

KF: . . . what you saw was mile after mile of unfinished buildings.

RP: Tall, unfinished buildings; principally concrete construction with the cranes still on top and if you would look closely at these buildings, there were people living in those open buildings. And all construction was stopped. Again, I would say it was kind of like an elephant graveyard of buildings, but it just went on and on and on. My principal recollection now as I reflect on it is this is probably the most graphic example I saw of how the Shah had, from his desire to modernize the country while the petroleum still existed and the revenue still existed from the petroleum reserves, taken the people too far too fast and they went through a culture shock they just couldn't handle.

If you ever get a chance you ought to just drive through Tehran and the unfinished projects -- it's like Germany after WWII, but instead of rubble, it's unfinished buildings. Then there were the roadblocks, and there were people standing around with machine guns and there were people burning cars, but this all becomes manageable as you drive through the city because you're not seeing it close-up through the zoom lens of a camera. You see it and you drive several miles and you see it again and you almost got the feeling that these people were enjoying just letting loose for a change, and this was there way of letting loose -- just burn a few cars, etc. A lot of military presence throughout the city. I have very good recollections of seeing the gasoline lines which seemed paradoxical in a country rich in petroleum reserves. There were no cars in the gasoline lines like we have in this country, just people holding cans. You could rent an Iranian to hold a gasoline can for you. It got to be a business. Once you see that and get it in your mind then you understand the risks our people took when they went out to steal gasoline at night. Think of young American businessmen getting reoriented to the point where they're out in the middle of the night in the Middle East siphoning

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gasoline out of other people's cars. And this is what was going on. They couldn't keep enough gasoline around though to keep up with Col. Simons reconnaissance trips toward the border. So, finally while I was there, I called Gen. Gast. He tried to be very helpful in other ways, but I told him it sure would help us to get some gasoline. He said, "Ross, that's simple. We can do that." Now they were flying gasoline in at that point in time.

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of gas

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of gas.

KF: This is the Air Force?

RP: Right.

KF: When you called him, he was in Tehran?

RP: Right. So, he arranged for us to get the gasoline that we later made our escape with. But driving in, impressions of the city -- I remember we went through a big fairground that was most impressive, with a beautiful monument the Shah had built in a circle. I can get a picture of that for you, show it to you, get you the exact name. That was most impressive. Any time I have ever been in an area where people are fighting, the fighting tends to take place in small, concentrated areas, and if you are not in those areas, there's a feeling of tranquility, like there's really not that much going on.

I remember flying over Laos one time in a light airplane and you could see people fighting and killing one another on the ground, and yet I was looking at it in a detached way. That was a war down there, but there was nobody shooting at us.

But in Tehran, I didn't feel that unsafe when I got inside the hotel. It was just beautiful - luxury class. We were eating wonderfully prepared food in a city that was falling apart. They had music at night in the dining room.

KF: Where were they getting it from?

RP: I don't know.

KF: Do you remember the name that your room was booked in?

RP: We can get that. I don't remember, but we can get that. We can get the room number. I sure remember the room because I stayed in it for a week and just almost went crazy because I had to stay in the room alot.

KF: What kind of room was it?

RP: Well, it had a sitting room, a bedroom and really an over-sized bathroom. Again, you wonder about the design of the bathroom - alot of dead space in the bathroom. Everything worked, worked well. We ran out of hot water alot, but that was because they kept using power and they were sabotaging the power. They were using power shutdowns to sort of frustrate the military in their activities. It would get cold in the room when we would lose power, but not freezing cold. There were unfinished rooms in the hotel. I remember going all through the hotel. If I ever needed to get out of the hotel and escape, I had all sorts of plans about where I would hide, how I would get out. I knew all the exits, etc. I felt that if I ever got out of my room, they would never get me.

KF: Let's talk a bit more about that. When did you do that reconnaissance?

RP: As soon as I got there.

KF: OK. Try to remember exactly what way you looked, what you saw and what plans you made to escape.

