

TAPE #30--SIDE A
RALPH BOULWARE

KF Tell me when you first went to Iran.

RB April 1, 1978. I think that's the right year.

KF And what did you do for EDS?

RB Well, I went over there, primarily to help them with the data entry, and xxxxxx that's what I was doing over here. And then after I was there for two or three months Coldridge (?) was going to transfer to Saudi Arabia, so I took his role in the data center.

KF And did you stay there until the evacuation?

RB Stayed there until the evacuation, and then after the evacuation.

KF Okay, when did you come out?

RB I came out December 21st.

KF Okay, and you came back to Dallas?

RB Came...no I went to Tulsa. The evacuation took place, if I remember, December 8th, and I guess about 15 of us stayed behind. And the ministry at that point, I don't know what was going on over there, but the ministry was on strike, and what that means is everybody comes to work but nobody does anything. It's that simple, everybody shows up and has tea, and xxxx all day, but nobody does anything. So we kept going to the ministry every day in an effort to show good faith that we were not abandoning the contract, we were there to conduct business if they wanted to do so. They were somewhat hostile toward us, but their primarily thrust was against the government. But we still went down every day. That became very awkward in that they

RB had tried to put us out building, on a couple of occasions they were cont. not very happy with us, they were unable run their cables, alot of confusion, chaos, you know, one guy wants to work, one guy doesn't want to work. One guy wants to run the payroll and one guy doesn't want to run payroll, so we showed up basically every day until it got to a point that it was almost brutal to even spend the time to go down town and there was certainly a lull^{let?} of danger in just going to work every day. So about the 21st, I made the decision to continue doing this daily and running the risk of getting hurt wasn't worth it, disability of whether the contract was going to continue, all that was kind of up in the air. Nobody really knew for sure what was going to happen, so I decided I'm going home for Christmas. So I talked to my manager at the time, and told him I wanted to home and I agreed that I would come back as soon as they needed me, if they needed me. If they did not need me then I would come back at New Years, and hoping to bring my family back, because at that time we were hoping at that time that everything would settle down. There was a need to bring families back, to more or less kind of set a good example, show good faith that we weren't going to abandon the place, management was comfortable with having the family there, and the only way to do that is to bring your own family back, if things were safe.

KF Did your family come out on December 8th and 9th?

RB Yes.

KF So you were in Tulsa when Paul and Bill were arrested then?

RB No. While we were in Tulsa, I don't know, I guess it was the day after Christmas, we came back to Dallas because we had a house here, and had alot of friends here. So we came down here, and the very obvious thing to do you call in and see what's going on. Well, they told me that you need to go back now. I said, hey, what's the deal? They said, well, you just need to go back. So I said, well, I have a problem, but I had agreed that if they need me I would come back. But I at least wanted to know what it is, to make sure it was not some

RB fire drill. So whatever night it was, the 27th or the 28th, I called
cont. back to Iran from here. And I can't remember who I talked to, but
they basically said, yes, you need to come back, and this was
Saturday, which was like our Monday. I said, fine, I'll be back, I'll be
back, I'll be in there by Saturday morning. I had left my car at the
airport, so I don't need to be picked up, so I'll see you at work. I
called out here I guess, and I told them to cut me a ticket from Tulsa
to Dallas, and Dallas to London and then give me an open ticket from
London to Iran, I figured the schedule was all messed up. Because I
had driven my brother-in-law's car down. And I had my family with me
and I wanted to put them back where I knew I would be comfortable
with them. My friends didn't want me to go back. And said, hey, don't
worry about it, why don't you stay here and let's party, and we'll get
your wife back, and the car, don't worry about it. And I know these
are people I can trust, so I said, okay, I'll do that. The next day,
the day I was supposed to leave, I don't know what day it was, but
that day. I came down here to get a haircut, this small place right
over here. Well at that point I said I needed to have my tickets
changed. So I called out here and I said, hey, I want my ticket
changed from Tulsa to Dallas. I'm still here, I didn't go home last
night. So just cut my ticket from Dallas to London and give me an
open ticket on the end. I can't remember the name now. Whoever it
was told me said, no, you need to come into the office. And I said,
no, I don't have time to do that, just put my ticket out there and I'll
pick it up at the airport. I've got a million things I've got to get done
before I leave here. And ensued a little argument about you know, I
had to come in, I had to do this, and I had to do that. I said, I don't
have to do anything. I said I've talked to Ron, I know what's going
on, I'm going back, cut me a ticket. I didn't have to worry about it,
I'll use my American Express, and I'll take care of the ticket myself.
So the guy said, no, you don't understand, you need to come in and
you need to come now. And I said, okay, I'll come in.

KF Would it have been Jay?

RB No, it wasn't Jay.

KF Pat Scully.

RB No, it was none of those people in Tehran. It was...if I had a list of names I could tell you who it was. It wouldn't be anybody on the team.

KF Okay. Merv.

RB No.

KF TJ Marquez.

RB No. Those people were not involved at that time. You had...the people that were manning the phones at EDS in international at that point were people that had primarily that had been in Iran, that came home during the evacuation, none of us had anything to do, they had tons of people here they were walking over each other that didn't have anything else to do. It doesn't matter who it was. So anyway, he told me to come in, and I came in, and I want to say Nyfler, I think Nyfler was probably the one that told me, after I had talked with Bill and Paul that night in Tehran...I didn't talk to either one of those personally...little short guy, doesn't matter, whoever I talked to..right after I talked to them they went down to the ministry and that's when they were arrested. And they told me that the reason that I couldn't go back, because they, in reality wanted to pick up seven people, that I was one of them. And that if I went back, you know, they didn't want to risk at customs. I said, you are right, I'm not going back. So at that point, everybody kind of went into limbo again. That's strange I can't remember who told me that. I would assume at that point that it had to be Nyfler or Gayden, when they called me back in and told me not to go back.

KF Okay. You were originally going to go back, presumably to help with this...

RB (Can't understand)

KF When did you learn that they had been arrested? Would that have been on the 28th, the day they were arrested?

RB I called that night, which was day over there, the next morning here I got up and was getting ready to go back and was told that day. So if they were arrested on the 28th over there, I guess it would have been the 28th over here, because they are ahead of us. I would have been told the 28th, because I talked to them night and everything was okay, and the next day when I tried to go they stopped me, they said no, they've been arrested.

KF When did you begin to get a sniff of this team thing, this rescue team thing?

RB Well they had the evacuation, me and Ron Davis, Dvoranchik, Taylor, several of us had worked at the airport, to get people through customs, and to get people without passports through, tickets, to get out of the airport is not a very simple task. A very intricate network of BS. During the course of that night we probably spent together, I would imagine about 2 or 3,000 dollars bribing people. So as a result of that I met several people at the airport that were relatively influential, and had the ability to make things happen. In fact, it's the same over there as it is over here, if you've got enough money you can do anything you want. Left the airport and went home, and the next morning when I came back to Bucharest...you understand what Bucharest is?

KF Yes.

