

TAPE #24--SIDE A

INTERVIEW WITH KEANE TAYLOR NOVEMBER 9, 1981

KT Alot of our Iranians were a part of the revolutionaries, we knew that, knew that very early, while we were still working, that alot of our people were involved in it. While we were still at the office waiting for John and [REDACTED] <sup>Abolhasan</sup> to come back, I got a call from one of our Iranians. He said, you need to get out of there, you need to get out of the country as quickly as you can. I said, you know we can't do that and leave Paul and Bill here. He said, well it's going to be very dangerous for you, I said where are you, well I'm making Malatoff cocktails we just shot down a chopper and you could hear, I could hear over the phone, he was waiting, he told me where he was, which is way down south in the city where the fighting was just tremendous. He says, they kept bringing in the choppers this morning and we found a way to shoot them, and they had shot down a chopper a gunship that was, the Army was cut off, yea I guess it was the Army that they were shooting at. He said we burned four tanks this morning, then the line went dead, he was gone. He was one of the individuals that was to drive out with us.

KF What was his name?

The Cycle Man

KT [REDACTED]

KF Oh the cycle man? Okay.

Cycle Man

KT I gave [REDACTED] a car, very early on when he started working with Jay and the Colonel, that car disappeared the next day. And he came back for another one, someone stole it, I knew [REDACTED] <sup>Cycle Man</sup> gave it to his revolutionary friends. You know, there was not doubt in my mind.

KF You didn't mind that?

KT What was I to do, go find it? I mean you know somethings you just accepted.

KF Okay.

KT He needed it, he was doing something for us. You know, I accepted that as part of the bargain. We had all these automobiles anyway, they were all going to disappear sooner or later we sold most of them, we sold them without registrations, we sold them on the promise that the titles were going to be here in another week. We got millions of Rials for them. That money was being used for any number of things. To purchase automobiles, the Land Rovers.

KF Gasoline.

KT Gasoline, heating oil, food to pay the employees, we were trying to get out of there, we were trying to sever those employees and get them paid off and keep the staff that we had, we'd cut back. I carried an attache case which was the safe. And, it was crammed full of money, and I didn't go anywhere without it. It was put the money in pay the money out.

KF Let's go back to Sunday at the hotel.

KT Believe it or not, we kept absolutely accurate records of all those things. As I look back on it I remember how many hours I wasted making sure that I had all the amounts of money we sold things for, and we paid things for all written out on forms. God. But anyway.

KF Let's go back to that evening at the hotel. The Colonel turns up, did he see [REDACTED] do you know?  
Abolhasan

KT I don't recall.

KF I have the impression he did.

KT We had dinner. The Colonel did we go into the other room or did he clear the room or whatever. We were having dinner the Colonel said

KT let's get a couple of rooms on another floor, and put these guys to bed, they're tired and they need to get to sleep. I went downstairs to get three rooms or four rooms, three rooms...

KF On the floor above?

KT I believe it was on the floor above or the floor below. One of the two, we put, Bill came down to my room, took a shower, put on some clean clothes that I had in my room. As I said we ate dinner, the Colonel put them in their rooms. He and Jay were in the middle room. Either he and Jay were in the middle room and both of them on either side, or both of them were in the middle room with the Colonel on one side, and Jay on the other side. I'm not sure which it was, you'd have to ask them. Then the Colonel came down, Gayden, myself, the Colonel sat down and talked the Colonel said, well for all intent purposes they're in bed for the night. He said quiet this thing down, get rid of everybody, and then we'll get them out immediately.

KF Any idea why he said that?

KT I'm not sure but I can't help but believe that he had talked with  
Abolhasan [REDACTED] and Bill Gayden. And that his impression from that was that Dadgar would be looking for us. He'd already put in motion I believe Poche bringing up the vehicles to get them and everything. Hustled them up to the room, we hustled everybody out, everybody, you know, everybody go to bed it's going to be a long day tomorrow, you know, get out and close the doors, back to your rooms that kind of thing. Very abrupt.

KF Now, the Colonel had suddenly taken charge.

KT Oh yea. As soon as they walked in, as soon as they walked in to the hotel the Colonel was in charge.

KF Now, how did that happen?

KT He just said he was.

KF But here we have about half dozen very senior executives who are not used to being pushed around, and suddenly Simons walks in, and everybody starts doing what he says, how did that happen?

KT I think that you'd have to know the Colonel to understand that it would be very clear once you knew him.

KF I mean here are your outfit, you're a responsible man, I mean you're senior executive in EDS and Paul and Bill are your responsibility. Gayden feels the same thing, don't you say, now just a minute let's think about what's the best way to discharge our responsibility. You just let this man walk in and tell you what to do.

KT Yes, because I had spent when the Colonel first came into the country I had spent a few hours talking with him, few hours, about five at one time.

KF Tell me about that conversation.

KT Well the Colonel had had plenty of time to talk with the others, with the team members that he had assembled here. I believe that he, well, he knew that he was going to have to rely on the interface, the supplies, that type of stuff, coming from me. I believe he wanted to know the person that was going to be doing this. He sat down in my wife's favorite armchair with his boxes of cigars, you know he smoked, he chain smoked those. I recall looking at the floor and there was this mound of cigar ashes like a little pile that he kept creating on the floor on my brand new carpet. And for about four or five hours we sat there and talked. I did most of the talking he did most of the questioning, he did not, it was not a two way conversation, it was a one conversation. I think from that, I think that from that conversation I developed a tremendous respect for him. I'm not exactly sure I guess in my own mind why I would just immediately accept his statement that he was now in charge. But, I guess it was a matter of

KT having been told his background by Ross, by Jay. By knowing the simple fact that we had two guys that had just broke out of jail on our hands, this was his, we weren't going to walk to the airport and put them on a plane. You know, this was his part of the deal.

