. And this was interesting, I remember they couldn't get the engine started, one engine. So the pilot had sent the flight engineer out come back in they finally get started and the engine's on fire. Okay. And the pilot. You know this damn plane thing is very suspenseful, it was probably one of the most suspenseful points of the whole trip.

KF One reason I've been waiting to talk to you is that you were in the cockpit so much of the time so you're probably the one that could give me the details.

PC So John the pilot says, "I don't see any indication of fire." So anyway they shut the whole thing down and I go back and I told Ross and the guys I said well we had an engine on fire. So all of a sudden you know when an engine starts you hear the roar, you feel it again. I said gee something's happened I run up front again. John says, "well it's no problem at all what had happened is when we couldn't start this there was an excess amount of fuel in there and that fuel was just burning off and everything is fine, no problems. So we're all set, right. So we taxi on and take off. I remember Ross had told the pilot he says "now I want you to keep this plane on the ground as long as you can and get as fast as you can and take us straight up in the air." And apparently with a 707 that's not loaded you can do that, and

PC boy what a sensation of speed you're going on that runway and you just kind of went up like that. So we're up for a little while and everything's fine no major problems, and one of the stewardess' says "come on back we're going to have some champagne to celebrate." So I go back and we're all, everybody's celebrating drinking champagne, great, great, happy time, nothing could go wrong now, we're going to Washington, D.C., we're going to pick up Bill Gaylord, his family and the next stop's going to be Dallas, right. So I go back up front and talking to John and everything, all of a sudden I think I started feeling cold. And you know you hear conversations going on, and it was obvious things weren't going exactly right. And what was happening is they were having a electrical problem they were using pressure in the plane. So this went on for about 10 or 15 minutes. Plus he was having trouble with the navigational system. So John, the pilot says to me, would you go get Ross. So I bring Ross up and John says, "Ross we're having trouble with this plane, I think we're going to lose it." So he says "I'm going to try to make London." I had said to John, John said to me, "you're scared." I said not really, I guess I should be right? He said, "no don't worry about it, we're okay." So anyway, what did he do? Oh, I did say to him, I said John, I said look you're a pilot and you're in command here, because the co-pilot wanted us to go back to Germany. And I said John, I said I will forever grateful to you if we don't have to land in Germany, he said, "don't worry about it, we're not going into Germany." Because he, he was there and he knew about the Extradition Treaty, so he says we're going to try to make it to London. I think we'll be okay. So anyway I was smoking and he says to me, he hadn't smoked at all, he says "can I have a cigarette." I said I hadn't been worried yet, you're the one that stopped smoking ten years ago and you want you're first cigarette. He says, "I'd like to have a cigarette." So I gave him a cigarette, so he was apparently a little nervous, I mean very cool though, everything you would think about a professional airline pilot. His voice never cracked he was totally in command. So I walk back and Colonel Simons sleeping, I said does anybody understand what's going on and Jay says "yea, Colonel Simons said he doesn't know how

PC to fly a plane and there's nothing he could do, so he was going to sleep." So anyway, we're sitting there and I think John was talking about the procedure of them having to dump fuel. Now before he decided to abort and land, they were trying all kinds of things. They were trying the fuses and the flight engineer had his book out, there was a lot of discussion going on inside the cabin...

END OF TAPE