

TAPE #26--SIDE A

INTERVIEW WITH KEANE TAYLOR NOVEMBER 9, 1981

KF And the problem was?

KT They had not expected, the Turkish border people had not expected two guys to come in without passports. Now the Colonel had decided apparently there was a mix up in signals about it, the Colonel, you know they knew we had passports for Paul and Bill. But the Colonel had decided he didn't want to take them into the country on forged passports, not forged but fakes, that weren't theirs because if we got caught in Turkey.

KF You'd all be in jail in Turkey.

KT Yea. With these bad passports so he pulled them and stuffed them in my boots. Now Turkey's under martial law, and we're up in that wild mountain country up there still the tribal territorial kind of stuff. And we didn't have clearance to take these two people without passports from the border to Van. And, they weren't going to let us go until that was all cleared up. Pat Sculley is off with these people from the tourist group, these smugglers, making all those arrangements. But we didn't understand that, and you've got some really angry upset people. We were upset at our own people. You know why the hell are we staying here. Why don't they get here you know. Really short tempered totally, and all of a suddenly we start playing poker. I mean it was just an outlet, it was...

KF Okay.

KT The poker game.

KF Oh yes.

KT The poker game was just a release we had all the high rollers really there if you talk about Ron Davis was there by that time, Jay, Boulware, myself, Gayden was there, Paul Chiapparone was there. We,

KT and someone had a deck of cards and the next thing I know we were playing poker. It was just a release, one of those, other than kick down walls we started to play. I think everybody played but the Colonel and [REDACTED]. Rashid

Rashid
KF Now, something else occurs to me throughout these two days, [REDACTED] has not been as good at taking the Colonel's orders as everybody else, in fact he has been disobedient.

KT Yea, at some time, there were times he would do things that weren't on the schedule.

Rashid
KF Now, how is the Colonel taking this, is he getting mad at [REDACTED]?

KT Yea, but at the Colonel as well as all of us realize that that we're dealing with a completely totally different culture, different you know, it's a different circumstances than dealing with the team. You know, I would say the rest of us were all a team, [REDACTED] was not a team member from that standpoint you know. The Colonel kept him in check, but, with difficulty.

KF Okay, and, he was also a star performer, at that point he was probably the most important member of the team.

Rashid
KT Oh, absolutely. You know, we all are, [REDACTED] has told me that many times he decided to stop and go back, to quit, not to go any farther. So we're playing poker.

KF What were the stakes?

KT Oh, it was just pot limit, we were. I remember getting beat out of a bigger full house by Chiapparone.

KF You had a full house and he had a better one?

KT Yea. He filled that thing, filled it on the last card, 7 Card Stud. It was either King's over and I'm sitting there with Queen's over, I'm trying to force him out of the game. There had to be \$600 or \$700 dollars just between the two of us in that last round of betting, but it was a high stake, it was 50, 60 bucks a card plus raises so it was. Oh we played for about an hour and a half, an hour you know the tension started to ease. And, here we'd been there eight hours already at the border. Tempers were really short, Gayden went into a tither over something I forget what it was, the Colonel was, the Colonel was really hacked at ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] wanted to go back to the car to get something and started to go back to the car, the Colonel did raise his voice at that point. Bill was upset, Bill Gayden was upset. I forget what the exact incident was that he was upset over but it was all trivia stuff. Then the bus showed up. I get the impression that we left within a half hour of the bus showing up we were ready to go. And, they had gone down the line and bribed the proper officials, bribe maybe a the wrong term to use. But they had paved the way with all the local officials through all this area that we had to travel. We had picked up some passengers, we had picked up a group of Kurdish tribes people to put in the back of the bus. We picked up some Army people to put in the front of the bus. Now, the Army owns the roads and the tribes own the hills. It was so if we got stopped by the Army, the Army guys would take care of it. If we got stopped by the tribal people, the tribal people would take care of it. They never acknowledged that each other's on the bus. Part of the, one of the officials at the border, his part of the deal was that he and his wife and baby rode to Van with us in the bus, and in fact went on to Istanbul with us or Ankara which was the first stop.

KF Ankara was the first stop.

KT And flew on the plane to Ankara with us.

KF One of the Turkish border officials who had been there when you crossed?

KT Yes that was their part of the deal. So you know we got loaded up on the bus and took off, they stopped the bus, someone had missed the bus I think it was Pat Sculley and we took off anyway and if they were coming they were going to have to run into the bus on the road it wasn't that you had four or five ways to go you only had one way to go, a narrow road. And just as we got started up out of the border area the car that he was in came down and they had run off to get some food, we hadn't eaten anything. They got some bread and some beer, Turkish beer, I'm pretty sure, yea. So they got on the bus and we hauled, going through these various roadblocks. The country was so desolate up there, God, snow, mudwall villages, even people living in caves. They would take a cave and they would built a fort up in the front of the cave and they'd live in there. Animals grazing out there you could see where people were shoveling snow out of fields to get down to the grass for the goats to eat. Whole villages out there trampling snow down so the animals could find something eat. Really wild country. We went through any number of military stops on the road one of the we kept, the bus driver was a wild man, he kept on driving through one and ten minutes later I thought they were going to machine gun the bus. The military was all over the road the next checkpoint out in force. Drag the bus driver out of the bus screaming at him for not stopping. The military people that were on the bus were trying to intercede and tell them this is all going on Turkey, and Turkish and, we're sitting on the bus thinking that's all we need is to get our bus driver shot. That went on for ten minutes the bus driver finally gets back, they threw him back on the bus. He gets back on the bus everybody screaming at everyone and he finally starts driving away and he's got his head out the window screaming at them. You know the dummy, you shoot him. It was a long trip in that bus up to Van. The first big village we came to they stopped us and we went through this enormous harangue about filling out papers and everything to get through that village. They got Paul and Bill in there without passports and they went through this big interrogation. All the local people were being brought in to view the strange Americans. I mean they were dragging people, dignitaries in and they would come in and they would look around and they would talk and then they

