

# ELECTRONIC DATA SYSTEMS CORPORATION

DALLAS TEXAS 75230

EDS CENTER  
7171 FOREST LANE  
(214) 661-6000

December 13, 1978

Ambassador Robert Strauss  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

This letter concerns the human rights of two American citizens in Tehran, Iran, Paul J. Chiapparone and William D. Gaylord. Electronic Data Systems is performing a major computer contract for the government of Iran in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. This computer system involves health care payments to doctors and hospitals and the social security system. EDS, like other American contractors, is not being paid by the government. Last week, we met with Iranian officials and assured them that we would remain in the country and continue working but stressed that we would have to be paid on a current basis, and if we were not, we could not continue working.

Within twelve hours after this meeting, the Iranian military government contacted the EDS office in Tehran, deputed a Persian employee, and ordered her to pick up the passports of four EDS engineers and to inform the engineers that they would be arrested if they tried to leave the country. This is obviously an effort to hold these Americans as hostages in the country to assure that the computer systems are kept in operation, even though the government is not paying its bills.

Two of the four engineers had already left the country. The remaining two men, Chiapparone and Gaylord, voluntarily surrendered their passports for safe-keeping to the American Embassy.

EDS evacuated all dependents and all non-critical employees over the weekend. Both Chiapparone and Gaylord were scheduled to leave the country during this period, but were told by the United States Embassy that if they attempted to pick up their passports, the Embassy would have to notify the Iranian military authorities, who would arrest Chiapparone and Gaylord. The reasons for holding these two men are vague, at best. The military authorities say they wish to question them about corruption by some Iranian officials in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. Extensive efforts to find out who wishes to question these two men, have failed to produce anyone who wishes

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to question them, lending further credence that the reason given is nothing more than an excuse for holding the men as hostages to perform computer services.

Through a number of senior American officials, well known to Iran, I have personally guaranteed that these men, plus any other employee of EDS that the Iranians might want to interview would be made available, but that these men should have their passports and privilege to leave the country restored immediately.

At this point, I have been unsuccessful in making arrangements through our Embassy for these men to be able to leave the country in a safe, proper manner. The Embassy has stated in writing to our State Department that these men could not leave the country because they do not have all the necessary papers, even if the Embassy returned their passports. This is incorrect. They do have the necessary papers. The only problem is that our Embassy has stated that when it returns the passports, it will notify the Iranian military authorities, who will then arrest the men.

These men are simply innocent pawns. Our contract was approved by the Social Security Board, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Prime Minister, the Plan and Budget Organization and the Shah of Iran. EDS has not been involved in any improper activities. These two engineers came into the country months after the contract was signed. No one has alleged that either EDS or these two men were in any way involved with improper activities. Their human rights as American citizens continue to be violated. I have been unsuccessful in having their rights restored.

At present, these two men are living without passports in a city in turmoil. Our Iranian attorney, one of the most prominent lawyers in Iran, has cautioned them that there is no due process under the military government. They can be arrested and held indefinitely without cause. In the event that the government should fall, and our Embassy is evacuated, these two men would be left in Iranian jails at the mercy of the new government. I am sure you would agree that this is an unpleasant prospect, and one that we cannot allow innocent American citizens to be subjected to.

I request your assistance in seeing that our Embassy receives direction from whatever authority necessary to see that these men are escorted safely and properly out of the country. The safest approach would be to return their passports and have them evacuated on military flights. There is the possibility that if these men are routed through the Tehran airport, that they will be arbitrarily picked up by the military authorities.

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in Iranian embassy in USA  
or any neutral country

*in Iranian  
embassy in  
USA or any  
neutral  
country*

You have my pledge that these men and any other employees of EDS will be available for interviews or questioning in the future. It is important to emphasize that the real issue is not the desire to question these two men, but the desire to hold EDS employees against their will to assure the continued operation of the computers, even though the Iranian government has defaulted in payment of our contract. EDS continues to maintain engineers in Tehran to perform these services during this critical period. Chiapparone's and Gaylord's skills are not needed.

Sincerely,



Ross Perot

RP/sw

Why take their passports.  
Why take their passports.

Why not return them / why notify Iranians?  
Why not return them / why notify Iranians?

