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081819

ID # _____

FG372

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 82105104

Name of Correspondent: ROBERT C. ODE

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: FORMER HOSTAGE IN IRAQ
PROTESTS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
OF COMPENSATION AT \$12.50 PER DAY.

ROUTE TO:		ACTION	DISPOSITION
Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD
	<u>COHADY</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>82106102</u>
	<u>✓ DOS</u>	<u>OR</u>	<u>82106104</u>
	<u>La Duke</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>8210706</u>
	<u>Altn. Mary Watson</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8210709</u>
	<u>CO HIGG</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>8210710</u>

- ACTION CODES:**
- A - Appropriate Action
 - C - Comment/Recommendation
 - D - Draft Response
 - F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
 - I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
 - R - Direct Reply w/Copy
 - S - For Signature
 - X - Interim Reply
- DISPOSITION CODES:**
- A - Answered
 - B - Non-Special Referral
 - C - Completed
 - S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: What happened to this the first time around?

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OE0B).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 1181 _____

Prime Subject Code: FG 372 Secondary Subject Codes: JL 003.03 FG 012.10
PR 002 JL 003.01
PU FG 011

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 9, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: ANNE HIGGINS

FROM: CHARLIE PONTICELLI *Cmp*

SUBJECT: Attached File From Former
Hostage, Robert Ode

Robert Ode wrote to the President on October 19, 1981 and on April 30, 1982 regarding hostage compensation. He apparently has not received an acknowledgement, and now, Congressman Floyd Fithian has written to the President expressing concern that Mr. Ode has been ignored.

In an effort to determine the status of the case, we contacted Jean Hyde. She was able to collect the entire file and confirm that in fact Mr. Ode hasn't received a response. We had just wanted a copy of the file as background information in order to respond to Congressman Fithian. Apparently the file which was sent to us is the action copy and contains a draft response which the State Department recommends be sent to Mr. Ode. Therefore, I am returning the file to you for handling of the acknowledgement to Mr. Ode. We will contact Congressman Fithian and advise him that we have contacted your office on his behalf; and that we will request that he be copied when Mr. Ode receives an acknowledgement.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Thanks.



8215738

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

- LAD B

July 1, 1982

MEMORADUM FOR: Ms. Jean Hyde
Agency Liaison
Room 9
The White House

FROM: S/S-S - Linda Leyble *LL*

Subject: Compensation for Mr. Robert Ode
A Former Iranian Hostage

Enclosed please find all pertinent information relating to the subject of compensation for the Iranian Hostages. As you can see from the letter to Tip O'Neill, legislation is still pending on the Hill in relation to this matter.

The State Department feels the draft enclosed is still pertinent and that the White House should answer Mr. Ode.

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

JUNE 4, 1982

3215738
XR 8203166
XR 8133563

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

REMARKS: WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS THE FIRST TIME AROUND

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 081819

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED APRIL 30, 1982

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. ROBERT C. ODE
12427 BANYAN DRIVE
SUN CITY WEST AZ 85375

SUBJECT: FORMER HOSTAGE IN IRAN PROTEST COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION OF COMPENSATION AT \$12.50 PER
DAY

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

*Received in SPS-I
6/4 at 10:08 A.M. (CJA)*

April 30, 1982

Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20016

047121
S.C. CU071

081819

Dear Mr. President:

I am one of the former American hostages who were held for 444 days by Iranian terrorists. In fact, I am the oldest of the former hostages.

SK I wrote to you October 19, 1981 (copy of letter is enclosed) expressing my concern with regard to the generous awards given Secret Service agents on duty at the time of the March 30 assassination attempt on your life, whereas the President's Commission on Hostage Compensation has recommended a payment of an insignificant \$12.50 per day to the former hostages who lived close to death and under prison conditions for 444 consecutive days.

I am particularly disturbed that I have had absolutely no acknowledgment to my letter of October 19, 1981 from you or any member of the White House staff. I regard this as untenable treatment toward one of the former hostages whose ordeal in Iran did so much to bring our country together. I sincerely feel the former hostages deserve more consideration than either you or your staff have shown us.

