

Cool Gray Dawn

Season Three, Episode #6: "A Long History"

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Cool Gray Dawn
"A Long History"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INSERT QUOTE AGAINST BLACK SCREEN:

If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere well,
It were done quickly. If the assassination
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch
With his surcease, success: that but this blow
Might be the be-all, and the end-all here...

--MACBETH, Act 1, Scene 7

EXT. SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS - CAPITOL AVENUE - NIGHT

INSERT: "Springfield, Illinois"

A view of this long, empty street ends with the State House.

CORNER OF CAPITOL AVENUE AND 6TH STREET - THE LELAND HOTEL

The eight-story, art-deco masterpiece appears as a dark monolith among the smaller commercial buildings.

INT. SECOND-FLOOR HOTEL ROOM

In this typical corner room, JOHN sits in a chair by the 6th Street window and stoically watches "The Untouchables" on TV. He smokes a cigarette, tapping the ash into an empty soda can on his lap. He shows no emotion, despite the quickening MOANS and GASPS of lovemaking that rise to a crescendo.

The passionate sounds come from the bed where ALBERT and a teenage prostitute, CANDY, are finishing their tryst.

For a brief moment, only Albert's PANTING competes with the action on the TV. John still pays no attention to the two. The box springs CREAK as Candy and then Albert roll off the bed. While she quickly dresses, Albert slips on his underwear and pants, embarrassed at being seen naked.

He reaches into his wallet, pulls out a ten-dollar bill and hands it to Candy. As she puts it in her purse, Albert leans forward to kiss her. She leans back and pushes Albert away.

CANDY

Uh uh, lover.

She opens the door and leaves. Albert slumps onto the edge of the bed, genuinely dejected. Only now does John turn around. He shakes his head at the younger man's naiveté.

JOHN

You paid for sex, kid, not love.

Albert lies down while John returns to "The Untouchables."

EXT. GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA - NIGHT

Stock footage of this sleepy town, with a panorama to the...

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

INSERT: "Campus of the University of Florida, Gainesville"

Stock footage of the campus, quiet and devoid of students.

CRANE HALL

Reminiscent of an English country manor, it serves as a residence. Alongside it is a multid denominational chapel that doubles as a live theater. The lights in the chapel are on.

A black Ford sedan pulls up. Two 50-ish WHITE MEN and one in his 40s sit in the car and wait for a moment, looking around. Seeing no one, the Three Men get out of the car. They walk to the chapel, passing a glass-enclosed bulletin board announcing the evening's play, "Spanish Nights."

The Men approach a side door; one of them tries the doorknob. The door opens and the men enter the chapel.

INT. CHAPEL

Only enough light to find one's way around. They walk to the side of the makeshift stage where a door is marked "Office."

OFFICE

FATHER KIERAN CONWAY, 40, dressed in black pants and a black, short-sleeved, tab-collar clergy shirt is counting the performance's receipts and entering them in a ledger. The door BURSTS open, startling Father Conway.

FATHER CONWAY

What do you want?!

MAN #1

You, you cocksucker!

Father Conway is quickly subdued, bound and gagged.

EXT. CHAPEL - SIDE DOOR

The Three Men carry Father Conway out the chapel to the Ford sedan where they throw him onto the back seat. Two Men get in the back while the other Man jumps behind the wheel, then the Ford sedan peels away.

EXT. PALATKA, FLORIDA - SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH - NIGHT

INSERT: "St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Palatka, Florida"

The Ford Sedan SCREECHES to a halt in front of the church. The right rear passenger door opens. Now wearing hoods, Man #2 gets out, dragging Father Conway. Man #3 follows; he grabs Father Conway's legs. The Two Men scurry to the front steps of the church and dump Father Conway there. They race back into the Ford sedan, which quickly drives away.

SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH - FRONT STEPS

Still bound and gagged, Father Conway WRITHES, his agonized SCREAMS muffled. His belt is unbuckled; his pants are unzipped and pulled halfway down his buttocks. Blood pools on the steps at his groin.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - THE PENTAGON - DAY (MORNING)

Stock aerial footage of this familiar landmark.

