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- development of an international consensus and specific measures that would isolate Iran and bring home to the Iranian people and their leaders the high cost of holding our people hostage;
  - identification of persons and groups who enjoyed influence with the Iranian leadership or could serve as a channel of communication to it in working out a peaceful solution; and
  - pursuit of all possible humanitarian channels to establish contact with the hostages, to ease their conditions of confinement, and to enable them to communicate with their families.
- From the outset, we faced the internal power struggle in Tehran, which prevented the emergence of responsible leadership that could speak consistently and authoritatively for Iran and communicate effectively with us about how the crisis might be resolved. Changing demands and the prolonged detention of the hostages were determined mainly by the political balance in Tehran. Throughout the crisis, we were advised that progress must await specific stages in development of Iran's new political institutions, first the December constitution, then the election of a president in January, finally the election and organization of the Parliament.