

HOTFOOT #19--SIDE A  
INTERVIEW WITH JOHN HOWELL - NOVEMBER 5, 1981

JH The, prior to these events.

KF I see, okay. So Iran was their home.

JH Yes.

KF He was not brought from the states to work in Iran, he was hired in Iran.

JH I'm not sure that he was hired in Iran but that was his first employment, and I'm not quite sure right now. He'd been in the Panama Zone that's where he met Kathy, he'd been with the military there, and I'm not sure exactly how he made the connection with EDS in Iran.

KF But basically, you've summed it up when you said he's not a hard core EDS'er. So they did not feel as strongly as perhaps you and say Jay did, that Paul and Bill was their problem.

JH Well, I really wouldn't state it exactly that way because they worked as hard and were very dedicated as much as anybody else to getting them out.

KF Alright.

JH In particular, through the military Kathy was instrumental in being able to get alot of the creature comforts that we were able get to Paul and Bill, some of the cigarettes, some of the, she got cigars for the Bull, got some of the food and other things that we were able to send in to Paul and Bill.

KF Okay. It isn't that they didn't feel that that was their problem but when it was over, they didn't feel as the rest of you obviously did...

JH They were not interested in coming back to Dallas for a big celebration homecoming type of thing.

KF Because they did not have a home in Dallas, it seems.

JH Exactly. Because they had no former friends and workmates here in Dallas. There was some minor speculation that Rich had kind of paranoia about coming back to the United States, which turned out to be unfounded. Because shortly afterwards he came to the United States and worked in Dallas for a few months, which was not his cup of tea and he ended up relocating to a company and wanted it that way for awhile.

KF Okay. Now tell when you first realized that the 707 was in trouble?

JH I didn't really realize it until somebody told me we were landing in London, which I knew wasn't the plan, I had not paid that much attention to it. We got on the plane, the plan had been for the plane to immediately take off. Unfortunately, the plane had had some icy problems and we had to wait for a deicer, I know what that is, to get the ice off the planes, so we could take off. We had taken off had looked around the planes somebody had popped some champagne, generally I guess I was more in a semi-depressed state than euphoric state at that time. I remember I was fairly rude to Jim Schwebach who was taking pictures with his camera. My reaction was who in the hell is that fool with the damn camera, would you keep him away from me. I have since apologized for that, but my reaction at that time was that I was not interested in alot of hoopla. The Colonel was interested in the debriefing and primarily Joe Poche and I sat down and went through the events that had transpired with respects to us since we split up on Tuesday afternoon.

KF With the Colonel?

JH With the Colonel and Ross also. But the Colonel was more particularly interested in.

KF That you didn't mind, but you did mind some fool taking pictures.

JH Exactly. So I was occupied with those things while evidently the plane was falling apart, but I didn't have much appreciation for it until later. Our law firm was somewhat involved in the law suit, you maybe aware of that about the 747 and the financial responsibility for it, I mean the 707. And, it wasn't until I talked to some of the lawyers handling that and found out what was really going on and I began to be more concerned about that aspect of the journey, at the time...

KF We'll talk about that in a minute. Is there anything, between, then there was that landing was alot at all scary or did you just not know what was going on?

JH No, I didn't much care.

KF You went to a hotel near London airport, near Heathrow airport, the next morning you all got on a bus and went to Gadwick. Did you know at all about the [REDACTED] problem?

Rashid

Rashid

Rashid

JH Not in detail, I knew that [REDACTED] was there and that [REDACTED] did not have his travel papers in order. And, I knew that that was a problem, nothing specific. I also knew that Ross was right there and he was kind of escorting through and I assumed Ross knew I was there and if he needed me to help him, he'd let me know.

KF So finally you get back here to Dallas, your family waiting for you?

JH Yes, the I guess originally when the 707 had been scheduled to come I think from Frankfurt to...

KF To Love Field.

JH Well to, first to Washington then to Love Field, there had been some sort of reception planned there, and as plans changed it had been changed to DFW. And, there was a some kind of conference room where the big event was and we were coming in elsewhere, and there were some buses outside as we got in, taxied in, they had arranged to get us through customs very quickly. So we didn't have to spend alot of time waiting for luggage, and checking in and all that. We much came through that, and there were I think two regular full size city buses waiting for us and my wife and child happened to be right in the first of one them. Escorted in and said hello, and long time no see and those kind of things.