KF Okay. Did he actually say I'm in charge now?

KT I have the distinct impression that those were his exact words.

KF In what sort of tone of voice did he say it?

KT He only had one tone of voice. He never raised it or lowered.

KF Just quietly said I'm in charge now.

KT Yea.

KF Walked in and said I'm in charge now. Do you recall him closing off the conversation with doubts? *Dallas* [Dallas]

KT I think he said, "hang up the damn phone, we've got things to do, now."

KF And, whoever was on the phone, hung it up.

KT I think that might have been Bob Young at the time that was holding the line open.

KF Okay.

KT By the time we met, Gayden, he and I sat down to talk about what was going to happen tomorrow, the guys were gone.

KF He had cleared them out.

KT They were gone. And he left with them a few minutes after that.

KF So they didn't know he'd gone?

KT No else knew it but Bill and I. And we had already received our orders as to what time we were to leave the hotel the next morning. The next morning we were to walk downstairs go out to the cars. Poche would be in a, would be sitting there in the parking lot with one of the Rovers and we would follow Poche down to the Dvoranchak's. He wanted, and why he sent Poche back up I don't know because we knew where they were going, I mean we knew where to go to. I did, Bill did. We walked out of the hotel, as we came down to the lobby, they attacked the armory behind the hotel that night. And we spent the whole night laying on the floor watching them attack the armory. They finally brought up tanks early in the morning and blew a hole in the wall. Then the brought up a...

KF The revolutionaries had tanks by then?

KT Yea. They then brought up a stream of orange cabs.

KF Orange caps?

KT That's the equivalent of our yellow cab.

KF Oh cabs.

KT Cabs. And they were coming out of the armory buildings dumping all the weapons and ammunition in the trunks of the orange cabs and they were just headed downtown. I mean and the constant strength. We came down in the morning, the hotel manager was in the lobby, he had been there all night supplying these revolutionaries with food out of the kitchen as they attacked the armory behind the hotel. Told him they were looking for Americans he had told them that there was no one here. We told him we're going to work, he's says no you can't do that you need to go back upstairs and stay out of sight. We said no,

KT we're going to go to work. We walked outside, we got in the cars, just then one of the people who worked at the hotel on the, hotel clerks drove in. I went over and I asked him you know how are the streets? He said there's roadblocks all over the place, they have a big roadblock at the entrance to the hotel. It was one of those winding drives and then the fork went out onto the street, there was a gate there, a guard gate. He said you shouldn't go up, I said fine. We got back into the cars and we headed out. As we got right to the gate, there were two guys there. One had a Neusy sub-machine gun in his hand, and the other had a machine pistol and they were facing each other and they were trying to jam a banana clip out of something. I don't know exactly what it was out of but they were trying to jam it into the machine pistol, of course it wasn't going to ever fit. But they were distracted they were busy trying to do this, they were teenage kids and younger, 12, 13 running down from the armory with guns in their hands, machine guns, pistols, rifles. You know this is just coming down off the side of the hill, you know it's like everybody taking off after a football game. Jumping into cars right on the freeway there, and driving off and shoot the guns in the air, leaning out the windows. We swung on to Shah and Shei and we had to go up and around and down. We had to head north a little bit going up the slope, go around the top of the city and then down. We had to cross Palavi, at the head of Shah and Shei. As we hit there, the roadblocks, I mean vehicles piled up in the road burnt, trees. Now apparently they had gone and pushed some of these off the edges so cars could around, and we just kept snaking through that stuff. Roadblocks all over the place.

02 [uzi]  
KF But you weren't stopped?

KT We weren't stopped. There were people manning the roadblocks but they were just you know standing there with their weapons in the air screaming and hollering, shooting them off. We got down onto the main part of the Shah and Shei, which is sort of out of the way, it's in a deserted area of, where they were building a new city. We got down

KT there we got into the area where Dvoranchak's house was, which was quiet, it was quiet in that area. We got into the house, got the vehicles in the courtyard, we could only get the two in. We got the two Range Rovers in there, and parked the rest on the street with other cars. An incident happened that night after the Colonel had left, and before we all turned in with the American military. The American military were in the Labine Hotel which is right next door, which was the military hotel. The revolutionaries hit that hotel and the American military pulled out of it. It was, there were about 10 to 12 military people, Lieutenant, Master Sargents, there were a good many officers there, but there some enlisted also. And a large group of DOD, dependent people. Mostly of foreign extraction, Cirialancan were the most. They all wound up in the large parking lot of the Hyatt Hotel. The Hyatt wouldn't let them in. Gayden and I went out to talk with them. We convinced them that they ought to allow, we convinced, we negotiated with the Hyatt Hotel manager to allow all the DOD personnel, all the dependent personnel to go into the hotel, but none of the American military would go in. The Hyatt agreed to do that, they would allow all the nonmilitary personnel to go in, but they would not allow the American military guys to go in. We even guaranteed to the hotel we would pay for them, their rooms. There were some older people there, I mean some very old people it was freezing cold outside. Alot of women in that group, I'm trying to think if there were any children, there might have been a few babies. The American military guys were going to camp out there in the, this parking lot. We showed them an escape route over the back of the hotel, you know down to a construction site off into a large wooded area where they, if they were, they would have an escape route. We took the people in the hotel, they registered and put them in their rooms. Someone got back with the revolutionaries on the phone and negotiated, you know, I don't know whether it was the hotel people or what it was. But negotiated them to allow the American military personnel to go back into the Labine Hotel and spend the night there, if they would give up all their weapons. And, apparently they did, whether they gave up their weapons whether they hid them or whatever, most of them had pistols. They apparently wound up in the Labine Hotel for the night.

