

21 West 26th Street
New York, NY 10010
U.S.A.

Mr Hosain Dadgar
Ministry of Justice
Tehran
Iran

31 January 1982

Dear Mr Dadgar,

I am writing ~~abook~~ about Paul Chiapparone and William Gaylord, two American employees of Electronic Data Systems, Inc, who were detained in prison in Tehran by you on 28 December 1978, and who escaped from the Gasr Prison on 11 February 1979.

I have conducted many hours of interviews with Chiapparone and Gaylord, their colleagues, officials of the American State Department and of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. I have an appointment to interview Mr Henry Kissinger soon. However, so far I have only been able to research the American side of the story. To correct the balance, I would like to interview you.

My books, such as Eye of the Needle and Tripää, are normally read by more than five million people in some fifteen languages all over the world; so you can see that I have a grave responsibility to tell the complete truth without bias or distortion. I am most concerned to avoid the kind of shallow and uninformed reporting on Iran which, sadly, we see too often in the Western newspapers. However, in order to fulfil my responsibility, I need to understand certain aspects of the story which only you can explain to me.

I would be happy to meet you anywhere in North American or Western Europe. (Naturally I would expect to pay your air fare and hotel expenses.) We could speak in English or French, or we could use an interpreter if you prefer to speak Farsi.

You would probably like to know more about the questions I wish to ask you. The more important questions are as follows:-

1. What did you hope to learn from Chiapparone and Gaylord at your meeting with them on 28 December 1978? Did you learn anything?

2. Under what law were Chiapparone and Gaylord detained? Why was their bail set at \$12,750,000?

3. Did you believe or suspect that Chiapparone and Gaylord had committed crimes? If so, what crimes?

4. Did you believe that they had further information which they were withholding from you? If so, what kind of information?

5. Did you subsequently learn anything from Chiapparone, Gaylord or Electronic Data Systems which assisted you in your investigation?

6. Why did you continue to detain Chiapparone and Gaylord for the following six weeks?

7. Why did you refuse to release Chiapparone and Gaylord to the custody of the U.S. Embassy after 9 February 1979? What steps did you take to guarantee their safety at that time?

8. How did your investigation end? Did you ever find any evidence against Chiapparone and Gaylord, or against EDS, or against Mr Abdul Fath Mahvi, or against anyone else? Were any prosecutions brought?

9. After Chiapparone and Gaylord escaped on 11 February, what steps did you take to find them?

10. Throughout the period 28 December 1978 to 11 February 1979, what was your main concern, responsibility and duty in this case?

I sincerely hope, Mr Dadgar, that you and I will be able to meet to discuss these matters, in the interests of truth and balanced journalism.

However, if you are unable to find time to meet me, I do hope you will write to me, answering the above questions. You can of course write in any language you wish.

I thank you for reading this letter, and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours very truly,

Ken Follett.