INT. GENERAL STANS'S OFFICE

GENERAL STANS is at his desk reading the International Herald Tribune. The paper is open to a two-line headline that reads:

**Leader of Mozambique Liberation Movement, FRELIMO,
Killed by Assassin's Bomb at Cottage in Dar es Salaam.**

LT. COLONEL EASTON sits in a chair and sips a cup of coffee. He opens a black binder on his lap to a title page:

**THE PRESIDENT'S
INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

**26 JUNE 1962
TOP SECRET**

Easton flips to the first page:

USIB WATCH COMMITTEE MEETING

25 June 1962

1. On the basis of the report of the Watch Committee concerning the Taiwan Strait situation, the United States Intelligence Board concluded that:

No significant change in the Chinese Communist military dispositions in the Taiwan Strait area has been noted since our last report. We see no indication that the Chinese Communists intend to launch an assault against the major Offshore Islands in the immediate future.

2. The Board concluded that no Sino-Soviet Bloc country intends to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

3. In its report, the Board noted the currently high level of Soviet naval exercise activity and normal seasonal training activity in the Soviet air forces. The Warsaw Pact exercise reportedly scheduled to take place in Eastern Europe is not yet underway. The Board sees no fundamental change in Soviet attitude toward East-West problems, but noted that during recent weeks various Bloc spokesmen have been expressing an interest in a step-up in negotiations with the West and possibly an eventual Summit meeting.

William Nealy/Dir. of Intelligence, CIA

For The President Only--Top Secret

Stans chuckles sardonically as he reads the newspaper.

STANS

What's left of Mondlane is meeting with his ancestors about now.

EASTON

You know he married a White girl.

STANS

Yes, the two founded Frelimo.

EASTON

Hm, sleeping with the enemy...
She's lucky she wasn't with him.

The intercom BUZZES; Stans lowers the paper and answers it.

STANS

Yes?

STANS'S AIDE (O.S.)

Carol Blair's on two, General Stans.

EASTON

It's too early for her bullshit.

Stans SHUSHES him, hangs up the intercom then picks up the phone's receiver.

STANS

Good morning, Carol. You glad to be back in New York?

INT. CARBLAIR PUBLISHING - EXECUTIVE OFFICE - DAY (MORNING)

Befitting a CEO of a major corporation. The New York Times lies open on the desk. CAROL BLAIR sits there and sips tea while she speaks on the speakerphone.

CAROL

Yes, no thanks to you.

CROSSCUT STANS WITH CAROL

STANS

What do you mean?

CAROL

We barely got out of Dar es Salaam before your goddamn bomb went off; that's what.

STANS

What can I say? Their postal system is more efficient than ours. Gonna have to unionize those folks. So, what can I do for you?

CAROL

Did you read the Times?

STANS

I haven't gotten around to it yet.

CAROL

Mondlane's people are blaming his assassination on each other instead of the Portuguese.

Stans momentarily brandishes his newspaper for Easton to see and nods toward the phone.

STANS

So? His followers have all rallied around Frelimo.

CAROL

Frelimo can't beat the Portuguese if they're fighting amongst themselves.

STANS

I agree, especially since kicking the Portuguese out of Mozambique just got a lot harder.

CAROL

What? What are you talking about?

STANS

Kennedy's taken the long view on colonialism. He's rescinded his demand that the Portuguese leave Africa by the end of the year.

CAROL

No way. He said he wants them out.

STANS

Carol, he's worried Portugal will restrict our access to the Azores.

CAROL

That's bull! Portugal would never weaken NATO by denying us access.

STANS

Well, he's changed his mind. So...

CAROL

Like you had nothing to do with it, you son of a bitch! We had a deal!

Stans angrily pounds his fist on his desk, startling Easton.

STANS

Stop with the bullshit already! You only agreed to go to Africa because you wanted to be the face of Western support. Well, that's what you got.

CAROL

A weakened insurgency is what I got!

STANS

And you're supposed to be so smart.

CAROL

What the hell does that mean?!

STANS

It means you should know that a protracted war for independence is a goddamn cash cow for us!

CAROL

I don't know what the hell you're up to, Stans, but I warned you before not to cross me.

STANS

And now you've been warned as well.

BACK TO SCENE

Stans hangs up and goes back to reading his newspaper.

EXT. 2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY - DAY (MORNING)

CIA personnel show their ID badges to the GUARD in the Guard Shack then enter the compound through Gate #1.

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

COLLETTE DOWD is at her desk writing on her memo pad while PAUL "BAZZO" BARRY reads the Daily News. Latham enters. Collette looks anxious as she grabs her memo pad and stands. Latham sees the worry on her face.