- KF     Gayden recall that you offered them the use of the apartments that you had.
- KT     Yes we did, but trying to get them to those apartments through that stuff, was impractical, impossible.
- KF     Gayden said that they got anci when they discovered that you had keys to about 150 apartments in the city and cars all over the place, began to think that you were some of kind of covert operation.
- KT     We got alot of questions from them just what the hell we were doing. And we told them nothing.
- KF     So they might well conclude that you were CIA?
- KT     One of them tried to go into the hotel. He was going to go into the hotel whether the Hyatt was going to let him or not, some Lieutenant.
- KF     And what happened?
- KT     I convinced him that he would have to walk over me to get into the hotel because we had given our word to the hotel that no American military personnel would come in. He decided to change his mind. Luckily, he was smaller than I was. That incident occurred...
- KF     Alright, let's go back to the next morning, you finally got to the Dvoranchak's apartment now there are 11 of you and the dog.
- KT     Yes!
- KF     Called Buffy.
- KT     Buffy, good ole Buffy. Buffy was probably the closest to the only casualty that we were going to have.

KF You spent, some of you went out, did you go out during the course of those two days, some people stayed there all the time.

KT Yes, Jay and I did.

KF Jay and you were. What did you do?

KT Well we had gasoline stored at one of the Iranian's house.

KF Who?

Majid's

KT [REDACTED]. We had a 55 gallon drum that we had taken out of Bucharest, two of the 55 gallon drums, we had taken one up to Dvoranchak's, we had taken one out to [REDACTED]. We needed that gasoline, because at that time we were going to take the gasoline with us in the back of the jeeps. The original plan had that in it. Jay and I in the evening went to [REDACTED] house. We loaded the drum of gasoline and we brought it back to Dvoranchak's. We also went out to meet with our other Iranian employee's, [REDACTED] to give him money to pay the last paycheck of alot of the Iranian employees who were still were on our, you know the final termination for the ones that we still had on our payroll. That we had used there toward the very end. That was the night before we left.

KF Okay. What else do you recall about those two days?

KT Well we've got way too many people cramped in the house. We had anticipated going out overland with everybody. The Colonel was reevaluating that situation we had Kathy Gallagher was having some medical problems. We were faced with a long overland trip, now we were going to be crowded in two vehicles, it was determined that we couldn't just take two we were going to have to take more. Which meant we had to secure the best vehicle that was left or get another one, get it prepared to go overland. We were going, part of the plan, one of the fall back plans was to go over the mountain at the border on a smuggler's trail either by horseback or by foot. The Gallagher's

KT were not approaching this thing with a very clear understanding of the danger we were in at that time. Because if we were caught now, I don't think that there were many of us that didn't realize we were in deep shit. The Dvoranchak's apartment escape route was somewhat questionable. I didn't like it at all.

KF What was it?

KT Through the kitchen area into another courtyard and then into another building. It was a narrow escape route in that it was a very, it required climbing over a wall, it would have required alot of delays. I don't think we could've got that number of people through that escape area if they hit the front of the place. So we were a little bit nervous about our location now, don't forget the Colonel had planned to have four or five people, we now had a mob. And we had the Gallagher's planning on taking Buffy in a knapsack. Jay and I were going to walk Buffy prior to leaving and slit Buffy's throat. Buffy was not going with us. But anyhow please don't tell the Gallagher's that.

KF I'm not sure that I'm prepared to make that promise.

KT Buffy wasn't going to make it.

KF Jay recalls that you were just going to lose the dog.

KT We were going to lose the dog for good. Well we had two alternatives we could just take Buffy out and dispose of her, or take her out and throw her in the water, in the lily pond. I don't think Buffy could have swum to much lily, but we were going to lose Buffy for good. Of course the Colonel was working on the alternative, the alternative in that the decision that he had to make was to split. And, when he finally determined to do that, that took all the heat off of that kind of stuff.

KF Okay. So this happened now on the Tuesday evening. On the Tuesday evening the clean team went to Lou Goelz's house.

KT Let me tell you how the Colonel put that, he turned around to Jay and he said "you two lose that fucking dog." That's the way the statement, it was as simple as that.

KF Okay. Tuesday night the clean team goes to Lou Goelz's house, Joe Poche in charge, Rich and Kathy Gallagher, John Howell, Bob Young and Buffy. And you on the dirty team, now what did you do Tuesday night.

KT Paul and I cooked dinner.

KF Spaghetti I gathered.

KT Spaghetti, we were kind of low on food by that time.

KF Did the Colonel enjoy your cooking?

KT Yes, they all enjoyed our cooking, except that when it got time for Paul and I to get out of the kitchen and eat, the son of a bitch had ate everything. And, it's funny, our irritation level, everybody's irritation level is high.

KF Now, what makes you say that?

