

TO: KEN FOLLETT

FROM: T. J. MARQUEZ

Ask Ginsberg.

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.