RB Was the office. Gayden was there, Ron Davis was there, probably two or three other people, I don't remember who. We were sitting there discussing the previous night and where we were going to go, and who was going to stay with who, just administrative nothing. Bill and

RB Paul came in...let me back up..I would say approximately a month cont. before the evacuation, Chiapparone had a meeting with all the management, and he told everybody more or less that because of the unstableness of the situation and his need to travel back and forth out of the country that should some emergency develop that Coburn and Virgil Smith would be in charge in the event of disaster, change of management. And I knew right then something was wrong, because Paul was the country manager, and Gaylord was the, I don't know what the term was, he was the account manager for the Ministry of Health Project, and that was big money. And he had these other projects, but they were all subservient to the ministry project. So when Chiapparone made his little statement about I may be out of the country, or whatever, but Virgil will be in charge, that wasn't logical. Bill Gaylord should have been second in command, and he wasn't. And then he gave some cover about why he wasn't...I don't know, maybe he didn't even address it. Just kind left it on the table that he was in charge. So I didn't know what was wrong at that point, but it was obvious that something was wrong. So the next morning after the evacuation Bill and Paul came in, and they just started talking, quite openly, about where they had been. They had been to a lawyer to discuss more or less what to expect, what their options were, and it was very obvious something was wrong. I don't know if I asked or if somebody just told me that the problem was that they had had their passports pulled. Because I can remember Gaylord sort of talking about catching the train to Russia, dead serious about that. Because the feeling was that they would not be looking for two Americans on a train going to Russia without a passport, that just wasn't logical that they would look in that area for the two of them. So the problem was there.

KF Okay, coming back to December 28th and afterwards. Jay and I think Sculley put together a list of people. Ross asked them to put together a list of people who might be useful if Paul and Bill have to be rescued by force. And you were on the list. And at some point the Colonel flew in. Now when did you first realize that you were going to be asked to do this.

RB Well, let's back up again. After I knew that Bill and Paul had a problem, and we were all still in Tehran, I don't know if I immediately thought about it, but I thought about it. And I went and talked to a guy from Pan Am. Pan Am had a relatively high level executive there, trying to coordinate things, because of the mass amount of flights and having to not land and so forth. And I met him, and during the course of the evacuation I had got to know him half way well. So after everybody left I was over at the Hyatt Regency one day and I ran into the guy, and he said, hey, are you still here? And I said, yes, how are doing? He said, well, I'm still trying to get the people out of here. So I said has anybody talked to you. So I told him, hey, I've got a problem that maybe you can help me with and maybe you can't. I can't really tell you a whole lot about it, but we've got a couple of people in our organization that have a problem, and that was the key word that we always used, was we have a problem. And he said, well, basically what is your problem? So I told him that we've got two people here without passports and I need to get them on the airplane. And I can't afford to have them get caught. It's not going to be a case of no you can't take off, it's going to cause real problems if they catch them. So he said, fine, I understand the problem, he said, I can probably help you. So I said, okay. So we went and called Chiapparone and I had him talk to Chiapparone to make him...to put the two of them together. They talked and decided, whatever they decided was probably nothing. So there was a flow, there was beginning to be a flow of, hey, there is a problem we've got to help these guys. Later, when everybody broke up into these houses, a guy named Art Tyler, who was in the Air Force, who was with their office of professional investigations, a mini branch of the FBI, I guess. A very, very good friend of mine and he wound up staying with us over at Chiapparone's house. And I knew the guy, and I felt comfortable with him, and he was involved in various levels of legal and illegal things. Not as a private citizen, but as his job. And I told him about the problem, and we all sat down and discussed what are some options if we can't get out Pan Am. And we were trying to work out getting out through, I think...what was the airport our there...not xxxx, but

RB the Airforce base. I can't remember, it's over here somewhere. There
cont. was some airport station out here where the OSI regularly moved
prisoners and political VIP's and the security of the administrative
details of getting the person through customs was very, very
difficult. You know, OSI says I've got to have everybody's passports
and the guy says, okay. So we discussed alot of different options
there. So the rescue thing was going along before the official one
was. So when we got back here, I think, trying to get back to the
answer. The 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, that was a very confused time,
because there was immediate push to get everybody out of the
country. There were people walking over each other here, who was in
charge, changed probably from hour to hour, control confusion. I
decided that there's not a whole lot I can do, there is no point in
staying in the office all day long and watch people on the telephone.
So I went to a friend of mine's house out in Lewisville, a town here,
to look at the bowl games on New Year's Day. My wife got on my case
and said, I don't understand why you're not in the office. And I said,
you know, baby you've to understand that there's not a whole hell of
alot I can do, you know, the decisions that need to be made are being
made, the things that need to be done are being done, and my
standing around isn't of any value. Well, she didn't buy that. So I
said what the hell, so I came in here about 10:00 New Years night and
Sculley was on watch, phone duty, or whatever. I said, what's going
on, and he said, oh, nothing. And I said, what are you doing, and he
said, rah, rah, rah...And his mood was kind of strange, and I knew
Sculley well enough to pick that up, because he and I rode to work
together every morning. And I said, well, what's going on man, and
he said, well, da, da, da. And I said, no, something is wrong, what's
going on. He said, oh, there's nothing going on. I said, well what are
they doing about Bill and Paul. He said, oh, they are going through
the channels trying to get them out, and the bond was 13 million
dollars or something. And he and I both understood that that's a
bunch of bull shit, because the whole government system, the whole
judicial system, everything had broken down, and it just didn't click.

RB And I said what are you all going to do? And he said, well, don't cont. worry about it. So my intuition, my instinct, whatever, said, something is up. You guys are not going to try to go in and get them are you? And he didn't answer. And I remember I told him, I said, well, count me in. I said, somebody's going to have to take care of you. Sculley is a...we used to call him a Jack Armstrong, some cartoon character, and I don't know who he was. So I said, count me in. He said, what do you mean count you in? And I said, it's obvious that you are going to try to do something. And he said, what do you mean? And I said, just what I said, let's don't play games, you know, count me in. And he said, okay. So he say's Ross is going to want to talk to you. And I said, fine. So later on that night around 12 or 1 o'clock Ross stopped me in the hall and asked me what was I going to do? And at the time I didn't understand the question..because nobody knew what they were going to do. Whether you were going back to Iran, whether you were going to jail, you didn't know whether you were going to shell the peas or what. So I said, well obviously I'm trying to stay with the company and right now I don't know what I'm going. I'm going to do whatever I'm told to do. So he said, okay. And then I think it was the next day, the 2nd of January Sculley.

KF Let me stop you there a minute and ask you why you said that, why you said count me in.

RB Well, number one, I knew Bill and Paul, I had known them for years. And I considered them more than just people I knew at work, they were...we were not boosom buddies, but we were friends. And I knew that had I not made a arbitrary decision to come home for Christmas that I could have been in jail too, and if I had been in jail I would have wanted somebody to come get me out. So it was the logical thing to do. So, the next day Jay or Sculley or somebody said, hey, we're going to put together some people and Ross is going to get Bull Simons to come in and orchestrate the whole thing and we're going to meet at EDS at XYZ time. We met and Bull came in told us who he was, asked us who we were, and...

KF Okay, I think this is the 2nd of January.

RB Yes, I'm sure it was. Because he was due in here the next day.

KF And that meeting took place in the EMS Board Room, quite late in the evening.

RB Right.

KF Well, in the evening anyway. Had you met Simons before?

RB No. Never heard of him. Well I knew...everybody told me who he was, I understood who he was, but I didn't know him.

KF I see. What was your first impression of him?

RB I guess, somewhat awed by him, in that he was very direct to the point, did not pussy foot around, talked to you very straight, appeared to be very, very tough, I admire tough people. You can usually spot them. You have people that think they are tough, and you have people that are tough, and you can usually tell the difference after talking to them a couple of minutes. He was tough, it was very obvious that he was tough. And I guess when I really was committed that I didn't have a problem with him, he was probably as tough as he was supposed to be, when he asked everybody, did anybody mind dying, or something like that, and everybody just kind of sat there, and I don't know if people answered or not. But at any rate, he said, well, that's good because he didn't want some xxxxx with him planning on dying. He said, you let the other guy die, he said if you plan on dying you don't need to go, because we're not out to lose anybody. That's fine, I don't plan on dying. Everybody understood the danger, but, you know, xxxxxxxx.

KF Now, that evening he picked your brains about Tehran.