KT It's the excitement, it's the nervousness, the apprehension, you know tempers are short. There's a bunch of guys that really know each other, left. Look at who's there, with the exception of the Colonel, you know, Bill, Paul, Jay, Gayden, I mean we've known each other for 15 years. A cross word, I mean you don't even guard what you say when you're talking friends, and when your temper's short it's you just sound off. For some reason I got so damned irritated that Paul and I had done all the work, making all this food, and there wasn't, not a spaghetti strand left. And, I recall for about five minutes cursing at these guys for eating all the food, which is ridiculous. I mean it's such a stupid little thing, but to just show you the you know. So I forget what Paul and I we cooked up some concoction for

KT the two of us, I forget what it was. Tempers were very, but that's what we did, we rehearsed the plan again, we split money, we created little bags of money and filled all the different hiding places in the jeep that we were going to put the money in. The Colonel reviewed his plan with us, in general, not in detail, but in general with us, who was to go in which vehicle.

Rashid Rashid  
KF Now why were those decisions made? [REDACTED], he wanted [REDACTED] in the first vehicle because he was Iranian, he wanted Paul to drive the second vehicle because he looked Iranian, any other reasons for those dispositions?

KT Well, the Colonel teamed Bill Gaylord and myself up, I was to...

KF You were saying the Colonel teamed you and Bill.

KT Yea, he teamed Bill and I up and he teamed Paul and Jay up. His orders to both of us were that the corresponding person was not to leave our ~~site~~. *sight* [sight]

KF Oh, I see, I see, okay.

KT It became so much so that later on, even after we were in Turkey and coming back it sort of seemed like if we were all standing around in a crowd, you would automatically start changing positions with people so that I was standing next to Bill and I would see Jay standing next to Paul. I mean it was just, we were not to let them out of our ~~site~~.

KF So then the only other choice left, was the only people left to dispose were Simons and Gayden and obviously Simons went in the lead car. Okay. Well it's nice to have the rationale of that. You went over the plans, you ate, you divided up the money, and hid it in various places.

KT Kleenex boxes on the dashboard.

KF Oh, yea.

KT Flashlights, we had a big long flashlight we took all the batteries out stuffed, rolled all the bills up and put them in the flashlight, put a battery on the back. I can't remember all the places we put them but. Most of the money was in our shoes and socks. Everyone was wearing these, and then other socks over the top, you just took the packets of \$100 bill and so forth and then slid them down both sides of yours, and then put a couple of packets on the bottom of your shoes, wore them like that. That's where most of the money was.

KF Anything else happen that night? Anybody else get cross other than you?

KT Oh, I think that everybody was short tempered I don't think it was just myself, I mean I know Jay and I exchanged a few sharp words.

KF About what?

KT I think it was his snoring. I kept trying to roll him over, I mean we're sleeping on the floor, you know, there isn't enough room for everybody, and he's snoring like a buzz saw. I'm kicking him and he's screaming to leave him the hell alone. It was just short, everyone was short tempered.

KF Anymore of those incidences?

KT Not that I can remember off hand, but I remember that. I just can't remember off hand.

KF Did the Colonel sleep?

KT Oh yea, I believe he slept, I don't know for how long. None of us slept well, or at least, I don't believe anyone slept well. Jay and I were on the phone with Dallas part of that time. Jay was trying to give me a quick education in the code that had been set up. I think

KT that I helped him code up a couple of messages and decode a couple coming in from Merv. We stripped Dvoranchak's apartment of any kind of clothes, warm clothes that could be had. Unfortunately, Dvoranchak and I are not the right size and nothing that I could find fit me. But Jay gave me an extra hat that someone had, it was one of the black stocking hats that they were using. We couldn't find enough gloves or anything like that. We knew it was going to be cold up there in those mountains. I can't remember too much more about it, about what happened that night.

KF Who woke you up in the morning?

KT I don't think there was much waking up, people were just awake, you know all just laying around, dozing from time to time. [REDACTED] <sup>Rashid</sup> and I went out to gas up all the vehicles top them all off. <sup>Rashid</sup> The Colonel had decided not to take the gasoline, [REDACTED] had assured him that the gasoline stations outside of Tehran were open, and we would be able to get gas. We went out to top off the tanks they had the siphon hose that we were using was too damn short and I wound up swallowing a couple of liters of gasoline by the time I got, getting violently ill and throwing up all over the place after swallowing all that gasoline. I smelled like gasoline, I went in and I tried to wash and clean up and I wasn't feeling too chipper with all that gasoline in my stomach, I finally threw it up. I ate something to take all that taste out of my mouth, I forget what it was, it was something silly, some idiotic thing that was around in the kitchen. Moved the gasoline cans out of the road, the drums out of the road, and packed as much of the we had some sleeping bags. Everyone had their little sport bag of some kind, because that was all we had left. Tools, spare parts, odds and ends of food, a bottle of cognac.

KF Who had that?

KT I did.

KF That was against the Colonel's orders.

HOTFOOT #24-16

KT This was a small bottle. It didn't last very long, unfortunately  
someone...

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

KT ...or whether it was really an accident. But it disappeared the next time, well the first stop we made, it was freezing cold, everybody took a slug. Put the cork back in and put it back and the next time we looked at it it was empty. So I don't know whether if that was by accident or the Colonel just didn't get on us, if he did I know damn well that that was a mistake because we were all freezing cold later on and could've used it. But we packed it up and left. [REDACTED] took a quick <sup>Rashid</sup> around the edges of the area we were in to see how secure it was, came back and we moved it out.

KF This is now the morning of Wednesday the 14th.

KT I don't have the exact date in my mind, but it's very close.

KF Must be because they got out Sunday the 11th. At 12:30. Now at the start the trip was pretty right from the beginning. You stopped for gasoline because you hadn't been able to quite fill..

KT The tanks.

