

Bill Gaylord's
Comments On The Second Draft Of The
Bull and the Peacock

July, 1982

1. General Comments

Overall, the story is well written in terms of its story line and sequence of events. Many of the characters have been accurately described as far as their backgrounds and their role in the story.

Some improvement may result from the following:

- More dialog between the characters to show what they were thinking about and to bring some life to their actions through their conversations.
- Interjection of some of the indecision and problems we faced on the escape trip overland where the situation was out of our control. Otherwise, the story seems canned and artificial in that there is a planned solution for almost every problem.
- Either deeper development of some of the major characters and events, or some elimination of certain aspects of the story to bring into focus the danger that was faced every day we were in Iran and Turkey. As it stands now, the story is too broad in terms of subject matter and too shallow in terms of a detail description of the key places and events that determined the outcome of the rescue.

2. Potential Concerns

I have some concern that the religious aspect of my role might be used in a negative manner. In addition, it is not clear what type of character Ken has in mind for me. As I read the story, I felt I was reading about someone else named Bill rather than me. To some extent, I think the same is true of the character named Paul. Both of us have been altered slightly to fit pre-cast molds for characters that aren't quite us.

The last concern is an obvious one and appears to be anticipated -- it concerns the roles of the Iranians that were involved. To me, their identity is clear, even though their names have been changed. And in Seyyed's [REDACTED] case, his name and family description make his identification automatic. My suggestion is to alter their description and the events they participated in to further disguise their identities.

3. Errors of Fact

Some of these may be insignificant, but if Ken is looking for reactions, these are mine.

Page 3/4 - Americans were not indifferent to the gunfire. Concern mounted steadily since many dangerous incidents directly involved EDS employees and families. Only the U.S. Embassy thought the Shah was in control and the trouble would blow over. Many other U.S. companies had begun the pull-out of employees and families.

Page 4 - Bucha was in Tehran, but flew to Paris the next day per the advice of Lou Goeltz at the Embassy.

Page 4 - The Iranians wanted our passports, visas and work permits. The passports were sent to the Embassy for "safekeeping", but the other documents were turned in since technically they belonged to the Iranian Government. Turning them in also gave our people the opportunity to find out who had ordered their seizure and perhaps why.

Page 13 - Gaylord called Lloyd Briggs about the bail offer, not Gallagher.

Page 37 - We did not disclose how much our bail was to the other prisoners. They didn't ask about bail, they asked what was our crime. We told them no charges had been filed.

Page 38 - Although the cell was small and crowded, each prisoner had a bunk -- 18 of each, I believe. It was cold with the wind coming through an open vent from outside.

Page 47 - Because of a shortage of fuel to heat water, the prisoners only had one shower period, 5 minutes per cell group, in the twenty-some days we were at the Ministry of Justice Jail. Otherwise, we washed in cold water from the sink.

Page 48 - Outside exercise periods were held weekly on Thursday for one hour.

Page 48 - We shaved with a battery-powered razor (we shared) that had been brought to us by U.S. Embassy staff. The guards made the prisoners shave periodically and wouldn't allow beards to be grown. Moustaches were allowed.

Page 48 - We met with Dr. Houman in the jail reception area, not the building outside.

Page 50 - Dinner was the grim leftovers from lunch mashed into a dip to be spread on the bread. Most of the food was cold and generally some form of starch. There were few vegetables, but we did have some oranges, apples and nuts brought in by the prisoners' families on visitor's day.

Page 50 - No cloth was allowed around the light bulb. The prisoners hung small towels or clothes from the bunk above to shield their eyes from the light at night.

Page 122 - Characterization of Bill is incorrect. Actually, I did quite a bit during the day in jail. I exercised in the hallways, kept a detailed daily diary, wrote letters to my family, read numerous books, played chess, visited the other Iranian prisoners to keep up on the latest news, measured and inspected every inch of the prison area to hopefully find a way to escape, prayed, and otherwise stayed active -- on purpose.

Page 147 - Ross Perot was not our first visitor at this jail. We had earlier visits by other EDS'ers in Tehran and perhaps also had visits from U. S. Embassy personnel. These meetings were held in our compound or in a small non-descript building outside. Therefore, it was somewhat unusual for us to be taken to the Officers Club for our visit with Ross -- the actual date of his visit should be checked.

Page 325 - Correct spelling of Gaylord's middle name is Deming, not Denning.

Page 338 - Correct spelling of Gaylord's childrens names are: Victoria (Vicki), Jacqueline (Jackie), Jennifer (Jenny) and Christopher (Chris).

4. Wrong Emphasis

Page 24 - Piss and perspiration in the cell is Paul's recollection not Bill's.

Period where we waited at the Turkish border - lasted 12 hours, way too long to suite the Colonel. He was really mad that we were still there at noon the next day and thought we were still in great danger from an attack by the Iranians who were close, well armed, and who might have found out who we really were via telephone from Tehran. He also killed any plans of opening the gas can to extract the money there at the border, and told us the Turkish guards would shoot all of us no matter who we were for that much money. "They'll kill you for a cigarette," he said.