RP: There were two exits off my floor. One was closer to me than the other, plus the fact there were some empty rooms on my floor that the doors were not locked in. I figured if I had any warning at all, and one warning I could have, I could look right down at the entrance to the hotel. Typically, whenever anyone would show up, they would just come right in the front door. If we had an unusual stir of military activity, but see, nobody knew I was there yet.

eleventh
eleventh

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KF: Do you remember what floor you were on?

RP: Well, we'll be able to find out, but I would guess -- well, it was high. I think it was the fourteenth floor, but we can get you the room number.

KF: Yes, I'd like that. You could observe from your window, you could see the front of the hotel. So, if there was going to be any trouble, you would probably see people driving up there and making a lot of noise.

RP: Here's my window; here's the front of the hotel. Here's a little hotel over here that American officers were staying in. The EVIN, I believe, Hotel. Here's a parking garage over here. Down over here is a rough area and a big ditch and there are a bunch of warehouse buildings and what-have-you over there. Then here's the Evin Hotel; here's the parking lot; here's the big hotel. And beyond here is all this unfinished construction. Again, more miles and miles and miles of unfinished construction. So my plan, very simply, once I got out of the building and I would not go out the front door, obviously; there were many exits that would get you out of the building. And I figured that the best exit for me was through the health club. They had a fairly fancy health club, swimming pool, etc. They had a whole floor of banquet rooms with tables; there were just a thousand hiding places in there. You could look for someone forever in there. And my whole thought was that I would get down -- there were empty rooms; on any floor I could have gotten into rooms without a key. Because part of the hotel was unfinished. And by simply working my way down the stairs; going into empty rooms, waiting for an opportunity, I could have gotten down into the banquet area. I would have hidden in the different banquet areas because there were so many hiding places and kitchens that were abandoned. Big containers and big things you transport food in -- there were just a thousand places to hide going down through there. Then finally you worked your way over, and my first choice was the health club. The hotel was like this: the health club is over here and the Evin Hotel is here. You just

had a free ride if you felt like it. To move a lot quicker, I would have gone down the stairs nearest my room, gone out the side door and gone into the Evin Hotel. And tried to get an American uniform. Because that was still worth something in those days. I would have been safer in an American uniform. Now, then I would work my way over to they parking lot where we had a car. Once I got out of there in the car; again, the city is so big, that even with a new car, they'd never find you. If I couldn't get to the car for any reason, then I would go into those abandoned buildings. They were just a maze because you could have stayed in there forever. Now if they had ever started a systematic search -- you have to keep in mind, though, you wouldn't expect me -- Col. Simons could speak about this better than I can. He says, "Ross, people like you always try to escape in a certain way. They want to go out just in the best clothes riding in limousines. It's easier to catch them." So I wore this. I had this shirt over there, I wore khaki pants and I wore tennis shoes the whole time I was there. And I had a jogging outfit -- blue Adidas jogging outfit -- that I wore a lot of the time. I couldn't have less like an American businessman.

KF: What did you were on that plane coming in?

RP: I was dressed probably in a sport coat. Probably not a tie. No, no, you mean coming in to Tehran? No, I was dressed casually coming into Tehran. I was saying going into Amman, Jordan, I had on a sport coat; maybe had on a tie. When I was coming from Amman, Jordan into Tehran, I think I had this shirt on. I had on a...I've got the hat over at the house, it's kind of a plaid hat. You'd call it a little hat that you wear to sporting events or something like that. And I was just dressed casually. Carrying my own bags, carrying the tape, and walked into the terminal. I looked right. And that was Col. Simons' whole message to me. Now coming out of that hotel, if I had to escape from the hotel, that would be the sticky part, was to look right coming out of the hotel. Not look a businessman. Look unimpressive. Then get clear of that hotel and they

never find you. Fortunately, I never needed to do any of that.

KF: Okay. Now we're still on your first day in Iran. Do you remember, just to go back a little bit to the trip from the airport to the hotel, do you remember what Keane Taylor talked to you about?