RB Yes, we sat down and talked about it. He asked us to tell him about the flavor of the city. And, you know, people started coming up with stuff like, most of the police did not have guns, the easiest way to identify them were the one that wore white hats, those were traffic cops that had zero power, and no pistols. That if the police stopped you for a traffic violation, that the likelihood of them actually arresting you was very slim, they issued tickets though, like it was going out of style, expensive ones too, I paid a bunch of them. We just talked about the fact that the south of the city was certainly not a place to be, regardless if you were going to run, you wanted to run to the north, that, xxxxx is over here, the Air Force Base is over there. If you had to stamp around use orange cab, if you rent a taxi, the obvious thing to do was catch an orange cab. But if you got in an orange cab, you going to try to tell the guy where you are going, you get in the cab and you're going where he's going. And when you are ready to get out you tap him on the back and get out. Just things that if you hadn't lived there you wouldn't know. And that went on a couple of hours.

KF And the next day you started training. January 3rd you went out to the lake house, I think.

RB That's probably true, I don't think it happened that quick though, it seems like we fooled around here for a while. I don't know, if you say so, that's probably what we did. That's hard to remember now.

KF Well, of course, at the time...

RB No, no, they got guns the next day, and everybody went to the firing range. But the first day, me and Jay and Sculley did not go to the firing range, because we went on a shopping expedition. To buy gloves, pants, and coats, hats, all that kind of stuff. And I don't think we got to the lake house until all that stuff had been bought, which would have had to have been the third.

KF Okay, what was the idea of buying all this clothing?

RB Well, the idea was that we wanted to travel light, you've got to remember people's belongings were spread all over the world, and, hell, I came home with two suits. I left a coffee cup sitting on my table. We wanted to make sure that everybody had warm clothing, wanted to make sure everybody had clothing that he was comfortable in, and we wanted to make sure that everybody had clothing that would blend into the street traffic. So we wanted to be sure that we didn't wind up over there with a guy in a pair of purple pants. So we went to Sears, The Army Navy Store, and some men's store and we bought all kinds of stuff. That was the first of that.

KF But warm clothes, casual clothes, that wouldn't be conspicuous.

RB Right.

KF Hats, gloves...Boots?

RB Yes, I remember everybody had to wear boots, because that was one thing we couldn't buy. And I don't remember if that happened on the afternoon of the 2nd or the morning of the 3rd. But we took everybody back to the Army/Navy Store to buy boots. That was a fiasco. Everybody was in there arguing about what to buy. And everybody was wanting something different. I remember Sculley bought some Vietnam boots.

KF What did you buy?

RB I bought some boots...I lost them in Zurich, I don't know what happened to them.

KF Tell me when you went to the lake house, whether it was the third or the fourth. You then started planning, the group of you started planning how you get these two out of jail. Tell me what that was like, those early discussions?

RB The early discussions were centered around the fact that we thought they were in some kind of compound just a little bit into the southern part of the city, and why I'm calling it the southern part of the city, would be anything south of Eisenhower....and it was right around in here somewhere. There was a big building, compound, and there was a park. And Joe Poche felt that he knew the area relatively well and what the fence was like and how big the courtyard was, and where the guard houses were and this sort of thing. We talked about diversions. To make a long story short, it boiled down to the fact that we were under the impression that they were in the courtyard a couple times a day. That the security on that courtyard was light, and that to handle those towers, those one or two towers, was not that big of a deal, and that if we stationed a person on each end of the courtyard on the street, we could drive a van up next to the fence, we were going to cut a hole in top of the van, Ron Davis was supposed to jump the fence...yes, he was the only one that was willing to jump...to get inside. Schwebach and somebody else was going to throw the ladder over for them to run up the ladder and jump into the truck. Bull and I were going to walk up, or we were going to be previously positioned in the middle of the courtyard area, in front of the truck, and the truck pulled up, he would guard one end and I would take the other end. And the plan at that point was that he and I would have shotguns under our coat. And that after they had come over the top and inside that we would pick up the guy in this end, and I think there was another car that would pick up the guy on this end. That was the basic plan.

KF And you rehearsed this with a marker over and over and over.

RB Didn't have the hole cut in the van, but we just jumped out the side of it. And I think, if I remember right, we roped the ladder to the top of the van for practice. And we took a board and nailed it up between two trees at what Poche thought was the height of the fence. And they over, and over, and timed it, got it down pretty tight too.

KF Do you remember the fastest time?

RB Well under a minute, I'm sure.

KF How did you feel about all this? What did you think, did you think it was a good idea, did you think it was going to happen, did you think it was all a little crazy?

RB Thought it was a good idea, thought it would work, because, like I say, we got to that plan, after five thousand versions of it, and that was the plan that everybody agreed on, that it was workable, that it was the plan we had rehearsed, and the physical logistics of going through the motions...you do anything long enough, you become comfortable with it, and you do it without thinking about it. I felt it would work.

KF Did you think you were going to have to do it?

RB Yes.

KF And you also did a little shooting. You all did a lot of shooting. Were you a good shot beforehand?

RB Fair.

KF And you had the Walter PPK.

RB We shot out about 4,000 rounds I think somebody xxxx.

KF And it was cold.

RB It was damn cold, froze to death out there. That's why I'm saying the 2nd...It seems to me they got the guns immediately, because I know that everybody went out there the first time when we were shopping, and everybody complained about how they froze to death. Their feet

RB were cold, that they had on street shoes, they didn't have gloves. It
cont. was cold, I remember that, God it was cold. They had an ice storm
New Years Eve night, because I remember New Years Day when I went
to this football thing that every exposed thing in Dallas had a sheet of
ice on it. It was beautiful, the trees were all covered with ice. It was
cold, it was not cool, it was cold.

KF Now tell me about the Colonel joining this...I think it was six days
training. Is that how you recall it?

RB About something like that.

KF And you must have been observing him.

RB Oh sure, everybody was watching everybody.

KF What was your impression of him during that period?

RB Initially I was surprised that he was not exerting more leadership. He
let things drift for hours sometimes, and let people argue over...let
them discuss for an hour how tall the fence was. He let it go on.

INTERRUPTION

KF You were saying that at first the Colonel didn't seem to exercise a
great deal of leadership, he would let discussion go on for a long
time.

RB He explained that later, in that he wanted everybody to be
comfortable, that they had been a part of making the plan, and that
they felt comfortable with it. Whether he would have dictated a plan
that was superior, quicker or more efficient, I don't know. I had to
access that as a plan calculated on his point, and that it didn't just
happen. Smart, because everybody felt comfortable with it.

KF Did he begin to exercise a little more leadership as time went on?

RB Yes, he started tightening down on it. He was...he was a very funny person, privately. He had a little one liner that would set you back, but...

KF Do you remember any of them?

