

## **Should you shed a tear for an inept American president who turned the world upside down?**

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While enjoying my Shish Kabob at a luncheon in Beverly Hills sometime in 2009, I asked Sir Eldon Griffiths, "What do you think about President Carter's unexpected visit to the Shah of Iran Christmas 1977?"

Sir Eldon said, "To gain Shah's trust and to lure him out of his country." He then handed me a copy of his book 'Turbulent Iran.' He pointed to the page that read, "Two days after Christmas 1977, one of the 'flying command post' aircraft at the American airbase at Mildenhall in my constituency took off on a special mission on behalf of POTUS, and the secret service acronym used to identify the president of the United States Jimmy Carter was crossing the Atlantic."

Here is Carter's surprising speech addressing the Shah at the dinner.

***"No other country is closer to America in our military security, and there is no other leader to whom I feel more profound gratitude or greater personal affection than I do to your Imperial Majesty. Iran owes its existence as an 'island of peace and stability' in one of the world's most troubled regions to Your Majesty's abilities as head of state and the respect and admiration accorded to you by your people."***

President Carter also said,

***"That the United States admired the efforts being made by Iran and her sovereign to strengthen democracy and make human rights respected."***<sup>1</sup>

Observers noticed Rosalyn Carter showed her discomfort with Jimmy's false admiration and insincere flattery speech through a series of facial expressions.

"That night, the President appeared on Shah's arm at a state dinner in the Niavaran Palace. He danced with Farah Diba while Rosalynn Carter waltzed with the Shah."

While the Shah was somewhat surprised at the US president's unexpected visit, he looked happy and proud to host his friend, the President of the United States.



State dinner From left: Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, Queen Farah Pahlavi, US President Jimmy Carter, the Shah of Iran, American First Lady Rosalynn Carter, and Shah's brother, Shahpour Gholamreza Pahlavi.

### **Island of Peace and Stability:** <sup>2</sup>

President Jimmy Carter was not alone in his false admiration, praising the Shah and his vision while betraying him in his time of need. Carter had the British, the oil companies, and some European states persuade him that the Shah was not fit to rule Iran.

President Carter's decision to uproot the Persian Empire by dethroning its last sovereign king and handing the helm to the seventh-century cunning Arabs "skulking under the clerical robe" changed the course of history with a volley of devastating impacts on humanity. Moreover, the world is paying for Carter's appalling blunder.

In his book *Hostage to Khomeini*, Robert Dreyfuss writes, "From the propaganda preparations to the supply of arms and ammunition. From behind-the-scenes deals with traitors to Shah's military to the final request to the beaten leader in January 1979 to leave Iran, perhaps no other chapter in American history is so replete with treachery to the ideals upon which the nation was founded." Robert Dreyfuss continues, " As President Carter in January 1978 was embracing the

shah and praising Iran as an 'island of stability in the turbulent Middle East,' his aides were already working to hurl this ally of the United States into the tumult of revolution." <sup>3</sup>

President Jimmy Carter carefully calculated the appointment of Ambassador Sullivan to Iran. In December 1977, before President Jimmy Carter visited the Shah, Sullivan, with "unalterable resolve" to topple Shah's government, arrived in Tehran

Sullivan subversively enlisted the help of local known criminals, gangsters, racketeers, convicts, and strong arms as early as January 1978, thus indicating the plan to overthrow Shah's government was conceived by the US much earlier than perceived.

1. In December 1977, Sullivan arrived in Tehran to topple Shah's government. That was one year before President Jimmy Carter visited the Shah in Tehran.
2. While praising the Shah, in December 1977, President Carter was already in a conspiracy to overthrow Shah's legitimate government.
3. Ambassador Sullivan reported to President Carter or Hamilton Jordan and no one else.
4. In 2016, the BBC published a report which stated that the administration of United States President Jimmy Carter (1977–1981) had extensive contact with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his entourage in the prelude to the Iranian Revolution of 1979. <sup>4</sup>
5. Jimmy Carter was in the dark about Iran's centuries-perpetual struggle between the crown and the turban.
6. The Shah suspected Ambassador Sullivan (William H. Sullivan, 1922-2013) was not straightforward in his conduct and may not report the events as they happened to the White House."
7. With help from the CIA, Ambassador Sullivan disarmed Shah's forces and armed the common criminals, prisoners, and diehard lawbreakers.

The Shah was correct in his assessment of Ambassador William H. Sullivan. Sullivan lacked tact and diplomacy skills, so he made up by being bullied and offensive. Sullivan was not dependent on factors outside of his bulldog mindset.