Did you make reasoning notes.  
Did you make reasoning [illegible].

Why no counsel, attorney with them.  
Why no counsel, attorney with them.

What allegations, charges, evidence.  
What allegations, charges, evidence.

Did you assume they were guilty?      Would benefit from due process?  
Did you assume they were guilty?      Would benefit from due process?

What did you do for them?      Concrete suggestions?  
What did you do for them?      Concrete suggestions?

Why couldn't Perot stay at the Embassy?  
Why couldn't Perot stay at the Embassy?

Why couldn't the clean team stay there.  
Why couldn't the clean team stay there.

Why couldn't the clean team stay there.  
Why couldn't the clean team stay there.

The flight out 17 Feb.  
The flight out 17 Feb.

December 14, 1978

Ambassador William Sullivan  
United States Embassy  
Tehran, Iran

Dear Ambassador Sullivan:

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Paul J. Chiapparone and William D. Gaylord. The purpose of this cable is to summarize their status for you.

Electronic Data Systems is performing a major computer contract for the government of Iran in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. This computer system involves health care payments to doctors and hospitals and the social security system. EDS, like other American contractors, is not being paid by the government. Last week, we met with Iranian officials and assured them that we would remain in the country and continue working but stressed that we would have to be paid on a current basis, and if we were not, we could not continue working.

Within twelve hours after this meeting, the Iranian military government contacted the EDS office in Tehran, deputized a Persian employee, and ordered her to pick up the passports of four EDS engineers and to inform the engineers that they would be arrested if they tried to leave the country. This is obviously an effort to hold these Americans as hostages in the country to assure that the computer systems are kept in operation, even though the government is not paying its bills.

Two of the four engineers had already left the country. The remaining two men, Chiapparone and Gaylord, voluntarily surrendered their passports for safe-keeping to the American Embassy.

EDS evacuated all dependents and all non-critical employees over the weekend. Both Chiapparone and Gaylord were scheduled to leave the country during this period, but were told by the United States Embassy that if they attempted to pick up their passports, the Embassy would have to notify the Iranian military authorities, who would arrest Chiapparone and Gaylord. The reasons for holding these two men are vague, at best. The military authorities say they wish to question them about corruption by some Iranian officials in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. Extensive efforts to find out who wishes to question these two men, have failed to produce anyone who wishes to question them, lending further credence that the reason given is nothing more than an excuse for holding the men as hostages to perform computer services.

Through a number of senior American officials, well known to Iran, I have personally guaranteed that these men, plus any other employee of EDS that the Iranians might want to interview would be made available, but that these men should have their passports and privilege to leave the country restored immediately.

At this point, I have been unsuccessful in making arrangements through our Embassy for these men to be able to leave the country in a safe, proper manner. The Embassy has stated in writing to our State Department that these men could not leave the country because they do not have all the necessary papers, even if the Embassy returned their passports. This is incorrect. They do have the necessary papers. The only problem is that our Embassy has stated that when it returns the passports, it will notify the Iranian military authorities, who will then arrest the men.

These men are simply innocent pawns. Our contract was approved by the Social Security Board, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Prime Minister, the Plan and Budget Organization and the Shah of Iran. EDS has not been involved in any improper activities. These two engineers came into the country months after the contract was signed. No one has alleged that either EDS or these two men were in any way involved with improper activities. Their human rights as American citizens continue to be violated. I have been unsuccessful in having their rights restored.

At present, these two men are living with out passports in a country in turmoil. Our Iranian attorney, one of the most prominent lawyers in Iran, has indicated that it may be weeks or even months before any government official asks to talk with either Chiapparone or Gaylord. He has cautioned these two men that there is no due process under the military government, explaining that they may be arrested and held indefinitely without cause. Our EDS employees in Iran know of prominent Iranian citizens who have been called in for questioning, were arrested, and months later are still being held in jail without charge. In the event that the government should fall, and our Embassy is evacuated, these two men would be left in Iranian jails at the mercy of the new government. The United States government would be powerless to assist them. I am sure you would agree that this is an unpleasant prospect and one that we cannot allow innocent American citizens to be subjected to.