KT would go away again. I think this is the biggest thing that had happened to that village in a long time. And boy this official, the mayor or whatever he was was really making hay out of it. So we had a big delay in there, we finally got out of that village and just before we got to Van, Turkey they had a roadblock set up, the police did, the Turkish police and they were waiting for us. And we had a big discussion there with them that I didn't, I really wasn't even paying any attention. I was just flat flaken out, you know. They took us directly to the airport, took the bus out onto the tarmac, cleared the airport they would not let, there was a plane about to take off when we got there, they made us stay on the airplane, or on the bus. The airplane took off and then they cleared the airport out and Turkish guards stayed outside the airport and they wouldn't let anybody in the airport. They brought us in the back way. They did a very detailed passport check, they looked through our little bits of hand luggage, then they did a very very close identification to your passport picture. It was a long good hard look up and down height weight eyes comparison. Now the meantime the two Turkish guys in the black leather coats just stood around and did nothing.

KF These are the tribesmen?

KT No, no these are the Turkish CIA people, the Turkish Secret Police people that were with Boulware they just stood around and did nothing. They didn't seem to interfere, they didn't seem to say anything, they were just there. The jet was on the runway, the jet came in, the small private plane. As I understand it that was the second, the day before when they brought Boulware and company in was the first time a jet had ever landed in Van, Turkey, because the planes taking out of there were twin engine prop planes. Now here, one day later comes the second plane, jet in 2,500 years. So they didn't even have fueling capability for that plane. So we had a rather high exposure, we had a rather high exposure about the whole thing. This is still not much more than a mud hut village, city, with a few brick buildings in its center. But after you get out of the very center of the little city, you talk about, it goes downhill very fast to mud

KT wall huts. And this airport was an airport in name only, something that you'd find in some private field in Tennessee. I hope I haven't maligned Tennessee. We were getting ready to go out to the planes when all of a sudden the guards started a little commotion with these two guys in the black jackets, and they asked them to open their coats and they opened those black jackets and they're both carrying 45's in there. They were having a problem with allowing these guys to get on the plane with their 45's, their pistols for some reason.

KF Well you are not allowed to take firearms onto airplanes.

KT Maybe in the civilized part of the world but we were not in the civilized part of the world. And I don't exactly what the commotion was about but the guys in the black jackets they won. And they got on the plane with their jackets buttoned again. Those guys disappeared in Ankara, Ankara, they just disappeared. As did the people who were on the bus, the Kurds disappeared when the police blockade appeared. They stopped at a police blockade, the back door was open the Kurdish tribesmen disappeared. They got off the bus and walked away. And that was the end, like they didn't exist. Of course the people who flew from Van to Ankara with us, the man and woman and child they stayed. We carted the oil can on the plane, and to the guys it was rubbing oil.

KF You know what ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] told them? He said it's the oil Americans rub on themselves to make them smell so bad.

KT I didn't know he said to make them smell so bad, but I knew he told them it was rubbing oil.

KF Yea, he said that's why Americans smell so bad, this is the stuff they use. At least that's what Gayden says.

KT We got to Ankara, went through, dumped all our junk in a pile, including the oil can. Sat around in the lobby or the waiting room at the airport. They weren't going to let us take the private plane on to

KT Istanbul because we could only use the private plane where there wasn't a schedule. And there was scheduled airlines between Ankara and Istanbul, so we couldn't take the private plane on. So what the tourist guy did was made them put on another plane and basically they put on another plane which only we were on.

KF Presumably you had to buy all the seats?

KT Presumably, I don't know whether we did or not, I don't know what the bill for all that was, they were making those arrangements. At this time we're following the crowd, I mean I was. I had put my hand, my body and soul in the hands of Boulware and Sculley and company. And you know I was just, someone had a ring in my nose and I was just following whatever I was told to do at that point, we all were.

KF Even the Colonel?

KT Yea, I would say yes. He was checking what's going on, what's the next step, but he wasn't making any decisions as to what should be done and should not be done. He was just following the program. We had a money problem there in that they had decided, they had taken Paul and Bill to get them a passport. They had decided to open up the oil can and get the money out, and the Colonel had dumped it into a paper bag or a large manila envelope. He was standing right in front of me as we started to go out to customs to the plane, for some reason they asked him to look in the envelope. I'm sitting there now, I'd taken all the money out of the black bag, or out of my shoes, my boots and everything and had dumped it all into my black bag, a little handbag. They stopped the Colonel and their looking at his with this money, and I just said oh shit, and I just said excuse me, excuse me, excuse me and I took my little black bag and just walked past them and I got on the plane.

KF How much money do you think you had?

KT Had to be a couple of hundred thousand dollars.

KF And how much did the Colonel have?

KT I had both rials and dollars.

KF Well how much did the Colonel have?