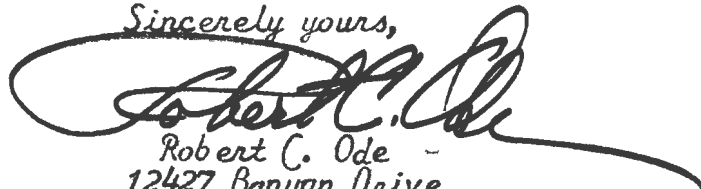
I am enclosing a copy of an article that appeared in a recent issue of the "Arizona Republic", a Phoenix newspaper. As one of the former hostages, I am particularly shocked and outraged to learn that the U.S. Government is again purchasing oil from Iran! Has your administration lost its mind? How can you possibly defend this action? To think that the U.S. Government has purchased oil from a country that grossly mistreated bona fide American diplomatic personnel; stole everything we had; wrecked and stole U.S. Government property; caused extreme hardship and suffering to our wives and families is, in my opinion, completely indefensible! The fact that the Energy Department bought the oil because it was sitting in the Caribbean and at a favorable price is absolutely no defense for doing so. The oil belonged to Iran and American taxpayer's money is going to Iran at a time when the Iranian Government should be reimbursing the U.S. Government for the millions of dollars damage it caused to U.S. Government property in Iran; for the mistreatment of the American citizen government employees it held hostage; and reparations to the families of the hostages on whom the Iranian Government willfully and maliciously inflicted extreme anxiety and hardship. It continues to amaze me that, as of this date, there is no ban against the purchase of oil from Iran yet there is against Libya. While I have no particular sympathy or regard for the Libyan Government, it must be conceded that it did not injure or harass U.S. citizen businessmen gainfully employed in their country, whereas the Iranian Government did. Wherein lies the difference?

I am also enclosing an article that appeared in the April 14, 1982 issue of the "Arizona Republic" with the startling news that a Brigadier General in the New York Army National Guard drew \$5,000 a month in "Federal incapacitation pay" for two months, a total of \$10,000. Apparently your administration is not inclined to compensate the former hostages more than \$12.50 a day (if indeed even that amount will ever be paid to us!) which amounts to about

\$5,500 only per hostage as compensation for our having been held hostage under prison conditions and under armed guard as well as being in acute discomfort and in constant fear of death for 444 days! Yet the U.S. Government has granted \$10,000 for a period of only two months of inconvenience to a General officer who is already drawing a high salary and who is also entitled to free medical treatment in a U.S. Military Hospital! If your administration is sincerely and really interested in trying to reduce the deficit, why doesn't it start with cutting out needless expenditures such as the ridiculous sum paid the General?

As a retired career Foreign Service Officer who has served his country faithfully and honorably for over 35 years in the diplomatic service as well as on active duty in the U.S. Navy in the forward areas of the Pacific Theater during World War 2, plus being held for 444 days as a hostage in Iran, I feel I deserve the courtesy of a reply from you, as President, or at least from a prominent member of your White House staff.

Sincerely yours,



Robert C. Ode
12427 Banyan Drive
Sun City West, Arizona 85375

Tel: (602) 584-4120

Enclosures:

1. Copy of letter dated October 19, 1981.
2. Copy of news article dated April 14, 1982.
3. Copy of news article dated April 27, 1982.

Copy to:

1. Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona
2. Senator Dennis DeConcine of Arizona
3. Congressman Bob Stump of Arizona
4. "Flag" (Family Liaison Action Group), Washington, D.C.

October 19, 1981

Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am one of the former American hostages who were held for 444 days in Tehran by Iranian terrorists. In fact, I have the distinction of being the oldest ex-hostage.

I have just learned that the U.S. Government held an awards ceremony honoring a number of Secret Service agents who were on duty at the time of the March 30 assassination attempt on your life. I was shocked to learn that of the seven agents who were cited for commendations, a top award of \$10,000 was given to at least two of the agents involved and that the other five were awarded varying amounts of between \$1,000 and \$2,000 each!

While I have no idea what salary is paid to Secret Service agents, it would seem that in view of the hazardous nature of their job, they must be well paid. When they accept the responsibilities inherent in their positions as Secret Service agents, they must be fully aware that they may have to sacrifice their own lives in order to protect yours as the President of the United States. Thus, even those who were wounded at the time of the attempt on your life were only carrying out their required duties.

How can you possibly justify the granting of such generous awards to men who were merely performing their normal, routine duties, hazardous though they might be when, at the same time, the President's Commission on Hostage Compensation has recommended a payment of an insignificant \$12.50 per day to those of us who lived close to death under prison conditions for 444 consecutive days?

I also want you to know that I resent our constantly being compared to prisoners of war or war veterans who have been exposed to hazards. The former American hostages were not in a wartime situation undergoing risks prevalent in situations where the United States is at war with the enemy. At the time we were taken hostage and during our entire 444 day period of captivity we were not at war with Iran, nor have we been at war with Iran at any time following our release. We were civilian and military personnel assigned to a diplomatic mission. Our job was to represent and protect the interests of the United States abroad. We were diplomats. At no time should our situation be compared with prisoners of war or war veterans. We were taken hostage because our Government failed to protect us even though it had been warned of the possibility of hostage taking if the Shah of Iran were to be allowed to enter the United States.

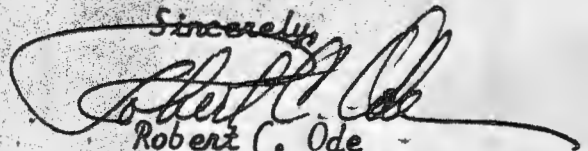
I feel strongly that the United States Government cannot allow others to dictate what it should do, but the Embassy employees in Tehran should have been protected or the Embassy should have been reduced to a volunteer caretaker staff before allowing the Shah into our country.

