

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Culvahouse, Arthur B.: Files
Folder Title: Iran/Arms Transaction: Oliver North (2)
Box: CFOA 1129

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name CULVAHOUSE, ARTHUR B.:FILES

Withdrawer

DLB 2/19/2014

File Folder IRAN/ARMS TRANSACTION: OLIVER NORTH (2 OF 3)

FOIA

S643

Box Number CFOA 1129

SYSTEMATIC

25

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
164219	PAPER	TESTIMONY OF ROBERT EARL, 5/2/1987, PP 45-46	2	5/2/1987	B1
164220	PAPER	TESTIMONY OF ROBERT EARL, 5/22/1987, PP. 144-148	5	5/22/1987	B1
164221	PAPER	TESTIMONY OF ROBERT EARL, MAY 30, 1987 - PP. 134-140	7	ND	B1
164222	PAPER	CRAIG COY DEPOSITION, JUNE 1, 1987 P. 21-26	6	6/1/1987	B1
164223	PAPER	CRAIG COY DEPOSITION, 6/1/1987 - PP. 60-61	2	6/1/1987	B1
164224	PAPER	NUMBER NOT USED			

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]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- 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]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- 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.

~~TOP SECRET~~

(Security Classification)

UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

On 2/19/14

ROUTING		
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE AND TIME
1	A. B. Culvahouse	
2		
3		
4		
ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	REPLY TO
APPROVAL	SEARCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
REMARKS:		
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NO.		DATE

CONTROL NO. 87-TF- 0082

COPY 1 OF

Handle Via
COMINT
Channels

Access to this document will be restricted to those approved for the following specific activities:

UMBRA _____

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions




~~TOP SECRET~~
(Security Classification)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 13, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR ARTHUR B. CULVAHOUSE, JR.

FROM: WILLIAM B. LYTTON III 

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S PHONE CALL TO OLIVER NORTH,
NOVEMBER 25, 1986

The President called Oliver on Thursday, November 25, 1986. The phone call was made by the President, from the Residence, at 6:43 p.m. and lasted two minutes. North received the call at the Sheraton Hotel in Vienna, Virginia.

The President has not publicly said what he said in that phone call.

North testified on July 7, 1987 (p. 25) that the President said, "I just didn't know."

Richard Secord, who was present with North when the President's phone call was received, could not hear the President's words, but described North's end of the conversation as follows:

"And he [North] said, 'Yes, Mr. President, Yes, Mr. President. Thank you very much, Mr. President.'

And then he [North] said that I was just sorry it had to end this way, I was trying to serve you the best way I knew how, Mr. President." (5/6/87, a.m. p. 135)

Fawn Hall testified on June 8, 1987 that, after the phone call, North told her of the call and said that the President "called him an American hero and that he just didn't know." (6/8/87, p.m., p. 162)

Craig Coy testified in his deposition of June 1, 1987 that North had told Coy and Robert Earl that the President had called North and said "he was sorry that he had to let Ollie go, but he had to--something along those lines." (6/1/87, p. 23).

Robert Earl testified in his deposition of May 2, 1987 that North told Coy and Earl that the President had said, "something like that, that it is important that I not know." (5/2/87, p. 45)

North, when confronted on July 8, 1987 (p. 2) with Earl's version of that conversation, said he was sure that the President said, "I just didn't know," and that "it may be that the President said it's important that I--LtCol North--understand that he did not know, but I wouldn't have characterized it the way you have just indicated."

Coy, when confronted with Earl's version, said he did not recall that, and said it "sounds too much like a Watergate-James Bond kind of thing. I think I would have recalled something like that, and it just didn't strike me as anything like that in the conversation, and it doesn't match anything that I heard or happened subsequent to that." (6/1/87, p. 24)

May 2, 1987 (Earl)

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name

CULVAHOUSE, ARTHUR B.:FILES

Withdrawer

DLB 2/19/2014

File Folder

IRAN/ARMS TRANSACTION: OLIVER NORTH (2 OF 3)

FOIA

S643

SYSTEMATIC

Box Number

CFOA 1129

25

<i>ID</i>	<i>Document Type</i>	<i>No of pages</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restrictions</i>
<i>Document Description</i>				

164219 PAPER

2

5/2/1987

B1

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT EARL, 5/2/1987, PP 45-46

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]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

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]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

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.

