

U.S., Iran agree to basics: billions in assets for hostages

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the delicately balanced contract to end the 14½-month hostage crisis, the U.S. government has agreed to forbid everyone — including the hostages themselves — from suing Iran for damages.

At the same time, the U.S. promises to help Iran press its lawsuit seeking to seize the wealth of the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

The agreement barring lawsuits and referring all prior claims against Iran to an international arbitration panel is one of the many commitments made by the U.S. in the agreements intended to bring the hostages home.

Essentially, Iran made one commitment in exchange: freedom for the 52 American hostages.

The centerpiece of the agreements is a straight trade — freedom for the hostages in return for release of the billions of dollars in Iranian assets frozen by President Carter 10 days after the hostages were seized at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran on Nov. 4, 1979.

The deal fell victim Monday, however, to a dispute over the exact language in the additional documents that will implement the agreements. These additional documents, which have not been released, focus on procedures and details.

The dispute specifically centers on a provision dealing with Iran's recovery of assets that might be found in the future, after the hostages are released.

The 10 pages of published

agreements specified the whole series of U.S. promises to Iran, all to be triggered by the hostages' release.

• "The United States pledges not to intervene, directly or indirectly, politically or militarily in Iran's internal affairs," says one of the agreements.

• The U.S. government pledges to "restore the financial position of Iran, insofar as is possible to that which existed prior to Nov. 14, 1979," the day Carter ordered Iranian assets frozen. This means returning billions of dollars in assets to Iran's control.

• The U.S. government will end all trade sanctions against Iran.

• The U.S. government will withdraw its claims against Iran before the World Court.

U.S. reaction mixed, muffled

News of the coming emancipation of the 52 American hostages Monday brought bar-room cheers and grateful prayers, spontaneous celebrations and determined vows of "Never again."

Church bells rang, high school bands struck up patriotic music and in a cemetery in Hermitage, Pa., they raised a flag, No. 443, one for each day since the storming of the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

Dorothea Morefield of San Diego, wife of hostage Richard Morefield, spoke of the relief after 14 months of hopes dangled and then dashed.

"All of a sudden I don't have a headache," she said. "All of a sudden, I'm not afraid."

In small-town America, it was a day of tribute to God and country.

In St. Petersburg, Fla., the Pinellas County Tourist Development Council said it was planning to offer all 52 hostages free vacations in Florida.

But, all in all it was a bitter-sweet celebration.

"They will soon be home," said Secretary of State Edmund

S. Muskie. "But, our celebration of their release is muted by the suffering that has been endured so bravely."

New Mexico's newest congressman, Republican Joe Skeen, was among those voicing the view that the United States should hang tough next time.

"Among those of us in Congress, there's a determination that this is never going to hap-

pen to another American again," Skeen said. "We're just not going to be held hostage again."



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