

Reza's Interview 1

REZA'S INTERVIEW WITH MERV STAUFFER AND JAY COBURN
FEBRUARY 26, 1982

MS Reza. As you know Ken was in town this week with a number of questions for a number of people trying to clarify in his own mind certain events as he tries to put them together. And he gave us a number of questions for you to try and help him understand a couple of points he's a little fuzzy on. The first question is; when you were in Rezayeh, when the revolutionaries decided to check out you and the group. I believe they tried to call Tehran. Did they get through to Tehran?

Reza No.

MS Did not get through Tehran?

Reza No, the reason they didn't try to get through Tehran. The reason was that was the idea of getting through Tehran was coming from the head of the committee, and at that point I said fine, I agreed to that and I will continue the process with people who are working for you, okay. So he's taking the assumption that I'm going to his people and say he wants us to check with Tehran, okay. I agree with him on that and when I talked to the person who wrote the letter then I didn't mention anything about Tehran. What I told him was that we have been verified in Tehran, okay. So creating a gap of communication with the head of the committee and the person who did that so he wouldn't be aware of that fact. So they never got to Tehran.

MS Never called Tehran.

JC But you made it appear to his lieutenants as if they had.

Reza That's correct.

Reza's Interview 2

MS Okay. When you left the school to take the team to the hotel. At that time, did you have permission to take the team to the border or did you not have permission?

Reza No, I didn't.

MS Did not have?

Reza I didn't.

MS And you were waiting for permission?

Reza Right.

MS After you took them to the hotel, did you go back to the school?

Reza Yes, sir.

MS And why did you go back to the school?

Reza To get the permission.

MS Okay, you're still at that point trying to get permission.

Reza I only, the first time I only had the permission I told them that there's no point for these people to stay in the school under this situation, so I need your permission to take them to a hotel. And I personally will come and talk for them. So I took them to the hotel and we checked in and then I went back to the school to go through the whole process and get the permission to go through the border.

MS Okay. And you were successful in getting permission so what happened at that point, is that when you convinced them, one group that the other group had checked you out?

Reza's Interview 3

Reza It wasn't a group actually. It was more person that I talked to, and I made him believe somehow that it has been agreed with his boss that everything is fine and it was more the matter of convincing a human being, the matter of going through someone, through his nature, and get to him and try to explain things to him in his own way so he's accepts. I had certain type of reaction expected from him and in order for me to get it from him I had to talk in his own language, in his own way. And I think I have never had problem talking with people and getting into them real fast, so he was driving a Mercedes Benz I guess which was confiscated from somebody. And we sat in the car, we went through the city and then I offered him to go to lunch with me but I think we didn't go to lunch. So we just went through the city and we talked and somehow I convinced him that this is the situation, these people just need to go home, they need our support and so when we went back then he started writing a letter.

MS Yea, okay, and he's the one that wrote the note.

Reza Right.

MS And the reason he wrote it is because you convinced him that you'd been cleared.

Reza That we had been cleared.

MS And then later were able to use that note to convince someone else you'd been cleared.

Reza And I seriously think that if, that that was a very critical point. That if he had for any reason he would've checked with Tehran, we would have been in great problem, great danger. I mean there was no way that we could get out it.

MS Okay.

Reza's Interview 4

Reza So that has been a very critical point I guess.

MS Okay. After you returned from the border did you go to the school for a third time?

Reza No, sir.

MS Did not?

Reza I don't think so, I can't recall that. There was no, no I can say no.

MS Okay. When you went to the hotel what did you have or how were you able to relate to the guards that it was okay for the team to leave with you.

Reza Now, let it be understood that the reason the guard was in the hotel was not because that they had been waiting for some kind of permission, they knew that the permission was going to come from one person, the committee. And I had that letter, so before I went to the border for a second time, I mean for the first time which was after I was at school for the second time then I had the permission, the guard was aware of that. The reason guard was there was to protect these people. They were not waiting for some kind of permission because after I got back from the school for the second time I did have the permission, that note.

MS The note.

Reza I did have it, so that was good enough for them.

MS Okay. Now your job is obviously to help get the people to the border.

Reza's Interview 5

Reza Right.

MS But Ken had another question which was. Once you crossed the border, when you were on the Turkish side of the border.

Reza Yes.

MS From your perspective what were the problems which prevented you leaving, and how did those problems get solved? Maybe you remember and maybe you don't, but as you think back, why couldn't you just go on from the border, why did you have to stay at the border so long?

Reza You mean in Turkish border?

MS On the Turkish side.

Reza On the Turkish side. What was the problem that we couldn't just continue our travel?

MS Yes.

Reza Because we didn't have transportation. It was 2:00 o'clock in the morning and that was the main reason.

MS So it was a matter of the time of the morning, early morning hours and no transportation.

Reza That's as far as I understand, and for some reason we just felt a little safer. We just felt that a part of the mission is accomplished.

MS Sure.

Reza And just by the nature of the border, anyway.

MS Okay, well that's all the questions he had, I told you it wouldn't take very long. Thank-you.