KF The tanks. Apparently because the cars were on a slope.

KT Yes, sitting in the driveway.

KF So you come to a gasoline station and low and behold <sup>Rashid</sup> [REDACTED] is right they're open.

KT We had hit a roadblock before that, just before that.

KF And what happened there?

KT It was a preliminary, just a real cursory search, you know, we got out they looked in it, they were looking for weapons.

KF How did you know that?

KT That's what they said they were looking for, they were looking for weapons. █████ Rashid told them we were magazine people going up to cover the fighting up in the Kurdish region, up in Tabriz. They bought that.

KF How far from the city was this roadblock?

KT Twenty miles. That type of distance. Got back, they just waved us on, we stopped and got gasoline. We went another good 50 miles and then hit a second roadblock. It was a much more detailed roadblock, they were really searching heavily and they were searching for weapons. They found a weapon in the car in front of us.

KF Oh, what was that?

KT It was a rifle, wrapped up in a sheet in the trunk and they went, they were all excited about it, it distracted them. █████ Rashid kept on driving right through the roadblock, you know there were cars lined up inching up to be searched. When they found this, everybody in the roadblock descended upon this one car. There's a lot of people, I mean 50 people standing around, and █████ Rashid just kept pushing them aside with the front of the vehicle. And we got past and pulled out a little bit and then stopped and the other vehicle just kept edging its way through and it came through. Then we just kept on going.

KF I don't understand that. This is the second roadblock, you come up to it, were you searched and then you edged through?

KT No. We were in line. They were searching cars, this is a mob of people, up here they have a car stopped and they're searching it. There's another car here, then we are here. There are people on both sides looking in the windows, they've got the back of the jeep up, but we're still moving in the roadblock. And, this car pulled out, they found something in this one.

Rashid's

KF In the car that [REDACTED] driving?

KT No, in the car in front.

KF Oh, there's nothing to do with you.

KT Yes, in front.

KF I see.

Rashid

KT We just, [REDACTED] just kept edging around that car while, now everybody came running up at this car. They were pulling the rifle out and they were showing it, someone hit the guy that was drawing the car and knocked him down. There was alot of discussion about this, [REDACTED] just kept inching the car around and through the mob, because there's alot of people see. And got out here, and so did the other car. And then we drove on.

KF At some point you started taking pictures.

KT Yes, I had an instamatic with me. And, I just started taking the pictures out, Merv has those pictures, he has them all.

KF Why did you do that?

KT I don't know, I was just. The scenery up there is so oblique, you know I'm the guy that did a study in Pakistan and spent three weeks touring the entire country, half of it on foot. You know I went to the Khyber Pass and I really loved doing that stuff so.

KF Still in all it was quite cool of you do it while you were trying to escape from a revolution with two prisoners.

KT There's no tomorrow, and all this.

unique? [unique?]

KF Okay. Now you hit real trouble I think in Mahabad.

KT Yes. I'll look at the map and I'll tell you.

KF This one is better.

KT Yea, Mahabad.

KF The previous two roadblocks, must have been, do you think the first roadblock must have been Kazvin?

KT Kazvin, that's where the first one was. The second one was...

KF This is in the purple,...

KT No the first one was here.

KF Karaj?

KT Yea, the second one was at Kazvin and then we went you know the big cut up over this, huge mountain here. Where we cut over to this road.

KF So then you had a very clear run all day until you get to...

KT Well we almost get killed right about there.

KF Oh. At Sultanabad.

KT Yea, in a very very simple car accident. I was driving at the time this is a winding road, it's not straight like the map shows and we're coming uphill, come up around this bend like this, and there were two huge tractor trailers side by side coming the other way. Ran us off the road, everybody's insulting my driving. Just out of the blue, just flat out of the blue, two trailer trucks taking up the whole highway side by side coming down that damn road, it's a pretty deserted road,

KT it's about a lane and a half wide, and it's on a bend so we wind up in a ditch there. Not a big deal, we got back on the road and kept on going. I remember Gaylord saying "Jesus Christ all this to get killed in a car accident." Then we stopped to have something to eat off the side of the road.

KF You ate food that you had taken with you?

KT Yes.

KF Do you remember what you had?

KT Crackers, that type of stuff, I think a box of Ritz Crackers, some cheese and bread, that kind of stuff.

KF This would have been about where?

KT It was before the first problem.

KF Before Mahabad?

KT Mahabad, yea. Somewhere in along here.

KF Okay. So it was round about Bukan?

KT Yea, that's right.

KF And, you're bowling through these towns and nobody's stopping you apart from the two roadblocks that you've mentioned.

KT Well, at this second roadblock, <sup>Rashid</sup> [REDACTED] had had them write on the windows a pass, you know, which as you go through the towns, people would crowd around the vehicle at these roadblocks, but then they'd read this stuff on the windows and you know we'd keep on moving very slowly through these roadblocks, and then they'd just wave you on. And that happened three, four or five times.

Rashid

KF Okay. Now then it must I think have been after lunch that ██████ went off the road, ██████<sup>Rashid</sup> drove off the road into some mud, any idea why that happened?

KT We came out of this town and hit a brand spanking new asphalt road, beautiful piece of road, and we're going up a hill. We were flying up there. That's typical in Iran, the road just as is crest the top of the hill, which you couldn't see, you know blind coming up on this blind, the top of the hill, the road ended, chop ended. And, the dirt trail, the dirt road took off to the right up over the mountain, that was this cut over here. Where were we cut over at.

KF Zenjan?