RB I can remember the..one night we were at the lake house and we were talking about knives, and he was explaining how...he said you don't need a big knife, you know, everybody wanted to come back on a damn baronet, you know, he said you don't need that, you take a little knife about like that, and he was saying that if it was sharp enough you could stick a guy in the kidney and that it would hurt so bad that he wouldn'd even be able to scream. And as he was saying it, Merv came in the door with this big sack of hamburgers, you know, and Merv just kind of looked at him, and he kind of looked at Merv and he said, see that guy can't even speak and nobody's even stuck him yet. And I can remember Merv brought us a sack of whoppers, and he was always making comments about these whoppers, they should be used for door stops, because they were too heavy, and how can anybody possibly consume one of these things. And Sculley or somebody, Schwebach ate a couple of them and he was riding about how could you possibly consume that much food...In the beginning Bull did not believe in eating, he said that he believed that when you are hungry, you should open up a can of something and eat it. And under normal conditions a can of anything was sufficient. And you needed to do that about once a day. And he said that our preoccupation with food, gambling and women was just unbelievable. He couldn't understand that. Because we were always talking about, you know, where are we going to eat, what are we going to eat, who was going to go get it, and he just didn't understand that, he really didn't. We finally got him over our way where he would sit down and eat a decent meal. But he just kind of considered that a bunch of bull. Drinking, he thought that to just sip a drink was foolish, he

RB said if you want a drink you take it and drink it straight down, and cont. that's the way he drank. He just...everybody would look at him, and he would say, hey, I didn't buy it to look at it. The friendship was real. In fact when Sculley and them came down to the border they brought him a bottle of xxxxxx. Sure did. He was always making little jokes. He was a very warm person once you got to know him. He was not cold and ruthless, some people portrayed him...very quiet person. But when he decided to put his foot down, then there was no doubt in your mind that he had decided to control something. There were some people goofing off one day when we were jumping the blue xxxxx. He didn't have a big assembly and a speech, he just told everybody, god damnit, you know, stop the bullshit and carry on what we are out here for. And everybody get used to behave...it's time to stop goofing off and let's get down to work. Very serious...once we got overseas, I don't mean to be getting out of sequence, he really started exercising control over there. I wasn't with him that long, but the time that I was with him he did. He worried about the bureaucracy of the business. He used to constantly make comments about the fact that...civilian industry was one of his terms...civilian industry, he was amazed at it's responsiveness to what we wanted to do. You know, he would say I want 10 PPK's and we'd get them, and he would day I want 3,000 rounds of ammo, and he'd get it. And I want ten coats and 14 pairs of pants and he'd get it. He was just saying...he was just making little jokes about how in the Army it would take 18 days and 4,000 copies and 20 to pull and 16 signatures, and then the son-of-a-bitch would come back and saw we're out of stock. And he would say that it's unbelievable that we ask for something and we get it. If I wanted 100,000 dollars it would show up in a couple of hours, cash money. He was quite impressed with that. We were impressed with him and he was impressed with us.

KF Good. After six days of training you decide to go there. And the Colonel made you the advance man.

RB No. Sculley was first.

KF Oh, did he. I thought you went to Istanbul.

RB That's way down the road.

KF Okay, I'm getting...

RB Initially Sculley went to Istanbul in an attempt to set up ^{quasar} base camp. Sculley got to Istanbul...I think I've got this straight. Sculley went to Istanbul and decided, or figured out that coming into Istanbul now was insane, and if we got caught with them we wouldn't get an opportunity to explain, and the logistics of just getting transportation and information and whatever, that just wasn't going to fly. So he left Istanbul and went to Paris, and then we met Sculley in Paris.

KF In Paris there was some difficulty about getting tickets through to Tehran.

RB When we got to Paris, I don't know if the plan was dictated by a lack of tickets or whether we made a conscious decision, but there was a little bit of both involved. And we decided, because of the bulkiness of everything, we were going to take a shot of sending everybody at one time on the same airplane. And suppose at this time that EDS and the government had worked out a deal, where that the people that had not been arrested weren't going to be arrested. Jay was a very close associate of both Paul and Bill, because of his administrative role. I more or less had pretty good street knowledge and how to mill with whatever. So...and Poche was picked because he had been in Tehran the longest, I think of the group. He knew his way around better than everybody. So me and Jay...me, Jay, Joe and Bull, we found tickets...xxxxxx. found that there was a flight...see, alot of the flights had stopped going to Tehran. I don't know, they just said I'm not going there anymore. But we found out that there was somebody flying out of Zurich. So we got there like, I don't know, sometime in the morning, and we went to bed for about 3 or 4 hours, and then the four of us got up and flew to Zurich. Got to Zurich, and that was just absolute chaos, because half of the Iranians in the world found out

*Beckman
expression?*

RB about this flight, and they were all at the airport. Because of visa restrictions, and whatever their custom laws are, they would not let these people out of the airport. So they were able to get to the ticket agent, I think, first, and they were bribing harder than we were to get some of these tickets. We were only able to get one ticket. Jay knew his way around, Jay knew Bill and Paul better than anybody else, we thought that if....if they were able to see him first, since we had to pick one guy, that that was the logical choice. And that he could, you know, convince them, that hey, don't panic, there is something going on, just hang in there. So Jay got the ticket. Me and Bull and Joe Poche went back to...went into town in Zurich to spend the night and regroup and figure out what to do next. Now that was the case where Bull got really teed off. We went to this one hotel, I can't remember the name of it, and we walked in and told the guy we wanted a room, and because of the cancellations of flights the hotels were pretty well booked. We walked in, the guy asked us if we had reservations, and we said, no. And he said, oh, you must be with flight so and so. And whoever that was supposedly had called the hotel and blocked X amount of rooms, and once the guy picked up the drift that we weren't really a part of that group then he started giving us hard time about it. And then he really wasn't sure he really had some room, he wasn't sure he had the same price rooms he quoted earlier. It was very obvious that he was going to rip us off, and Bull lit into him with very explicit terms, and told him what he could do with his rooms. And we turned around and walked out. And we were standing in the damn xxxxx, alright what do we do now. We hailed a cab and we found us another...seemed like we went to a Hilton I think. So we got in a hotel and found out that there were no flights until morning.....

END OF SIDE A--TAPE #30

SIDE B--TAPE #30

KF Okay, you were clearing customs.

RB We were clearing customs and everybody went through, and they stopped Bull. And what they had stopped him for was he had never signed his passport. So they gave him a big hassle about that, and he signed it, and they finally let us through. So anyway, we went on to the hotel, and found out that there were no more flights until tomorrow, and they were unsure as to the availability of seats and all this kind of stuff. And we said, well, hell, we'll just worry about it in the morning. So we said we better call back and tell Sculley where we are and what was going on. At that point, that's when we found out that my name was back on the list in Tehran, and if I showed up at customs they were going to arrest me. So fine, nice that you let me know that. Because if we had tried to get on the airplane we would know. But anyway, we made the decision at that point, I'm not going any further, certainly not on a commercial flight where they can just storm the door. So I got up that next morning and spent the whole day at the airport trying to get back to Paris, and I went back to Paris, and Joe and Bull kept on going to Tehran.

KF Schwebach, Jackson and Davis, where are they at this point?

RB They are sitting in Paris. Everybody is sitting in Paris. There were only four of us left. I got back to Paris and we stayed there for about 4 days maybe. And at that point somebody made the decision, I don't know who it was, that Ron and I would come back to Dallas. That Schwebach and Sculley would go to Tehran, that Jackson would go to Kuwait. So we all split up. When I got back to Dallas..I don't know if we decided to go after but...we decided that the telephone system was poor, well the telephone system was poor all the time, I mean, you could call on a clear day and you may get somebody in China. And Bull did not feel comfortable with the telephone system, because he was afraid that they were bugged, and if they weren't bugged, it

RB didn't work, it was not reliable. So he wanted some radios. You don't
cont. buy radios over there, they just don't have them. So we bought a half
a dozen five channel two way radios, million batteries, and 10 battery
chargers. I took those radios and batteries and went back to London.
Sculley and Schwebach came out of Tehran to meet me in London to
get the Radios, or at least 4 of them, and I would take a couple down
to Turkey, and then we took the radios back, I was to go to Istanbul
and set up a base there, because at that point, it had not been
decided which way they would go once we got them out.

KF I don't suppose you remember the date you went to London?

RB No. Most ticket can tell you.

KF Yes.

RB Expense reports.

KF It must have been around..ought to be around the 15...the 20th of
January.

RB Probably about the 15th. Down to about the 15th now. Because I think
we left here like the 8th or the 9th, and this was about a week later,
so this was about the 15th of January.

KF Did you meet Schwebach and Sculley in London?

