

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ken Follett
FROM: Paul Chiapparone *Paul*
DATE: November 17, 1981

Ken, the following describes my feelings and emotions during the Iran episode:

- 1) When our papers were called for I really didn't have an awful lot of feeling because I didn't focus on the situation. We were primarily concerned with the safety of our people and their dependants and that was just a day or two prior to the time when we evacuated most of our people.
- 2) During the month of December I did feel a tremendous amount of frustration because it was very difficult to get the United States Embassy to focus on our situation and also it was difficult getting around in the city of Tehran because of demonstrations and the situation in the country continuing to deteriorate.
- 3) I felt good about the meeting with Dadgar in that I was sure, based upon the information we had gotten from the Embassy, that the meeting would be a formality and that we would be released right after the meeting. I was looking forward to spending New Year's back in the States with my family. I felt great surprise upon learning that we were going to be put in jail. I wasn't scared, primarily because I thought we would be released within the next couple of hours or at worst, the following day.
- 4) During the ride to the jail I felt disappointed in that I would have preferred riding to the airport to get on a plane.
- 5) The first night in jail I remember thinking I was sure glad I didn't lead the life of a criminal because this very definitely would not have been the way that I would like to spend my life. The jail was cold. Most of the people in jail seemed like they really didn't have a purpose, they just kind of existed.
- 6) During the first meeting with the Embassy I felt anger in having been totally misled by, what I consider a serious example of incompetence on the part of our United States Government. That feeling pretty much continued every time I did meet with our Embassy people. They turned out to be like mechanical robots--didn't express feelings one way or the other. They expressed surprise, they were sorry; suggested that we meet with our attorneys.

- 7) During the second meeting with Dadgar I went into the meeting thinking that the bail was going to be reduced. When he started talking about increasing the bail I got very upset, in fact, I was mad and I distinctly remember articulating the accomplishments EDS had done for the government and I suggested to Dadgar that he might want to look at some of the people that were feeding him information and what their real motives were.
- 8) During the time that I spent in prison I felt helpless. Throughout my life, even when I had been in difficult situations, I always had the ability to do something and try different things. Being in jail you had the ability to do absolutely nothing but spend time and think. I must say that was a very, very frustrating time for me.
- 9) I very definitely missed my family; missed seeing them; missed hearing them. Our family is something we have a tendency to take for granted until we are not allowed to do the things that we normally do with them.
- 10) When I saw Jay Coburn come into the jail I felt really good for the first time in a number of weeks. Jay cared enough to come back and see me. The feeling of caring was demonstrated over and over again by every member of the rescue team, both in Iran and in Dallas. This is something that most people don't understand, but I believe that I am very fortunate to have seen this demonstration of caring.
- 11) Talking to Tom Walter on the phone after we got to the Hyatt Hotel: I always considered Tom a friend. I signed a complete power of attorney over to Tom while I was in jail in Tehran. I trust Tom explicitly. It was really good to hear Tom's voice and have him tell me that my family was fine.
- 12) Ross' visit to the prison is a feeling that is very difficult to describe. It's like listening to the "Star Spangled Banner" and the feeling you get running up and down your spine. The fact that Ross cared enough to travel half way around the world into a city of very chaotic conditions to visit two of twelve thousand employees left me with a very warm and wonderful feeling. I guess I really consider Ross a friend and will be forever grateful to him for his concern.
- 13) The night we were arrested in Mahabad I felt fairly secure among the team members. This was probably false security, but in any case, I did feel secure.
- 14) The feelings I had the day we escaped from prison: I suspect I was frightened but we had enough to worry about in getting to our destinations that we really didn't have enough time to think about being frightened. I remember being amazed at our ability to get over the wall. I have been told the wall was twelve feet high. I'm sure that if I were to attempt to go over a twelve foot wall today I wouldn't make it but once your adrenaline starts flowing you can accomplish extraordinary feats.

- 15) The feeling I had when I saw our friends at the hotel was like a family reunion, a very emotional family reunion. I was thankful that we made it and was very proud that my friends were there and cared enough to be there, waiting for us.
- 16) During the overland trip I suspect that I probably should have been much more afraid than I really was. The reasons for this were two fold: 1) I drove one of the vehicles out and I was preoccupied with driving and 2) The day we got out, having escaped and not gotten killed, probably gave us a false sense of security that lasted until we got back home.
- 17) The feeling I had when we crossed the border into Turkey: Jay and I were walking together across the border and I remember Jay saying, "Just walk a little faster, walk a little faster, walk a little faster, we're home free!" It's like watching a tight ballgame down to the final minutes and have someone perform an extraordinary feat. I felt like Jay hit a home run as we walked across the border. Colonel Simons and Bill walked together and I'm sure Bill had the same feeling.
- 18) Seeing Ross in his hotel room in Turkey I felt proud, excited, happy, very enthusiastic.
- 19) Talking to Ruthie on the phone from Ross' hotel room was a feeling that I just have a difficult time describing.
- 20) During the time we were assembled at the Village Square in Rezia I was a little afraid there. I felt like at this point we had "Bought the Farm" and we would be sent back to Tehran. I felt sure that if we did get sent back to Tehran we probably would have been shot.
- 21) The bridge between Rezia and the border was also a frightening experience.
- 22) In Germany the time that Colonel Simons hid us out in the movies was probably the longest three hours I've spent in my entire life.
- 23) The walk through the airport in Frankfurt, going through customs and reboarding the plane. I remember my heart beating faster than it normally should have been. When our plane developed problems out of Frankfurt I remember saying to myself that there really wasn't very much we could do. I had a very strong feeling that somehow we would get out of this.
- 24) The flight back on the Braniff plane: I remember being very proud to listen to Ross tell the story of the bravery of the members of the rescue team (including Ross!).

- 25) Walking into the reception in Dallas was a very humble experience, seeing thousands of people cheering us and welcoming us home. Very difficult to describe.
- 26) My feeling about EDS can be best described by the comments I made at the press conference the day after we returned, "I joined EDS thirteen years ago primarily because I wanted to work for a company that cared about it's people. EDS has demonstrated, without a shadow of a doubt, that it truly, in fact, cares about its people."
- 27) My feelings about Colonel Simons were probably best summed up in the eulogy I gave during his funeral: "Both of my parents passed away a couple of years ago, I was deeply saddened by this because I lost the two people who gave me my first opportunity in life. Today I feel exactly the same way about the loss of Colonel Simons, for only a parent would care enough to do for Bill and me what Colonel Simons did. Each day I say 'Thank you, Colonel Simons, thank you for caring, thank you for bringing Bill and me home to our families.' The last time I was with Colonel Simons we were discussing the Iranian mission and I was trying to express my thanks to him. All he would say was 'Paul, it was nothing.' Well, Colonel Simons, you were wrong, because without you Bill and I would still be trapped in Iran. My family and I will never forget that you risked your life so that we could be together again. Colonel Simons, you may be gone, but you will never be forgotten."

PJC/bn