KT I'm not sure, Jay would know, could've been, we really had two funds. Now the Colonel and Jay had a fund that they were controlling and I had the company money that we had converted to rials plus dollars that Gayden had, plus dollars that the company had. Now I had all that in the black bag. Then after I got onto the plane I took it all out of the black bag and started to redistribute into my boots, and that kind of stuff. Because I didn't want another customs check. We got to Istanbul and we're coming down the walk way, the hallway and they had six guys blocking the end of the hallway and they grabbed the Colonel immediately and hustled him off. The rest of us went to the hotel and met Ross. Sat around in the room talking with Ross, you know we were all dead beat, dead tired. He was concerned about the Colonel and he got on the phone right away and was talking to somebody. I don't know who, I think Pat Sculley is the one that went to get the Colonel out. And that a \$5,000 bribe, I think it was, I say bribe, settlement of fine for carrying money. Where there is even such a law I don't know, I think he cost five bills and the Colonel came back the next morning, with the money minus five that's all. Going through the airport I remember Ross said get enough cigarettes and booze for you guys on that plane. And I said well what's on the plane, he didn't know. Which he kept referring to as the Persian whorehouse, and it would've been anything, it was. So we walked up to the duty free and it was give us two of those, two of those, two of those, two of those, I think we spent 2,000 bucks on cigarettes and booze and packages of cookies, you know just anything you know. Dragged it all on the plane with us. There was a tremendous of celebration, we were dead tired, dead beat tired but we were all celebrating even though we were that tired. It was one of I'm so tired I'd much rather just go to sleep, but I'm going to celebrate anyway, kind of thing. We all had our stinking old clothes on, beards, at least Jay and I had a beard,

KT Bill had his moustache. We had two beautiful stewardesses on the plane, which everybody kept hugging and how they could possibly stand even standing next to us, with those clothes us I don't know, they must have had the, and still smile at the same time. There wasn't alot of drinking on the plane, I think everyone was too tired to do alot of drinking. You know we would start, let's have a drink you know and ten minutes later everybody's still nursing the same drink. You know you just couldn't, you just couldn't get into it. We decided to play poker again and nobody was interested in doing that, and guys would cake out on the floor or just lay down on the couches in the plane. I mean this was a traveling whorehouse, unbelievable. It was made for some Sheik. Reclining chairs and couches along the side of it and everything like that. Somebody would just lay down and stretch out for ten or fifteen minutes, but they couldn't get to sleep. It was an emotional thing, you were just too keyed up to sleep. I remember, someone had a camera, Schwebach seems Schwebach had a camera. And I was sitting there both stewardesses plopped down on either side of me, grabbed me around the neck and their both kissing me on each cheek and Ross is standing there taking my picture. And he said he was going to put this one away and file it and if I ever gave him a rough time, he was going to pull that one out and send it to my wife. You know it was crazy stuff like that we were doing. Then on to Frankfurt, that's where we were headed.

KF Sometime before you landed in Frankfurt the Colonel whose brain was still ticking over in top gear said, "is there an extradition Turkey, an Extradition Treaty between Iran and Germany?" Did you know about that?

KT The first I became aware of that was actually in Frankfurt, in the hotel room, Jay, we all went to our rooms. Jay called me on the phone as I remember and said, "come up here we've got a problem." I ran up to the room, the Colonel was sitting there, Jay, Paul and Bill. I'm trying to think, for some reason I can't remember whether Ross was in the room or not, I assume he was. He talked about the Treaty and

KT said we need to get these guys under cover. Jay and Paul left, and Bill and I left, went downstairs, this was the airport hotel. You know Frankfurt Main is a pretty large airport. We went down into where the movie section is down there on the lower level, and there were two movie houses down there. Both showing as I remember it, some kind of sex films. We split the two, Paul and Jay went into one movie, Bill and I went into the other movie. Bill slept through the first movie. And then when that was out, when that was over.

KF Do you remember what the movie was called?

KT I don't know, I don't remember a thing about either movie. Not a thing about either movie.

KF Were they in German?

KT I don't even recall. I mean it was just a place to go, when the movies were over, we switched movie houses. I fell asleep in the second one. And I know, I know Paul cause Jay told me later on. Paul slept through both of them. Pat Sculley came to get us. He said that the clean team was coming in from Iran. And, the Colonel went off with Pat and company. That left Ross, Jay, myself, Paul and Bill in this one area. We find this sort of a deserted area of the airport where we could see the incoming people, coming off the plane. We tried to remain as inconspicuous as possible. And you know the four of us looked like death warmed over. I mean dirty filthy clothes, beards and we're trying to remain inconspicuous in that airport.

KF Ross is quite sure you were all dressed in black. But you weren't.

KT No, that's true, we were not all dressed in black.

KF It could simply be that your clothes were so dirty they all looked black.

KT I had a black sweater on, levis, a black navy hat, a beard which had alot of gray in it my wife tells me, and an orange jacket that was kind of dirty. You know an orange ski jacket which it was burnt orange to begin with and it was dirty greasy orange by that time. Jay had on his blue, bulky blue jacket, his black hat. Paul had on something dark, Bill had on something light blue. But they were rag, rag ends of clothes we really got for them out of Dvoranchak's place. Ill fitting also, and they both had levis on as I recall. Because Bill had my extra pair of levis that I had at the hotel.

KF Bill did?

KT Yes, when he took a shower in my room at the hotel. What he had been wearing he had been wearing in the jail, they also happened to be my levis because I had taken them down to him at the jail. But I had another pair of levis with me, I had two pair with me at the hotel and he put on one pair, and I had the other pair on.

KF You're about a foot taller than Bill?

