

cc:

004223 SEP 24 91

September 10, 1991

Dear Brian,

Regarding the attached-- "I hope other people are angry too"--!

C-SPAN is simply wonderful and is being acclaimed; first by Johnny Carson who is watching regularly, and by Rolling Stone which is using it for unfiltered news, and now, by The Village Voice!

Good Luck to you all on The Road to the White House this year and thank you all for the excellent coverage of Government and its doings--

Best Wishes, 17

Westfield, NJ 07090

PS: My daughter will be watching C-Span at college this year - it seemed a necessity!

cc: Suburban Cablevision - Programming
43 Prospect Street, East Orange, NJ

WASHINGTON.

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IT HAPPENS in MANHATTAN, N.Y.C.
DOES IT HAPPEN ELSEWHERE?:
A PERSON WATCHING C-SPAN,
THE 24-HOUR CABLE TV NETWORK
DEVOTED TO UNEDITED BROADCAST OF
THE WORKINGS OF OUR GOVERNMENT...

...AND WERE YOU AWARE OF ANY
ILLEGAL ACTIVITY?...



GREAT!
HEARINGS ON THE
B.C.C.I. SCANDAL.
MAYBE I CAN
FINALLY UNDERSTAND
WHAT HAPPENED!



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...WHEN SUDDENLY:
BZZT!
IT'S TIME FOR
YANKEE
BASEBALL!
WHAAAT?!!



OUTRAGED, HE CALLS UP
THE CABLE COMPANY.

YOU JUST INTERRUPTED C-SPAN
TO BROADCAST A BASEBALL GAME?!!!

I'M SORRY, SIR, WE NEED TO USE THE CHANNEL.

YOU'VE GOT 35 CHANNELS
AND YOU CAN'T FIND ANOTHER
PLACE TO BROADCAST
THE YANKEES?!!!



I'M SORRY,
SIR.

...FOUL BALL

BUT C-SPAN
IS OUR
WINDOW ON
OUR
GOVERNMENT!



...WE'VE INVENTED THIS NEW
TECHNOLOGY THAT I PAY
EXTRA MONEY FOR SO I CAN
GET C-SPAN AND YOU
INTERRUPT MY ACCESS TO
THE WORKINGS OF MY GOVERN-
MENT TO BROADCAST YANKEE
GAMES, WHEN, FOR 30 YEARS
BEFORE I EVER HAD CABLE,
I GOT YANKEE GAMES
ON REGULAR TV
FOR FREE!!!



I'M SORRY, SIR.

"SORRY"?!! YOU'RE
SABOTAGING
DEMOCRACY!!
IF YOU DIDN'T
HAVE A MONOPOLY,
I'D SWITCH TO
YOUR COMPETITION
IN A SECOND!!



WE DO
HAVE
MONOPOLY,
SIR.

...BUT WE BELIEVE
IN DEMOCRACY TOO
UP TO A POINT! BUT
NOT WHEN WE CAN MAKE
A FEW EXTRA DOLLARS
BY OBSTRUCTING IT.
WE BELIEVE DEMOCRACY
IS A CUTE IDEA
THAT HAS A RIGHTFUL
PLACE WITHIN THE
LARGER FRAMEWORK
OF LOCAL
CABLE
COMPANY
FASCISM.



HE HUNG UP
THE PHONE AND
SAT FOR A WHILE
IN A FRUSTRATED
RAGE.

...STRIKE TWO.
ONE BALL AND
TWO STRIKES...



HE HOPED OTHER
PEOPLE WERE
ANGRY TOO.

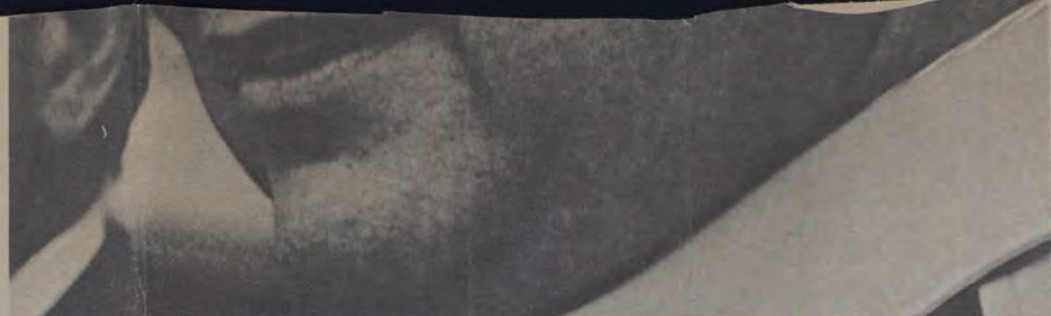
verified by photographs and other information provided to him by the Iranians themselves. (See "What Smalley Told the British," page 20.)