RP: I asked him about the conditions that Paul and Bill were being held in. And he tried to describe them to me as best he could. He indicated that they had been moved to this new prison. From all practical purposes, it would be impossible for a small rescue team to get them out.

KF: Is that the first time that you heard that news?

RP: No, I knew that. That's one of the reasons I went because I knew they had moved them. The significant reason why I went was because I knew they had been moved and I knew that it was a more difficult place. Col. Simons wanted me to see this place. Keane was describing it to me. I remember we had a conversation. Everybody had driven their cars out to a private school, parked them neatly in a line, and we had hired some Iranians to watch these cars. In terms of total investment, this was substantial. Well, as it turned out, the Iranians we had hired were busy running a used car lot. Really, I think in terms of flavor, this might be worth a paragraph or two. Get this from the fellows that were trying to get people's belongings packed up from their places, trying to keep the Iranians from selling the cars, trying to get something for these cars. In addition to doing all the negotiations and what have you, Keane, in his free time, was trying to tidy things up. We had all sorts of Iranians who had worked for us who wanted to take the operation over and continue it, which we were happy for them to do but we knew they didn't have the skills to do it. That took part of Keane's time and he was telling me about that, and it was one story after another of turmoil. But there's some really pretty good stories about the cars, about the belongings, about the pets.

48

We made a deal with some Iranians to take care of everybody's dogs and cats. We got all those dogs and cats out, believe it or not. I was never directly involved in it, but you'll just never believe what they got out over a period of time, just by working the problem. While Keane was there, he got a lot of it boxed up and put in storage. Then, when things settled down, they forwarded it. See, we came out in February. The hostages were taken in November. In the February to November window, they got a lot of things out. They shipped Paul and Bill's stuff, which we just thought was funny. All of their household belongings, etc. The Iranians could never put it together. So, they came right out in big boxes, labeled Paul Chiapparone, Bill Gaylord. I think they got everything.

So Keane talked to me about that. I got to the hotel, got settled in. Then, I wanted to talk with the people at the Embassy. I wanted to talk to our people who had been involved in negotiations. I wanted John Howell to get involved in the negotiations and give me his impression. All of that took place over the next two or three days. I talked to Gen. Gast. I talked to Gen. Huyser to see if they could help us, and at the end of that conversation, although there was no question that they wanted to help, they basically said, "Ross, there's nothing we can do. The greatest disservice we could do to you is hold out false hope, have you pull back and then have nothing happen. Being very candid, we don't have any leverage with the government. We can't get it done." Keep in mind, prior to this, Henry Kissinger had tried -- all these other good tries had been made and nothing was working. So, I thought instead of going through Tom Moorer to try to get the military to do something or Al Haig to try to get the military to do something, I would go directly to the two guys who could, if anybody could, do it.

KF: And they were Gast and Huyser?

RP: Both Air Force generals.

*Keane
in his own
honor*

69

KF: Stationed in Iran.

RP: No, Huyser was NATO, but was flying in and out of Iran as Carter's emissary. I had known him before and you could see in his eyes that he was doing the job he had been ordered to do by the Commander-in-chief. I didn't know exactly what all he was doing, but I could tell he was a troubled man. What he was really doing was creating a situation that got all the generals assassinated, because Carter made a bad decision.

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So, I talked to them and I went to the Embassy, and as I mentioned in the outline, that's when a few hours later -- Now, I went to the Embassy and the number two's man name was ~~N-A-S-T~~. He was very gracious, very courteous. I wanted to see Sullivan, and made it clear I had come half way around the world to see Sullivan and I wanted to see Sullivan. It was clear that Sullivan didn't want to see me. But I think I got it clear to Nast that I wanted to see Sullivan and then Lou Gelz, who really deserves five stars for what he did for the fellows later, who is a chubby, sort of Santa Claus-looking guy, he came in and out of the meeting and even though I was irritated by the time he came in, I sensed here's a man who really cares about these people. I hadn't been overrun with people who did. Finally, Sullivan came into Nast's office and said, "I understand you're insisting on seeing me," and I said, "Well, I do need to talk to you."