KT Yes. But I was weighing in at close to 200 at that time, and Bill was a lot of thinner than he is right now. It didn't matter that it was a tight fit, they were a pair of pants to wear. So we saw the planes, the people coming off, we waited until the rush all cleared out then we went. I think the Colonel came back and gave us the hi sign and came through customs and met up with the rest of the guys in the outgoing transit lounge. And, then headed for the plane. I can't think of any little incidents, we were just, we were moving fast. In and out right through customs right through, got on that plane, and took off. We were really, with the new crowd coming in from Tehran. The clean team coming in there, you know, Bob Young, John Howell, and Joe. Now the Gallaghers decided to stay in Germany and they swished off somewhere.

KF Did they still have that dog with them?

KT Yes. Lucky Muffet or whatever her name was.

KF Oh dear.

KT Gayden was hacked at Gallagher.

KF Why?

KT For not, for going off on his own, and at first he was trying to convince him no Rich you need to come back on the plane with us, and everything, and Rich says no I think I'll go to Paris and visit with Paul Bucha. And finally Gayden says to hell with him, let's go, let them go. Now I think Ross was going to insist that they come, and I think really Bill said, Ross to hell with them let them go.

KF What was the big deal, why should they go to Dallas?

KT You know, Ross wanted everybody together, the whole team together. I think he was concerned as to what would happen, you know. Would the Gallagher's run into problems in Germany?

KF Oh, then I suppose Ross would have felt it his responsibility to sort that problem out.

KT Yea, so we took off.

KF They might not have got the dog into the states you see, from Iran, you think that might have been it? Where as if they were going to Paris, the French would take dogs from anywhere.

KT I'm trying to think of where the kids, where their kids were. Their daughter, I'm trying to think of where their daughter was. I don't know, but that might of had an input to it. But, he was going to run off to see Bucha, and it was bye, bye. And then, we finally got the plane up, got the party started again.

KF By this time the plane is loaded with booze.

KT Oh yea it was. Because somehow they got confused and put a double order of food on the plane. And, we got a few, I don't know how many hours out, an hour out, two hours out or whatever it was, it was some timeframe out of Germany and the plane started to develop real problems. Now as I understand it they were having some problems all along, but they were apparently minor problems they were still flyable. But they started to develop some real serious problems with the navigation gear, the compasses and so forth. And in fact, Paul was up in the cockpit riding shotgun in the cockpit while the problem started to develop. And, I remember him coming back and said "hey, this damn plane ain't going to fly any longer." And then the pressure system started to go out, and I mean we were having real problems. Everybody was sitting up trying to get you know pressure balance.

KF Yawning and...

KT Oh, yea. Your ears were cracking and you could feel pressure it wasn't, and it would come and go real quick. So finally the pilot you know, I don't know, I guess he told Ross, you know we've got to... the Colonel by this time was sound asleep on the big bed. And had shaved, and I mean when he shaved it was two months worth of shave, a beard, and he was like stuck. There was more stickum tape all over his face from where he cut himself. I mean you know he had, it wasn't as smooth as a baby's behind, that face of his. If you get that picture out, it was a pretty rough face to begin with, you know he wasn't a young man. And he had sliced himself up pretty badly shaving in that plane with a beard. And we went into London. Had to set it down. I'd split the money up into two piles, two pieces. And I'd given Schwebach an attache case full of money which he immediately left on the plane. We get to the hotel in London where they had booked us in all of a sudden. How they got that book in I don't know but somehow they made arrangements to get us into a hotel. We get to that hotel and we're checking in and John says "my God, I left the

KT attache case." I said you stupid ass it's full of money, you dummy. I forgot all about it. We get BA on the phone and get this guy on the phone and I said listen I need you to go out to the plane and get, we've got the handling agent on the phone, there's an attache case sitting on the plane, and everything. He says "we've already got the case, do you realize sir, do you realize that it is full of money, it is full of money, we can't be responsible for things like that." I said well just lock it in your safe and we'll get it tomorrow morning, I mean, he said "you need to come and get it immediately." You know there's no way I'm going back to that airport to get a case full of money, it just didn't mean that much to me. I was too tired. So I said John you go back and get the goddamn money. And he said, "bullshit I'm going to bed." So I mean that's where it ended.

KF This is John who?

KT Schwebach.

KF Jim Schwebach.

KT Jim Schewbach, John I'm not thinking, Jim Schwebach. And the next day when we went to the airport we picked up a full case of money that they gingerly handed over to us. But they weren't too pleased with that kind of act. I don't know what the British thought of us landing there, you know, the multi-, the multi-BA handled this. You know agreed to take us. A moldy crew you ever saw I mean those girls were just looking around at us wide eyed as they were bringing us in to customs and everything like that. The customs people were looking at you kind of wierd like where's the moldy crew coming from. The only one that looked half way decent was Perot, you know everybody else, well Sculley looked pretty clean, and Ron Davis looked pretty clean. But the rest of us, grubby bunch of people. And I remember getting to the hotel and going in, and it was late, and the plane was going to leave at six o'clock in the morning, or something like. Some early ungodly hour, and we kept telling them at the desk, now you know you need to call these rooms all at this time so we can

KT be up and ready and all that kind of stuff. We had taken booze off the plane in two wastebaskets, two garbage cans. And, we're carting two garbage cans full of booze around. There were cigarettes in one stuffed full of cigarettes and booze and cigarettes and booze in the other one, full bottles. And we're carting all that with us. We took it up to the rooms, I think we took it to my room, I'm pretty sure we did, or we left it at the desk, I don't know which. But the next morning, well a few hours later, I wake up and I haven't been sleeping and nobody's calling me. And I get up and I said my God it's an hour we've got to leave here for that plane. So I took a shower.