LATHAM

Hi. What's going on?

COLLETTE

The Ops Room called ten minutes ago. Operation GODCHILD - Father Conway was kidnapped by three men some time last night.

She is on the verge of tears and can't continue.

BAZZO

He was found on the steps of St. Patrick's church early this morning. He'd been castrated.

LATHAM

Is he dead?

BAZZO

No. There's no hospital in Palatka, so he was taken to one in Gainesville.

LATHAM

Alright. Let me have the file on GODCHILD.

COLLETTE

It's on your desk.

Latham nods and enters his office, followed by Bazzo.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE

Latham sets his satchel on the table and sits at his desk while Bazzo sits in a chair.

BAZZO

Father Conway's duties were limited to sending us Klan leaflets and the occasional report on extremist groups. Why would someone do this?

LATHAM

You kidding? The only thing worse than being a Catholic priest in the Deep South is being Black.

BAZZO

I know that, but things were going well for him. He'd become their resident playwright.

LATHAM

You know Kensington's going to jump on this - how I always argue it's important to put a mandarin on-site when there's a crisis. And now, neither one of you is available.

BAZZO

You wouldn't consider putting someone from JM-WAVE on-site?

LATHAM

The point of putting a mandarin on-site is so the base doesn't have to reveal themselves to the locals. Plus, Bobby Kennedy's taken over the Miami base. He's got everyone there on the Castro project.

BAZZO

So tell Kennedy I'm not available. He doesn't listen to me anyway.

LATHAM

I can't. That relationship means more to us than it does to them.

BAZZO

Warren, he insists on riding on the trunk of a convertible.

LATHAM

The Secret Service can't get him to sit in a seat like a regular person?

BAZZO

He could care less what they have to say.

LATHAM

Have they added anyone else to the detail?

BAZZO

Just local cops and state police. That's why I asked for photos of the route along Capitol Avenue. Kennedy may not care where the shots come from, but I sure as hell do.

LATHAM

When do you leave?

BAZZO

Day after tomorrow, five A.M.

The intercom BUZZES; Latham answers it.

LATHAM

Yes?

COLLETTE (O.S.)

Kensington wants to see you.

LATHAM

On my way.

He hangs up. He and Bazzo get up.

BAZZO

I'll be at the White House checking out those photos.

Latham follows Bazzo out the door.

KENSINGTON'S OFFICE

STEWART KENSINGTON is at his desk, fountain pen in hand, going over a report. There is a KNOCK on the door.

KENSINGTON

Come.

Latham enters and stands before Kensington.

LATHAM

You wanted to see me?

KENSINGTON
Have a seat, Warren.

Latham sits.

KENSINGTON (CONT'D)
I understand one of your assets in
Operation GODCHILD was attacked.

LATHAM
Father Conway.

KENSINGTON
By now you're usually hustling to
send a mandarin on site.

LATHAM
There isn't one available.

KENSINGTON
So I understand. DiLauria's still
incapacitated; but there's nothing
wrong with Paul Barry.

LATHAM
He's supplementing the White House
detail; something you already know.

KENSINGTON
What I know is a mandarin was tasked
to the White House instead of
someone from your Special Projects
team. You had no problem sending
them to Caracas when Nixon was in
trouble a few years ago.

LATHAM
That was an exfiltration; this is
aiding a protection scheme.

Kensington jumps up and storms to the front of his desk.

KENSINGTON
That's splitting hairs! It's
basically the same damn thing.

LATHAM
If it were, I would've sent someone
from the SPT; but it's not.

KENSINGTON
Oh, yes. God forbid you disappoint
your pal at the White House!

LATHAM
That's all this is about, isn't it?

KENSINGTON

I'm senior man on this Desk, damnit!

LATHAM

Berard is.

KENSINGTON

I'm senior to you! If Kennedy wants operational advice, he should come to me.

LATHAM

He asked for your operational expertise on the Bay of Pigs. And we know how that turned out.

KENSINGTON

(chagrined, he retaliates)
Instead of having a mandarin assess the damage to Operation GODCHILD, you'll have nothing to report - something I'll be sure to bring up with Berard later when we discuss your annual review.

Latham has heard enough; he stands.

LATHAM

Is that all, sir?

KENSINGTON

For the moment!

CORRIDOR

Latham leaves Kensington's office; he's seething. He checks his watch then hurries to the stairwell.