KT Zenjan, coming on to Zenjan. And this dirt trail, we're coming up, we're coming up this road here, see, we hit the top of this thing. And it just stopped. The dirt track off to the right which is what we had to take to get over to this highway, up through the mountains. And...

KF It can't have been to the right.

KT As I remember where we were, you know, at the time, the trail went off to the right. We came up a road...

KF This is a left turn.

KT I realize that but that doesn't...

KF Okay. This is a large scale map.

KT Yea. We came up the road, the trail off to the mountain was off to our right at that time, and the road just ended. He went right off the end of that road right into a mud hole, I mean he went in right to the frame. I remember yelling, don't turn the wheel, don't turn the wheel, because I know if he had turned the wheel, I knew we would have a

KT broken axle. Just flop right down in this mud, we had four wheel drive and everything and we got it backed out of there. I mean, we took an eight foot drop into that mud hole, I mean it knocked everything all over the place. But no one got hurt. We backed it out and then we took off up this trail, and it was a trail it was deeply rutted so that if you get your wheels, and it was one lane, because we said what the hell's going to happen if we meet someone coming the other way. Because it was an old deep muddy road, it was cold enough that it was frozen but you were down in these tracks. And, it wound up and down through these mountains, and I've got pictures of those, if you've seen those pictures. It was desolate country.

Rashid

KF And [REDACTED] decided to wash off the mud off the windscreen.

KT Yes, and so there went our pass. I don't think that the pass was going to do us any good when we get to this next one way, and it's luckily that it got washed off because the, you see the Colonel had never wanted him to tell that story about being reporters. That was an on the spot thing that he did and the Colonel was really upset with him for saying that, because we had the plan that we were going to tell.

KF And that was basically the truth that you were American businessmen trying to get out.

Rashid

KT That's right, and [REDACTED] on his own changes it at the first roadblock and the Colonel's upset about it.

KF What did the Colonel say?

Rashid

KT He had some sharp words for [REDACTED].

KF Remember what they were?

KT Just do what I say, then we already had this thing on the windshield and he left it there, he, it got us through some of the early ones. But, I don't think that it would have got us through the second two. Because they were not the same, the second ones, the later ones were not that kind, I mean they were flat out checkpoints. And Obviously the interrogation they did on us, it was a totally different approach than.

KF I see, but was there was any discussion about maybe writing this pass on again when the windscreen was cleaned?

KT No. The Colonel wanted to go back to the original story, and that's, when we got stopped that was the story that was told.

KF So, now we are at Mahabad. Now let me just get out the notes that I have on that, then we can go through this. Now this is a rather interesting experience here, what's that that you've got there, oh your gold miniscule. And, now this is a serious checkpoint, they wave you over the side of the road, a crowd gathers and begins to question Reza. Everybody's got guns, how long were you there, just at the side of the road on [REDACTED] Rashid's talking.

KT Fifteen, twenty minutes.

KF Tell me what happened then.

KT Well this right away this was a different type of a roadblock, it was a very organized paramilitary situation. These people were divided into two basic groups, the Kurdish tribal people, and the town people, those with, quasi-western clothes on and then the Kurdish tribes people. There was a semblance of a military organization, there were searchers and what I would call officers standing there and so on. They did an extremely thorough search of the vehicles, not the haphazard search that the revolutionaries had done prior to that. You knew right away you were with a different group of people, it was very well organized. They searched everywhere.

KF As it happened, you didn't have anything to hide.

KT No, only the money, which they didn't find.

KF That was in the oil can.

KT Well in the oil can, in the kleenex box, in our shoes and so forth. Coburn had a sheath knife in the back of his belt. They didn't find it because they didn't undress us, and the clothing we had on was bulky enough that they didn't feel it. I had a switchblade on me, they didn't, they looked at it and handed it back. It wasn't any weapon in their eyes standing there with a machine gun and it's powerless to them of course. They talked with ██████ <sup>Rashid</sup> for a good while, then they told us that they were going to take us somewhere, to the revolutionary headquarters, they put guards in each one of the jeeps with us. The Colonel had been sitting in the front seat and they told him to get out, to get in the back. They couldn't believe that he was not Iranian, they kept trying to talk to him, because by this time he looked Iranian, with beard and the way he was dressed. A guard got in and covered us with his machine gun, we drove, they put a vehicle in front of us and they drove to a very quiet area of the city, which was apparently a former police barracks. They went in...

KF Did you stop, how far?

KT Well I don't think that it was very far, however it took awhile to get there, 10 to 15 minutes to get there, because we had to go through the main circle, the main center of the town. And within the town people were all over the street, you could hear the firing the shooting going on all over the place. There were cars, pick up trucks, standing in this circle being loaded with food and people, they were still fighting their war, their war, they were headed for Tabriz. They were taking food up there.

KF How do know this?

KT Well you could see the activity going on.

KF How did you know where it was going?

KT From later conversations.

KF Okay.

KT But, you know piecing that together. They went in and the guard stayed with us, the lead car went in they did some talking they turned around and they came back and they said that they were going to take us to the revolutionary headquarters. They drove us down again back into the main part of the city. Then right off the main square one of the four roads off the main circle or square we made a quick right hand turn into a parking lot. A big empty area with an upslope to a compound building which was all roped off. The ropes were significant no one could go beyond the ropes. There were alot of people standing back of the ropes, but you couldn't go past the ropes it was obviously a dividing area and there were guards standing behind the ropes. There was a big gateway in this courtyard then into there. These people went in others came out, they looked us all over, they talked about it. And then the guards got back in, another group of guards came around and they headed us down an alley through some winding streets into an alley way that was just full of people. They parked the vehicles they got us out in this mob.