KF Okay. The thing that I've talked to nobody about so far is events after that. I didn't even know that there was a law suit over the responsibility for the plane and I don't anything at the present, about the EDS' lawsuit against, I guess the government of Iran. Could you run me briefly through that, give me the highlights, the headlines?

JH I think I can. The...

KF Or maybe you'd rather write it?

JH Let me give you a brief oral description and if then you want some further explanation we can certainly provide you that. We had originally had contract problems we discussed at one time, first gone over and blatenly then we remembered to deal with that and then we thought about pursuing it through the Iranian legal system. That had by that time obviously become unpalatable as an alternative. Meanwhile, people here in the United States had pretty much prepared the lawsuit. The revolution and jail break was on February the 11th we got out of the country I think on the 17th and returned to Dallas on the 18th or 19th something like that. On February the 23rd we filed a lawsuit here in Dallas against the government of Iran, the Ministry of

Health and Welfare, and the Social Security Organization. That was pretty much waiting until everybody was back and safe, when we filed, initiated that lawsuit. Basically claiming that we had a contract, they had breached it by not paying us and that we were entitled to recover possibly \$20 million in damages. The, a very early strategic decision was made primarily by John Hill and Tom Luce that what we most needed to do was to get to trial because of the very dynamic situation in the relationship between the United States and Iran. And so we took a very unusual posture in the litigation, we are as a matter of fact took a very cooperative posture toward the other side. The Iranians ignored the lawsuit pretty much until we had located an attached approximately \$17 million in the bank in New York. They then took an interest in the lawsuit and engaged a local Dallas counsel to defend them.

KF You got their, you got funds of theirs frozen.

JH Yes. Normally, in a lawsuit you make the other side pric on what information they can out of you. The less you tell them the better. One of our problems in trying to get to trial as quickly as possible was to avoid any arguments the other side might have as they could not fairly review to trial because they were not prepared. So we undertook to prepare them for trial as well as ourselves. It was from a litigation attorney's point of view, disgusting. The other side would ask you a question, and then you'd say, well here's the answer to the question you asked but you didn't know enough to ask the right question which was this, and here's the answer to that question also. Again, we were undertaking to do their work for them. They primarily, you could tell based upon communications with whoever that might be in Tehran. First file an answer based upon the same types of inuendos that we had heard in Iran, that the contract was illegally procured, it was some ill-defined hanky panky around it. Something associated with Mahvid, all under evade terms. And we were as comfortable as we could be that there was nothing there. So we were making a clean breast of it, disclosing everthing. Preceded to get to

*rogue*  
rogue

JH trial as quickly as possible, unfortunately, and were able to get to trial in less than a year, which was fairly amazing with the U.S. Legal System for that size trial. Unfortunately, in the meantime the U.S. Embassy hostages were taken. And a general freeze of Iranian funds were proposed at that time, which has complicated our collection efforts. We went to trial in January of 1979, less than a year after the suit had been on file, over the objection of the defendants who could...

KF Excuse me, that must be January 1980.

JH Excuse me, January 1980, exactly. Over the objection of the defendants who claimed that they were not able to go to trial because among other things they could not get witnesses from Tehran to Iran, I mean from Tehran to the United States. We filed affidavits showing that that was ridiculous. It was true that a person in Tehran could not as it used to be able to go to the U.S. Embassy and get a visa to the United States because they had taken over the Embassy. But it was perfectly feasible, and people were doing it all the time, leaving from Tehran to a European country and get a visa there. So, they said they would send three trial witnesses, and as a brief anecdote the part of the every morning procedure the judge would kind of ask we were on the status of things, and would ask the local Dallas attorney Don Case, "what about your witnesses from Iran?" And he'd say, "I'm sorry your honor I don't know, they left Tehran a couple of days ago, but I don't know if they'll be here or not." And Tom Luce who was our primary trial counsel said, "well, your honor those arrived in Paris yesterday morning at 2:00 p.m., went to the Iranian counsel at 4:00 p.m., they went, we had them traced in effect day by day.

KF How did you do that?

JH Just had people watch, we had heard that they were coming in, we had established a liaison with the U.S. Embassies at the local, which was logical, well they told they were coming through Paris. So with the U.S. Embassy in Paris we had contacts...

KF Okay. This trial took place in Dallas.