May 22, 1987 (Earl)

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name
CULVAHOUSE, ARTHUR B.:FILES

Withdrawer
DLB 2/19/2014

File Folder
IRAN/ARMS TRANSACTION: OLIVER NORTH (2 OF 3)

FOIA
S643
SYSTEMATIC

Box Number
CFOA 1129

25

<i>ID</i>	<i>Document Type</i> <i>Document Description</i>	<i>No of</i> <i>pages</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restric-</i> <i>tions</i>
164220	PAPER TESTIMONY OF ROBERT EARL, 5/22/1987, PP. 144-148	5	5/22/1987	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]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- 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]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- 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.

May 3:0, 1.987 (Earl)

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name
CULVAHOUSE, ARTHUR B.:FILES

Withdrawer
DLB 2/19/2014

File Folder
IRAN/ARMS TRANSACTION: OLIVER NORTH (2 OF 3)

FOIA
S643
SYSTEMATIC

Box Number
CFOA 1129

25

<i>ID</i>	<i>Document Type</i> <i>Document Description</i>	<i>No of</i> <i>pages</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restric-</i> <i>tions</i>
164221	PAPER TESTIMONY OF ROBERT EARL, MAY 30, 1987 - PP. 134-140	7	ND	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]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- 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]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- 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.

June 1, 1987 (Copy)

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name

CULVAHOUSE, ARTHUR B.:FILES

Withdrawer

DLB 2/19/2014

File Folder

IRAN/ARMS TRANSACTION: OLIVER NORTH (2 OF 3)

FOIA

S643

SYSTEMATIC

Box Number

CFOA 1129

25

<i>ID</i>	<i>Document Type</i> <i>Document Description</i>	<i>No of</i> <i>pages</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restric-</i> <i>tions</i>
164222	PAPER CRAIG COY DEPOSITION, JUNE 1, 1987 P. 21-26	6	6/1/1987	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]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- 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]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- 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.

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name

CULVAHOUSE, ARTHUR B.:FILES

Withdrawer

DLB 2/19/2014

File Folder

IRAN/ARMS TRANSACTION: OLIVER NORTH (2 OF 3)

FOIA

S643

SYSTEMATIC

Box Number

CFOA 1129

25

<i>ID</i>	<i>Document Type</i> <i>Document Description</i>	<i>No of</i> <i>pages</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restric-</i> <i>tions</i>
164223	PAPER CRAIG COY DEPOSITION, 6/1/1987 - PP. 60-61	2	6/1/1987	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]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

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]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

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.

June 8, 1987 (Hall)

Fawn Hall
June 8, 1987
Afternoon

3567 Ms. HALL. No.

3568 Mr. BELNICK. Did you subsequently during the day learn
3569 that it was the number of a hotel?

3570 Ms. HALL. I knew at the time it was the number of a hotel
3571 because he gave me an extension.

3572 Mr. BELNICK. Did you know which hotel?

3573 Ms. HALL. No, I didn't.

3574 Mr. BELNICK. And you can't recall now which hotel it was?

3575 Ms. HALL. I don't believe I ever knew.

3576 Mr. BELNICK. Sometime in the afternoon did you receive a
3577 telephone call from the White House operator?

3578 Ms. HALL. Yes, sir.

3579 Mr. BELNICK. Would you tell us about that call?

3580 Ms. HALL. Sometime late afternoon, the phone rang, I
3581 answered it, it was the White House operator saying the
3582 President would like to speak with Colonel North. I asked
3583 her if she would hold for a moment. I placed a call to the
3584 hotel and told him the President would like to speak with
3585 him and I was going to go ahead and give the operator the
3586 number and have her call. He said yes, and I did so.

