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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name

CULVAHOUSE, ARTHUR B.:FILES

File Folder

IRAN/ARMS TRANSACTION: ALTON KEEL / ALTON KEEL NOTES

Box Number

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17

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
164208	CABLE	BRUSSELS 0384	4	7/27/1987	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

- Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]
- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
 - B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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 - B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
 - B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
 - B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
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 - B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

POOL REPORT

Air Force One
Andrews AFB to Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Monday, July 27, 1987

Wheels up at 9:49 am. Mssrs. Duberstein, Griscom, Fitzwater, Henkel and Senator Robert Kasten accompanied the President.

Shortly after take-off, spokesman Fitzwater was seen in conference with the President up forward. Reagan appeared to do most of the talking. Afterward, Fitzwater came back and in clear anticipation of questions from Sunday's Washington Post story on the Keel notes from November 10 meeting, distributed xerox copies of four pages from the Tower Commission Report. The copies were of pages IV-12 and IV-13 and 11 and 12 (we think; unclear copy) from Appendix D.

Circled were two sections referring to Reagan's November reaction. "The Board found evidence that immediately following the public disclosure the President wanted to avoid providing too much specificity or detail out of concern for the hostages still held in Lebanon and those Iranians who had supported the initiative," the first marked passage read. "In doing so, he did not, we believe, intend to mislead the American public or cover-up unlawful conduct. By at least November 20th, the President took steps to ensure that all the facts would come out."

The second circled section from Appendix D reads: "Dr. Keel's notes suggest that the President felt that we had not dealt with terrorists or paid ransom and that one of the purposes of government was to protect its citizens. The President felt that a basic statement had to come out, but that we needed to avoid details and specifics of the operation; he urged that we could not engage in speculation because the lives of the hostages and the Iranians were at stake."

Referring to notes on a legal pad, Fitzwater said, "The President's comments on November 10 were appropriate, honest and consistent with all of his public statements."

He recalled that on November 7th, when the President appeared in the rose Garden with David Jacobsen, Reagan said, according to Fitzwater, "There is no way that we can answer questions having anything to do with this without endangering the people we're trying to rescue."

Fitzwater continued: "What the President was doing in that November 10th meeting was trying to protect the lives of those hostages. The Keel notes of the meeting were turned over to the Tower Board and to the committees by the White House. They were voluntarily declassified by the White House, and the Tower Board reached two basic conclusions:

One - That the President was trying to protect the hostages, and

Two - That he did not intend to mislead anybody.

I would ask that you include the two paragraphs noted in your pool report. This is an old story dealt with in its entirety in the Tower report."

MORE

Pool notes that during the aforementioned conference with Fitzwater up forward, the President appeared serious and gestured forcefully as if making important points.

Afterwards, when Marlin was asked whether the President felt angry about the Post story, he said, "I think the President is disturbed that this issue was so clearly reviewed by the Tower Board and so openly discussed at the time and somehow the facts have been overlooked in this case."

Fitzwater then added, "I frankly think that some members of the press are so hungry to try to destroy the President that they've lost all perspective."

On other subjects:

Persian Gulf - "I don't have anything new on the Persian Gulf."

Baldrige - Reagan and Bush will attend the Memorial Service at 10 am Wednesday at the National Cathedral. Marlin said Bush plans to attend the funeral Thursday as a family friend but "the family does request a small private service, and the President will not attend."

Baker's absence from trip - Fitzwater said he didn't know why and would try to find out.

Asked what the President meant by the phrase, "potted plant Presidency," Marlin asked, "When did he say that?" The reference, of course, was to the President's speech today.

Barry Seaman - Time
Owen Ullmann - Knight-Ridder

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- ° The November 10, 1986, meeting and Alton Keel's notes were fully disclosed at Page D-11 of the Tower Board notes. This is old news.
 - ° Keel's notes were given to the Tower Board and the Iran-Contra Committees by the White House and were declassified by the White House -- hardly consistent with a "cover-up."
 - ° It has never been disputed that it was anticipated during that week that two more hostages would be released and that further news leaks could jeopardize that expectation.
 - ° Not commenting to press is not a cover-up. As soon as President became aware of hidden facts, he asked for investigations.
 - ° The President has agreed that the Iran initiative deteriorated into an arms-for-hostages transaction. The Keel notes substantiate the President's original belief that the original policy was an approach to a more moderate government in Iran. If the Keel notes prove anything, they prove that the President on November 10, 1986, believed that the Iranian arms sales were in furtherance of that broader policy of obtaining influence with the Iranian government.