JH Right. Our instructions to our people that would invariably to do whatever necessary to get them to the United States, the worst thing for us was for them to not come to the United States, and give them the defense of argument that it was unfair for them to proceed to trial without witnesses. So we escorted them through the whole process. It was interesting that the three Iranians who came were Mogib Moseamid, that I mentioned to you earlier was a former friend of Abian, Notaza Nassira the guy who had the bitter hatred for EDS, and Hosain Dadgar. Now we knew who they were because we knew from the people who had checked into the U.S. Embassy. But they did not know that we knew who they were. And, the local U.S. attorney was very careful not to mention any names. There was some discussion as to what if anything we should do with respect to Dadgar being in the United States, some feeling that we ought to file a lawsuit against him for one reason or another, it's certainly when Paul was here. Primarily, because it would maybe impact the big lawsuit we didn't do anything like that. But we did when the first of the Iranians took the witness stand, Mogib Moseamid, we questioned him about his trip, who he was traveling with, he said among other things, Hosain Dadgar. That evening Dadgar left Dallas. So he evidently didn't feel very safe once his cover was blown. But the trial took place here, it was about two weeks long, the defense attempted at first to try to make a defense of, related to Mr. Mahavi and some ill-defined hanky pank but could not come up with the evidence. As a matter of fact there was a key evidential ruling later in the trial, that there was no evidence at all of any type of illegal or improper conduct. They tried to convert at the last minute to a kind of favor of performance defense, based upon Mogib Moseamid and Notaza Nassira primarily claiming that we didn't do things that we were supposed to. But they were unable to point to in

JH anything in the contract that we were supposed to do, that they said we couldn't. One ridiculous example is that they were complaining because that the reports we submitted to them were not in Farsic. And the only thing that they could find in the contract was that was supposed to be in Farsic was a provision which their witness interpreted to mean that the output of the computer systems was supposed to be in Farsic, to the extent practical, which we admitted it was it was just management type reports, progress reports that he complained should have been in Farsic because they would have liked them in Farsic. So that evaporated, and the lawsuit would successfully go to judgement for about \$20 million which we are in the process of trying to, still trying to collect our money.

KF Because all the frozen assets were released at the time the hostages were released.

JH Not quite. All the frozen assets except ours, we were able to get ours exempt from the order to transfer the funds overseas because our attachment was prior to the hostages being taken and prior to the freeze, it was a pre-freeze attachment. Again, some key strategic decisions of being very aggressive very early, had paid off with that pre-freeze attachment. We were the only Iranian claim that has been able to go to trial and attain judgement to the merits, which hopefully will stand in good stead, but our money is still attached, still in New York.

KF What's the problem about getting hold of it?

JH The freeze, the U.S. government freeze is still in effect. That it gets kind of technical, but what they U.S. government froze all the Iranian assets in November 1979, when the hostages were released approximately a year ago now, they did not remove the freeze they in fact tightened the freeze and collected all the funds that other people had attached under the freeze and shipped those monies overseas. So we're still prevented by the U.S. freeze from being able to get a good

JH record of that money. And, it looks like what we'll have to do is we'll have to take our judgement to the Arbitration Tribunal and the Haig to get it validated in effect and be able to collect money.

KF The U.S. government collected up all frozen money both the pre-freeze frozen money and regular frozen money, is that right, have I got that right?

JH No, not exactly. First it didn't collect it just froze, everything stayed in place.

KF And, when the hostages were released?

JH It first purported to transfer all of that frozen money to Iran in effect.

KF But not yours.

JH But we argued successfully that the intent of the hostage accords was to return the status quo to the place it was at the time the hostages were taken. At that time, the status quo in respect to our money was our attachment was there, so all the post-freeze attachments were wiped out. And, all that money was transferred to Iran. But our money because it was a pre-freeze attachment remains in the New York bank, and it remains there because it's subject to our pre-freeze attachment and therefore is exempt from the order transferring it overseas. We cannot get to it.

KF Why?

JH Because it's still subject to the Presidential Freeze of all Iran money.

KF Oh.

JH It's kind of a Catch 22 situation.

KF Okay. So, the President froze all Iran money when he defrosted, he de...

JH He did not defrost really, that Presidential Freeze Order is still in effect.

KF But, in any effect they shipped all of the money to Iran. They didn't ship your money, because you convinced them not to. But because of a technicality?

JH Yea. I'd supposed you would call it that, a technicality we're still unable to get to it.

KF And you've got to go the Haig for that?