Road trip in Iran was hazardous. When Taylor was driving up a mountain pass, we narrowly avoided a head-on crash with a bus and a truck. And, in another small village, the townspeople tried to stop our cars, but [REDACTED] drove through them without stopping -- and fortunately without killing any of them. Lastly, the use of the cab to guide us around the in-town roadblock in Rezayeh was exciting and successful -- and could be played up some more.

Rashid

5. Omissions - (my recollections of the events)

Page 5 - I believe Ross ordered the EDS evacuation from the U. S. after learning, via the Pentagon, that the U. S. Government had ordered the secret evaluation of Embassy and Military families in Tehran. His information confirmed what we had separately uncovered in Tehran through a friendly U. S. Military source.

Page 48 - Dr. Houman was the second Iranian lawyer to come to the jail to help us. WE had an earlier visit by two other lawyers we had retained in Iran -- the same ones who had given us the bum advice about possible bail requirements at our Dadgar meeting.

Page 49 - The Iranian Ministers in the prison threw a New Year's party for us to try to brighten our spirits. We sat on the floor of our cell telling jokes in English and Farsi and eating fruits and nuts until we were told to go to bed at 10:00 p.m. The next day, on New Year's Day, Paul and I had a visitor -- our Italian ex-cell mate, who brought us imported Italian chocolate bars and who told us that the Italian Ambassador would intercede on our behalf at the U. S. Embassy to show them how to get us released. It was some time after New Year's Day that Dr. Houman came to visit us the first time.

Page 315 - After receiving our temporary replacement passports, the Embassy official took us back to his office to seek our advice regarding the safest route out of Iran. The U. S. Consulate in Tabriz, Iran was under attack by the Revolutionaries and they had sent a message to the U. S. Embassy in Turkey requesting help in their effort to escape. It was ironic at the time, that Paul and I were being asked to help the U. S. Embassy personnel who were in trouble. We told the official which route we had taken, what problems we had encountered, and gave him our best advice on an escape route into Turkey.

Other incidents that are missing:

- Another Ministry official, Dr. Siazzi, was arrested and put in our cell for a while. He was a Psychiatrist who had quite a sense of humor. When he learned that Paul and I were being held for \$12.75 million in bail, he enthusiastically predicted we would have a surprise visitor -- Farah Fawcett Majors, whose husband (on TV) was only a \$6 million dollar man.
- Another incident occurred during Ross' visit when Ross related that General Huyser had made a personal commitment that he wouldn't leave Iran without Paul and I. One Saturday, several weeks later, Paul and I read in the paper that General Huyser had flown out of Iran earlier that week. Obviously, another U. S. commitment to help us had been worthless.

- Actually, the flight out of Frankfurt was more dangerous than is currently described. Bad weather was closing in on us, the engine wouldn't start and had to be repaired, the whole plane had to be de-iced, and we had a tight time deadline to beat before the airport closed down for the night -- which would have trapped us inside Germany one more day. When the plane finally took off, it was with a wing and a prayer -- and a lot of crossed fingers inside the plane.
- Some of the scenery in Istanbul is important to properly depict the conditions there at the time we passed through. The city was under Martial Law, soldiers were on duty in the streets and there were long lines of people waiting to buy scarce food and other goods. This scene was somewhat similar to Tehran 6 months earlier. Also, the architecture of this port city was magnificent and has to be included to properly set the scene.

Emily Gaylord's comments

She enjoyed the story and thought it was very exciting, as is.

She thought it might add some to the story to include a description of the evacuation trip, out of Tehran back to the U. S., that she and Ruth made with all of our children. The wives knew that Paul and I couldn't leave them, but they didn't know everything regarding why.

They had an exciting but scary exit through the airport in Tehran and a forebidding flight to Copenhagen. Upon their arrival, they called Tom Walter in Dallas to report their whereabouts and to find out what was happening back in Tehran. Tom had to doubletalk his way through the conversation since he didn't know what they had been told by Paul and I before they flew out of Tehran. Later, they were met in New York by other EDS'ers who had been organized to meet the families returning to the U. S. -- in the middle of a winter blizzard.

The other incident she thought might be worth including involved the drama going on in Washington, at Dulles airport, where she and our children were waiting with Gary Fernandes for the arrival of the 707 and the rescue team. Gary had reserved 20 or 30 rooms for the night and was anxiously awaiting the safe arrival of the plane and its

passengers. Near midnight, Gary and Emily drove through the snow to the airport to check on the status of the flight. A customs official said "Oh, you must be talking about the plane that's coming apart in the sky." He went on to tell them that something had happened and the plane was no longer scheduled to land in D.C. Emily says that the look of shock on Gary's face was priceless. He quickly called Dallas to find out what had happened and gave someone hell for not calling him earlier to let him know first hand. There was nothing left for them to do but to return to the airport hotel and arrange for a morning flight to Dallas for Emily and the kids.

As an interested side story, Emily says she was asked by one of the hotel managers the next morning what had happened to all of her friends. They knew something unusual was going on, but couldn't figure out what. Emily and our four kids weren't much of an explanation for them and they probably never knew who all those rooms and beds were reserved for that night.