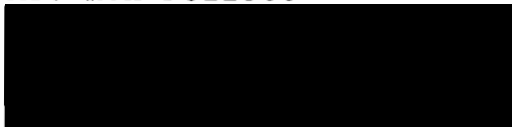




EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Cairo, Egypt

November 17, 1982

Mr. Ken Follett



Dear Ken:

I have your letter of November 9. Gosh, you're a tough one. And you're right. I am beginning to feel sweaty. As a novelist, you would know whether intimations of despair can produce perspiration.

Decency. I do not curse others and do not expect to be cursed. This is not a professional attribute. Civility. I ask the favor of you.

Fairness, Truth and Understanding. In your careful reading of my letters, you will note that I have not sought fairness. As a long-time hand in the Near East, I long ago abandoned that goal. I have merely sought to be left alone. Privacy. Truth, I cautioned, is probably unattainable. The search for Understanding in your letter does, as I say, open the sweat glands. On the three points in your last paragraph, I might note: First, quite plainly I "failed utterly to help Paul and Bill" -- unless you really believe your second point that I was somehow responsible for the Iranian Revolution which, after all, produced their freedom. On the second and third points, I would think that an ex-journalist could do better than rely on "one published account." To know what really happened and who advocated what during those difficult days is, I fear, probably beyond the scope of your study.

Repetition. In my business, unlike yours, redundancy is a virtue. I apologize, but urge you to read on in my

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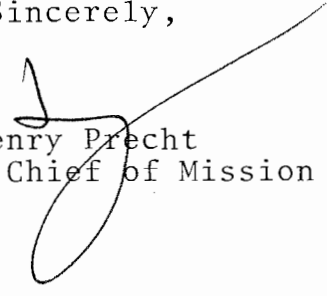
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last letter, and more carefully. There are, I suggest, some new ideas and possibly new contacts for your work. In the latter connection, and maintaining my interest in improving Understanding, why not seek out the Iranian lawyer Cyrus Ghani of London and former diplomat Iraj Amini of Paris. Neither is likely to have direct knowledge of the EDS case, but both are wise and balanced men from the pre-revolution period who could give you some feel for Iranian attitudes and business practices. After all, the more interesting question is not how Paul and Bill got out of prison, but how -- in the deepest sense of the question -- they got in.

Finally -- and I hope you clearly understand the true import of this suggestion -- why don't you go to Tehran?

Sincerely,


Henry Precht
Deputy Chief of Mission

cc: Mr. Al Zuckerman

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Mr. Ken Follett

