

Mr Henry Precht
U.S. Embassy, Cairo

7 November 82

Dear Mr Precht,

Thankyou for your letter of 11 October. Most of it is a repetition of your first letter to me. I believe I have dealt, in my draft, with the important points, which I take to be:
(i) the limited options facing you in the case of Chiapparone and Gaylord; (ii) the long hours you were working at the time; and (iii) the fact that you were simultaneously trying to cope with a major international crisis.

Your maidenly horror at the word 'prick' sorts ill with your notoriety as the man who said 'Bullshit' to the Iranian ambassador. Have you got Saved, or something, since that famous outburst?

It is not I, but Bill Gayden, who calls you a prick: indeed, I go on to say 'Henry Precht was not a prick'. I then deal sympathetically with the difficulties facing you. Bearing in mind (i) that in the end you failed utterly to help Paul and Bill, (ii) that you were involved at a high level in the worst fiasco of American diplomacy in a decade, and (iii) that, according to one published account, you 'advocated policies based on the belief that Khomeini was a moderate' ... bearing all that in mind, I believe I have bent over backwards to be fair to you.

If that's not good enough, you'll just have to sweat it out.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Collett.