

IRAN/U.S.>RATHER: When the Ayatollah Khomeini held dozens of < >DOCUMENTS>Americans hostage for 444 days, he justified it by claiming the U.S. Embassy had been an espionage nest filled with spies trying to overthrow him. Ever since then, he and Iran have been trying to back that claim with hard evidence. CBS News correspondent Doug Tunnell was in Iran recently and took a look at what the ayatollah now says is new proof.

TUNNELL: Agile Persian fingers, which in different circumstances might have woven and knotted the world's finest carpets, have for the past five years been piecing together strips of shredded American embassy documents. Today in Tehran, you can buy modern shredders that reduce a document to a series of useless filaments, each one narrower than a single character on the average typewriter. But the American embassy shredders left wider strips on which whole columns of letters could be read. The students charge the documents confirm that in the months before the hostages were taken the American embassy was as center for covert operations against Ayatollah Khomeini's regime. For Iran's revolutionaries, they paint a picture of American spies posing as diplomats and CIA dirty tricks. Their evidence: bribery. Target: Abolhassan Bani-Sadr. He later became president of the republic. CIA men set in motion an elaborate scheme, offering him \$1,000 a month for cooperation. Smuggling, objective: illegally imported foreign currency for large, unspecified payments by the defense intelligence agency. Forgery, objective: the falsification of passports by the CIA, using forged immigration stamps from Europe and Iran. Conspiracy, target: Kurdish rebels. More than a dozen CIA agents were in contact with Kurdish groups. Many Iranians now believe that operation was waited at tearing their country apart with the help of the Kurds.

MILES COPELAND (former CIA officer): Bribing and paying people off, well, that's the way you do business in Iran or you don't do business. Iran is a seamy place. That's the way things are done there and have been done that way for centuries.

TUNNELL: Documents released only last month detail regular luncheon meetings between American and Soviet diplomats in Tehran. The secluded *Shiraze Nights Restaurant was the scene of one encounter in 1976. The Russian warned his American counterpart of an underground power struggle between the shah and Iran's clergy. Two and a half years later, it became a revolution that denied America it's favorite position in Southwest Asia. Named are scores of embassy agents and contacts, addresses,

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telephone numbers and other nations' secrets too, the organization of Israel's spy networks and confidential CIA biographies of senior Soviet politicians on the way up.

(picture of Chernenko shown) COPELAND: Security loss is enormous. The fact that that kind of thing could happen in Iran makes the, our friends in Egypt, our friends in, and I say this advisedly, our friends in Syria and Iraq and these other places, where believe it or not we do have friends, they worry about the fact that it could happen in their country as well.

TUNNELL: This is the students' next project, microscopic particles of paper and microfilm. Photographically enlarged, the militants believe these secrets may be the most sensitive yet, more of the vast puzzle that Iran claims is an indictment of the United States, more reasons for their hatred, more secrets for sale. Doug Tunnell, CBS News, Tehran. <

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