RB After being diverted to Ireland because of a snow storm. London was
snowed and we landed in Shannon. We were the 9th 747 to land in a
five hour period. There was not a hotel available within maybe 60 to
100 miles. Nobody knew when the snow storm was going to end, they
told the people, anybody who wanted to go to a hotel they could go,
but the flight was obviously going to try to leave as soon as possible,
so we could sleep in the airplane, sleep in the terminal, whatever you
want. I had about 4 thousand in cash and all these damn radios. So I

RB stayed in the terminal. Because I didn't want to be walking around.
cont. That night about 5 o'clock in the morning this guy from Braniff, who
is the head guy for Braniff in London came over there in a ^{lie} jet,
and I met him, and we chit chatted, and that proved to be very
valuable later, but anyway we met this guy, and the next day we
finally got out of there and got to London. I got to London and I met
Sculley and Schwebach there. And I gave them 4 or 5 radios...no I
gave them 5 radios, and I kept one, some batteries and a battery
charger. So after we split up these radios I went to Istanbul. We were
on instruction to go out and find [REDACTED].... Mr. Fish
Mr. Fish

KF This is [REDACTED] then.

RB Yes.

KF This agent and general Mr. Fixit.
Mr. Fish

RB [REDACTED] can fix it. They ^{he} when they had the evacuation the people went
into Istanbul, [REDACTED] did alot of things to make those people more
comfortable, solved little two bit problems, solved some of their big
problems, because we had managed to get some people in that airplane
that didn't have passports. [REDACTED] ^{Mr. Fish} was able to put the right people in
contact...or the right people to get those people passports before they
left Istanbul. So we knew that [REDACTED] ^{Mr. Fish} had some connections with the
bribery system of the world, whatever.

Mr. Fish

KF Is [REDACTED] a real name or a nickname?

Mr. Fish

RB That's the name, the name is [REDACTED]. So he entertained the
kids and all that kind of thing. Found out later that that hotel opened
up that night, almost exclusively for that flight, because they had had
a union strike and [REDACTED] and his wife had literally helped maked beds
in that hotel, because they didn't have the staff to handle it. He
stayed up, I don't know, three or four days while we were there
without sleep. [REDACTED] ^{Mr. Fish's} a good person, he does things to help you
xxxxxxxxxx. He did all these things that everybody thought was

RB really outstanding, and when they left, Don Norsworthy tipped him
cont. \$150. And everybody just kind of thought, boy, that's really
practical. So we decided that when I got to Istanbul I would go find
Mr. Fish [REDACTED], tell him there had been some confusion about showing our
appreciation for what he had done, and that I was there to settle that
up with him, and that I had some other things that I wanted to talk to
him about. So I found [REDACTED] I met [REDACTED] ^{him}, we talked about it, and he
and I hit it off real good, because he had some little girls, and I've
got some little girls, and he remembered my little girls, because his
little girls, and my little girls had played, and I gave him \$1,000,
said, hey, this ought to settle the score. I realize you were paid for
all of your services, and the baggage and all these little things,
because all these people came in at night and the next morning all
their bags, everyone, without any exception, were at their door. That
was paid for, but you ought to give the guy more than \$150 for that.
So I gave him \$1,000. At that point he realized that, I guess, I was
willing to pay for what I wanted, even if he didn't like what I
wanted. So I gave him the \$1,000 and told him that if he had time that
night that I'd like to have dinner with him and talk to him about some
other things. So he got this squared away...because his travel agency
is in the hotel itself...

KF And which hotel is this?

RB Sheraton. So he came and we had dinner, and we, I guess, just
feeling each other out. I implied to him just kind of in general vague
terms, at first, that I had a need to go to the border, and I didn't
want to publicize that....I didn't want to take a commercial airline
down there, and you can't anyway. So as time went by I gave him the
full story on what I was trying to do. And basically what I was trying
to do was get down to the border, and we didn't know at what point
at that time, and basically what I was trying to do was get down to
the border, and we didn't what point at that time that they were going
to cross that, but get to the border, bribe the appropriate officials,
so that when they showed up at the border they could get across.
And once they got across, I needed to get the passports back. As I

RB understood that that was not that simple. So we spent about damn cont. near a month trying to figure out how to do that. Then we went through all the discussions about Arab Wing and all that, charter flights, and the availability of them, and tried to buy an airplane, and you cannot buy airplanes in Turkey, it's against the law, the government has to sanction that, same for helicopters. Spend days proving that. Also decided to chartering an airplane in that country was just like raising a flag and saying I'm here doing something strange. We set up our options to do that, but obviously did not exercise it at that point. Then we got to discussing really heavy about the border, because by then we had decided to cross at Van, or a little town near Van, which was pretty desolate, those people lived in the 18th century down there. So I wanted ^{Mr. Fish} [REDACTED] to go with me, but he [REDACTED] was just kind of adamant about he really didn't want to go down there. Because it's really 18th century, I mean people were walking around with guns killing each other, I mean, the industry is robbery, and smuggling. It took him a while to convince me of that, and finally did, so, I said, that's fine, but we still got to go. So at that point he introduced me to...I can't remember the guy's name, but just basically an underworld person, I mean this guy fit the part, he had a scar across his face, little beady eyes, and the whole bit. And ^{Mr. Fish} [REDACTED] knew ^{Mr. Fish} this guy because he knew somebody else who knew somebody's mother, or whatever. So I went and talked to this guy, and you got to remember all this conversation is in Turkish and I would just sit there and he asked me questions and I answered him. So this guy basically said, that he was willing to provide me with an escort down into the Van area, because he had kins of the tribesman down there xxxxx or probably equivalent, and that he would guarantee me safe passage through that area, and that the people down there had associates on the other side of the border, and that they would take me over there and that I would be protected. And that if both of them could get to that area that they in turn would be protected, and he would guarantee safe passage back to Istanbul. So we never did decide on the dollar figure about that. If I remember, the guy said he would do it as a favor to ^{Mr. Fish} [REDACTED]. So we discussed that for two or three days, and finally we got it set up, and I called Merv and told him about it,

RB but somebody on this end said, no dice, that's just not acceptable, I
cont. don't know what the reason was, probably scared of it. So they
scrapped that plan. Back to zero. So again we spent two or three
days talking about what can we do, how can we accomplish that. So
then at this point I guess that was about point...^{Mr. Fish} was in my room
one day, and I got this damn radio sitting on the bathroom shelf
plugged up to the charger, and he just about had a stroke...Oh, also
back up a bit...before^{Mr. Fish} and I got into cahoots with each other,
Sculley and Schwebach could not get back into Tehran, so they came
down to Istanbul...they were flying all over the world just trying to
figure out what to do next. So they decided to come see me. So they
came down there and they left me with their five radios and went back
to the states, because there was nothing they could do.^{Mr. Fish} was in
my room one day and saw this radio, and that's when he explained to
me that radios in Istanbul are illegal. If you have a plain old
transistor radio, it's illegal. That you have to register those with the
government, because there is so much terrorism in Turkey, and
especially in Istanbul. They don't allow you to have a radio because
you can take normal radio parts, and that's the basis of building a
transceiver, and they definitely don't want terrorists with radios. And
I'm sitting here with a half dozen of them, good ones, I mean damn
good ones. So he starts explaining to me at that point that everybody
in the hotel has figured out that I got a ton of money because, you
know, my phone bill is running a couple thousand dollars a week and
I'm paying in cash, and everytime they hassle me about my bill I run
and give them a couple thousand, and tell them to leave me alone, so
it's obvious I've got cash, and the little grapevine in the hotel, it's the
same here, same there, everybody knows who is this wierd guy, he's
got a ton of money, he's obviously not on business, because he spends
half of his time sitting around the hotel, he lives on room service, he
said, it's obvious that there is something wrong with you. And now I
see you've got these damn radios sitting here, so I have to assume
that has been reported and you are being watched. And he said, I
guarantee you, you've brought in too much money into the country,
and you've got radios. And he says, there is no way on the face of
the earth you are going to convince anybody that you are here on a