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

KT Put my dirty clothes back on. And went downstairs and most of the people were in the lobby. Someone was missing, I forget who it was, two or three people were missing. They hadn't made any of the wake up calls. And someone's running around, the bus is sitting there ready to take us. Pat's running around with his head cut off trying to get everybody. I think it was Jay was still sound asleep, when Jay Coburn goes to sleep, he's a hard man to wake up. They had to drag Jay out of bed and dress him and rush him downstairs. And Jay was a little bit irritable, he didn't care whether he got on the plane or not. You know, get the hell away from me and leave me alone. Everyone is now really irritable. Because you know we've been jacked around all over the place now. All we wanted to do was to get on a plane and go home. I remember...

KF You can't have been in bed very long, because that plane didn't take off from Frankfurt until midnight.

KT A few hours.

KF You had gone out, you traveled a fair way, you'd landed and gone through a hassle at Heathrow and then you'd got to the Post House Hotel.

KT Post House that's what it was.

KF I don't see how you could've got there before three.

KT It was a just a matter of an hour you know an hour, two hours at the most.

KF It must have been 5 o'clock those alarm calls should have been 5 o'clock.

KT I remembered standing out on the sidewalk, everybody was getting on the bus. I'm lugging this one garbage can full of booze, and I said hey does anyone want anything? I got a bottle of rum out of it had a pack a carton of Marlboro's, I said does anyone want anything, come on, I'm not carting this thing around, get your booze out of here. So I turned around to the bell captain, the guy that was standing there, he wasn't loading or anything, we didn't have anything to load on. But he was standing around there, and I said here's your tip, and he looked at me. I just gave him I don't know how many hundred dollars worth of booze. But I wasn't going to lug that thing one more step. Well we got to the airport, they rushed us right through, and I don't know who was making these arrangements whether it was Braniff that made the arrangements or whatever. But we went through that airport like a piece of glass, I mean it was slick, we just went right through. In through customs right through the security check, they opened Pat Sculley's briefcase and all of a sudden it was full of money. And they started giving him a hassle about it and there I am walking, I got more money in my boots than Carter's got little liver pills, just stuffed with it. And we went right through got on the plane, they hassled Pat a little bit, he had to fill out a form or something like that, and then off we'd go. We got on that 747 and he got the front of that 747 for us, Ross did. We walk on that thing and the stewardess, the stewardesses they were just wide eyed when walked off that thing. You know a bunch of ruffians. I remember Ross saying, as you walk through a 747 has a, as you come in that first class door, there's the galley right there.

KF Yea, and the stairs beside it.

KT Right, Ross walked through that galley and there were two girls standing there. And he says I want these guys to have anything they want on this plane. And he kept on going through the galley and out this side, this one stewardess turns to the other and says, "who the Christ is that, what the hell does he think he is?" And the other one turns around and said, "that's Mr. Perot, and I don't know what's

KT going on but I know who he is. I was on his plane who took the, the Braniff plane that went to, took the Christmas gifts to..." And the other girl says "oh my God." And you know they came around and said what can we give you, what do you want. The party picked up on that Braniff flight, when it took off, the party picked up on that Braniff flight. The pilot came back Ross talked with the pilot he explained what was going on, I guess some people were getting a little bit upset, nervous with us on there.

KF Didn't you all go up in the bubble?

KT Not at first. But...

KF Well you couldn't until after the take off.

KT Yea, but as soon as we got off the ground. I was going around collecting all the money off of everybody 'cause we had passed out money to everybody. I don't know why but I had this continual thought of someone's going to make me account for all this goddamn money that's floating around here. So I went around and gathered up all the money I could off of everyone and I said Gayden we're going to sit down and have an accounting of all this money while we're still sober. So I had all the money in my black bag by this time, and I had it zipped up and I set on my seat and I said watch this, I'm going to go to the little boy's room. And I came back out and Bill says let's go upstairs we'll count it all up there. So we all go upstairs and there were a few people upstairs at that time but they didn't stay long, they disappeared in a big hurry.

KF Before or after you dumped the money?

KT Well we dumped the money in the middle floor pushed the tables out of the road, and dumped the money in the middle floor and started to count and we're sitting around Indian fashion in the middle floor and we're counting stacks of money. I think that these people didn't want any part of that shit. They just split, you know we could've been

KT bank robbers or something for all they knew. As dirty and filthy as we looked. And I came up I don't know \$50,000 or \$60,000 short, and Gayden's looking at me. And I said, hey maybe we'd ought to start counting again because you know that's all I've got I don't know what the hell happened to all this money. And, so we counted through it again, and it's still \$50,000 or \$60,000 short and I said bullshit, I don't know what the hell's going on here that's all I've got. And then I started, I was really upset, I was really angry. And I said I don't know how I can be that short, I don't know what's wrong I'm not thinking clearly but this is all the money I've got. And I think it was, I think everybody realized it was a bad joke, because they had opened the bag and taken out the money and it was going to be a little joke. And someone just dumped it into the pile and I think I had some strong words for everybody and their brother at that time. But that was once again, that was a five minute thing, but...

KF And then you were still a \$1,000 short after that weren't you?