(L) Known criminal boss Mashallah Ghassab and (R) Ambassador Sullivan in Tehran  
Mashallah Ghassab (the butcher) is brandishing a revolver, a gift from Ambassador Sullivan.

"... I did criticize President [Carter] because we undercut what a stalwart, the Shah of Iran, was. And I am not at all convinced that he was that far out of line with his people or that they wanted that to happen. The Shah had done our bidding and carried our load in the Middle East for quite some time. And I did think that it was a blot on our record that we let him down. Have things gotten better? Whatever he might have done, the Shah was building low-cost housing, had taken land from the Mullahs, and was distributing it to the peasants so they could be landowners – things of that kind. But we turned it over to a maniacal fanatic who has slaughtered thousands and thousands of people, calling in executions..."<sup>5</sup>

"When the Shah found himself in trouble, we quite literally stabbed him in the back – we betrayed the Shah – It was the worst policy decision ever." –Alexander Haig, Secretary of State under President Ronald Reagan.

In his book *Farewell Iran: A Century of Memories*, *Amir Aslan Afshar*, Iran's "Chief of Protocol" during the last days of the Shah, says,

"Shah's exit from Iran was a plot by the American President Jimmy Carter." January 16, 1979, a shocked and disbelieving nation read newspaper headlines: "*Shah is Gone.*"<sup>6</sup>

Most political analysts, commentators, and the public believed that Khomeini and his revolutionary supporters' push caused Shah's exit from Iran wholly. However, the people nearest to the Shah, such as *Afshar*, who accompanied the Shah out of Iran, observed another source having an active hand.

When President Carter assured the Shah that it would be gainful for him to visit the United States for two or three months, putting together a plan for his return, not for a moment did any doubt enter Shah's mind that his trusted friend Jimmy Carter had come to his aid. His close associates, including *Afshar*, tried to persuade the Shah to stay and fight; however, the Shah strongly believed in the capability of the US president and that he will return in two or three months. 'It was done once before,' Shah whispered.

"Days before our departure, *Afshar* continues, I prepared a speech for the Shah to address the nation. The Shah opposed --- that we will be back in two or three months, no need to address the nation."

A few days before our departure, Lord *George-Brown* (1914-1985), who served as British Deputy Leader of the Labor Party (1960 to 1970), accompanied by an Iranian-British businessman, Lord *David Alliance* (born *Davoud Alliance* in 1932, *Kashan*, Iran), visited the Shah.

The next day, I had a phone call from Lord *Brown* requesting to meet with them at the *Hilton Hotel*. After I received permission from the Shah, I met with them. Lord *Brown* opened the conversation by saying, "Since his Majesty's travel abroad is only for two or three months. Moreover, knowing that his Majesty trusts you, and so do we, I suggested that all communications to Prime Minister *Shahpour Bakhtiar* go through you. His Majesty has accepted the suggestion." "On this occasion, I heard the 'two-or three-month proposal from the British Lord *Brown*. However, the Shah suspected Ambassador *Sullivan* (*William H. Sullivan*, 1922-2013) was not straightforward in his conduct and may not report the events as they happened to the White House."

At a news conference, President Carter stated, "I believe the people of Iran and the government will continue to be our friends," Iranians worldwide began to identify the real force behind the destruction of the Persian Empire. They soon learned that the Carter administration's clear-headed planning and malevolent premeditation organized the Shah of Iran's overthrow. They discovered that the Carter administration and their confederates, the British, were involved every step of the way.

### **THE GRAND DECEPTION**

The Shah's 'Chief of Protocol' Amir Aslan Afshar, continued, "While I was preparing the trip and selecting suitable gifts for the hosts, His Majesty summoned me into his office. The Shah said, "President Carter had just called me and asked as a favor, on my way to the USA, meet President *Anwar Sadat* and former US President Gerald Ford at Aswan Egypt." And to review the Camp David Accords. Afshar added it sounded natural since His Majesty the Shah had an essential role in the peace accord between Egypt and Israel."

"Off the record," said Afshar, "President Sadat made several unofficial trips to Tehran. On each occasion, I would meet him at the airport and drive him to Princess *Ashraf Pahlavi's* 'Sa'dabad palace, where Anwar would meet the Shah. The two confer on international affairs. I was in one conversation where the Shah advised Sadat to make peace with Israel.

**"It is best for Egypt to have peace with Israel because the people would suffer the most. Moreover, Egypt cannot count on Arab nations for help; they are busy with empty threats and useless rhetoric."**

President Anwar Sadat showed his profound appreciation for Shah's support in the peace accord and his generous donation of 'one billion seven hundred million dollars to help clean the Suez Canal from much wreckage that remained since the 1967 'Six-Day War.' Egyptian President Anwar Sadat reopened the canal in 1975. Iran's *Crown Prince, Reza Pahlavi*, was delegated to represent his father, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, the Shah of Iran.