JH Probably. One interesting thing that's recently surfaced is they were supposedly shipped all money except the pre-freeze attachment, they in fact did not. They kept some money that they had a hold of, the U.S. State Department did, which they're holding as hostage if you will or ransom until the Iranians release some similar funds of the Embassy grounds in Iran.

KF What happened in Vienna?

JH Tom Luce is your best source on that since he went and I did not. But basically, we were invited by the Iranians to negotiate a settlement. The hostage accords provide that there will be good faith negotiations to settle as many claims as possible. And, then those that cannot be settled will be presented to an Arbitration Tribunal that's going to be starting hopefully starting next year sometime in the Haig. We had heard that there had been some previous settlement negotiations with the primarily Defense Petroleum Contractors and that those had broken down primarily because what was known as the New Money Issue. The claimants took the position that if they settled their claim they were entitled to get paid then, by new money furnished by Iran. Iran took the position that they settled the claim then the

JH claimant would not have to prove its claim at the Arbitration Tribunal but it would have get paid, so at the Arbitration Tribunal there's a billion dollar fund there that's supposed to pay their claims. And, so the claimant would have to wait for its money and take the chance that it might get prorated a portion of its settlement. So those broke down. Somewhat surprisingly to us, they sent us a Telex not very long ago, a month or two ago, inviting us to take a settlement negotiation in Vienna. And, we were cautiously optimistic that we might be successful because we were at a stronger than any other claimant because we had our judgement, and we had the funds attached. So, we could settle our claim and collect the funds out of the attached money without the Iranians having to come up with any new money or us having to wait to get to the Arbitration Tribunal fund. As a matter of fact, we could generally deposit cash flow to Iran. Because we've got say \$20 million attached, we settled our claim for \$15 million we get \$15 and they get \$5 million that they could quite manifold. But after several days of Iranian proverbs and allegations back and forth, our negotiating people who were Tom Luce, Bill Gayden and David Grine of our office primarily. Kind of laid down an ultimatum that if the Iranians were serious they would have to put an offer on the table to settle this thing, so we'd have somewhere to talk from. So they took a day off and came back the next day and said they're proposal was that we'd call everything even Stevens settle all claims we would pay them \$71 million.

KF So you all came home?

JH Well, not quite that quickly. But there, after we refused that offer they got kind of mad especially at our friends Mogib Moseanid and Nataza Nassira and Hosain Dadgar.

KF They were in Vienna?

JH Vienna. This...

KF What is Dadgar now?

JH Dadgar, I'm not quite sure, at the time...

KF He obviously covered his tail rather well during the revolution.

JH I think so. He, his job was in the they call it Davon Kafar at the time that when were dealing with him in Iran, which was a Civil Servant's plan action in the Judicial System. Which was a special division set up to investigate and prosecute crimes against the Civil Servants, which was why he was investigating the Ministry. He was a, I guess maybe a mid level functionary within the Public Prosecutor and because they were designated to investigate Public Servants they had very broad powers which is one reason why Dadgar could do what he did and get away with it. He was I guess not a revolutionary himself, he was sympathetic with the anti-Shah forces. Presumably, we heard after the revolution he was in line to get a fairly important post on a secular court that was going to be set up shortly after the revolution. The revolution and the religious elements took over and there were the beginnings of a secular government formed under Marzagon I believe his name was. Supposedly he was going to set up a judicial system and somewhere in there Dadgar was supposed to get a slot. But, that fell apart because the secular government never got off the ground, the religious elements would not release any of the power. So he is evidently kind of kicked around since then, remained active within the Ministry area. The negotiating team in Vienna I understand was made up of ten people, two of whom were kind of professional negotiators for Iran. Worked there in Vienna negotiating one claim after another. The other eight were primarily associated with the Ministry and the Social Security Organization, I believe the only three we knew were those three.

KF Okay. Finally, tell me a little bit about yourself. Tell me exactly when and where you born.

JH The ninth minute of the ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month of 1946. I believe. My birthday is September 9, 1946 the rest my Mother tells me but I wouldn't swear to.

KF And where?

JH In Texarkana, Texas.

KF What were your parents, what was your father?

JH My Father was in the real estate business, real estate broker. My Mother was primarily a housewife.

KF And their names?

JH My Father's name is Edgar P. Howell, was, he died about a year ago. My Mother's name is Charlene Cole Howell.

KF Okay. Little bit about your childhood. Were you first in the family?

JH No, I'm the second of four children. I have an older sister and two younger brothers.