RB mercy mission, they aren't going to buy that, because, after the xxxx
cont. had gotten shot prior to that, alot of attention in the city, curfews,
Mr. Fish ██████████ and I were stopped alot of times at night, and got the car
searched and all this bull. So he said, you are in trouble already. He
said unfortunately I'm probably in trouble too, because people know
that you are spending alot of time with me. So he says, you better
forget about your problem at the border, you better start worrying
about your own problem. Because you are obviously in trouble whether
you realize it or not. So I said, well, that's wonderful, what am I
supposed to do. So he said, well, if you try to throw those radios
away that's just going to be bad, because that's further...that you are
doing something wrong in that you should have these things. We still
hadn't got through customs.....one of his business partners sister
was married to this guy that was in the Turkish CIA, he knows....so
we go through this thing of setting up a meeting with xxxxxx and it
was known...that was the thing that I kept thinking through the
whole thing, so much of this stuff was just like in the movies, it
really was. We would get in a car and we would drive 20 blocks, and
we get out and change cars, and get on a street car and ride around,
get in another car to make sure nobody was following us, since we are
finally to go find this guy Yieldsman (?) He lives in this hotel that
has 15,000 hallways with one light bulb, and problem trying to find
him if the lights go out in that section of the city, because they power
down at night in that section. We go to this guys house and we beat
on the door for, I'm not kidding, about 30 minutes. The whole hotel,
or apartment complex was looking out the door with candles and
lanterns trying to figure out who are these people banging on this
door when there is obviously nobody home. So he said, don't sweat it,
I know the guy is in here, and we kept banging on the door. After
about 30 minutes the guy finally...his wife opens the door. So she lets
us in. So we go in and we sit down and she starts making us tea and
cookies and all that crap, every drinks tea over there. So they came
out and we told Yieldsman basically what the problem was. That
number one, I had those radios, and another factor I had too much
cash, and that we needed to resolve that problem, and that also we
wanted to go to the border. I guess after about 3 or 4 hour discussion

Mr. Fish

RB between [REDACTED] and Yieldsman, Yieldsman decides that the thing to do is cont. for me to give him the radios, that he'll come and pick them up, and that he'll take me to the border, and get me through...you got to also remember that down here in this area the local pouplas, they are robbing and killing each other day to day, for bribery, smuggling, whatever. The Army more or less has ^{marital}marshall law in effect down there, but they are robbing and killing people just as much as the civilian population. But Yieldsmans has credentials, he's with the CIA or whatever they call it...that he can handle this with the Army. And if we get in a real jam we always have the option to run to the local police or whatever, and hoping to get some kind of sanctuary.

KF Did you tell, what's his name, Yieldsman. Did you tell him what you were trying to do?

RB Oh, had to.

KF Whole thing.

RB Sure. Wasn't hiding anything. You know, the basic story was that we had two people arrested for suspicion of aiding and with betting government officials in Tehran, and that they had been held until that could be resolved as to who was stealing from who, and who was helping. That they were innocent victims that had been falsly arrested. And that the judicial system had broken down, and the banking system broke down, the whole world broke down. And they wanted 13 million dollars bond, which was obviously unreasonable, and we just felt that it was our responsibility to get those people out, and that we were going to do that. And we weren't there to discuss that, we weren't there to vote on that, that was it, we were going to get them out, and we just needed his help to get across Turkey. Yieldsman, after _{he} 3 or 4 hours of discussion, he would ask [REDACTED] the question and [REDACTED] would ask me question, who are these guys, how do you know them, da, da, da...convinced Yieldsman that hey, I'm are not terrorist, you know, I'm not trying to rob somebody, not trying to smuggle anything, I'm just trying to help two guys get out

Mr. Fish

RB and get home. Yieldsman said, okay, I'll help you and his price was cont. \$8,000. And that was that. And he broke out the scotch at that point, and we sat up and drank scotch for a couple hours. The next day he came to the hotel and...we got into a big discussion about that, because those radios, we found out, were \$2,000 a piece on the market there. So I'm sitting on 10 grand. I mean you can term it like that, Mr. Fish and [REDACTED] was saying, I know Yieldsman, I trust him and all this, but the question then came up, if you move these radios out of your room, I mean, you are talking about a pretty good size package, you got to assume somebody is watching you and they will know you are doing something...that could literally be an attempt to take these radios from you, it could appear as you are getting ready to something with them, because that's cash money, these radios. I said, what the hell, I'll be alright, as long as we don't throw them out the window. So I meet Yieldsman in the lobby and we make the transfer. I give him the radios, and I don't think I gave him the money at that point. No, didn't give him the money, because the feeling was that it was going to be difficult for him to dispose of these radios without a story as to where he got them. So we wanted him to dispose of the radios and get that heat off of me, and then we would work on the second problem. So he got rid of the radios and the next day he came back, and I think I gave...I can't remember if I gave him the money or if I gave Mr. Fish [REDACTED] the money. But the deal was I'd give him \$4,000 now and \$4,000 when we got them back. So I gave him \$4,000 and by this time they were out of jail. And we were going to the border and the time was getting tight, I mean we were getting firmed up. And I think that we were supposed to meet them on Thursday at 2 o'clock, I don't remember the date and time.

KF 2 o'clock in the afternoon?

RB Yes. We were supposed to meet them at 2 in the afternoon.

KF I have been told that the Colonel always said that they would get there by midnight on Thursday. Now it's possible that both are true.

RB The deal was, in my mind, we were supposed to meet at 2 o'clock on Thursday, maybe 2 o'clock is wrong, but it certainly wasn't midnight. The deal was at this point Ross had airplanes on the way, and they are screwing around in Washington, they got hit with a snowstorm or something, or whatever. And they were coming, and that's when Marquez was calling me and asking me about the damn price of gas in Istanbul, and I thought was insane. But anyway, we sent...I can't remember if we sent one bus or two buses, but we told two of [REDACTED] Mr. Fish's people, that had these buses, said, you guys start out....they were to go to Addonna. They were to start driving the buses to Addonna. We were going to stay. Me and Yieldsman and this other guy, who I never did know his real name, we called him Charlie, one of [REDACTED] Mr. Fish's people, he was bilingual, he was going to be the go between me and Yieldsman, because Yieldsman didn't speak English. We told the buses to go to Addonna, and then we would wait and talk to Ross to make sure there were no last minute plans, we were to fly down here, get the buses, and go across. Well, the problem was...

Addonna

KF They are assured you would fly to Addonna?

RB Oh yes....So Ross and them finally showed up, late of course, and Tuna and I met the airplane on the ramp, and basically told them, hey, this is Tuna, this is Ross...you are not going to buy an airplane, you're not going to buy a helicopter, we've got a plan in motion to go to the border, we've got...I can't remember if it was one bus or two buses, but we had drivers to drive straight through all the way and back, and I think it was 3 or 4 guys on there that supposedly had protection, now I don't know whether if that was big sticks or shot guns, I don't know, and didn't care. Tuna said, don't worry about it, they will protect you from bandits or soldiers or whatever is necessary. We'll settle on what we owe when we get back, it we get back. SO...

KF Do you remember what day this would have been? Thursday you were supposed to meet them at the border, do you remember what day Ross flew in?