In a recent telephone conversation with the *Voice*, Smalley said he "recognized" the document and still stood by its substance. He said he "felt no need to modify it in any way, shape, or form."

Both documents, which were passed to U.S. officials in 1982, raise the specter of British complicity in the so-called October Surprise scandal, an alleged 1980 Republican campaign scheme to derail the release of hostages—and President Carter's reelection prospects—through secret weapons shipments to Iran. Asked if the British government had supplied arms to Iran during this crucial period, Smalley said, "Are there any doubts about that?"

Recent press reports and allegations from gunrunners and other sources place Reagan's 1980 campaign manager and later CIA chief, William Casey, at the center of these machinations. The *Voice* reported recently that the Israelis may have assisted Casey in delivering arms to Iran both before and after the 1980 elections as a payoff to the Iranians for postponing the hostages' release until after Reagan was safely elected. (See Press Clips, page 8.) This is the first time, however, that the Thatcher government has been publicly implicated in these shady transactions.

The British Customs report was not meant to point a finger. It is a starchy investigative account of events surrounding the 1982 arrest of British arms dealer Ian Smalley. But its author, Customs Investigator J. Barrie Riley, quotes Smalley as threatening to



Arms merchant Ian Smalley, the self-described "Dr. Doom" of the October Surprise

reveal Britain's role in the 1980 arms shipments to Iran if the case against him wasn't dropped.

"During the conversation," wrote Riley of a phone interview he had with Smalley on June 18, 1982, "he [Smalley] told me that he had informed the MOD [Britain's Ministry of Defense] that if his case came to court he intended to 'blow the operation' undertaken by the British government in relation to sales of military equipment to Iran during the hostage crisis."

Smalley's own account, an unsigned note that he purportedly delivered to British defense officials shortly before the Riley interview, details what he says are 1980 shipments to Iran by the defense ministry itself. These deliveries, according to the document, included "Chiefton tank engines" and "complete Chiefton tanks" as well as "Bell helicopter spares procured by the MOD from a third party." The document also claims that British Petroleum made unpublicized purchases of Iranian oil after President Carter had called for a moratorium on trade with Iran.

According to Riley, Smalley told him that British defense officials had "taken ten days to verify the authenticity of his accusations

and were horrified at the thought of the information being released in open court." Riley doesn't speculate on why these officials might have reacted so strongly. But other sources, including a former undercover operative for the U.S. Customs Service, have told the *Voice* that Smalley was the British supplier of an Israeli network that moved arms to Iran during the summer of 1980, precisely when Reagan campaign chief Casey reportedly used such shipments to bribe the Iranians into holding off a hostage release. Smalley's note would seem to implicate the British defense ministry itself in these and other deliveries.

In short, if anyone is wondering where Casey got his supposed bargaining chips, Smalley and the British emerge as prime candidates, with the Israelis serving as shipping clerks.

Smalley's references to the 1980 British supply "operation" cannot be written off as the latter-day musings of an opportunist determined to cash in on recent public speculation about the October Surprise. Smalley's typed note and his remarks to British Customs Investigator Riley came in June of 1982—long before anyone had begun to speak publicly about

preelection arms deals with Iran.

Nor can former top officials of the Thatcher and Reagan administrations easily claim to have been unaware of Smalley's allegations at the time he made them. In the early '80s Smalley was, according to one ex-U.S. Customs infor-

Riley's report for British Customs does not mention the detailed weapons deliveries outlined in the Smalley document. But it does say that Smalley "arranged two weapons shipments to the Middle East during 1980." A British tank engine, he says, was shipped out on October 22, and another consignment, this one consisting of nine more such engines and spare parts, followed on November 5—just two days before the 1980 U.S. presidential election.

According to Riley, when Smalley was first questioned about these deliveries, he claimed they had been destined for Egypt. Only when he realized that he was facing prosecution did he introduce Iran into the equation and threaten to blow the whistle on official British involvement.

World

mant, the "third most important weapons dealer" in the world. He was threatened with legal action in Britain and the U.S. twice in that period. Moreover, according to a U.S. Customs document obtained by the *Voice*, American and British officials gathered in London on November 8, 1982, to share information on the Smalley case. Among those in attendance

Whether or not the threat paid off remains debatable. But it is a matter of public record that Smalley was never put on trial in Britain. Despite extensive evidence against him, including incriminating documents from the Iranian Embassy in London found in his briefcase, he was bonded and allowed to retain his British passport. He promptly jumped bond

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