KF: But you knew Sullivan?

RP: Yes. Keep in mind, Sullivan is somewhere down here in the State Department heirarchy. He's not the Secretary of State, etc. I don't want this to sound immodest, but a person of my stature in this country, typically, Sullivan would run around the lick his hand while he was in Iran. That's what he's supposed to do. Now, Sullivan knew that I was there with a problem and Simons had talked to me for hours about the fact that Sullivan didn't want anybody around him that had problems. Sullivan stood up, wouldn't even sit down, in

Nast's office, and he said, "You used very poor judgement to come over here and you should leave the country immediately." And I said, "Mr. Ambassador, if these were your people, you would be over here." And he said, "That's ridiculous, Ross, nobody's going to take State Department people as hostages." I said, "I don't mean that literally, Mr. Ambassador, I'm saying if these people worked for you, if you ran EDS, you just wouldn't leave them over here to rot, you would try to do something". He just ignored that and brushed it off. Now, less than a year later, his people in the strictest sense were in the same situation my people were in. Sullivan never stuck his head up over the wall once which tells you all you need to know about Sullivan.

So, Sullivan was was of no help, was really quite rude, and I remember walking out of Sullivan's office and all the military guys who worked around the Embassy were there. Now, here's the spider web again. I didn't know any of these guys, but they knew who I was and they knew that I had spent three and one-half years of my life and a bunch of money, several million dollars, on the prisoner of war project, and there was no question in their minds about my concern for Americans and their counterparts, etc. These guys were all outside Nast's office. They said what can we do. I said, "Fellows, I'll tell you what my problem is and you tell me what you can do." I remember we sat on a little bench, but here, by golly, I was with people who cared. That was the refreshing part. Now, Gelz had given me a glimpse that he cared, but now I was with a bunch of guys that you could really relate to, talk to, that really wanted to sit down and say, "Now, how can we help your people?"

I explained the whole thing to them. They said, "Look, forget what you read in the paper, forget what the State Department's saying, we don't have any power here, we don't have any control here, you are wasting time in the U.S. Embassy." A couple of guys said, "If you have to break them out and we're still around, we'll help you". They had no idea that Simons was there, that the rescue team was there, etc.

51

And I think I said words to the effect of. "I don't think that would be realistic", because I didn't want to give any indications that we might consider that. But the key thing was that these were people who genuinely cared and wanted to do whatever they could.

So, I left and it was a matter of hours, I don't remember how many hours, we got an indication that the Iranians had gotten word from the Iranian employees who worked in the Embassy that I was in town. This was about two days before I was to visit Paul and Bill. I think the Embassy was relieved once the Iranians started looking for me because they felt I would never visit Paul and Bill. The last thing that Sullivan wanted was to try to explain to Washington why I was in jail in Tehran. He didn't care about me being in jail, he just didn't want to fill out the papers and explain that to whoever he might have to explain it to. And they figured well, that's the end of that.

Keep in mind, the bribes started coming in, the man wanted Jay to meet him, all this is going on. It was just like being inside a washing machine. After just sitting there doing nothing for several days, now suddenly there's a frenzy of activity. Guys are coming back from the negotiating meetings with a glazed look, saying this is a Chinese fire drill, nothing is going to happen in negotiations. There's no air of reality about the negotiations. The facts are, they've got the men and if we can't get the money inside the country, we're not going to get the men. Then, suddenly Dadgar said even if you get the money in the country, the men are not free to leave the country, they are just free to leave the jail. That sort of splintered it with everybody.

KF: That guy, the prosecutor, was at the negotiating meetings?

RP: Right. Plus, when we went through federal court on our claims against Iran, it was during the period when the 52 Americans were hostages. Think of the contrast here. That man was allowed to come into the U.S. and participate in our judicial process while 52 Americans were being held hostage. What a contrast.

