

8. In the matter of my own trip to Iran, how do the State Department and Security Agencies justify their failure to debrief me on the information obtained in direct contact with Iranian officials in Teheran? They cannot, without such procedure, know whether I have valuable information on:

- a) Current government makeup and operation in Iran.
- b) The positions and decision-making responsibilities of the different members of the Iranian government with whom I talked. Recent events have emphasized that Iranian officials have diverse opinions on many issues, even to the release of the hostages.
- c) The security and physical situation at the American embassy and other key areas.

d) The condition and other data regarding those hostages I saw. (It might be recalled that after my visit the number of known hostages was increased from 49 to 50).

9. During that visit, after initial successes, I contacted the State Department and White House in Washington to see if I could be of assistance while I was there on the ground floor, but found little interest. Why were they not even concerned for the welfare of the hostages?

10. Why has the State Department failed to open and maintain channels to the new Iranian government?...

11. Why has the State Department ... continually lobbied to keep Congress inactive and in a support role to inactivity?

## Government refuses to act on threat from terrorists

The White House, the State Department, and the Justice Department are refusing to take any appropriate action to pinpoint and root out Muslim Brotherhood agents in the United States, despite their knowledge of the Brotherhood terrorists' capabilities and plans and despite the clear and present danger to the President himself.

Ever since Nov. 5 and the taking of hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Teheran, White House press spokesman Jody Powell has consistently *defended* Islamic fundamentalism as a "bulwark against Communism," citing National Security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski as his source for this analysis.

The following interchange, as detailed in an official press conference transcript, is indicative.

**Q:** Jody, now that somebody at the Muslim Brotherhood has claimed credit for terrorist actions against U.S. installations in at least two cities, and now that the Saudis have named the Brotherhood as one of the responsible organizations in the

destabilization in that country, why isn't this government saying anything about that organization?

**Mr. Powell:** I don't have any comment on that.

**Q:** I just want to follow up.

**Mr. Powell:** You get one follow-up.

**Q:** Advisors to this administration have been extremely soft, to say the least, on the Muslim Brotherhood. Is that one reason why you would find it embarrassing if you had to hold them responsible for these actions?

**Mr. Powell:** I don't believe—I don't remember comments directed toward the Muslim Brotherhood or specific organizations. I think there have been comments about the fact that in terms of East-West conflicts, that those who hold a devout faith in Islam would find the materialism and the atheism of Communism to be repugnant to them.

The State Department, through spokesmen Hodding Carter and Tom Reston, has been equally evasive.

On Dec. 4, Hodding Carter declared that the State Department was "neither capable nor authorized" to deal with the Brotherhood in answer to a question that was prefaced with an outline of how Muslim Brotherhood networks were responsible for anti-American activities in Pakistan and for the Mecca mosque incident in Saudi Arabia.

On Dec. 13, Reston, who was asked about reports that 200 to 300 Iranian terrorists had just entered the U.S., stated: "Security precautions in this matter are not the concern of the federal government. This question is being left to local authorities to handle the situation." One member of the press corps pointed out, privately, that this attitude would give "carte blanche" to Iranian terrorists, since local authorities had no capability of handling a situation national—and, in fact, international—in scope.

The State Department later went so far as to deny that visas were being forged in Teheran for entry into the United States. But one Customs Service official who independently confirmed the visa-forgery phenomenon declared that the resulting terrorist infiltration of the U.S. "constitutes a massive conspiracy—with U.S. government officials deeply implicated."