

Q. Monsieur Taylor, pourriez-vous confirmer la reme-
neur selon laquelle l'ambassade de Suède aurait été l'un
des refuges des six diplomates américains tout au dé-
but avant qu'ils ne fassent appel à vous?

R. Non, je ne peux pas.

Q. Est-ce qu'ils l'ont demandé?

R. Peut-être, mais je ne pense pas.

Q. Mr. Taylor, Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh has
warned on a number of occasions that the escape of the
six Americans could make the situation worse for the
50 Americans still in the U.S. compound. Do you share
that view? And, secondly, we would much appreciate
having your expertise on the general optimism shared
by a lot of people that the new President-elect Bani-
Sadr is now committed to an early ending of the crisis.

A. I think that our first reading was that no, it would
not have a negative impact on the people at the embas-
sy. I don't think there has been a statement from the
people holding the embassy, vis-a-vis the exit of the six
that you could see as a negative turn or having a nega-
tive sense to it. The new president has not made a for-
mal criticism or statement of the departure.

As I say, I think given the massive support he re-
ceived at the polls and his intent to get on with ruling
the country, it would seem to most people — and I
think this accounts to some degree for the optimism —
that he is seeking an early resolution on mutually sat-
isfactory terms to the conflict.

Q. One supplementary. Do you have any sense that
the government in Iran has any real control at all over
the student militants? One has this feeling that they
are acting almost entirely independently of the state.

A. No. I think there has always been a line of com-
munication between Qum and the compound; between
the revolutionary council, to a lesser extent, and the
compound. Really, since I just left at the time of the
new government, I am not in a position to mention how
the framework or the link is right at this time. But the
news seems optimistic.

Q. Early in the takeover of the U.S. Embassy, the
Minister for External Affairs talked about the fact that
the Canadian Embassy was remaining in order to as-
sist other U.S. citizens to get out of the country. Why
could not these people be handled in the same way?

A. I think the main reason was that the other people
we helped get out of the country were with private
firms, rather than the embassy, and didn't experience
that much difficulty; it was largely just administrative
help we provided. They left on their own documents.
However, we provided whatever consular assistance
we could, but not of the nature of the assistance we of-
fered to the six who departed.

Q. Mr. Ambassador, will you share with us in as
minute detail as possible the daily life styles of the
Americans? Did they venture forth? Did they go to
movies? What would they do with their time? As a

follow-up to that, could you tell us a little bit about
last preparations leaving the country. Were the son-
erners told to mask their accents? Were they given
Canadian clothes, Canadian luggage, that type
thing?

A. They are the only people to ever wear two Ma-
Leaf pins! The days were, I know, rather long for so
of them, because they did not leave the residence or
house unless it was absolutely necessary, so there
no freedom of movement.

They had left the American Embassy offices. I
had had only an opportunity to pick up a few suitcases
so they had essentially no personal effects. This was
helped out by some members of our staff who were
proximately the same size. I never determined whether
they were the same style or taste, but they are approx-
imately the same size.

The days largely were made up of what you would
do on a weekend vacation, extended over three months.
Maybe playing bridge, Scrabble, reading, talking,
sleeping in a bit later than if you were employed at the
embassy during normal times.

A. Are any of them writing a book, for instance?

A. I don't know. They didn't mention it. But I
sure a number of them kept their own remembrances
or their own diaries. The departure: as I say, they went
largely with normal suitcases which we had provided
with clothes again which had been provided by them-
selves.

Q. Mr. Ambassador, when did your wife leave the
country? Was it a week or two ahead of you? And, did
you bring out all your own clothes with you or did
you leave a lot of stuff, including any special posses-
sions in the embassy. I ask the question against your
background of knowing that the security people who
are Canadian Armed Forces personnel left without
uniforms at all, just in plain clothes, to leave unob-
served, and I assume that is about \$600 or \$700 of
taxpayers' money down the drain.

A. No. Pat left Sunday morning. That is the day
before we left. As far as what sort of personal effects
got out, some were luckier than others. I have another
suit, I think. But that is okay. We had our belongings
packed in time. However, we are not entirely certain
where they are or whether we will see them again for
while.

Q. Mr. Taylor, the actual departure, you have
touched on it at all. Could you give us a run down of
exactly how six Americans and yourselves got out. At
number two, you said that there were no Iranians in-
volved in the operation — were there any Iranian
senior or otherwise apart from the anonymous telephone
phone caller who were aware of it, if not involved.

A. There is one thing. The anonymous telephone
caller may not have been an Iranian. The accent was
clear.