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CABLE ADDRESS:  
ASSEMBLY NEWYORK

# The American Assembly

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027

August 25, 1982

Mr. Ken Follett

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Dear Mr. Follett:

In your letter of August 17, you point out that I did not publish cables in the text of my book about Iran and ask whether you could have access to them.

The reason I did not publish the cables is that I do not have copies of them and, as far as I know, they have not yet been released under the Freedom of Information Act. Several authors and scholars have applied for release of official communications from that period without success. It is my impression that the United States government prefers not to make any releases while relations with Iran remain equivocal. Therefore, I can't give you much encouragement that you will be able to obtain them at this time.

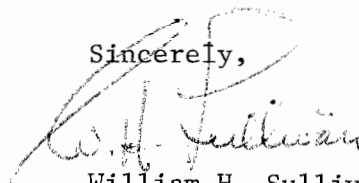
If you do, however, I would say that the most significant was my message of November 9, 1978, which I called "Thinking the Unthinkable." Shortly after that, most of my serious communication was done by secure telephone and is probably not a matter of record.

As for the comment I offered to translate into Polish, I would prefer not to make it explicit. I can assure you, however, that your conjecture was not anatomically accurate.

You point out that politics is no more than background to your story, which stands on its own bottom. However, if you wish a more extensive treatment of the 1978-79 period than is contained in my memoir, you might wish to read John Stempel's "Inside the Iranian Revolution," or Ledeen and Lewis, "Debacle." If you really want a deep immersion, you could read Nikki Keddie, "Roots of Revolution." All of them will serve to depress you.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



William H. Sullivan  
President

WHS/vh