I request your assistance in seeing that our Embassy receives direction from whatever authority necessary to see that these men are escorted safely and properly out of the country. The safest approach would be to return their passports and have them evacuated on military flights. There is the possibility that if these men are routed through the Tehran airport, they will be arbitrarily picked up by the military authorities.

You have my pledge that these men and any other employees of EDS will be available for interviews or questioning in the future. It is important to emphasize that the real issue is not the desire to question these two men, but the desire to hold EDS employees against their will to assure the continued operation of the computers, even though the Iranian government has defaulted in payment of our contract. EDS continues to maintain engineers in Tehran to perform these services during this critical period. Chiapparone's and Gaylord's skills are not needed.

Bill, you and I have worked together before. I have great respect for you. You know and I know that the U. S. Embassy can get these men safely out of the country. The only risk is to create a insignificant ripple in U. S./Iranian relationships. The rights of two innocent American citizens far outweigh the minor problems their departure might cause.

Ross Perot

I have just received word that the Iranian's now are able to identify the person who wants to talk with our people. His name is Hussein Dadgar, #17 Ministry of Justice, Manager, Group #4. I assume, at this point, that the Iranians feel some obligation to at least produce a name after being unable to for several days.

STEPTOE & JOHNSON

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

(202) 862-2000

January 26, 1979

The Honorable Warren Christopher  
Deputy Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Two U.S. employees of our client, Electronic Data Systems (EDS), have been imprisoned without charges for the past four weeks in Iran.

The U.S. Embassy in Tehran shares responsibility for their current state. The two EDS employees learned on December 5 that Iranian authorities wished to interview them concerning a 1976 contract between EDS and the Social Security Organization of Iran [the "SSO"] (an agency of Iran's Ministry of Health and Welfare)--and that the Iranian police were demanding surrender of their U.S. passports and Iranian residence permits.

The two EDS employees went immediately to the U.S. Embassy and were advised to surrender their passports and residence permits to the Embassy until the Embassy could learn more about the matter.

During the following three weeks, as the situation in Iran deteriorated, the two EDS employees raised with the Embassy their wish to recover their passports and to leave the country. While not refusing to return the passports, the Embassy advised that the two men stay in Iran until the proposed interview took place--and that the Embassy had agreed with Iranian police to notify the police if the men took back their passports.

The Embassy on December 27 advised the two EDS employees that the Embassy had arranged for an interview of the two men by Iranian Ministry of Justice officials for the following day. When the EDS employees expressed concern about the interview, the Embassy official handling the matter stated:

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- That the interview would be "routine".
- That the men did not need to be accompanied by Embassy personnel or by a lawyer.
- That the men would be free to leave Iran following the interview.

The men thus went to the interview, were questioned for approximately three hours and then were told that they were under arrest. They have been imprisoned since December 28, but have not been charged with any offense.

For your reference, the names of the EDS employees imprisoned in Iran are Paul J. Chiapparone and William D. Gaylord. Both are U.S. citizens. Their families have left Iran and are here in the United States anxiously hoping for the release of the men.

EDS attorneys and personnel met at the end of December and early this month with the Iran Desk, with the two attorneys from the Legal Adviser's office, and with Matt Nimetz. There have also been telephone conversations with David Newsome. The results from these meetings and conversations--some cables to the Embassy in Iran and contacts with Ambassador Zahedi--have not been successful. To our knowledge, however, no high-level approach has been made to the Bakhtiar government itself.

The arrest of the two men has been linked to the 1976 contract between EDS and the SSO. By way of background, the 1976 contract was a three-year agreement under which EDS was providing data processing services and technology for Iran's national health and social security programs. SSO in June 1978 ceased making payments required under the contract. On December 4, the day before Iranian police requested surrender of the EDS employees' passports, EDS met with officials of the SSO and of the Ministry of Health and Welfare in an unsuccessful effort to cure the contract breaches and to provide improved security for EDS personnel in Iran. On December 16, pursuant to a termination clause in the 1976 contract, EDS gave notice of termination of the contract.

Following the arrest, the Ministry of Justice set "bail" for the two men at \$12.7 million. EDS attorneys were told by Ministry of Justice officials that this

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\$12.7 million was set with reference to payments which SSO had made previously to EDS under the 1976 contract.