He came in, participated fully and left.

NA so:
No so.

Now, Col. Simons and I talked. I felt I needed to visit Paul and Bill.

He said, "Look, Ross, one branch of the government's looking for you. Another branch runs the prisons. The odds that they are talking to one another are zero.

Ask Howell

KF: How did you know they were looking for you?

Ask Howell

RP: I knew you were going to ask me that. I left the Embassy, got back to the hotel, and a few hours later somebody on the negotiating team told me that there was something that was said during the negotiating meetings that Dadgar knew that I was in town. We'll have to dig to find out who told me out. But that sure got my attention. I guess I should have realized that that could leak because of the Iranian employees, but I remember it certainly got my attention that they were looking for me.

Then we got a report, and I don't know who we got it from, that they had put my name on the stop list at the airport, and that got my attention because that was the way out. The thing that made life bearable with all this going on in your head, the real issue is how are we going to see Paul and Bill.

Date: Howell

Col. Simons basic analysis was that they would never figure it out. Date

The State Department went to the prison periodically. They had a Volkswagen van. I rode over there, Jay went with me, in a State Department van. We went in, went through one big set of steel doors. These were steel doors that you could open up like this and drive a car through, the door was that big. Then there was another set of steel doors. If they closed the first set of steel doors you would have been trapped, they'd search your car, open the other set of steel doors and let you in. We walked through that set of steel doors. There was a tremendous amount of activity in the square outside the

prison. No riots or anything but just a lot of people milling around and alot of relatives, apparently, of prisoners trying to get in to see them. We went right in, had to show our passports, had to sign in and went into a waiting room. That's when I sat down and looked across and saw Ramsey Clark.

KF: You used your own name and your own passport?

RP: Yes. Again, Col. Simons felt you didn't need to tell any more lies than you had to tell, didn't need to break any more laws than you had to break, and he just figured with the language barrier, the odds are with you, that they'll never put it all together.

KF: And you saw Ramsey Clark.

RP: There's another key point here. See, we had programmed these people to expect someone from EDS carrying groceries. And I was the guy with the groceries that day. They didn't think of it as is this a businessman, is this somebody we want. They thought, "Hey, here's the guy that's going to give all of us a \$5 tip". So, they were glad to see us.

KF: And you had \$5 bills?

RP: Sure, everybody got a \$5 tip. The guy that opened the door got \$5, all the way up and down, probably \$50 was given out.

KF: You gave \$5 to everybody you met?

RP: Well, whatever the pattern was. We knew the pattern. You didn't want to slight anybody. I'd rather give too many away than not enough because any one of the guys could have held you up and asked you questions and made it complicated.

KF: Was that in American currency?

RP: Yes. So, we went through the Ramsey Clark experience. It's pretty well detailed in the outline. Then because of that they assigned, I think he was a colonel, to take me back to where Paul and Bill were. We got what I considered red carpet treatment, certainly better than any we'd gotten before. We went back into a room that looked like a small meeting or

banquet room. But as we walked through the prison there were chickens and turkeys and all kinds of domestic animals wandering around the prison yard, which caught my attention. There were all kinds of automobiles parked inside the prison. And I thought here was a great opportunity if we could ever bribe these guys who were so anxious to be bribed anyhow, and just put Paul and Bill in the trunk of their car some night when they go home. But then the problem is who do you approach for that. And when he says no, does he arrest you, or does he just say no. Talk to Jay about this because he went back and talked to Col. Simons and Col. Simons' mind worked for days on how to use the cars inside the prison.

We visited with Paul and Bill. We were in the room first. They brought Paul and Bill in. I think Paul and Bill were surprised to see me. I think it is safe to say that it had the effect that we hoped it would have.

KF: How did you feel at that point, when you first saw them?

