

RELEASED IN FULL

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Bill Rope/
Scymow Hersh
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-- In addition, he's been talking with Greeks in Athens and has learned that they are not happy with Turkish "cooperation" with the Pak nuclear effort; e.g., supplying "a slew of inverters" and other things to Pakistan.

-- He knows we have a great deal of intelligence on these matters, and I must be in on it all. Even recognizing that I won't talk to him about intelligence information, he needs to talk to me to find out who works on all of this in the Department.

I told Hersh:

-- I never discuss with reporters anything involving alleged intelligence information.

-- My tenure on the China desk was marked by major problems with the PRC. Even after the August 17 Communique was signed, we had used up so much political capital in both capitals that it was not easy to get the relationship moving again. So a nuclear agreement was never high on my agenda, and I was not particularly involved in the issue.

-- In my time on that desk I became very wary of misperceptions on the nuclear issue, often stimulated by people with ulterior motives.

-- Though a newcomer to my present position, I would be equally wary about information peddled by Greeks about Turks, for the same reasons.

This did not deter Hersh from pushing to see me. When I said I would be leaving town for several weeks to see my new field posts, he said he must see me but would wait until I got back. When I told him the date of my return, he said he would call me the day after.

I don't know whether he was being truthful, or on a fishing expedition, or what; but when he seeks a further talk I will shut him out. I'm going to say that his intermingling of allegations about what US intelligence supposedly knows, what he knows and what I am presumed to know makes it impossible for us to talk.

In some quick checks with several others (e.g. Bob Galucci) I found no one else who had been called by Hersh, but I will alert appropriate people.

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