KF You went to school in Texarkana?

JH Fairly uneventful, I went to elementary school, and I went through high school in Texarkana.

KF What kind of a home life was it?

JH Average Middle-American.

KF You must be fairly well off, your father was in real estate.

JH No not really, I mean, we were not out combing the streets for handouts or anything like that, but we never were considerably wealthy.

KF Whey did you get a car?

JH I got a car, when I was getting out of the Marine Corps in 1970 I guess.

KF No, I meant when did your parents get a car?

JH My parents had a car when I was young, as young as I could remember we had a car. An old black Buick they used to take me to Kindergarten.

KF Okay. Where did you go to college?

JH Went to college at Rice University in Houston.

KF And, then I don't know the system, do you have to go to Law School as well.

JH Yes, you do. After I went to college from 1964 to 1968 at which time the VietNam War was in it's heyday and I had abolished graduate deferments for Graduate School, and so I was faced with the prospect that if I did attempt, well if I got of school I'd probably be drafted, if I attempted to go to Graduate School I would probably be drafted out of Graduate School. So I went ahead and set out a year to see what would happen and sure enough I was in the process of being drafted so I enlisted in the Marine Corps. And entered the Marine Corps in January of 1969 I guess. I was in the Marine Corps from then until December of 1970.

KF Did you go to Asia?

JH No I did not. I was assigned to, my orders said, WestPac Ground Forces which was in VietNam, but the timing was such that I never did that, I just had a two year enlistment and went through various types of training. Went through the basic infantry training that all Marines go through, went through reconnaissance training and went through VietNameese language training, then because of that and some other delays here and there and everywhere I ended without enough time to go overseas for a tour.

KF When you left the Marine Corps?

JH I basically spent a few months waiting for Law School to start in September. I started Law School in September of 1970.

KF How many year from there?

JH Three years. Excuse me it was in September of 1971, so I went to Law School from then until August of 1974.

KF And then you joined Hill and Hughes, right out of college.

JH No not exactly. I worked for the Texas Supreme Court for a year, one year Judicial accreditship from the December of '74 until December of '75. And then joined what is now Hughes and Hill, and that time it was Moose Hennessey, Smith & Castle, became Hughes, Moose Hennessey Smith, Hill and Castle, then it became Hughes and Hill over the years.

KF Okay. When did you get married?

JH I got married June 21 of 1975.

KF And, you have one child?

JH I have two children now. And...

KF Okay, in January 1979, you had two then?

JH I had one.

KF Did you say that was a girl?

JH It's a boy, I had a little boy, Michael who was born in March of 1978.

KF So while you were over in Iran, what's your wife's name?

JH Angela.

KF She was here with baby less than a year old. How did she feel about that?

JH She wasn't especially thrilled. As a matter of fact, several things intervened, Paul and Bill were arrested on December 28, on I guess it was December 30 Dallas had its worst ice storm ever, I don't know if anybody has mentioned that to you. We were headquartered in primarily, in Bill Gayden's office, down on the fifth floor below Merv's office approximately there, and were keeping pretty much Iran hours which was nighttime here, we were congregating out here trying to communicate what was going on. Then working through the day here, contacting various people with the U.S. Government. And that night the icestorm hit it was amazing you could sit out you could just look across Dallas and transformers were going out it was like fireworks display, sparks and flashes and whole areas of the city would get dark. The, I guess the next morning, I went out and got to my car had a half inch of ice all over it, I scraped it off and it took me a long while to get home because trees were across streets and wires were down and all that kind of stuff. And I finally got to my house and found my wife and child hunting for warm clothing, huddled in front of the wood burning fireplace we had because the power had gone out to our house, we had no heating. I was dead tired and that's

JH what happens when you get casual and cool, but you thought that it would be okay, so I went to bed. Woke up in a few minutes, this was New Year's Eve, December 31, and woke up in a few hours and I was just shivering in bed and the temperature in the house was somewhere around 45 degrees and dropping, so we decided we couldn't stay there. We went over to my sister's apartment for the night. And I think it was maybe the next day, I went to New York for one trip, I just had been to Tehran from late November to mid December and I had just got back from there hadn't been back but a week or two. And, so I go to New York for a day or two and I came back, and we moved over to some friends of ours house that had a spare bedroom, it was just about a block from our house so we could check on things in our house. I was back a day or two and then went back to New York to be with Lloyd Briggs when he came out. And, came back to Dallas again for a day, and told her at that time it had been decided that I was going to Tehran again. That was just about where she laid down the law, she had had about all the fun she could stand then, getting out of our house, all the ice, me having been gone effectively for the last two months, then off and on. So we had a pretty serious discussion about that and decided that I in fact was going. So she took me out to the airport, the next day.