RP: Well, I was glad to see them. They didn't look emaciated. They didn't look like they had been brutally treated. I recall I hugged them and shook hands with them, like this. It was a very warm greeting. A couple of days later, someone went in and said, "Well, what did you think about Perot coming in?" And one of them said, "Well, we decided it must not be very bad because if it was, he sure as hell wouldn't have come over here." They had gotten their sense of humor back. There's no question in my mind that it had a good effect on them. We visited for about an hour. I brought letters from their families, letters from their friends. We had food, etc. I assured them that we would get them out. I believe I was the first one to tell them, I told Paul, I didn't tell Bill. We were sitting in these chairs around the wall and these officers would come and go, but we had some privacy. I communicated^{to} Paul that we were going to get them out of jail, and that there was an older man; that everybody else on the rescue

team you'd recognize, but there will be one man that's an older man, but he looks like what he is. But if you see someone you don't recognize with people that you do recognize and he's an older man, that's the leader. Generally, I told them what we thought we could do and I told Paul and we were going to try to get the mobs in the area to storm the prison. That was an uncertain thing at best, but Col. Simons felt it could be done.

I didn't mention ^{Rashid} [redacted] name to him because from a security point of view Col. Simons was concerned that on any night they might take these guys back and start squeezing information out of them. And he said, "Don't give them too much information, they don't need to know who".

But the net of all that was to give them the feeling that we would either negotiate them out or either rescue them in another way, that they would not be left.

Paul, certainly to his credit, expressed some concern about other people taking the risk for him, which I felt was admirable. He basically was saying, "Look, why should six guys get cut up for one guy?"

KF: Paul didn't tell Bill, did you know that? He didn't tell him until it was almost over.

RP: That doesn't surprise me. Paul is a very disciplined person. Paul's mind certainly wouldn't work anything like Col. Simons because he didn't have the experience, but if Paul had had the 30 years experience Col. Simons had, he would partition things up, keep things. So that wouldn't surprise me too much.

But Paul and I principally talked and I spent some time with Bill. I was a little apprehensive walking out because they had had a couple of hours to talk with Ramsey Clark and look at my passport picture, etc.

KF: Before we get to you going out, what else did you talk about Paul and Bill. You must have asked them how they were being treated. But other than the plans for getting them out, what else did you talk about?

56
RP: Talked about their families, about how concerned everybody in EDS was for them.

KF: What did you tell them, or what did they ask about their families?

RP: I was very general. I assured them that their families were fine. These fellows deal in specifics. Again, this may be because of the nature of our business, but I explained to them that a person in EDS had been assigned to make sure that their families' needs were taken care of. They understood that in terms of anything that could be done, personally or financially, would be handled. Paul's wife was getting ready to buy a house and she was surrounded by people in EDS, helping her to buy the house. I specifically remember telling them, and one of the last things I told them, was that they should mentally prepare themselves and their attitude should be, "We may be here for awhile." Because the worst thing they could do to themselves emotionally would be to get up every morning and say, "Today is the day we'll get out." Because you just drain yourself for that whereas if you say, "Alright, I'm going to settle down, get control of myself and plan that I'm going to be here for awhile," Then, if tomorrow, you do get out, you can handle that. You can't handle being disappointed every day. That's probably the last thing I said to them.

I think I told you the story about Paul wanting my long underwear. Somehow I knew he wanted long underwear. Check with Paul. I had some. I gave it to him and I said, "Now, Chiapparone, don't you leave here without my underwear." And just for meanness, he left it because he figured he was going to be running for ten miles and the last thing he would need would be long underwear on, and he didn't want to carry it. So, I guess he was just being practical, but it's a standing joke between us that he left my underwear there in the prison.

57

But the last thing, I guess, was I focused their attention on getting themselves mentally settled down to be there for awhile. Then we left and I was apprehensive going out. Nothing happened. Walked outside and there were camera crews, maybe because of Ramsey was there. And I thought all I need is to have gotten this far and have the U.S. networks show my picture. So I beat a hasty retreat and no one paid any attention to me. I certainly didn't look newsworthy and then I remember I got back to this van, and there were all these people milling around. They were semi-hostile to anyone that was American, but not hitting. They would just say things. And some of the other people coming out were sort of dawdling, and I felt like it would have been wiser for all of us to just come on out, get in the van and leave. But this was a 2-3 minute delay.