3587 Mr. BELNICK. Did you subsequently learn from Colonel
3588 North whether he had spoken to the President?

3589 Ms. HALL. Yes, sir.

3590 Mr. BELNICK. And what did Colonel North tell you about
3591 his phone call with the President?

3592 Ms. HALL. He said the President called him an American
3593 hero and that he just didn't know.

3594 Mr. BELNICK. The President said that he, the President,
3595 just didn't know?

3596 Ms. HALL. That's what I recall Colonel North saying.

3597 Mr. BELNICK. Did Colonel North explain what he understood
3598 that reference to mean?

3599 Ms. HALL. No, sir.

3600 Mr. BELNICK. You didn't ask about it?

3601 Ms. HALL. No, sir.

3602 Mr. BELNICK. In the afternoon of November 25, the same
3603 day as the Attorney General's press conference, do you
3604 recall that Colonel North's office was sealed by the NSC
3605 staff?

3606 Ms. HALL. Yes, sir.

3607 Mr. BELNICK. That was under the direction of Brenda Reger
3608 who is the NSC officer in charge of Freedom of Information
3609 Act requests?

3610 Ms. HALL. Yes, sir.

3611 Mr. BELNICK. Ms. Reger and her assistants in addition to
3612 sealing the officer were boxing up documents; correct, Ms.
3613 Hall?

3614 Ms. HALL. Yes, sir.

3615 Mr. BELNICK. And you overheard Commander Coy and
3616 Lieutenant Colonel Earl discussing how they were going to be

July 7, 1987 (North)

536 But again, I wish to reiterate that throughout, I believe
537 that the President had indeed authorized such activity. No
538 other person with whom I was in contact with during my
539 tenure at the White House told me that he or she ever
540 discussed the issue of the residuals or profits with the
541 President.

542 In late November, two other things occurred which relate
543 to this issue.

544 On or about Friday, November 21, I Asked Admiral
545 Poindexter directly, "'Does the President know?'" He told
546 me he did not.

547 And on November 25, the day I was reassigned back to the
548 United States Marine Corps for service, the President of the
549 United States called me. In the course of that call, the
550 President said to me, words to the effect that, "'I just
551 didn't know.'"

552 Those are the facts as I know them, Mr. Nields. I was
553 glad that when you introduced this, you said that you wanted
554 to hear the truth. I came here to tell you the truth, the
555 good, the bad, and the ugly.

556 I am here to tell it all--pleasant and unpleasant, and I am
557 here to accept responsibility for that which I did.

558 I will not accept responsibility for that which I did not
559 do.

560 Chairman INOUE. Before proceeding, may I make an inquiry

JULY 8, 1987 (North)

North July 8, 1987

NAME: HIR189000

PAGE 2

26 | was in the office and he had known that the President had
27 | called, I think probably because the original call in the
28 | effort to find me, White House Signal had called through my
29 | office.

30 | Mr. NIELDS. My question is this, and I need to ask it of
31 | you, sir.

32 | Did you say to him in words or substance that the
33 | President had said to you, "It is important that I not
34 | know?"

35 | Mr. NORTH. Counsel, I don't recall the conversation that
36 | way. I am sure that what I said was basically what I told
37 | you yesterday, and that is that the President had told me,
38 | "I just didn't know," and it may be that the President
39 | said it is important that I, Lieutenant Colonel North,
40 | understand that he did not know. But I wouldn't have
41 | characterized it the way you have just indicated, I don't
42 | believe.

43 | Mr. NIELDS. Yesterday--

44 | Chairman INOUYE. Excuse me.

45 | Colonel, I think it might help if you would lift the mike
46 | a little higher.

47 | Thank you.

48 | Mr. NORTH. Yes, sir.

49 | Mr. NIELDS. Yesterday I asked you some questions and you
50 | gave some answers about a one-page insert into a draft of