KF It must have been very much on your mind all the time, you had all these other worries in Tehran.

JH I suppose so. I was not that worried about her well being she's a pretty resourceful soul and people were great at taking care of her. Tom Luce of our firm checking with her, people at EDS were taking care of her. Oh, I forget Valentine's Day, which is February 14th which was right in the midst of all that, somebody thought enough to send Angie and the other wives flowers and other things.

KF Merv's office.

JH They were being well taken care of, I didn't have any problem with that. I did I got at least a neat little classic anecdote for the situation was probably sometime in late January or early February time frame, we were running around having our meetings and we had periodic phone calls coming through from Dallas, and we'd pass messages back and forth. And I came back to the office one day and somebody said "Howell, there's a message from your wife, she said you're son's walking and she's buying a house." I was anxious to get in touch with her, as soon as possible to figure out what these were. We'd talk every few days, we'd have a periodic phone call coming through and the EDS operator and would raise people the same way.

KF Okay. So you could stay in touch.

JH I did not, it was not until I came back...

KF How did you happen to be buying a house, you must've planned to that anyway.

JH We were in the process of looking, we were in a little two bedroom house that we were outgrowing, and we'd been kind of looking for them, she'd found a house that she liked that was selling for a pretty good price. And, she had made an offer on it, I never have seen the contract, she submitted, but supposedly besides offering them alot less than they were asking, it was full of contingencies about me coming back and liking the house, and other things they didn't even bother to negotiate with her on. They went and sold it to somebody else.

KF They went and sold it to somebody else?

JH Yes. She still contends that that was a good deal, and that it was my fault that we missed it. I saw, after several months after I had been back I saw on a kind news retrospecting some of the newspaper coverage, t.v. news coverage of the events in Iran during that time period. And, I can see why she was more concerned than I appreciated at the time. I think one of the aspects of news gathering is that

JH it tends to focus on where the news is, and so there's activity going certain amount of time, that's where the newsmen are going to be, that's where the newsfootage is going to be taken, and that's what is going to be shown on the news stations here. So I think it gave a somewhat misleading impression of what was going on in all parts of Tehran.

KF But still the reality was bad enough.

JH Yea.

KF I mean it was dangerous.

JH It was dangerous. It was not the place that I would've chosen to go on a vacation. But it was not like there were constant gun battles outside my window every night.

KF But there were some gun battles outside your window.

JH There were a few.

KF She had reason to be worried, even if it might have been over dramatized on the t.v.

JH I guess besides just passing messages back and forth during our telephone conversations, I would primarily try to assure her that it was not a constant dodging bullets in the street kind of situation.

KF Were you ever really frightened while you were there?

JH Yea, I suppose there several times that stand out in my mind as being frightened. One of which was I guess just about the time the decision to evacuate back in early December that anything I feared was made. And, that was not a particular physical fright but Bill Gayden and I were at the hotel and we had gone out for dinner and I'm not sure exactly what stage the final decision to evacuate had been made, but it

JH was essentially made then. And I just found myself without much of an appetite, it was a combination of kind of the fear of the unknown and being keyed up for the big event. That stands out. The first day that we'd got back, when I had come back in mid January and then went to the Public Prosecutor's office Dr. Kheon's office and went through the mob to get there. That, I had a pretty high level of just physical danger I mean there was a bunch of angry people running around, and while they weren't hollering about me then, I could easily see somebody beside me and there wasn't much hope I had then. And, later that same day, the first meeting with Dadgar, the apprehension that he would say, ah hah another fine fellow for my nest. I guess the next particular incident that stands out was the night after the jail break when we were staying at the hotel, and there was a whole lot of activity going along, going on all over the city, and particularly outside the hotel. The Avene Prison, Hotel, and the Avene Hotel which was an American Military Hotel was there, and up here on the hills up a little ways was the Avene Prison and there was kind of a night long assault on that Prison before it fell. And, between the revolutionary people checking at the hotel, the Avene Hotel, there was gunfire over there and were things going on. That was a pretty tense night, we had an open line to Dallas that night, and one of the disadvantages of an open line is that in order to make it useful somebody has got to have the phone to their ear at all times. So I ended up a good bit of that night, about six hours laying in the couch of the living room of Gayden's bedroom and I was half sleeping with the phone to my ear so if anybody wanted to say anything you could hear it. Then, let's I guess the Tuesday afternoon that we were deciding to split up, there was a good apprehension there, that was agreed upon a little bit at lunch. At that time, it was very much two unknown horses, nobody quite knew what the road to Turkey was, nobody quite knew what staying in Tehran meant. But at least the advantage of it seemed to me of the road to Turkey was, that you were doing something, you were controlling events, instead of just sitting there waiting for things to happen. And so, there was a good bit of apprehension there. And then, the airport situation. First the apprehension going through the passport control, which is where I thought would be the main check.