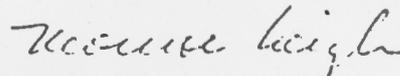
The Ministry of Justice officials have taken the position that they believe the 1976 contract to be "invalid" because its conclusion did not involve competitive bidding--and that therefore a \$12.7 million figure is justified. However, they would not require the \$12.7 million "bail" and would release the men if EDS entered into a new contract arrangement satisfactory to SSO. It should be noted that neither of the men was in Iran in 1976 or had any involvement in negotiating the 1976 contract.

Attorneys for EDS have counteroffered, in return for the release of the two men, (1) to produce promptly any EDS personnel for questioning in Iran upon a guarantee of their safe passage out of the country following questioning; (2) to produce promptly any documents requested by Iranian authorities; and (3) to pay the expenses of Iranian prosecutors to question EDS personnel outside of Iran. All such offers have been refused.

Realizing it has little choice, EDS is currently attempting to negotiate banking arrangements necessary to satisfy the \$12.7 million cash "bail". But the immediate worry is that before these men can be released, the current government in Iran might fall, and the fate of these two men would be left to the political chaos that might then ensue.

We therefore are making, on behalf of EDS, a last appeal to the Department to make every effort at the highest level to secure the release of these two men as soon as humanly possible.

Sincerely,



Monroe Leigh

Chronology enclosed.

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- Nov. 1976 EDS enters into a three-year contract with Social Security Organization of Iran (SSO), for the provision of data processing services and technology for Iran's national health and social welfare programs. SSO is to make monthly payments to EDS under the contract.
- June 1978 Beginning of default in SSO's monthly payments.
- Dec. 4, 1978 Meeting between EDS and SSO and Ministry of Health and Welfare officials, in an unsuccessful effort to resolve SSO defaults and to provide increased security for EDS employees in Iran.
- Dec. 5, 1978 Iranian employee of EDS is asked by Iranian police about the whereabouts of four EDS employees. Upon being informed that only two of the four (Mr. Chiapparone and Mr. Gaylord) were still in Iran, the police ask that their passports and residence permits be surrendered to police the following day.
- " On U.S. Embassy advice, Mr. Chiapparone and Mr. Gaylord surrender their passports and residence permits to the U.S. Embassy.
- mid-Dec. 1978 Embassy advises Mr. Chiapparone and Mr. Gaylord not to leave country prior to interview with Iranian authorities, and that if they take back their passports, Iranian police would be so notified.
- Dec. 16, 1978 EDS notifies SSO and Ministry of Health and Welfare of its termination of the 1976 contract.
- Dec. 27, 1978 Embassy advises Mr. Chiapparone and Mr. Gaylord that it has arranged an interview of the two men with Ministry of Justice officials for the following day, that the interview would be "routine", that Embassy officials or lawyers need not be present, and that the men will be free to leave Iran following the interview.
- Dec. 28, 1978 Mr. Chiapparone and Mr. Gaylord attend interview with Ministry of Justice officials, are questioned for three hours, and then arrested and imprisoned without charges.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (Page 2)

late Dec. 1978 Ministry of Justice sets bail of \$12.7 million for Chiapparone and Gaylord, and advises EDS attorneys that this amount is justified because SSO paid similar amounts to EDS under 1976 contract which is claimed to be "invalid".

Jan. 1-15, 1979 Ministry of Justice turns down EDS offers to make any EDS documents and personnel available to the Ministry at EDS expense, upon release of Chiapparone and Gaylord.

TO: KEN FOLLETT

FROM: T. J. MARQUEZ

11/16/81

Sometime during the day we received a request from the State Department that Hodding Carter wanted us to hold a big press conference and blast the State Department and Administration for being totally uncooperative regarding Paul and Bill. The State Department was concerned that the Iranian government might not let the two planes leave Iran unless the State Department could produce Paul and Bill. They felt that if they could go to the Iranians and show them accounts of our criticisms, they could convince them that they did not know where Paul and Bill were.

This was a no-win situation for EDS, and besides, there was no way for this news to get published and distributed, since the planes were due to leave any minute and they were one-half way around the world from where this press conference was supposed to take place.

