



CP photo

three years abroad this time, so possibly I would come back to Ottawa or another diplomatic post.

Q. Can you describe the trial runs that were apparently held before the departure?

A. I think the trial runs, what is essentially inferred from the trial runs is not that the people involved or others attempted to do the same thing to see how it would work. Once was fine.

The trials were associated largely with people who were leaving ordinarily looking at the means and conditions of exit.

Q. And how closely your passports were being looked at, that sort of thing?

A. And the checks, and what have you.

Q. I have two areas of questions. One is movement of the Americans while they were there. How did they arrive at the embassy? Did they all arrive at once? You said they never left the embassy unless it was absolutely necessary. What would have been necessary, and how often did they do that?

A. It was necessary a couple of times. Once a few were staying temporarily in another house, the landlord insisted on selling it, so that meant he had to bring people over. I thought it was very unfair of him to sell the house during the time we had the people there. But he did want some potential customers to come and see and we couldn't very well say, "Well, you can see everything but the last bedroom from the right on the second floor" on an occasion like that, for example. And the coming in — they arrived openly in cars to where we were, we met them. It was during the day time. There really isn't too much scrutiny or what have you.

Q. The second question is about contingency plans. There must have been a number of different ways you could have handled the situation. You could have done this whole thing publicly. We announced that these people were here in the embassy and that you were going to safeguard them. I understand you were considering using Department of Defence planes to fly them out. Could you perhaps tell us of some of the other things you considered?

A. I think when I say considered, I am not saying that they got past the drawing board or what have you. There is certainly the other obvious one which is overland down to Bandar Abbas in the south and then out by the Gulf to the Gulf states. But I think everything seemed to work out in favour of moving visibly through the airport. It is the normal thing to do when you are leaving the country. And the others implied considerably more setting up and a lot of chance once you left Tehran, given the uncertainty.

Q. I just wondered — you mentioned about getting passports. But you didn't mention anything about exit visas. Would you tell us how those were falsified or what you did about that?

A. Well, I got the passports. And I think the rest is

It wasn't necessarily an Iranian? Did he have any noticeable accent?

No, I don't think so. Then you had one other question.

The actual departure.

Yes. It was in the morning. I will try again. Do you mean the sort of way to the airport, or...?

Yes. Could you give us a run down of what happened?

They went to the airport in our embassy cars. The fact would have been they were Canadians who were sitting with me. So it was a natural thing, given the difficulty of assuring yourself of cabs early in the morning, that the embassy would drop them off.

Was this Monday morning, Mr. Ambassador?

That is right.

Canadian diplomats who perform noteworthy acts to sink like stones afterwards. I am wondering if you have any inkling what turn your career might now take?

I am not entirely certain whether this occasion will happen again. But in the meantime, until we work out what happens, vis-a-vis Tehran, whether or not I could be going back — I am just going to discuss it with the Department of External Affairs — I have no particular plans in mind. Essentially, we have been