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18 December 1978

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[redacted]
Associate General Counsel
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear [redacted]

I have given careful consideration to the points you and Mr. Owen made during our meeting on October 20, 1978, concerning the MSS on my Iranian experiences.

As you may recall, the project was first suggested to me by the late Minister of the Iranian Imperial Court, Assadollah Alam, in February, 1976. I was not able to discuss it directly with H.I.M. the Shah until a few months later. On May 18, 1976, the Shah gave his approval to the undertaking.

On June 3, 1976, I met with the then-Director of C.I.A., George Bush, and John Waller. At that meeting, Director Bush gave his full approval. In reliance upon this approval I worked almost full time on the project over the ensuing two years and, in January 1978, I entered into a contract with McGraw-Hill Book Company for the publication of a book, to be entitled COUNTERCOUP. McGraw-Hill was advised that both the Iranian Government and the C.I.A. had given their approval to my writing the book. During this period, various drafts were submitted to the Iranian Government for their review and the C.I.A. was periodically informed of my progress. In June, 1978, a copy of the MSS was forwarded to you.

On August 2, 1978, you and [redacted] indicated to me that the C.I.A. wished to place new and additional requirements on me. On October 20, you returned to me a copy of the manuscript with 156 specific passages marked, together with an analysis of the reasons for your objections to elements in those passages, explanatory notes and a copy of Executive Order 11652.

Between June and October, I revised the MSS which had been submitted to you. While I believe many of your objections are unreasonable, I have, since our October discussion,

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made many additional changes in an effort to preserve the cooperative mode we established. I believe I have complied with the requirements concerning the protection of cryptonyms, pseudonyms and identity of C.I.A. personnel, sources and assets.

[REDACTED] I believe these revisions meet the spirit of your objectives. In the present situation I think it would be inappropriate to go back yet again to the Government of Iran to obtain reconfirmation of the approval they have already given.

Because of my commitment to McGraw-Hill, I must proceed with the submission of a final manuscript which is already overdue. You may not feel it necessary to see the manuscript again; however, if you do please let me know so that I may make it available to you in time to allow you to complete your review before December 27th so that a final version can go forward before the end of the year.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]
Kermit Roosevelt