While we discussed this, I remembered a recent telecast, showing the Iranians occupying our Embassy in Tehran and it showed an Iranian soldier standing over the teletype. We called the State Department and suggested that they send a secret teletype to the Tehran Embassy, stating that an unnamed third country had reported that Paul and Bill were in their country. Since we knew the Iranians were reading messages at the Tehran embassy, we felt this would accomplish our mutual goal of having the Iranians let the planes leave.

While this was transpiring, we were receiving frequent calls from our friend Ginsberg on what was happening at the airport. So, we were aware of all the delays and searches that were referred to in John Howell's write-up.

Shortly before the end of the day, more precisely about ten minutes before it would be too late for the planes to leave Tehran, we received a call from Ginsberg.

He was highly emotional and irate and said you will not believe what these people are going to do and there is not a thing you can do about it. "Unless those planes take off in the next few minutes, your people on those planes will be turned over to the Iranians so that the rest of the people can be evacuated." #

He had to hang up before I could ask any questions. Very shortly thereafter (within minutes), he called back highly elated, saying they have released the planes to take off and your people are on them.

Ginsberg: "I categorically deny that."

Ginsberg: "I categorically deny that."

LOU GOELZ 25 November 1981

Q Right let's try and talk about this eternal

....

The first thing I want you to explain to me is the business of the Embassy holding peoples passports ...

...

A ...

person concerned. ...

Q And now tell me about giving the people that ask for them back ...And then what about informing the authorities of the passport.

A That's part of the deal with the government. In other words the deal with the government is that instead of they accept the word of the United States Government. The United States Government holds their passport. Anyone can at any time ask for its return, the United States Government would be bound to give it back.

...

Q Now, is that circumstances in which the people had no reasonable expectations to need passports.

A That would depend on circumstances. It would depend on whether they between

...

same relation to the two. And since they're all relative

you can't sort of judge the case contents.

Q OK. At ...

During all this chaos in Iran, the Embassy was fighting to keep Americans in Iran

It's been suggested to me that the Embassy went on rather too long saying this is temporary, this is going to blow over, everything will be alright. Do you think that's a fair judgement.

A Well let me put it this way. At the beginning of the

...

there were 40,000 Americans in Tehran. It just occurred to me that Tehran

And this was following the 14th and we had to evacuate any Americans that were left in Tehran. 3,600 Americans to evacuate. There were still some, we estimate about 2,000

...

So, that gives you a total of about 5,000, so when things really went to hell there were 5,000 of that 40,000.

Now the other thing about that,

there was over an extended period of time

by the Embassy to advise . There's one thing

you must know, that we've had no authority, none whatsoever,

except the fickle evacuation stage before Americans

out there. Everything must be done on the

if you are acquainted with Americans working abroad, you will know that ...

They will make their own judgements first on many considerations to determine just what they are going to want to do.

Q You've got a situation now in the same place. We had

....

A ...

...

The advice of the Department of State has been to get them out. We've talked in close confidence I myself assigned others to find out.

...

...

Q But everybody thinks similar situations exist in Tehran.

A Talk, talk, Some got out, some didn't, but in American countries, if there is the chance of making a dollar, are very reluctant to close down their office and abandon their investments. That's their reason.

Q Do you remember at what stage the Embassy started advising Americans to leave?

A No....

Further on, any time anybody would ask us we would advise them to

We didn't actually ask for actual close down of the American School around Christmas time, they just did not open it after

...

You'd be amazed at the number of people who didn't even send their kids home.

We had truly the we were moving at 2

o'clock and

we divided up all the

the three of us, and we called them in in groups of about

5 or 6 and sat down with them and said 'listen people, at

least get your dependants out of here or at least get your

unessential people out of here.

Q Do you remember approximately the dates you had the

A Oh God no I can't, but this is a continuing process you know.

This doesn't happen over night. We don't throw a switch and say everybody go home. It's the same kind of thing that you gave up. Don't talk to people and you recommend that they don't bring anybody else in. Then you recommend that anybody going out for a little should go on and not come back until perhaps after their holidays. Until you see how the situation is going to be. And some companies actually did move a lot of people out

...

some of them came back in. Up until about a couple of weeks before, some companies were sending people back in to Iran.

I mean it was crazy. The American companies

They do not want to abandon their investment.

...

tremendous investments.

UBS is a company

substantial investment in Iran.

...

