

The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505

- Chron. Ex. 12

MEMORANDUM FOR: Vice Admiral John M. Poindexter, USN
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

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First, it is indisputable that the Iranian connection actually worked this time, after a series of failures. You will recall that the [REDACTED] B Ghorbanifar connection also resulted in the release of Reverend Weir in September 1985. [REDACTED] After the impasse in Tehran over in late May, [REDACTED] continued to initiate direct contact with one of my officers, George Cave, even though the Iranians had been told that we were no longer interested in pursuing the matter. The fact that [REDACTED] persisted in contacting us indicates his desire to arrange a "deal" with Washington, either through Ghorbanifar or, if necessary, with Cave. He also clearly wanted to keep a channel open. Amiram Nir, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Israel on Counter-Terrorism, has also played a critical role in a determined effort to force Iran to begin the release of American hostages. He has been supported by Prime Minister Peres and Defense Minister Rabin in this endeavor. In order to make the terms of the arrangements more palatable, Israel, on its own, offered additional arms "to sweeten the deal."

To reinforce this commitment, he transferred \$4 million to a West European bank to pay his European intermediary for the HAWK spare parts removed from our mission aircraft in May. On Wednesday, 23 July, when no hostage had been released, Ghorbanifar was instructed to inform [redacted] that "the deal was off."

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