

PAUL W. BUCHA AND COMPANY, INC.
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Mr. Ken Follett



Dear Mr. Follett,

I appreciate your sending me the manuscript of The Bull and the Peacock. I have been a fan of yours for several years.

Per your request, I have read the manuscript very quickly to determine the nature of the comments regarding Mahvi and the general thrust of the work. I am now reading the text more carefully and will send you my comments as soon as possible.

In general, I would say the characterization of Mahvi seems to come from the Howell to Dadgar Memo - an intentionally negative description written with the hope of aiding in the release of Paul and Bill. I believe I understand the current EDS reflection on the man, the country and the times and therefore appreciate the input you have received. My own recollection of the man, the country and the times is somewhat different and I shall attempt in my next letter to express that view. At this time, suffice it to say that I believe Mahvi made significant contributions to the securing of both the Isiran and Social Security Organization contracts. At times, he did not help as much as I desired and at other times he involved himself when I felt we were already in control - that is business.

As to the overall story, I would like to share with you a perspective which unfortunately, in my opinion, has not been given the attention it deserves. Ross Perot is truly an unusual man and his role in the Iranian adventure was very extraordinary. Extraordinary, not for the "rescue" or "mission" for as in all such undertakings the "daring" and "dash" seem to warrant telling and retelling and with that comes the making of a good story. I would have liked the real story of Ross' contribution and the contributions of Bill Gayden, Gallagher, Young, Taylor, Howell and the others to have been told. More significant than the

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"daring" and the "adventure" is the comraderie, compassion and loyalty. I have seen heroic deeds in war and in peace and without fail they are reported and often embellished. I have less frequently seen, in war or in peace, truly unselfish, professional, compassionate concern for one's colleagues. Because, by definition, if no "dash" or "great risk of life" is involved due to professionalism and attention to detail, no excitement is generated and, therefore, no story is told. To me, the true story of the events you have so carefully detailed is not the Bull Simon mission, not the extraordinary courage of Paul Chiapparone and Bill Gaylord (let there be no mistake, they proved themselves to be uncommon men), but rather, the real story is of unselfish, idealistic, professional, compassionate (and a million other adjectives) concern for their fellow man shown by Ross, Bill Gayden and the other men and women involved. To Ross Perot should go much of the credit for this concern, which is far rarer than "daring" or "dash". When all other companies, agencies and even governments were willing to give up and not try, Ross felt compelled to try harder. Our embassy told us to wait. Other firms just gave up. Other countries simply shut down operations. Ross Perot left no stone (foolish or otherwise) unturned, no amount of money (personal or corporate) unspent and left no door (friend or foe) unopened in an effort to help his employees and colleagues.

Stories of risk taking, in my opinion, cloud the fantastic facts of a corporate executive and his associates trying and trying again, from the subtle to the brash, from the brilliant to the ridiculous, and eventually with a tremendous amount of help from The Almighty and a heavy dose of luck, succeeding in helping two of their friends. If the story were to be told what moved inside Ross and Bill Gayden during those frustrating days and nights of Paul's and Bill's imprisonment, then a truly rare and significant story would be told.

Once again, thank you for sharing the manuscript with me. I shall try to concisely give you my perspective of Mahvi's role.

Sincerely,



Paul W. Bucha