Q Let's go back to the people who were in trouble with the law enforcement authorities. Now I want to talk about if Americans in a foreign country are going to be interrogated by a prosecutor. What help they should expect from the Embassy in those circumstances.

A Well of course it depends on various

What you can do

an American in a foreign country is subject to foreign law. ...

... the same as any national in the government.

...

And they had to go through the process. Now the legal process in most countries is entirely different from the

processes you have here. You don't have the rights that you have here. You're subject sometimes to extremely difficult living conditions. And their jails ...

The Americans won't a situation like that

...

We advise, and we try to see them there as soon as possible.

Q Let's talk about before he's arrested, if he was just being interrogated.

A Well there's not much we can do about that. As I said we're subject to the situation, we subject to the laws of

...

Our first advice to anybody being is to get a lawyer. That's the first advice you'd give to somebody here! If you get into trouble with the law you get a lawyer. And our first advice to them abroad is to get a lawyer. And whether it is a civil situation in which you may not be arrested at the moment, you know alternatives, or if he's in a criminal situation and that you are under arrest.

Q You see, Gaylord and Chaperroni say that they were advised by the Embassy that they would not need an attorney and that they would not need a consul from the Embassy with them in the meeting with which they were interrogated. What I have to ask you is under what circumstances might the Embassy think there was no need for that.

A ...

...

I can't comment on that.

depend on the circumstances. It is not always possible for us to attend

And it depends on what your circumstances, in some cases the people themselves will voluntarily

...

So you know it depends on the circumstances involved in a particular case, but our recommendation to everyone anywhere is get in a lawyer.

It's commonsense at least. They have them in the large Corporations

corporations have

lawyers and we have two very good ones. The higher the investment, the better the lawyer. ...

Q What assumptions would be made about the people's guilt or innocence by the end ..

A That's not our business protection.

We're only there to assist Americans ...

...

Q What's the EA?

A Enforcement Agency ...

Put him in and take him out. ...

That's just what we're there for, to assist Americans in case of difficulties. Whether it happens to be

...

Q OK. While I think of it tell me exactly what your title was in the

A Consul.

Q OK, you were there to assist Americans who get into trouble, but what can you do when people are arrested? In particular what can you do when they're arrested and they're not entitled, or don't seem to be entitled to the process.

A Well you could only try to ensure that they are given the same treatment that a person in the country would be given. ... local procedures,

All you can do is to attempt to secure for them the same treatment ...

Normally what you do is try to get a better hold of the situation, in which you try to get them into a separate cell,

... can have visitors  
 ... food, starve in an Iranian jail, but we do now have

...

...

But we do whatever we can to make them

...

try to keep in touch with their lawyers and if necessary working with their lawyers and try to case to local authorities, all of which was done

Q Now you said a couple of times that Americans in a foreign country are subject to that country's law and not American law, and that's something that you have to live with and try and work with, but don't you think in a place where there

really is no law and order in a country, the Embassy ought to perhaps impose it

A No I don't!

Q No, not impose it, but

A That's what you were asking, that we go out and subject, set the rules for a country another sovereignty.

Q No.

A And that's a entirely which hopefully and have let Americans out of Vietnam.

Q No, I'm suggesting I understand that. All I'm suggesting is that you might break the rules because there's no law and order in the country.

A Again, as I say, it depends on the circumstances. If there was no law or no authority of any kind, that's one thing, but up until December 12th and the actual revolution there was a government in power, that had, at least technically had, control of the situation. There was a legal procedure in operation for Iranians and for everyone else. That did not it did not operate in the proficiency as in previous times, but it was still in place. There were immigration authorities in the country who still have authority. In fact immigration authorities carried over after the revolution. And immigration laws in Iran are pretty strict. what you have to do when you come in, and we used to be working day and night with the immigration authorities to be able to get permission for Americans to leave . I mean it's a miracle that 25,000 got out. We worked very closely in the days when the banks were closed, and airports were closed, roads were closed. We worked with the local authorities in a team.

So therefore you do not want agreements with these people who you depend on to get 30,000 Americans out and say

...

the situation that such that afterwards that we

...

...

how you get Americans out of the place

...

to get to the airport.

Q What about allowing Americans to stay at the Embassy.

A Americans were staying at the Embassy.