KT No, when it came all down to it we accounted for everything but about a 100 bucks. Gayden had about \$1,000 in his pocket and he had won in the last poker game and he said, I'm not sure exactly how much I had given him and how much he had given me back. But he said, he had like, he didn't know whether he had won \$500 or \$600 in the poker game. And he said, we'll make it that I only won \$500 and he threw in the extra \$100 he said 'cause it could be that. And so, we were smack on the nose with that \$100, we were about a \$100 short when we got done counting. Which was amazing I mean halfway around the world throwing money, hiding money in toilet tissue and everything like that and then spreading it out and getting it back together, spreading it out, taking it out of an oil can. You know and all this jazz and we come up pretty close to a 100 bucks difference so you know, I don't that that was a big issue to begin with but at that time it seemed like a big issue with me that we would have all the money straight. Then I put it all in the black bag and what I remember of that flight was cat napping, quick short conversations

KT with individuals. You know high level of excitement you know, we did it, we got them, we got them home. And then tired, go sit down and try to catch a little bit of sleep, that kind of thing. And then we finally got to Dallas, we combed through customs. A woman came out and said now you'll come with me, and she started to lead us around all this custom stuff and everything. And a man came out of this office and he says "what the hell's going on here? Who are these people? What is going on here?" She said, "I will tell you later just don't worry about it." He says "somebody better tell me what's the hell's going on here!" And we just kept on walking, and we were going right through customs there at DFW and then the EDS security people were there outside waiting for us. And they grabbed us and hustled us onto a bus, a couple of busses and our families were there on those busses. And obviously my wife didn't recognize me at all.

KF You still had the beard?

KT Oh, yea. And, it was a tremendous reunion with the families and everything like that. Then we stayed on the buses for a short while.

KF Who was waiting for you, your wife?

KT My wife and my two kids.

KF What are their names?

KT Michael and Michelle.

KF And how old were they then?

KT Michael was 12, Dawn was 9.

KF And what's your wife's name?

KT Mary.

KF Do you remember the first thing that was said?

KT The first thing that was said, and I forget who exactly it was, said, I was standing there and somebody said "Mary, aren't you going to say hello to Keane?" And I was standing there looking at her, and she hadn't recognized me. Dawn had, Dawn Michelle had and she had come running over and jumped on my arm. And, Mike was just sitting there looking at me like is that you Dad? kind of thing. But Mary hadn't recognized me and she jumped up. You know Mary had an idea all along what was going on. I had talked with Mary from Tehran a good bit. My Mother was very sick at that time, and I had called. Mary had to leave Dallas she took off out there, she came back here to Dallas. She said that the questions were becoming thick and fast and she knew what was going on, and she took off for Pittsburgh to get away from everybody that had questions. And when she got to Pittsburgh my Mother was very ill. I talked to my Dad on the phone from Tehran, I explained to him what was going on, and he said you stay and do what you have to do. And I said I well, you need to explain this carefully to Mary, 'cause she was taking this kind of, you know Keane what's going to happen. I had told Mary in our last conversation, I had told her that not to worry if she didn't hear from us for a while, or me for a while. That we might have to go under and stay out of sight, but that we would be okay and not to worry. I think she always understood why I did it, I don't know that, I don't know and she has never said whether she, well let me see. I know she was very upset during the whole period of time, emotionally, worrying. As it turned out she was suffering from a gall bladder problem the whole time, and had a very serious operation just after I got back.

KF But, you didn't know while you were in Tehran that she was sick, but you knew she was worried. And your mother was sick, what was her trouble?

KT Well my Mother just died about two months ago. She was, heart problem. And she was having heart problems at that time.

KF That must have been on your mind.

KT It was, but my parents are very elderly at that time they were both in their near 80's. In fact my Father died 18 months ago. He was not in good health at the same time but, my Mother was in worse health. On top of all that Mary went back into that situation there in Pittsburgh with my parents who were both ill at that time. And that didn't help her any, any at all.

KF Did she complain to you on the phone?

KT Oh, Mary never complains. But, you know you can read. So there we are.

KF Let's see if we can spend a few minutes picking up some of those stories that you've past over. Do you want to take a break?

KT Yea I need to.

KF I want to pick up some of those stories that you have passed over or not remembered to tell me so I've got some questions that try to pick them up okay? First tell me at what point in this whole story you were most frightened.

KT On the trip out, you know the high low of getting through one roadblock, you know getting freed from one group and then being grabbed by another group and going through the whole thing over again. It was a series of you know low and high points. Everytime you get free, you say that one was the last one we're going through, we've got it made, and then bang, right into shit again. And each one of them as we got closer to the border was more and more, seemed like hopeless situations. A rougher tougher crowd, you know, in a wilder and wilder surroundings. Pitch black mountains, dark you know. I mean imagine yourself driving down the highway and getting stopped by an armed group of Kurds who are a blood thirsty lot. You saw

KT what happened weeks after we left that area. That's where the war is still, the war's still being fought they want their freedom. Life means nothing to them, yours or theirs. And if you really read about the culture of the people. Have you done any research on them?

KF Not on Kurds.

KT Doesn't necessarily have to be the Kurds that you do the research on. There are some books out called the Arab Mind.

KF Oh that I haven't got.

KT There are two books, two books called the Arab Mind, one is...

KF But these are Persians.

KT That's bullshit.

KF Oh, really.

