

HOTFOOT #65
INTERVIEW WITH JAY COBURN
FEBRUARY 23, 1982

JC About the bandit situation and they brought a bunch of local people to put on a bus with us to make it appear that we were a typical, they brought this lady and her child and all their garbage this local guy that stayed with us the whole way I might add.

KF Eilsmann.

JC No I don't think.

KF Oh the border guard.

JC Somebody when Sculley and Tuna left, they came back with this entourage of locals to put on the bus with us. And one of those guys was armed, he had a pistol in fact stuck in his belt. And he in fact stayed with us the whole way back to Istanbul, one of those guys. I have no idea who the guy was, I never figured it out.

KF Man in a uniform?

JC No, no. Plain clothes. Strictly plain clothes. Never did figure out, maybe he just happened to be on all the same flights with us, you know. The guy had, I got the impression he was one of Tuna's contacts of some kind or maybe the other guy's contacts. But he was more of a local eastern Turkish type, that then followed us all the way back.

KF But then your impression is that at first you couldn't leave. Problem number one was Paul and Bill didn't have authorization to enter the country. Then Boulware turns up but you still can't

KF leave because you haven't got transport, then the bus turns up (Cont.) but you still can't leave because Tuna is worried about the bandits and he wants an escort. Then the bus turns up but you still can't leave because Tuna is worried about the bandits and he wants an escort. Then you finally leave when Tuna and Sculley come back from (Usakaba) with this crowd of people. Now there was a woman with a child who you thought was there for camouflage. Actually I think she was the wife of the border guard who (xxxxxx) you his passport. There was some guy with a pistol in his belt, now Eilsmann who was Boulware's contact had a 45 and he was, he got on the plane. He went back to Istanbul with you, maybe you're getting him mixed up.

JC Could be, could be that I've got him mixed up. There were alot of people that were with us throughout that bus journey that I wasn't sure of what was going on. The bus was practically full for Christ sake, and it was a big bus. I don't know if this was just people getting free rides, or what Tuna was up to okay. I know at one point the Colonel got extremely upset because there were some things going on that he didn't know anything about.

KF But do you know why? See he got upset with Eilsmann, he got upset with this man who's supposed to be in this Turkish CIA and somebody told me he came close to punching this man. And I assume it's because Eilsmann was supposed to make it happen, and he hadn't made it happen. But I can't, I mean why would the Colonel get mad at Eilsmann, if the problem is that there's no transport.

JC No, I, I'm not sure what all the existing problems were. I got the feeling it was a whole comedy of errors, and the Colonel was holding Boulware responsible. Early in the game, he had a very strong conversation with Boulware about the fact that he hadn't

JC held up his part of the bargain. And he was sick and tired of it, (Cont.) let's get some results. And I can't remember the exact words, but there was a pretty firm conversation that the Colonel and Ralph had.

KF And what was Ralph's reaction?

JC Was to go try to solve the problem. He blamed alot of it on you know, Tuna, and Tuna's guy and things like that, which they weren't even around at that point okay. But he had alot of verbage and the Colonel really wasn't interested in all of it, he said, well "I don't want to hear about that, you're the one I'm holding responsible for this operation, now let's just make it happen." And it took a long time to make it happen and I you know, we were at that border far too many hours, and the Colonel was not very happy about that. And it really didn't get that much better once the bus got there we thought it would be just get on the bus and leave and you know shit, there was still some delay.

KF Well that was when Sculley and Tuna went into the town. Well maybe the truth of it is that it was difficult for everybody at the border to figure out what the problem was, just as it's difficult for me.

JC Most of us were in the dark, most of us were in the dark.

KF Will you ask Reza about that too.

JC Uh-huh.

KF Oh, I know. Reza wanted to be in charge of this overland trip and he said so to Simons, and Simons kind of, Simons (xxx xxx). He certainly gave Reza the impression that he was in charge, but Simons wasn't completely sincere about that.

JC Well we were in a box, the best laid plans had already gone by the wayside and since Reza was our only, our last hope at that point, I think the Colonel pretty much played it the way he had to play it, and that was Reza what do you want? In fact he asked Joe and I to even, before he ever talked to Reza, before Reza arrived, what are we going to have to do for Reza to get him to do what we want to do. And in my opinion at that point I thought all we needed to do was offer him a way out of the country, that I thought that was all he was interested in. As it turned out, that wasn't, at least Reza made it appear that that was not his interest. Now I think we all know at this point that that probably was more of an interest than he let on. At the time that didn't appear to be the case. So how the Colonel played it with Reza was you know, how do we get this guy as motivated to get us out of the country as we are. And if one of the things is to let him feel like he's in charge, fine.

KF Did he say anything to you, I think Ross just told me, or Merv just told me, that Simons said to you "Reza will be in charge as long as he's doing what I want."

JC Right, that's exactly what he said.

KF Okay, good.

JC That's exactly what he said, because I was somewhat concerned about Reza's attitude and I expressed that to the Colonel. I said you know I'm not so sure Reza's got the proper frame of mind to really get into this thing. He says, "No, he's fine, he's fine, don't worry about it, he'll be in charge as long as he doesn't fuck it up."

KF Good, okay. Now do you think I ought to discuss Farahad?

JC No, he's got family still...

KF I was going to ask you his full name but we'll get him his full name, but we'll give him a pen name.

JC He is, you know of all the guys that I'm more worried about from a family, I'm more worried about Farahad than anybody. His father is been in and out of, I think eventually will get executed, that's just my own opinion. Because he's still there and he's still in a, as long as they have executions going on, continuing to go on he's still a target. Even though all his brothers have come out now, he's the last of the (Bazierrie) clan, and his mother's there, one of his sisters.

KF Okay. Wasn't it you who told me that Schwebach was in the process of getting divorced? Somebody else?

JC Poche.

KF It was Poche. Is he (xxxx xxx)? He didn't tell me that bastard. I couldn't remember who, I knew there was one other team was...

JC I didn't even know it at the time, I think I found out later.

KF That's all I got, I must make sure I don't say Schwebach was getting divorced. That's all I got, this time.

JC How's it going.

KF Well...

END OF TAPE #65