KF Were you scared at this point?

KT Oh, I don't like the word scared, could we use concern? I mean I don't believe anyone was scared with the context of that word. We were concerned, apprehensive, okay. We walked, they brought us up to the gate we had to fight our way through the mob. They opened the gates we were taken in. The man, who went with us right from the roadblock spoke excellent English, was a archeologist had a degree from some place in Switzerland, spoke excellent English he was dressed

KT in a suit. He was about 25 years old, 26 or something like that. He took us in to a room, a large room with carpet, you know Persian carpet on the floor a good many guards came in with us. They sat us down in an Indian fashion on the floor in a semi-circle.

KF Did you take your shoes off.

KT Yes. We took our shoes off.

KF What about the money in their shoes?

KT Everybody's got it in their socks so, I mean you had it in your socks, we'd taken our shoes off, in fact, I remember I had a pair of sweatsocks over the top of them that I had taken out of Dvoranchak's drawer and they had a hole in the toe, and I kept sitting there pushing the money back down into the back of my socks. They sat us around in a circle it was ██████ <sup>Rashid</sup> here, then myself, then Jay, then the Colonel and then sort of between Jay and the Colonel and Gayden on the end they had put Paul and Bill sort of in the background, they pushed everybody. So that they would not be sitting out front.

KF Oh you had done that?

KT Yea. The Colonel had told them get back here, you know that kind of thing. They took our passports piled them in pile. I called this guy the suit guy, an older gentleman came in also dressed in western clothes and we were told that he was going to be the judge. And, that we needed to explain ourselves to him. We sat down, he had the passports in a pile when we had collected the passports we had put mine on top, then Gayden's, we had put Paul's and Bill's on the bottom. And I say Paul's and Bill's you know we had a passport for them.

KF But they weren't theirs.

KT Absolutely not theirs. Paul's he could get by with it, Gaylord's was terribly. But we had put them on the bottom. Everytime the guy would look at the passport or start to look at the passport would lean over and start pointing to stuff, trying to get him not to go leafing through the pile. You know the idea was have him concentrate on the top one not, it was obvious that he didn't know anything about passports, but we didn't want them leafing through there and looking at pictures. They asked, in Farsic they asked ██████<sup>Rashid</sup> to tell the story. He told the entire story in Farsic. Then the guy in the suit says, "would you tell us exactly what you're doing here" and so forth, in English he says that. ██████<sup>Rashid</sup> started to say something again in English and the guy sitting behind ██████<sup>Rashid</sup> slammed the bolt on one of the machine guns and stuck it behind his neck, that meant shut up. And, I think, ██████<sup>Rashid</sup> did it unconsciously really he thought that the man was asking him to say it again in English. And, he was really talking to the rest of us to tell the story again.

KF This was a guard with a machine gun.

KT Yes. So I think Gayden and I did most of the talking explaining to them that we had a data processing contract and we had worked at the Bank of Omhran, and we hadn't been paid, and there was no money and people were throwing rocks through our windows and missed our families and we didn't have any money. The only thing we could do was, the airport was closed and we had decided to drive to the border and go into Turkey and meet our friends there and leave. And, they obviously thought we were either CIA or, they kept wanting to know if we were Savak agents. And, that's kind of confusing to me because to my knowledge there weren't any American Savak agents, they were all Iranian Savak, you know.

KF They were trained by the CIA, the Savak people themselves.

KT That could have been the connection, I don't know, but it seemed funny to me that they were asking us if we were Savak. Or they

KT thought we were American military. And we kept insisting no, we're data processing people and we work for Electronic Data Systems, well can you show us a business card. We had purposely throw away all our identification to the company.

KF Because you had anticipated you had not realized the situation in the countryside, you had anticipated that there might be people connected with Dadgar who would be looking for EDS people.

KT That's right, that's right. And we all got our wallets out looking and looking and looking and low and behold I find my health care card which I had just overlooked in not throwing it away, which has Electronic Data Systems on it. So, we had told them PARS Data Systems was the name of our company and we were working for Bank Ohmran. That it was a subsidiary of Electronic Data Systems and could they see the connection? And here's my health benefit card and everything like that. And they did make the connection through that. That was obviously the point where they believed us. Then in came the tea.

KF Now, wait a minute,

KT No wait, I am wrong.

KF Let me ask you something else, if the Colonel had made you destroy everything connected with EDS, but he still wanted you to still the story that you were businessmen, what company were you supposed to say?

KT PARS Data Systems.

KF Oh, so the hope was that Dadgar's men would be looking for EDS people and not PARS Data System people.

KT Yes.

KF So once again you were relying on...

KT The Bank Omhran contract in part, see we had two companies there.

KF I see how do you spell PARS?

KT PARS.

KF And what was the other company?

KT Electronic Data Systems.

KF Oh, I see, I see. So you were going to use PARS, I get it. Let's go back, what happened before the tea came?

KT Well, you know this is a pretty solemn situation I mean we're, this is a nail biter. We've got all these guy sitting in the room with guns in their hands, except for the two, the older man and the...

KF And the suit man.

KT And the suit man. So they're talking a little bit in Farsic and finally the older man gets up, now this is a guy who we learned had just spent 25 the Shah's prison. He was as old, he had spent as many years in prison as the young suit guy had been alive. He walks over to a closet, opens the closet, pulls out a carbine, slaps a damn clip into it walks back and hands it to the guy with the suit on. I mean let your imagination run away with you. I mean we've got guys sitting around this room with so much hardware and we're waiting for a decision as to whether they believe us or not, and he goes and gets another gun. I mean I thought they would shoot us right there. I thought that was the whole thing. He sits down and he says you're going to be our guests, and in comes the tea.