feather?  
feather?

JH And then the situation on the airplane when I realized that they were doing a very serious and amazingly orchestrated, that to me was ingenious I would never that that is probably the place to check somebody, on the plane get everybody seated on the seat that they were assigned. And, then check one by one. When I realized that was going on I developed a lot of admiration for Dadgar's ability to organize that. And, that was probably the most concentrated fear I was particularly sure for awhile that something was going to happen, they were going to jerk us off the airplane, keep us there.

KF Was there ever a moment where you attempted to throw in your hand and come home?

JH No, I'm not sure what that would have meant in terms of throwing in my hand and going home, the means of going home were not readily available, it was not like I'd get my car and drive home. There were many frustrating times, there were times I just kind of sit and bang my head against the wall because things were not happening as they ought to, I couldn't figure out how to get them back on track. No, it's just a matter to back off from those kind of situations and regroup and figure out a way around the obstacle.

KF Okay. What was the best moment?

JH Oh, the time that Paul and Bill came in the room, was far and away the most euphoric.

KF Okay. Did you ever really screw up, and feel that you had something a mistake, a personal mistake of yours had really jeopardized the operation in any way?

JH I don't think so. There were times when I'd have second thoughts about whether I had taken the appropriate or the best negotiating approach with Dadgar at this time or that time. For instance what they were talking about earlier, my early attempts to convince them of the U.S. legal problems that would prevent EDS from paying the bail.

JH That didn't much get off the ground, I felt in retrospect that it was not that valuable approach and the amount of wasted time and all of that. No I don't think so, there was one situation that I was dreading and fortunately it didn't arise, was what would happen if and when the over choose through Marzatar for the bribe that we were pursuing, if they materialized and we got the signals for and it looked like the deal was on as to what we'd do at that time. I wasn't particularly interested in any part of any international bribery scheme, but if that was the way to go that, that's what worried me. But...

Interruption

JH The situation with Riaz Mirahad he had, there had been a newspaper article that he'd had an interview of accusing EDS...

SIDE B

JH Were hated by the American people and some other things. Shortly after that we were trying to contact him and send him a letter requesting a meeting with him. Bob Young had tried to meet with him and been referred to an aide and explained the situation and the aide said you really need to meet with Riaz Marahad, And the aide then went into the Minister and came back and said well the Minister says he doesn't want to meet with you because he doesn't know anything about the contract, he doesn't want to get involved in it. So I thought that was not quite cricket for permitting a news conference and denies the contract when he refused to meet with us. And, we took out an ad in the local newspaper since his article had been published in a local newspaper, which was primarily for the, to some degree the benefit of our Iranian employees. Evidently, it's much more common in that culture to have debates in the news media than it is in our country, where normally you don't bother to publicly respond to allegations because you just draw more attention to them. But they were concerned that we had just not responded so we took out an ad in the local newspaper to respond to the Riaz Mirahad interview and hopefully point out some of the more gross misaccrancies in this.

KF Do you remember the date the ad appeared?

JH Yea. It appeared on the 24th of January 1979, this is a copy of the ad itself. And this is the translated text of it.

KF Just that letter appeared?

JH Yes.

KF Was it an ad or a letter to the editor?

JH Well it was addressed as a letter to the editor, however we find out when we went over to try to respond in the letter to the editor, that they would not print it except for advertising rates. As a matter of fact, we had to pay extra so it would not be printed as an advertisement but as a letter to the editor. That's a couple of thousand dollars worth. Throughout that period of time there was a loyal staff of Iranians working at the EDS office at day end day out basis, and that was one of the on-going matters was try to keep the office going, keep them around.

KF Okay. Good.

END OF TAPE