Q In particular - was there at the Embassy, was told he couldn't.

A ....

Q You think so?

A Was there anything I could do?

Q ...

A That's right. And afterwards to the

such dealings with people as you probably know.

Q Let me tell you when I think he was in danger. If Gaylord and Chaperroni were worth 12 million between them. Perroni [Perot] was worth 100 million.

A That's right, and we advised not to pay.

...

because it's against the original

...

it's not likely that I would get the

Q Oh you would, absolutely But he's talked to me about it.

A He's getting your side of the story. His side of the story.

Q Yeh, I know, he wants me to have your side of the story.  
He's not as bullheaded as he comes across.

A He's very charming ...

...

security would have American consideration  
and he could deliver the goods.

Q Except let him stay at the Embassy?

A Well I don't I didn't say he  
couldn't stay at the Embassy. I wasn't staying at the  
Embassy. Everybody else was staying there. The Ambassador  
happened to live there and so did the DCA.

Q Nobody would pay 100 million dollars ransom for you or me  
but they would for us.

A Oh I don't know, but ...

The situation was not such that, we did advise him not to come.  
I don't think his presence there did any real

...

Q On let me see 12th, 13th, 14th, on the 13th of February there  
were five people and a dog who were in my story who stayed at  
your house. Were they asked to at the Embassy?

...

A

Q They stayed in fact until the Friday of that week I understand  
and on Friday they moved into the Embassy.

A Well they moved in not travel the streets

in Tehran unless

So we got them down there and what we did on evacuation, we called everybody in, processed, brought them in before dark.

Process them through the evening, kept them overnight, and at the first light

so that that's why they stayed there until the day they were brought down for processing, and

...

Q Wednesday the 14th of February must have been an exciting day for you. Have you got time to tell me a bit about it.

A ...

Q So tell me how it started that morning.

A Well it started morning, the first place

...

So about 10.30 or so

to do what we had to do. We had some problems with

...

...

it's a bad time but we're getting there. Together we had problems. We had to start

....

Then about 10.30, we all had

...

everybody was told to just stay

Q When you say there were no troops, I presumed you meant no Iranian troops. There were still American troops at the Embassy.

A ... Marine Guards.

Q Marine Guards, that's what I meant.

A Yes, there were about ten guards. There were no troops. ...

And they were out

two people, but I couldn't save their lives. It's a wonder we didn't have a . But two people, one was

the Ambassador, he just told everybody else surrender when we can. The obvious thing was that he was

...

start shooting people

Actually I found out later that they had started about two blocks back, taken all the apartment buildings and

attacked

Which is the organised operation. I don't believe it wasn't.

You know, the alarming mob that just under the clear blue skies had organised obviously some very

strange Specially behind the

Well PLO directed, but I may

be wrong, I don't know for sure

And we were there

because the amnesty did have

...

...

Q Any bullets come in the room where you were.

A ...

...

And then they finally broke in the doors of course

They they started

breaking in the other side of us ...

....

...

And so we finally head up to the second floor.....

...

You had to watch where you walked or sat because those were not too secure. couldn't penetrate

the rest of the country. So everybody retreated there and then the other person, who was

...

and the poor guy had never seen a body parked his car, was walking he dropped to the ground and eventually got a low gentle

...

We were ready to surrender all alone but how the hell do you tell somebody to surrdner when they're firing at you continuously.

Q What was his name, the man who went out and negotiated.

A Algorni (phonetic).

...

...

...

Q How many people we there in Sullivan's office?

A Three. But the guards were so nervous that shooting. I thought they were sure but anyway they calmed down

...

search some of our clients. We were taken out and all lined up against This is it.

But it was actual ground detention because they had supposedly the big guys

...

However they were snipers...

...

...

They wanted us to go to a cafeteria to get some sandwiches and stuff. They didn't release us until about 7 o'clock that night because they                      which of the areas were clear enough for us to get through. They didn't want us going out there and getting ambushed again .

I notice you haven't asked me anything about the prison parade but we had to do things that                      comments!

I couldn't comment                      too much to except to say that we had several other Americans in jail there at the same time and they escaped at the same time, all Americans escaped at the same time, going over the wall one after the other so that we could know our friends were loose. And the other two persons,                      just in time to

Q And you got them out?