KF: This was State Department people.

RP: Yes. We got in the van and drove back.

KF: How did you come to get that much help from the State Department? How did they come to let you ride in their van?

RP: Well, they were happy to do that because they were going down anyway. There was an American woman in the prison that they were going to see. They were happy to give us a ride. We felt it was wise to take that ride because it looked right coming in. Our people had used that transportation in the past, bringing the groceries in. It looked right.

KF: Allright. So, now you're out.

RP: I'm out of the prison. I'm back in the hotel. The only significant thing I did was go to where Col. Simons was hiding out to have a face to face meeting. So we waited until night. Keane took me. We went in to this building. It was sort of a duplex apartment.

KF: How far from the hotel?

RP: A number of miles - 10-12 miles, a long way.

KF: But still in the city of Tehran?

RP: Yes.

KF: And you went in a car that Keane had?

RP: Right. We had lots of cars and lots of abandoned apartments that we were still paying rent on so that we could move people around. So we went to this apartment and visited with him. He felt strongly that I needed to get back to the U.S. and assemble everything that was necessary for an overland escape from the U.S. end. There was nothing else for me to do in Tehran. So, the next day, I left. — *Ask Howell the date*

Ask Howell the date
Ask Howell the date

I believe we've covered all of this, but our strategy was that we'd been told, I believe through Pan Am, that I was on the airport list and so we decided we would wait until just before the plane left. We checked to make sure the plane was to take-off on time. The airport was chaotic. We went through all the processes and got down to the point where the girl had the list and she was reading a paperback novel.

KF: Is this after passport control or is this passport control?

RP: They had two or three checkpoints. But we know where the girl with the list was. Everybody else was checking passports, signing things, etc., but then there was a girl with a list. I had a yellow sheet of paper where anytime you go into a country you have to fill out what you bought, etc., and it had my name on it. And I put \$5 in the passport, the yellow paper, the passport (the easiest way to get the dates on this is to look at my passport and look at the stamps, or the plane ticket, either one). She took the yellow sheet of paper, the \$5 bill, I believe she stamped the the passport.

KF: She definitely saw the bill.

RP: She wasn't so intent on the book, I would like to say she was reading the "Eye of the Needle", but it would be too good to be true. She was absorbed in whatever she was reading. I could have been a martian and she wouldn't have paid any attention to me. But, she never even looked up.

Then I went into a holding area. It was an open room. A men's room, a ladies room, a little gift shop. And I started looking around saying, "If anything starts to happen, where am I going?" And there was no where. They've got you.

KF: This must be the departure lounge.

RP: Exactly. And in the Middle East, that's really dignified. I call it a holding pen.

So, ten minutes went by and the plane wasn't ready to go. I sat there for over eight hours. The first hour, I was very alert, pumped alot of adrenalin. I figured sooner or later since she had the list and had my yellow sheet of paper, she'd stop reading the book and check the book. She obviously never checked the list or I was not on the list. But anyhow, they never looked for me.

KF: What did you do?

RP: I read everything in my briefcase in the first hour. I had an Englishman sitting next to me and I read everything he had and he read everything I had.

KF: What did you have in your briefcase?

RP: Magazines, you know, just whatever you might have. There was just nothing else to do, but sit there.

KF: Get any food or drink?

RP: No. He and I visited and he was very pleasant.

KF: Do you remember who he was?

- 137 -

67

RP: He'd been in the Army in WWII. He was an older man. I believe he gave me his card. He was very nice. He worked for a major British company. He'd been in Iran working on a project. He was an engineer. Just the nicest sort of fellow and I thoroughly enjoyed talking with him.

Finally, eight hours later we went out on an all tourist airplane.

END OF SIDE ONE