If you accept the recommendations of the Commission on Hostage Compensation and award the former hostages the paltry sum of only \$12.50 per day which amounts to a maximum of approximately \$5,500 per hostage, while at the same time giving such generous awards of \$10,000 to Secret Service agents who are merely performing their duty, brave as they might be, then I think you are insulting the former hostages who have served their country well in spite of being in constant and grave danger for 444 days and whose welfare caused extreme anxiety and pain to the brave wives, children and family members who were separated from them for such a long period.

I am also aware that, at the time of the deaths of the 943 Americans who lost their lives as a result of the "Jonestown" mass-suicide murder tragedy, the U.S. Government spent approximately four million dollars to return their remains to the United States from Guyana even though more than half of the remains, I understand, were never claimed by their families! If our government can expend the sum of approximately four million dollars under such circumstances, how can you possibly agree to the payment of such niggardly compensation to the former hostages in Iran?

I am sending a copy of this letter to my representatives in the Congress so that they will also be aware of my views at such time as the Congress will be called upon to appropriate the funds necessary to compensate the former hostages.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Ode
12427 Banyan Drive
Sun City West, Arizona 85375

Copy to:

1. Senator Dennis D. Conrad of Arizona
2. Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona
3. Congressman Bob Stump of Arizona
4. FLAG (Family Liaison Group), Washington, D.C.

Pact does not signal renewal
of diplomacy, officials claim

ARIZONA REPUBLIC- PHOENIX
APRIL 27, 1982

U.S. purchases first Iranian oil since 1979

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government has bought Iranian oil for the first time since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini came to power in 1979, but the purchase does not reflect U.S. intent to renew relations with Iran, U.S. officials said Monday.

The contract for the purchase of 1.8 million barrels of light crude oil for more than \$52 million was awarded Thursday to the Gatoil Co., which is based in Geneva, Switzerland, said Thomas Gelli, spokesman for the Defense Fuel Supply Center.

The contract was part of a purchase of more than 6.2 million barrels of oil at varying prices to build up the supply of the U.S. strategic petroleum reserve,

which has 250 million barrels of oil stockpiled underground in Louisiana, Gelli said.

The State Department and the Energy Department, which is responsible for the petroleum reserve, approved the purchase of Iranian oil from Gatoil, a trader, in a special authorization, Gelli said. He said the authorization was not needed but had been requested "just to play it safe."

"We bought it because it was sitting there in the Caribbean," said Philip Kief, a spokesman for the Energy Department. "There's no prohibition against it. We want good oil at good prices regardless of where it comes from."

But there is a ban against the purchase of Libyan

oil, which, Kief said, will be honored.

The Iranian crude, which Gelli described as "good oil," was the cheapest of the three contracts awarded Thursday at \$29.51 a barrel.

Kief and Gelli said it marked the first time the United States had bought Iranian oil since the overthrow of the shah in 1979 in an Islamic revolution sparked by Khomeini. The Iranians seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran on Nov. 4, 1979, and released 52 American hostages after 444 days, on Jan. 20, 1981.

Kief emphasized that the United States does not buy oil directly from another country but through

Oil, E2

Oil

Continued from E1

middlemen who trade in oil. The Iranian crude held by Gatoil is aboard a tanker in the Caribbean, not in Iran, he said.

The other two contracts awarded Thursday were to Exxon International for 2.5 million barrels of Omani oil ranging in price from \$30.73 to \$32.31 a barrel and to Amoco for 1.950 barrels of Egyptian crude that sold for \$31.75 a barrel, Gelli said.

Meanwhile, a copyright story in Monday's *Kansas City Times* reported that pressure from oil companies and refiners, combined with the government's need for cash, are depleting the nation's military-oil reserves at a rate of 10 percent a year.

The naval-petroleum reserves intended for use only in the direst national emergency are being pumped at a rate of 170,000 barrels a day from the Teapot Dome, Wyo., field and from one at Elk Hills, Calif. — the nation's largest oil field outside Prudhoe Bay, Alaska — the *Times* said.

The reserves have been tapped only three times in the nation's history: in the 1920s, during World War II and after the recent Arab oil embargo.

General gets \$10,000 for hurt foot

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — A brigadier general in the New York Army National Guard who tripped over a curb and broke his foot is drawing \$5,000 a month in federal "incapacitation pay" for two months.

Brig. Gen. William P. Cody injured his foot while on duty at Camp Smith in

Peekskill and has been drawing the extra pay — on top of his \$48,000 state salary — since Feb. 28, officials said.

"It's not something that's just for him. If an individual gets hurt on federal duty, he gets incapacitation pay," Lt. Col. Marvin Shiro, spokesman of the state Division of Military and Naval

Affairs, said Tuesday.

Incapacitation pay is based on rank, and Cody would get the same amount of money if he was on full-time active duty in the Army, Shiro said.

Cody's benefits are scheduled to end April 28, the date his doctor says he again will be fit for duty.