A Sure.

Q Did you now.

A Oh, my God, how. I'm not going to give you any details on that either. But they were, they escaped from Jail at the same time and eventually came to us. And I say they got to us in time, just in time, to be taken first time on the 14th. But then they were released later

....

Q When the Embassy was taken on the 14th, those two people who had escaped from prison were taken back to prison?

A No, they were picked up with all the people on the compound, and they were held for a while, interrogated, and then released.

Q I see, but they were held after the rest of your were released?

A No. The Iranis did not know they were escaped prisoners.

They just treated them as two more Americans compound. And of course the British prisoners were not about to tell them.

Q So they got out with the evacuation on the Saturday?

A Yes, but that's, yup. We got them out with the evacuation.

Q But not necessarily on the Saturday.

A We evacuated .....

Q I see. OK. So if Paul and Bull had gone to the compound they might have got out in the normal, no, ..

A Don't know.

Q Because on that plane when they were on that plane on the runway on the Saturday, the Iranians appeared to be actually looking for <sup>[Gaylord]</sup> Gale or Chaparone

A Searching the planes. They were looking for a number of people. Among them . They were nothing .....

Q Were they also looking for the two other escaped prisoners?

A I don't think so. I don't know.

Q I haven't heard anything to that effect.

A Well we don't know exactly who they were looking for, but there apparently were some who they thought, many types, South African types ....

[Gaylord]

Q Well they did, the names they gave were not Gale or Chaparoni but there were two other names, I forget now but it was Bill Denson or something and Paul John they asked for. Those names were read out on the plane, and eh. Oh I haven't asked you about the prison break because I presume it's not within, you weren't there. I'll talk to the people who were there.

A You've talked to the other persons who were there?

Q Oh no. But I'd be very happy to if I could contact them.  
I don't even know who they are.

A I don't remember their names. If I had them I couldn't give them to you.

Q I think I know what's on your mind, you're sceptical that this prison break was organised by ...  
Am I right?

A I can't ...

Q OK. Let's talk about that last day, that Saturday, it's the last day for me, it wasn't the last day for you of course. There appeared to be that they were looking for somebody, you said you weren't aware of the specific people they were looking for,

A Well of course they were looking for those two, but ... other people, saying that they were not

Q I see. Now I don't know whether you would have any knowledge of this. EDS got a call from the ... here, a rather panicky call saying that that plane can't get off the ground because they're looking for your people, and if we have to in order to get that plane off the ground, we're going to take ... people off it.

A As far as I knew there was nothing to prevent people from leaving. EDS people were leaving the same as everybody else.  
...

Q Well it sounds a crazy story to me, but I thought I better check it with you. Somebody made the phone call, there's no doubt about that

A ... things were rather confused  
in those days. ....

...

...

people were communicating and they weren't doing ...  
about it. ...

...

Q Do you know why Gaylord and Chaparoni didn't go to the Embassy when they escaped from the jail?

Well I know they didn't trust the Embassy, they didn't think the Embassy would protect them. They got two paramilitaries to arrange ...

A ....

... besides the five.

Q Yes, there were the five who stayed at your house and then there were Paul and Bill and another five who went out over land.

A Not all of them

Q Yes, I realise that, I mean I was just, the reason ...

they feel so strongly that the Embassy must ...

They put that point to me so strongly that I can't

the story. And such was that, that their feeling was so strong that they didn't seek refuge in the Embassy, when they actually escaped from jail because they didn't think they'd be safe there. Do you think that was irrational of them?

A The other people did escape from jail. We've had proven charges, one for murder, they were in jail for murder

.... and certainly is not true.

Our job is is  
to assist the Americans as best we can.

Q OK, those two Americans, I don't their names, I don't think

I want to, but there was a woman who had been convicted of murdering her husband I understand

A She had been accused of

... There was a man who was convicted of murdering his wife, and there was a lady who was convicted was under charges for murdering in Iran

...

Q I see. OK. I've asked you all my questions. Are there any questions I should have asked you and didn't.

A I've got to tell you what they were!

Q Please do.

A At a later date ....

I've obviously been talking far too much!

Q I don't think so. But I do wish you would tell me what I should have asked ...