

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ken Follett  
FROM: Ross Perot  
DATE: November 3, 1981

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When I was in Iran, I asked the Embassy if I could stay in the compound as a security precaution. Both the Ambassador and his assistant refused this request, which I believe they are required to furnish by law. I think Tom Luce can assure you that it is most unusual to turn down a person in my situation. I specifically asked if I could stay in a small, empty, yellow house and recall pointing to it through the window. This flustered everybody because the house was empty, but they still said no.

Later, the military attaches heard of my predicament and offered to put me in their housing outside the Embassy compound. Technically these houses were also of diplomatic status, but they were not secure and had no guards.

Gen. Gast, who was overrun with major problems at the moment, heard about this and was obviously shocked at the Embassy's attitude. He called and offered to have me in his home. It also had diplomatic status but was in a very vulnerable area and had no security.

This is not all that important, but it helps describe the attitude of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran toward Americans who needed help.

Variations of this story were repeated hundreds of times during the evacuation. The Americans in Iran left with a very bitter feeling toward the U.S. State Department because -

- a) It misinformed them consistently, and
- b) Refused to help them.

RP/sw