"On January 16, 1979, the Shah and the Royal Family left Tehran for Aswan, Egypt. After three days of talk, the Shah told me, "Our talks have ended, and President Sadat has a formal state visit to Sudan. Contact the American Ambassador in Cairo and ask when we will arrive in the

United States." I contacted the American Ambassador, who told me he would contact Washington. The Ambassador called me the next day and said,

**'Unfortunately, the State Department does not believe that Shah's trip to the United States is possible now, and there is no further information.'**

"I immediately felt that one of the world's 'Utmost Deceptions' has just occurred." My heart sank into my throat when I next met the Shah, said Afshar. The President of the United States has lied and deceived the Shah

I repeated what the American Ambassador told me. While His Majesty became agitated and looked puzzled, as a statesman and a King, he did not lose his composure when he faced me and said, "They did the same with my father. The British assured my father he could go to India as he wished to be near his beloved nation. However, the British did not allow him to go ashore at Madras' port (Chennai) and took him straight to *Mauritius* and *Johannesburg, South Africa*.

***"I have made a mistake trusting the United States and her Allies."***

Several Iranians close to the situation firmly agree that the time, dates, and events suggest that Iran's 'Chief of Protocol' *Amir Aslan Afshar's* account is accurate.

Both kings were tricked by foreigners, forced into exile, and died in a foreign land. Their sin, being patriots, decent, and most of all, having faith in humanity, thus becoming an easy target for deception and betrayal.

On March 20, 1980, President Carter sent his Chief of Staff, Hamilton Jordan, to Panama to prevent the ailing wandering Shah's departure to Egypt. The Shah detected the plot, where Carter would use him in exchange for American hostages. The plot failed.

Iranians know that the conspiracy on the fate of the Shah, his family, and his nation was decided way before the meeting' which was between the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and West Germany, in the Guadeloupe Islands on January 4, 1979.

That meeting confirmed the formality of signing and sealing Shah's fate and his nation's agreement. President Carter calmly volunteered to get his friend, the Shah, out of his country and see that he would never return.



Happy about their plot in pulling the rug out from under the Shah, from left, Helmut Schmidt, Jimmy Carter, Valery, and James Callaghan, January 7, 1979

Only days after the Islamic revolution, boastful Jimmy Carter expecting praise and rewards from the newly formed clerical government he helped install, heard that the mullahs had held fifty-two American diplomats and citizens hostage. The action of Iran-Arab clerics became known as the "Iran-United States Hostage Crisis."

That thoughtless action of President Carter, lacking suitable strategy in his foreign policy, became the start of the unprecedented destruction of Iran, the Middle East, and countless parts of the world. The escalation of terror acts, the airplane bombings, the sectarian war with the neighboring Sunnis, the creation of Hezbollah, and numerous other terrorist organizations engulfed the world with disruption and distractions.

Whether Jimmy Carter acknowledged that he never studied the background, the upshot, or having a clue about the man he helps replaced the Shah he seemingly admired is of no consequence. Carter had no hint about Khomeini, the defiant cleric that the Iranians had forced into exile in Iraq for decades. Moreover, Carter's advisors were as clueless as Carter himself. Jimmy Carter's self-indulgent and foolish action was an enormously costly undertaking, a plague that turned the world upside down.

**THE TRUST IS GONE...** Nowadays, Iranians turn their sharp, skeptical gaze at the United States government's heads, the European leadership, and the British. Certainly, Iranians will



write of the West's deceptive practice and the lesson learned in their children's textbooks as I do now.

1. Sir Eldon Griffiths, *Turbulent Iran: Recollections, Revelations, and a Plan for Peace*, Seven Locks Press, 2006. p.81-82. Sir Eldon Griffiths, a British diplomat /Journalist well-versed in Middle Eastern affairs, deploys a more credible foundation, especially the reminiscences of former President Carter and the events leading to 1979 Iran's Islamic revolution.
2. *Island of Stability*: was the phrase that Jimmy Carter used to describe the status under the leadership of the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, in the Christmas period of 1977, shortly before the Islamic Revolution  
Wikipedia
3. Robert Dreyfuss, *Hostage to Khomeini*, 1980 by, ISBN 9780933488-113.
4. Wikipedia
5. President Reagan's debate with Walter Mondale on October 21, 1984.
6. **Afshar, Amir Aslan**. Published by Ibex Publishers, Incorporated, 2022. ISBN 10: 1588141926. ISBN 13: 9781588141927.