

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ken Follett
FROM: Merv Stauffer *MA*
DATE: December 9, 1982
RE: Bill Gayden's Comments of the Third Draft

The name "Nabi" that has been chosen to represent one of the Iranians in country may be a bit frivolous. He said that he has never known an Iran male named "Nabi". He suggested you might consider choosing a common name, i.e. "Majid" or "Houssein".

Aside from that comment, his only other comment was that this draft is vastly improved from draft #2.

6.1

Bull & The Peacock
3rd Draft Comments
December 9, 1982

Page/Para
Reference

Comments

5/4
(forward)

Time reference and events not quite accurate. Ashura was Dec. 11, 1978. Americans were not calm 5 days before this, as evidenced by the evacuation of EDS families on Dec. 8/9. In fact, life in Iran started downhill in September with the Jaleh Square massacre and went to a crisis situation in the first week of November with widespread strikes, school closings and the installation of a Military government.

7/2

I think you mean "execute" the evacuation. It had been planned, organized and practiced by the EDS families in early Nov.

9/2

Bucha lived in Paris, not the U.S.

13/3
(etc.)

Dr. Sheik was the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, not just Health.

22/4

"succeeded" in bribing the Minister-infers we tried.

20/6

Gallagher went to the Embassy with Bucha and Bill Gayden, not Bill Gaylord.

24/2

Do you mean Bill had a fat, round face (rather than flat?)

26/5

Ministry of the Social Security Organization not Ministry of Health.

61/7

Jim Nyfeler was not an evacuee, he had returned to the U.S. in June.

76/4

Paul laid on the floor. Bill slept in an upper level bunk (both were cold and hard).

174/2

Showered once not twice.

224/2 Bill was not placid in jail and stayed active on purpose. Prayer was something I had lots of time for, early in the AM before everyone woke up or late at night before dropping off to sleep.

225/1 Bill wasn't suffering from paranoia. Our Iranian cellmates were falling apart mentally and were becoming desperate to gain their release. They would have grabbed at any straw to get out of that jail, especially when it became clear that the Shah would fall.

239/6 Fence was made of tall iron bars covered with chicken wire.

Other Comments:

1. Somewhere it says that EDS' last payment was received before I arrived. Actually, I collected EDS' last payment which was for three months billings (all way past due). Officially, I was the payment collector at the Ministry project, and spent a great deal of time attempting to get the rest of our bills paid (via the famous Monthly Progress Reports).
2. I suggest you include pictures of people, places, documents, maps, escape route etc. to add realism and understanding to the story.
3. One incident that is worth adding involves an idea that Tom Walter had regarding the payment of bail. Tom suggested that counterfeit money might be obtained and used to pay the Iranians. I guess it was dropped because it was illegal. Otherwise, it would have been ideal and just what the Iranians deserved.

One last suggestion for an approach to writing the story:

What do you think about opening the story with a setting describing a Federal Courtroom in Dallas, Texas where the judge is handing down the verdict in the EDS lawsuit against the Iranian Government. Charges would be stated and then the findings of the court. EDS representatives would be in the courtroom which would break out into a spontaneous celebration.

The celebration could then be contrasted with a year earlier when circumstances were a lot grimmer for EDS in Iran. This would be the place to pick up with the story as it stands now.

I believe this would be a more dramatic beginning for the story and would better integrate the Iranian suit aspect of the story. Right now, I think

the portion of the story dealing with the suit appears to be a last minute add-on rather than a natural conclusion.

Thanks for your consideration of my comments.

WDG/ceh