RB Ross had to fly in about 6 o'clock Wednesday morning. Because my flight left like 6:30 or something, it was really cutting it tight. Went on board, told Ross, basically, hey I got this CIA guy who I feel is capable of protecting me, I've got this translator who I half way trust because he likes money, because its obvious that he knows he's going to get some money out of the deal. We got buses already on the way, we are going to catch the buses and go on down. You ensure that Bull and them are at the border at 2 o'clock on Thursday. I'm pretty sure that was the plan. No, it had to be Tuesday morning, because we couldn't get to the border that fast, so that had to be Tuesday morning. Left, caught the plane, then we flew to...we didn't go straight to Addonna, we went to Ankara first, went to Ankara, stayed there 5 or 6 hours, changed planes, and then flew to Addonna. When we got to Addonna it must have been close to noon or 1 o'clock in the afternoon. Called back to Istanbul talked to Ross told him we are in Addonna, and that was when he told me they are rolling on this end, and they are going to meet you at the border. And I said, fine, just tell them it's 2 o'clock we're going to be there. Well, the problem was, the damn bus couldn't get gas. They had not taken enough extra gas to get them through areas where you could not buy gas, I think is what I heard later. So we stood around half the day waiting on the bus, and the bus doesn't show. So finally we figured out we're not going to see the bus. So that's when we started trying to charter an airplane again, knowing we can't do it, but we tried, and there was just no such thing, so we decided to get a flight to Van, at least get us further down the road. Well, there were no flights available going that way. You got to remember an airport over there is not like DFW, it's a damn land strip and a cafe and a guy in a T-shirt sitting in the tower down there. So we gave up on the airplane business, and decided why don't we buy a car. Well, cars are in such scarce supply over there that even for the love of money you are just not going to buy a car very easy. We had plenty of money...

KF How much money did you have?

RB We gave the money to Yieldsman. Yieldsman probably had, I would guess 3 or 4 thousand.

KF About how much cash did you have from the start in Istanbul? How much cash did you fly in with?

RB I went in with \$40,000. But I didn't take that money with me. I took probably \$500.

KF Yes, to the border.

RB I didn't take that much money. I probably took about \$200 or \$300, because I remember after I got back to the states, I put my coat in the cleaners and the guy called me up and said I got some funny money here, where I had sewed it into a lining. I didn't carry that much money, because we knew that the opportunity to get robbed was excellent, and hell if you are going to get robbed, why give them everything. And Yieldsman, I don't know how much money had, but I'm sure he \$2,000, \$3,000 or \$4,000 on him. So money wasn't a problem. So we finally figured out, we cannot rent a car, we cannot buy a car, and we didn't want to take the chance of stealing a car, so we just kind of stood there walking around in the dust, and I mean the dust. There are no sidewalks over there. And a cab went by, and I said hell, let's get a cab. So everybody thought, well, that's crazy, but it beats standing here kicking the dust. So we get in the car, and you got remember, we're down here in Addonna, and we get this guy to pick us up in a cab, and we said we want to go to Van. The guy said, okay.

KF Did he.

RB Yes.

KF How far is that?

RB It was a hell of a long way, let me tell you that. So the guy went about three or four blocks and you know, you could figure out what was going on, the guy was saying, Van, Van what? And we said, hell, Van, Turkey. And he wrong, we're not going there. So he thinks we are joking with him, and we're not dressed to kill, you know, so we got all these...we had decided it was lunch time and we decided to get it after we decided to get a cab. We went and we bought a big old sack of boiled eggs, because we knew we weren't going to be able to get food along here. So we got this bag of eggs and...had something else, can't remember what we had...but anyway, it's obviously very strange. Here are these three people with plastic bags of eggs talking about going to Van.

KF It must be about a thousand miles.

RB It's a good little trip. So anyway, the guy says, I'm not going to take you to Van, that's crazy. So we said, fine, do you know anybody that will? So he says, well, a guy down at the cab stand will probably do it. And I mean this whole thing took about 10, 20 minutes. So we go down there and we tell this guy we want to go to Van, and the guy says, okay. And we transfer cars and I'm looking at this...it was about a '64 Chevy, I mean this thing was really something. And it's got this Maypop Tires on it.

KF What kind of tires.

RB Maypops. And I thought well, shit, you know, it beats standing here, so...I mean this guy just says, okay. And we pile in the car.

KF Did he give you a price.

RB Probably gave them one, I didn't know what it was, didn't care, that was Yieldsman's problem, because that was part of the deal. He is to get me to the border and back. Now I had already paid for [REDACTED] Mr. Fish's buses, but that's Yieldman's problem. And we had made that very plain

RB up front, I'm not concerned about the cost, but I'm not going to pay cont. you...you know, I'm going to give you \$8,000 and until we get back it is your problem, that's what I'm paying you for. So I didn't care what it cost. So we get in this cab, and the guy really understands that we are going to Van, we are dead serious about it. So he starts telling us that we need to buy more food, and we need to buy gas. Same old problem, there are areas that we aren't going to be able to buy gas. So we stop at the local 7-11 and we bought a big old giant sack of oranges, because that was all they had that we thought we could carry that was safe to eat. Because there is no Kentucky Fried, so we bought these oranges, so now we've got all these oranges and these eggs. And we started out, and I started looking at the map and adding it up and I was saying, there is no way this guy is going to drive me to Van by 2 o'clock Thursday. And I'm trying to tell these guys, man, there aint no way. And they are giving me all this patriotic crap about this guy is a Turkish driver, and he can do it. And I'm saying I don't give a damn if he's superman, he aint going drive from here to here by Thursday. And they said, no, he can do it, he can do it. So we start on out...incidentally, the most beautiful drive, I would probably do that again if I can before I got out of this, absolutely beautiful.

KF What kind of scenery?

RB Oh, its mountainous, it's very mountainous.

KF Snow?

RB Oh yes. There were points here around Bingo, I call it Bingo, because the correct pronunciation I don't know. B-I-N-G-O-L. When you get up in that Bingol area, we were so high up that we drove through snow storms, and we were above the storm and we could see it snowing below us, and the sky was clear and the moon was out, just like daylight. But anyway, the guy, we let him drive until dark, and we stopped and ate, and they were going to introduce me to the Turkish national dish, which turned out to be beans and rice, and the

RB restaurant was dirty and all that, and they were surprised that I
cont. would eat with them. I had eaten beans and rice all my life. And I
wasn't that upset about the dinner. So anyway, we ate dinner, and
this guy is driving us, he's got to be 70 years old, 65, 70, old guy.
And he is completely fatigued at this point. And its obvious that he's
going to kill us, because these roads are, you know, we began to hit
the mountains and there are no guard rails, and the roads are dirt.
And I said, wait a minute, I'm going to drive. Well that was a 20
minute discussion on whether I could drive this '64 Chevy, because it
was an American car and it was standard shift. But this guy, the
driver cannot understand that I'm from America and driving a standard
shift Chevy is no big deal. So finally he decided that he would let me
drive his car if I would be responsible if I tear it up. Ah, don't worry
about it. So we start out again, and we're going along. And we hit
rain and the car broke down.

KF Where?

RB I don't know..

KF Oh, you hit rain.

RB It was probably up there around Mars or somewhere, and it was night
now. And we hit this rain, and the car wouldn't run. And it turned
out that he had just performed a tune up on that car himself, and the
points weren't set right, so when we started getting up in altitude the
points weren't firing right. So we are standing out there in the damn
rain and, with screw drivers and all this trying to get the car
started, we must have lost an hour or two with that. Finally we get
the car going again, and we drive up here to around Bingol, and it is
really starting to get kind of desolate, and we are hitting light soldier
patrols that may stop us and may ask us where we are going, well we
flash them the passport, and he says something to us, and they let us
go on down the road. As we went along these little border...not
border crossing, but these little patrols started getting a little
rougher and rougher. I mean their attitude is obviously not as

RB friendly, so we made the decision at that point that...or Yieldsman
cont. did, that we're not going to stop anymore. If they try to flag us down
its just too desolate out here, that we've got to assume at this time of
night anybody that stops you is going to rob you. Which kind of
added a little excitement to the trip. So we keep on going, and then
we get up here around Bingol, and I mean that was the only time I
was really scared, because the...have you ever driven up Pikes Peak?

