

Ken:

Your book is great! In fact, I believe this has the potential for being your most successful book because of --

- a) Your established reputation.
- b) The immense publicity given the fifty-two Iranian hostages and the Iranian revolution.
- c) It is a good story.
- d) You have given it the Follett touch, keeping your reader in suspense and building concern and apprehension as you go.
- e) The story ends happily for everyone. Your American audience will love the "clean sweep" aspect with everyone getting back safely. (One of the reasons "Chariots of Fire" was so successful in this country was that everyone was a winner at the end.)

I have gone through the book in detail, following your instructions. Here are some summary comments that you will find in detail in the book.

1) We must tell the Simons' stories in order to really give him the dimension he should have as a character. I have suggested a technique on page 33. This may or may not be the answer, but I strongly urge you to get these stories in the book.

2) You have been very gentle with the State Department. I will leave this in your hands, but in your efforts to get the "true story", they badly misled you. You will find my more detailed comments in the book.

You may have made a mistake in letting the State Department have drafts of your book. While these people are less than useless in getting anything done, they are masters at manipulating facts. They may leak your

draft, along with their analysis, etc. The purpose in mentioning this is to caution you that to a certain extent you have put yourself at their mercy until your book is printed and published. We can't do anything about this at this point, in my opinion, except to hope I am wrong.

3) You failed to capture the drama in the failing 707, coming out of Frankfurt.

4) The last part of the book is weak. I get the impression you were rushing to finish it. The scene at D/FW airport is particularly weak. I have written a number of notes that may be helpful to you. The most consistent comment from people who have read the book is that the ending is very weak compared to the emotions they felt when they arrived at the airport.

5) We need to do a lot of work in capturing people's feelings, their emotions. I have made a number of notes in this area.

6) The jailbreak can be written much stronger. The current draft contains errors. I don't care how you write it, as long as we protect ^{Rashid} [REDACTED].

7) You have understated Joe Poche's role. This is probably the result of Joe understating his role to you. The key players in this whole event were Simons, Coburn, Poche and Taylor. In addition, your description of Joe is pretty harsh. I have included comments in my notes.

In contrast, Rich Gallagher was really a lightweight during this whole event, and Kathy was a nuisance. Rich's judgement was consistently poor. His role was to be a nice fellow and run errands. (Does Rich have a copy of the book? If he does, Bucha will read it. They are both going to be upset over your portrayal of Mahvi. He is their financial angel. Be careful about Mahvi. I don't believe your Mahvi portion is accurate. Tom Luce, John Howell and Bill Gayden are your best sources. Mahvi would sue in a minute, if he thought he could make a little money.)

8) You have given Boulware far too much space in the book, while almost ignoring key players like Joe Poche. Handle it as you see fit.

9) We need to say more about who certain characters are, for example, Mort, Merv, Tom Luce and Tom Walter. I have included additional information about them in my notes.

10) We need to make it clear that certain State Department people did try to help, such as Naas, Gelz and Ginsburg. Beard in the White House tried to help. Bob Strauss, one of Carter's key people, tried to help.

11) You might want to consider some of the pictures taken in Tehran during the revolution. There are some great ones that would be available to you through a photo service, such as the Shah's statue being toppled, the mobs, the firing squads. It shouldn't be too hard to get external photographs of Gasre prison. The walls and doors are imposing.

12) Did you ever talk to Bob Strauss? You should, even if only over the telephone.

Ken, the purpose of all my notes through the book is simply to cause you to consider events that you may or may not want to include. Please do not feel obligated to use any of these suggestions.

You have a great book! I urge you to redouble your efforts to bring it to its full potential in the final draft.