



Hans Buehler (SOWP 3028-M)
(HB9XJ)
[REDACTED]
8050 Zurich
Switzerland

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✓ Copy: Waldo T. Boyd

Ted K. Phelps
(W8TP)
[REDACTED]
Columbus OH 43213-3416
U.S.A.

Dear Ted

It was nice talking to you today. I also remember the cw contact we had a couple of years ago on 40 Meters on 7027 Khz in CW at 1015 hours Swiss local time, when you checked into the EDELWEISS SOWP net. This was quite a DX contact.

Well, in 1992 I was "absent" from the Edelweiss SOWP net for 9 1/2 months, since I was held "back" on a business trip in Iran. Why I was arrested and charged with "espionage" is still not clear.

There may have been political and or economical motives behind it. Relations between Iran and Switzerland at the time were bad, since in Dezember 1991 an Iranian national by the name of Sarhadi was arrested in Berne Switzerland and questioned if he had anything to do with the murder in Paris France of the exiled Prime Minister of Iran Shapur Bakhtiar, who had fled Iran in 1979. I was arrested in March 1992 in Teheran, Sarhadi was nevertheless extradited to France in May 92.

But it has never been confirmed that I was a hostage for Sarhadi and/or if there were still other motives for my long arrest.

Well, I was released eventually on a \$ 1 Million Dollar bail ! and could return to Switzerland but was later sentenced in absenteeism to 3 years imprisonment by the Iranians. For what really I still do not know, but not having returned to Iran, they kept the 1 million bucks.

Different countries, different uses and traditions ...

The Iranian national Sarhadi was released in December 1994 from prison in France, and could return to Iran, he was found innocent by a French court.

Hopefully, an Iranian court will also one day find out that there was nothing with me;

politics could play a role also ...
But such things take time...

I was questioned almost daily for hours during 5 months, while staying in solitary confinement in a Military prison, living in a cell measuring 2 by 3 meters. For the remaining 4 months I got a bed. Nice !

I do not know in which prison I was in Tehran, and also never saw anyone since I was blindfolded.

Once a month I was allowed to see a representative of the Swiss Embassy in Tehran. The Swiss Embassy also represents American interests in Iran, since the USA has, since the hostage crisis in 1979, when 52 Americans were held prisoner for 444 days in Teheran, severed diplomatic relations with Iran.

Well, as mentioned, I was released by the Iranians. Also by "many methods" they could not make me confess espionage activities since I knew nothing of the kind. Its is wonderful to have a good conscious in interrogations !

After having left the sea as R/O having been on several ships flying the Swiss flag, the Liberian flag, the Kuwait flag and also on a Motoryacht of 210 feet length doing 25 knots with 7500 horse-power with 3 propellers- flying the Austrian flag, I worked in the fishing-industry first in servicing the various electronic equipment on board some 200 ships worldwide and later as Fleet Manager running a fishing base in Kuching Malaysia.

At the age of 39, in 1979 I returned to Switzerland and started to work worldwide, selling electronic ciphering equipment, mainly to Government customers but this came abruptly to and end on 18 March 1992 when I was handcuffed out of a meeting in Tehran.

The experience gained as a seaman from aboard ship as R/O surely helped me survive and not to turn crazy in prison. What experience ? Well, having learnt to rely on oneself in difficult situations and not to panic when there were problems with radiocommunications due to equipment failure, but to go quietly assessing problems and first hand repairs. These were my days in stormy North Atlantic weather and on the grain trade from Port Churchill in the Hudson Bay to Europe, through ice in fog and turning the radar antenna by hand when its electric motor was full of water ...

Today, I watch the weather maps of the world's oceans through computer databanks and on Television with my family.

The SOWP EDELWEISS chapter net has been running nicely for many years now. Although initially created by SOWP member Erich Walter, HB9CHE who has spent a dozen years at sea as an R/O, SOWP's from Sweden, Danmark, Germany, the U.K. and Italy also join-in at regular intervals.

Together with SOWP Harald, HB9BYO, an old fist who already was R/O on Swiss ships during second World War, we have had a good net going for many years now.

As of 1st January 1995, Cliff, DJ0OS has begun to take over as Chief Operator and calls up the net now every Sunday morning.

The following are callsigns of the most active SOWP CW-net participants in our net:

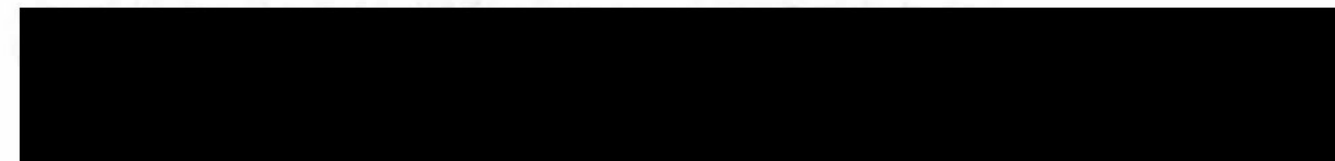
DF2SL, YL Anny; DJ0SL, Cliff; DK5HE, Kurt; DL9BF, Hanswerner; HB9BYO, Harald;
HB9CHE, Erich; HB9EBH, Ueli; HB9XJ, Hans; HB9ZV, Paul; I4YTE, Urbano;
OZ1CAR, Jens; SM7FYK, Henning.