KT The whole, there are three circles in that part of the world. The common thing in those three circles is the religion. There are no difference in my mind in the, between the Arabs and those Persian Moslems. The Moslem religion is the center of their culture. No matter whether they're light skinned, dark skinned, Kurds, the Arian Persian or whatever. It all centers around the religion. If you read the Arab Mind that will explain the religion to you. I mean Mohammed was a bandit, he was a cutthroat bandit who has one third of the world's population today under his religious, under his religion. But he was a cutthroat bandit. You know I mean he broke all the laws that he created for everyone else to work by. You know he married his brother's sister, or his brother's wife, you know all the things that the religion speaks not to do, he did. You really should read that to understand the kind of people you're dealing with. A bargain is a bargain as long as you and I are looking at each other. Now if we shake hands and walk away and I think well maybe that wasn't such a

KT good bargain I cancel it. Nothing is a lie as long as it doesn't hurt someone. Think about that. There's no such thing as a lie. You know, did, were you screwing my wife?

KF No.

KT Now I told that lie because it didn't hurt you. Now it would've hurt you had I said yes. So it's not a lie. Well business is the same way. It's just unbelievable, we don't understand, we have nothing in our society to measure them by. It's obvious we don't understand, our government doesn't understand. Our State Department has their head in the sand, when it comes to dealing with them. Weaknesses, you show any sign of weakness in dealing with them and they'll just walk all over you. That's evident from what they did to the...

KF But to get back to the point.

KT Yea. Wherever it was.

KF Was there a moment when you were really terrified?

KT Not terrified.

KF Okay.

KT I'm not a very emotional person, at least I say I'm not. I try not to jump to conclusions, I try to think it out, I can get worried. I mean I worried what about this, what about that, consider this, consider that. But I don't know I don't think I get shook up too easy.

KF Okay. What was the best moment, when did you feel happiest, most thrilled?

KT Walking across that border. Walking across that border. I didn't realize we were going to have some difficulties, minor difficulties getting through Turkey. Getting across that border, at that time, I said we're home free, we are finally done. And, I was really proud of being able to participate in that kind of thing. I don't, when Ross called, when I talked to Ross on the phone there, New Year's Eve. I had no idea what that was going to lead to. If he had told me well you're going to have to escape through Turkey, up through Iran, or you know. I don't know if I would have been all fired thrilled to plan to go through all that. But as it unfolded, you know, you were a part of it, I mean hell I consider myself a businessman, not a commando, by any means.

KF Was there anything you did, any stroke you pulled that you thought made a big contribution, any individual act, you know getting cars, getting gas?

KT Well it, I at one time making the connection for the new letter of credit through the Bank Ohmran. I thought it was going to be significantly, significant help, as it turned out it collapsed also. But we were you know, at that point I thought it was a big help that I had those friends there that I could go to and we could get this thing started again. Because don't forget, we, John Howell, Bill Gayden, Bob Young and myself who were doing the negotiating and trying to put up this bail and everything. That was our bag, that's, we were trying to get that to be successful. We knew about this other side, you know, I personally at that point after they were in Gaz Prison. Put little faith in the ability to get them out. I didn't know what they were planning or what was going on there. So I felt that ours was the option that would get them out, and pursue that with everything I could.

KF Did you ever screw up badly?

KT I can't remember ever, I would say no, I don't know of any incidence that I screwed anything up.

KF Of all those people you were with, who were you closest to?

KT Jay. Now you're talking about Bill and Paul and all included?

KF Yea.

KT I would say then, I'm closer to Bill.

KF Gaylord.

KT Gaylord. It's a closer family relationship a long term friendship. Jay and I are good buddies, it's a different relationship that Jay and I have.

KF Who were you least closest to in that group?

KT Well the Colonel why actually, you know I only knew for a very short period of time. Least closest to. Are you talking about the dirty team or the whole group there?

KF No, really the dirty team.

KT I don't know that there's anyone that I'm the least closest to.

KF Okay.

KT I feel that I am good friends with every single one of them in there.

KF Okay. What was the funniest thing that happened?

KT I'll have to think about that for a while. There were alot of funny incidences that occurred prior to the evacuation had occurred, between that first and second evacuation. That we haven't talked anything about those but...

KF I have one story from that period, I think from Howell who says that you and he and Gayden were in the hotel room listening to the bullets whistling by and you farted and Gayden said well that was a close one.

KT I don't remember it. That was the night, that was obviously the night that the Avene prison, the prison and the armory behind us was hit.

KF No, it was earlier than that. It was earlier than that, it was between the two evacuations I think. Anyway but tell me some of the other things that happened in that period of time.

KT During the evacuation?

KF Yea.

KT The first evacuation, you know, we had an elaborate evacuation planned. Picking up from that. We basically took over a section of the airport to evacuate our people. We had people, we brought them in groups, there were X number of people per group. We had an evacuation team. We had people writing out tickets in the PanAm Office. We had people in the passport control area, we had people at the entrance to where you could get in to go through passport control. We had people carrying bags, we had people running the baggage equipment, to get the bags out onto the planes. We ran a little portion of the airport for about eight and a half hours one day. So we got everybody on, out into the, into the airport. We had two groups, we had a plane going to Frankfurt with a few families on it. My family, Lloyd's family, Coburn's family, Dvoranchak's family, Alch's family. That plane sat on the runway for 31 hours, with a missing part.

KF And the people in it?

KT And the people in it for 31 hours.

KF Shoot.

KT Lufthans had did a touch and go and dropped a part off. Flew it in from Frankfurt, set the plane down, kicked the part out and that plane kept on going.

KF Oh really?