KF And what did the guy, the suit guy with the gun do?

KT He's sitting there, they're talking and talking now in Farsic, he was being given orders. But then they brought in the tea, which is a sign of hospitality and so now your'e, you know it's the up and down, up and down, the guy walks to the closet and gets another damn machine gun and you think oh shit, I'm going to get blown away here, I know what they just decided what the verdict is, and he's solemn faced as can be. You know he just gets up walks over get's another gun out of the closet, comes back then in comes the tea and you start to think, ah, this is a real, tea is a real sign of hospitality, we're getting tea. You know things are improving. So then they tell us we can't go on that night, we must stay with them. And of course in the back of our mind, Jesus they're going to check our story out, okay. They give us back passports. You're going to have dinner with us. You're going to have dinner, and then we will find a place for you to sleep tonight and that's the last thing we'd want to do. So we get up, we have tea, then we get up and they escort up through this mob again. They tell us we can't go on because the revolution is going on, there is fighting going on up the road toward Tabriz and you know, it's dangerous there's even fighting in the city. Well we can hear that, that it's too dangerous for us to go anywhere at night. So we get back in the vehicles and we're all asking each other you know what do you think, what's going to happen, I don't know. They start weaving us through the streets again, and ██████████ <sup>Rashid</sup> tells the guard hey we need to get gasoline, we're out of gasoline, and we were low at that time. They take us to a gas station and fill up, and I'm sitting there thinking well they wouldn't let us fill these damn things with gasoline if they were going to take us out and shoot. You know, any kind of a rationale you're trying to develop on what's going to happen. So they filled up the tanks and I forget, I'm pretty sure we paid for the gasoline and then they take us to a restaurant, which was probably the only decent restaurant in the whole town for all I know but we get out of the cars and I notice that the guards form a circle and we're always inside the circle, we're you know, as I later find out they think that that is the best way to protect us from the people. You know, I'm not worried about the people, I'm worried about the guards and why they keep us inside this little circle. They take us downstairs to this restaurant and

KT there's you know the town people are in there eating too, we weren't the only ones in there. Although, I was, physically hadn't had anything to eat, I mean I was just not hungry. I mean I got a headache from driving all day the sun kept shining, you know was on my left all day long. And I had the sun in this eye the whole trip up through those mountains when I was driving and you know, this whole one side of my head is just ready to come off on top of that, this uncertainty about what is going to happen to us, really keyed up. So we sit down at the table and there's guard, us, guard, us, you know spread around, they've got their machine guns laying against the table between you. Now, and these were Kurdish tribesmen, the majority of the guards were Kurdish tribesmen and the Kurds are some, you've got some wee little ones and some giants, and we had the giants. I mean there were some big boys with us as guards.

KF Were they wearing the Kurdish clothes, the baggy trousers?

KT Baggy trousers.

KF Bandoliers?

KT Yes, the jacket with the black vest and the headdress with white, and with red and white checkered you know, short ones not the long flowing ones, but very short ones. They, and everybody starts to eat. The guards are eating like crazy, I mean they're just stuffing themselves, chelow kabob. I nursed a Coke, or a Pepsi, I forget which it was.

KF It would have been Pepsi, in Iran.

KT Yea, Pepsi, no there were both.

KF Oh were there? The Pepsi was, the royal family had the Pepsi concession.

KT Well, there was both in the country. We, I nursed one of those, ate a few spoons full of rice. They kept asking me to eat, I kept telling them I'm not feeling good I just don't want to eat. I don't think Jay ate much. I don't know whether his mind was running in the same track as mine was at that time, we never talked about it. I still didn't know what was going to happen to us.

KF Did anybody eat well?

KT We're talking back and forth, what do you think, well I don't know. <sup>Rashid</sup> [REDACTED] is saying oh Jesus, we're in trouble. Now don't forget <sup>Rashid</sup> [REDACTED] was not one of them. He's not Kurdish, and they hate each other with a passion, he's saying oh my God, we're in trouble, oh Jesus, these are bad people. Oh, Jesus, we're in trouble, and he's not helping me any. He's scared stiff, I don't think really scared stiff, maybe that's too strong, he was concerned. He kept saying we were in trouble. Why? We're just in trouble. Well what's wrong? Oh, these are bad people. So we get done with dinner we get herded out again, we paid for dinner.

KF Who paid the bill?

KT We paid for dinner, I'll pay for dinner.

KF Did you get a receipt?

KT No. We got back out into the car. Now we're talking with these guards and they seemed friendly.

KF They understand a little English?

KT Yes, a good many of them understood English. It was a hard broken conversation but when you spend all your life overseas, you know, you're used to understanding, you're picking up the conversation from three of four words of English in a sentence. Anyway, they get us

KT     back in the vehicles and we head out of town. When you go out of town, I mean, you go out of town, the last light you go into pitch dark. We're out in the boon docks, oh, why the hell did they feed us to take us out to shoot us, I mean this is stupid they're not going to shoot us. But they're taking us out into the woods, up the side of this mountain, oh hell. And, then we come up to a barbed wire fence with a guard gate in it, and I thought now are they going to lock us up? We go through this barbed wire fence up over a little rise and Shangri-la. You know we're in a beautiful, beautiful park with a huge dam sitting down there off to our left...

END OF TAPE