The actual list of SOWP members Switzerland chapter consisted of 15 members at the end of 1994.

Best 73

Hans

P.S. Upon his return to Switzerland, a book has been written about the experiences of Hans Buehler, HB9XJ, entitled "Verschluesselt" (Ciphred), published by the WERD Verlag Zurich. It is 200 pages thick and tells of his time in Iran, of his experiences at sea and his 1 year long research in 1993 to find out the story behind the story for his arrest and the intriguing "games" that have been played on Government and economic levels behind the scene. The book is in German, and has an Appendix of some 75 pages with many photographs and copies of documents on the case of "Hans Buehler, Prisoner in Iran".



Enclosures:

- Free copy of the book "Verschluesselt"
- Maritime Mobile QSL card, showing the Motoryacht CARINTHIA VI, callsign OEOL (Austrian flag) and its radio station on which I served last while at sea as R/O.

18 31MAR92.SWITZERLAND: SWISS SAY STILL HAVE NO ACCESS TO ARRESTED NATIONAL.
[REUTR] (31)

BERNE, March 31, Reuter - Switzerland said on Tuesday it still had no access to a Swiss national arrested in Tehran on charges of illegal contacts with Iranian military personnel.

"We are trying through our embassy in Iran to earn consular protection for him, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"First we must gain access to him. We still don't know where he is being held."

The Iranian news agency IRNA, quoting a statement by the Tehran military prosecutor, said on Monday that HANS BUEHLER was arrested on charges of "illegal contacts with the personnel of the Iranian armed forces".

It said the case was under investigation.

Buehler was arrested on March 18 with two Iranians described as a manager and a clerk in a trading firm, it said.

"Until now there is no other indication of the reason for his arrest (other than that given in the IRNA story)," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He did not know which firm Buehler may have represented.

Tensions between the two countries have risen since the arrest of a member of the Iranian embassy on suspicion of involvement in the murder last August of former Iranian prime minister Shapour Bakhtiar in Paris.

Iran protested to Switzerland after Zia Sarhadi, 25, was arrested outside the Iranian embassy in Berne in December.

Sarhadi is fighting a French extradition request from his Swiss jail. His lawyers have appealed against his extradition, currently being considered by the Swiss Supreme Court.

French judicial officials believed Sarhadi helped the men suspected of stabbing Bakhtiar and a secretary in his villa near Paris to flee France.

Tehran last week expelled the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in Iran, saying they had overstepped their mandate.

But the Geneva-based ICRC has discounted speculation linking the expulsion with the case of Sarhadi.

The foreign ministry said later the Iranian ambassador had been called in to explain the situation, but it gave no further details.

REUTER NEWS SERVICE

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9 26MAY92.SWITZERLAND: SWISS HAND IRANIAN MURDER SUSPECT OVER TO FRANCE.

[REUTR] (29)

BERNE, May 26, Reuter - Switzerland said on Tuesday it had extradited to France an Iranian suspected of involvement in the murder in Paris last August of former Iranian prime minister Shapour Bakhtiar.

Ali Sarhadi, 25, was arrested outside the Iranian embassy in Berne in December, and has been fighting the French extradition request from a Swiss jail.

The federal justice department said in a statement Sarhadi was handed over to the French authorities at 2.15 p.m. (12.15 GMT) at Basle-Mulhouse airport.

The arrest of Sarhadi has sparked diplomatic tension between Switzerland and Iran.

Iran protested against the arrest, saying Sarhadi was an administrative employee of Iran's embassy in Berne.

Iranian newspapers reported in March that Iran might retaliate against Swiss and French companies based in Iran if the Swiss extradited Sarhadi to France. Bakhtiar was stabbed to death at his Paris home last August. He was Iran's last prime minister under the late Shah, ousted in the 1979 Islamic revolution. Sarhadi appealed in March against a Swiss decision to extradite him. But the appeal was rejected by the Swiss Supreme Court on Monday, leaving the way clear for his extradition.

Sarhadi is suspected both of having played a part in plotting Bakhtiar's murder and of helping the killers escape.

Ties between Switzerland and Iran were already strained following Iran's arrest in March of Swiss businessman HANS BUEHLER for alleged illegal contacts with military personnel.

The Swiss demanded access to Buehler, a salesman of coding equipment, but this was not finally granted until April.

A foreign ministry spokesman said on Tuesday a second visit took place on May