KT Yea, they put the part in the plane, they would not offload the plane with people, because they knew once they offloaded it was never going to get off the ground, and took it off, 31 hours. There was one plane behind it that got out and they closed the airport. The PanAm flight with everybody on it, the majority of people on it was delayed. The curfew is in effect, 9 o'clock curfew or 8 o'clock I forget what the curfew was. Whatever hour it was, we had all got, the rescue team had all got back to Bucharest, not the rescue team, the evacuation team had all got back to Bucharest, and we found out that the planes were delayed. Because we were calling to people that were in you know... So we had all these women children etc. out there, there was not food at the airport, they had been out there four or five hours already. We didn't know how much longer. [REDACTED] ^{Rashid} and I ran outside jumped into the car, drove down the street, and I started buying everything I could find. Cookies, candy, you know there are little koochie stands on the corner of the street, they sell gum and candy and cookies and everything. We'd just buy out the whole koochie stand, through it in the trunk of the car. We stopped at a Kentucky Fried Chicken, you know the little roll they give you, the little hard roll.

KF I don't no.

KT Well anyway, we went in there and bought all the rolls they had. We bought a crate of oranges or tangerines, I forget what it was, and raced to the airport, carried it in, went right through customs and right back to the back of the airport where everybody was. I mean these were people we were working with all day, these Iranians

KT standing around, started passing out food to all our people. And trying to keep the rest of the mobs off of us. You know people coming over trying to take the food and all that. ██████^{Rashid} said, "curfew, curfew we've got to get out of here." We dashed out to the car, we had like twenty minutes before curfew and it took a good twenty minutes to get back to the office. We were all, all the evacuation team was going to sleep at the office that night. Went screaming out the road, came to the first big intersection and the military had decided that curfew was going to be a little early today now. And, came screaming into the intersection right into their guns and ██████^{Rashid} kept screaming "stop, stop." I jammed on the brakes of the car and there was a soldier there with his M16 pointing in the window at my head. ██████^{Rashid} said "don't move, don't move." I've got both hands on the wheel and I'm not moving an inch, I am scared. And just then, another car came down this other street and made a right hand turn and he wheeled around and dropped to one knee and started screaming at him to halt. And, cranked a round into that thing and I thought, and in fact I automatically just opened my mouth just because he was kneeling right beside my open window 'cause I knew when that shell went off. And he just kept screaming at that car and it just kept on going, and finally he stood and never shot at it. He stood up and he was laughing, and then this is going on all these soldiers are all over stopping everybody. And ██████^{Rashid} said "don't move, don't move." And we sat there for about five minutes and they've got everybody stopped in the intersection and finally they started waving people on. By this time the clock had started to run out. And so we're really making a mad dash through the streets and the entire city went black. I mean they shut the lights off, the entire city, and all of a sudden you were in the middle of that city, and it's pitch black. And this curfew's on. Racing half way across that city, hoping like hell. Because they would shoot after curfew, they would shoot anything that moved. And, we got to Bucharest without any lights, we're driving without any lights. And, went up and started, they were all up on the 3rd floor, 2nd floor and worried. Ringing the doorbell and then realize that it's an electrical doorbell. We started yelling and nobody would come down, nobody, we started yelling and yelling and finally went out and threw

KT rocks at the window and got someone's attention to come down and let us in. We all, you know, we all camped out in there. Got some beer. Then the next day is when we moved up to the two houses. And, spread out for the Ashura seige, which there was alot of trouble in the city but we weren't hurt. We had a couple of military personnel, we had a couple of spooks stay with us. Played, got in a poker game with us.

KF Did they win or lose?

KT One had lost a bundle and then came back even toward the end. But, he came in we had a little requirement in our poker game that he leave his pistol on the hall table and his radio close to the table, so we could all hear what was going on.

KF I think I have enough on that period. What I'm going to ask you now is a little bit about your own lifestory. When and where you were born, exactly.

KT 1938 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

KF And your birthdate?

KT February 19th.

KF Tell me your father's name and what he did for a living.

KT Herman Roland Taylor. Engineer, worked for Excide Electrical Storage Battery Company, he was an engineer. Actually a sales engineer, he would go into various plants and determine the power requirements for that plant, engineer them. And then propose and sell packed, you know power requirements for a particular plant. Graduated from Pitt.

KF And your mother's name?

KT Margaret Mary.

KF Were you the first in the family?

KT I had little, three boys. Older Brother, both my brothers are engineers like my Father. My Older Brother owns with two other partners an engineering firm in Pittsburgh. My younger brother works for him. I'm the one that didn't get my degree.

KF Were you an affluent family when you were young? Did you have a car?

KT I wouldn't say we were affluent. But I had two cars to my name when I was 16. My older Brother had two cars to his name when he was 16.

KF That's pretty good.

KT I'd say middle class, upper middle class family. My Dad had an excellent job. The first we cars we had, my Mother and Father bought them for us. And then, all three of us worked after school to pay for our own gas money and movies and dates and that kind of stuff while we're going to school.

KF What did you work at?

KT Garage, pumping gas that type of stuff. Which in America that is a pretty common thing for high school things to do. That's when it was 25 cents a gallon.

KF What did the family do for leisure and entertainment. Were they big readers, did they play musical instruments, go to the theatre, ballet?

KT Well my younger played a musical instrument until he got tired of it. Oh I'd say all the normal things. My parents were alot of older, don't forget my parents were elderly before they had children. As a result.

KF They would have been how old when you were born?

KT Fortyish. 45 that period of time. My Mother had three boys right smack in a row.

KF As a result you were saying as a result?

KT Well as a result we didn't do alot of game playing, you know rough house with my Father. He was not an athlete. You know I was the jock of the family.

KF What did you play?

KT Football, baseball. They both, both of my parents loved to play cards. Bridge, you know.

KF I think you said your wife's a bridge player.

KT Yes, so am I.

END OF TAPE