KF No.

RB Well, the road is not as wide as this room. It's dirt and gravel, you
know, chuck holes and the whole bit, and there is no siding. If you
go off the side of that sucker, you're not going to get hurt, you are
going to die. And it's ice and snow and all this. We could see the
lightening, and the snow storm and stuff would below because we had
gotten up that high. And we found out later that it was 50 below up
there, and we had flat. So we get out and take all this gas out of the
car that we bought when we bought the oranges, get all this crap out
of the trunk and get this spare out, and this guy was beginning to
get embarrassed at this point, because he had made this commitment
and he wasn't keeping it. So he changed that tire up there on top of
that mountain with that mountain rain, with his bare hands, I never
will forget that, I mean, it was cold up there. But he refused to
accept gloves, he said that was part of his pride, that it was his
car, it was his flat, and he was going to change it, hell, let him
change it. So he changed the tire and we went on down into...no,
after we had to flat that's when I stopped driving. That must have
been like 3 or 4 in the morning. The he drove, I don't know, another
200, 300, 400 miles, and I slept. And when I woke up it was
daylight. It we had to be Tatvan, yes, we were getting close to that
area, because I remember....anyway, they woke me up and we went
and found some coffee, and filled the gas jugs and stuff we had. And
said, okay, you drive again. And it was funny, this guy was driving
30 and 40 and I was probably driving 70 and 80. And he didn't
understand that either....I must have driven for about, I don't know,
2, 3 or 4 hours and I blew a tire. But this time I couldn't put on the

RB brakes fast enough and it warped the rim or something. Because when cont. we tried to change the tire we couldn't get it off, and we had bought another spare that morning. The lugs were screwed up or something, we couldn't get the tire off..

KF The wheel, you couldn't get the wheel off.

RB Couldn't get the wheel off. I don't remember whether the lugs, or whether we bent the rim or what, but couldn't go any further with that car, so again, we're out in the middle of nowhere. So the interpreter, Charlie Brown, we decided we would sent him...somewhere in that area right in there...

KF The interpreter you called Charlie Brown.

RB Called him Charlie Brown, that's all I ever called him. We were right in his...we told him to kind of hitch hike back to the previous town and, you know, try to find some help or try to get us another cab.

KF You must have been close to the lake when you...

RB We were close to the lake at that point. I know we were. To make a long story short, he got us another cab, so this other cab...

KF Where you were or in...

RB Yes, me Yieldsman and the drive, we just stood there and looked at each other eating oranges, and I guess it took about an hour, and he came back with another cab. We then paid this guy...I don't know, I think it was probably about \$500 dollars, and we said adios, your problem, we got to go, and we left him out there. And we got this other cab, and this guy, who was an absolutely maniac, he was driving like 100 miles an hour, he was nuts.

KF What kind of car was that?

RB Little bitty, I don't know, I couldn't tell you what it was. Some foreign car, it was a little station wagon, and he was a hell of a driver, I'll never forget that. But he's wheeling through the mountains and the whole bit, and that's when we got to this lake, and nothing eventful there, just he finally got us to Van. Okay, we had a contact in Van, one of ^{Mr. Fish's} [REDACTED] cousins or something. Well, we got there and there was a lot of confusion over who was supposed to take us, and who would take us and what it was going to cost and this whole thing again. So we blew off a couple of hours in Van...

KF What time of day was this?

RB It was before noon. It was in the morning, ^{Mr. Fish's} It was probably around noon. To make a long story short, [REDACTED] cousin finally tells his son, or two of his sons...and I think it was another guy, to get these two cars and take us on down to the border. We got in these cars and I was with one guy, and Yieldsman and Charlie Brown got in the other car. And then we raced down the road. And...

Mr. Fish

KF [REDACTED] went with you?

Mr. Fish

Mr. Fish

RB No, [REDACTED] never left. [REDACTED] was still in Istanbul, I left him with Ross. It was me, Yieldsman and Charlie Brown. Then we picked up these other two drivers in Van and two cars, because we knew we had to have a way to get back. So we started heading for the border, and that was when they pulled us off in some little town and took us inside, and that's when Yieldsman pulled out his little CIA card, or whatever, and got us out of it, and they let us go. And finally we get to the border. We get to the border and nobody had seen them. We asked them had there been any Americans here, and they said no.

KF What time of day did you get to the border?

RB It was afternoon. Because I remember I was about two hours late. So it was 3 or 4 in the afternoon. But we don't see anybody...

KF Still not bad to get there two hours late.

RB Not bad. So we got there and it was crazy you know, they hadn't seen anybody you know. We are out in the middle of nowhere, again, it was a little movie scene, we got the little post over here and there is a big no mans land, and they got the xxxx post over there. The guy says telephone for you. He says you are looking for the Americans, I said, oh, whatever you know. So I go and answer the phone. And if I remember right it was the American Consolate. And he wants to know who I am and what I'm doing there and to myself I'm saying I don't know who you are, and I'm not going to tell you what I'm doing. So we play this little Mickey Mouse Game on the phone for about 15 minutes and finally he convinces me that he is the American Consolate, and that he does know who I am, and he knows what I'm down there doing, and if I had any problems to call him. So we hung around, I don't know, maybe an hour or 30 minutes, whatever. And then we decided to cross over. We crossed over to the Iran side, and talked to the Iranians. And the reason we decided to cross was because their side of the border was not being guarded by soldiers, it was being guarded by civilian xxxxx or whatever. So we went over, and we were talking to them, and we told them that we were looking for some business people coming out. And that they were in the Land Rovers, that we knew they were in, and had they seen them. Well, they said, no, they hadn't seen them, and the old bribery thing came in again, you know, the tribesman strolls up with his literally rag head band, long rifle, out of the movie or something. And he said he knows where they are, and for a price he'll take us to them. Then we argued about whether this guy is on the level or not. I had bought this leather coat because everybody was talking about how cold it was, and I had on a watch, which was not necessarily nice, but the feeling was that the Iranians probably had assumed that I was, ~~Sabah~~, because in this part of the country you are talking about people that are dirt poor. Here I am, and a watch, decent clothes, and a leather coat, nice leather coat. And in theory that was a stamp saying this guy is Sabah. Sabah was the city policeman, everybody hates Sabah and they were killing them like it was going out of style, so Yieldsman said no, I'm not

SABAH

RB going to let you go. He says because there is no way you are going to cont. come back, because whether you realize it or not, these people think you are Sabah, and they just want to get you away from this border so they can blow your head off. So I said, fine, let's go back and I'll change clothes, and then we'll try it again. Maybe we can change their mind. We would just put up enough cash money on the top, and say this is what we are doing and try that. So this back and forth walk across the border goes on for about an hour, so finally we decided for me to go on into Iran, even if those guys supposedly knows where they are. He says they are being held in Rezaiyeh or whatever. I don't know if he knew that or not, but in fact they were held up there...so we decided we don't know whether to trust these people or not, it's getting late, let's go back, get us a place to stay tonight and regroup. So we go back.....Oh, we tell these people, the officials at the Turkish side, if anybody shows up we are going to be in the XYZ hotel, the only one. Which has dirt floors and the whole bit. You don't get a room, you get a bed.

Rashid

KF Didn't you see [REDACTED] that afternoon?

RB That's after we went back. We went back.....

END OF SIDE B--TAPE #30