EXT. 3100 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW - BRITISH EMBASSY - DAY

The Union Jack flies over the roof of the main building in the compound.

INT. MI6 OFFICE

LAWRENCE JONES (SMOTH) is at his desk on the phone. Latham sits opposite him with a satchel by his side and a folder on his lap. Jones hangs up.

JONES

She'll be right in.

LATHAM

I'm sorry to have to ask you this on such short notice.

JONES

I'll tell you how you can make it
up to me. Never buy me a steamed
hamburger for lunch again.

There's a KNOCK on the door; it opens. FIONA JEFFRIES enters.
She sees Latham, smiles and sits.

JONES (CONT'D)

The CIA is sending you to sunny
Gainesville, Florida to learn what
happened to Father Kieran Conway.

FIONA

Conway... The name's familiar.
Operation GODCHILD, isn't it?

JONES

Peeking at his files again, huh?

LATHAM

He was kidnapped and castrated, then
dumped on the steps of his church.

FIONA

Oh, my God... Why?

JONES

That's what you're to find out, if
you can. And if possible assess any
damage to GODCHILD.

FIONA

Won't someone question why the
British embassy is looking into it?

LATHAM

No. Turns out Father Conway was
born in Northern Ireland.
(hands her the folder)
It's all in there. You'll need to
make a copy. You should also have
someone from State's Bureau of
Security go with you.

FIONA

(sternly)
I don't need an escort, Warren.

LATHAM

We're talking about the Deep South.
They barely listen to women down
there, much less a Black woman.

FIONA

I can handle it alone.

LATHAM

I'm being practical here, Fiona.

FIONA

No, you're being overprotective.

JONES

You guys want me to leave the room?

LATHAM

Alright, maybe I am. But if he's with you, those yokels won't dare try anything.

JONES

I agree with Warren. I'll meet with the ambassador and ask him to call the State Department. Meanwhile, you two can go over the details.

FIONA

Fine.

She and Latham leave as Jones picks up the phone.

EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE - WEST WING - DAY

Stock footage of this familiar landmark.

INT. OFFICE

Serviceable, clearly used on an ad hoc basis. An open map of downtown Springfield, Illinois lies on the desk. Bazzo lays snapshots of points along Capitol Avenue on their appropriate spots. Secret Service Agent RICK HANSON enters.

HANSON

Hi, I'm Agent Rick Hanson. You must be the CIA's man, Paul Barry.

BAZZO

Yes. Nice to meet you.

HANSON

I'll be riding on the back of the convertible with the president, along with Harrison. How's the homework going?

BAZZO

I'm getting it - slowly.

HANSON

Yeah, it's tough having to go TDY. At 22:00 we're hittin' the bars. You're welcome to join us.

BAZZO

Thanks, but no. I need to catch up.

HANSON

Okay. See you back here tonight.

He leaves. Bazzo returns to the map and snapshots.

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE - DAY

Collette wears earphones and transcribes from a Dictaphone. BILL NEALY sits across from her, a satchel on his lap. Latham enters. He is surprised to see Nealy who TAPS his satchel.

NEALY

Background on Webster.

Pleased, Latham motions toward his office.

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Nealy and Latham enter and sit.

NEALY

Sorry it took so long. Oh, I had Interpol issue a Red Notice to question Jan Van Riesegehel in connection with Hammarskjöld's plane crash. Only problem is no one can find him.

Latham shrugs.

NEALY (CONT'D)

And I'm going to FANEX later to hear tapes of Rhodesian air traffic. I was wondering if you'd come along.

LATHAM

Sure.

Nealy nods, pulls a file from his satchel and opens it.

NEALY

Robert Edward Webster... Navy vet. Worked for Rand Development in Cleveland as a plastics specialist. Disappeared September 10, 1959 in Moscow while working as a demonstrator at the Sokolniki Trade Exhibition. Showed up a month later at our embassy there and renounced his U.S. citizenship.

LATHAM

Like Oswald.

NEALY

Except Oswald didn't sign anything. Upon Webster's return, he was first debriefed by the Agency to obtain Soviet Realities data. Then he was debriefed by AFOSI.

LATHAM

Why the Air Force? He's a Navy vet.

NEALY

Rand has Air Force contracts. Then ONI and the FBI debriefed him.

LATHAM

Hm, Durang told me the FBI didn't debrief him because he'd arrived as an alien under the Russian quota.

NEALY

He was lying.

LATHAM

I think his people lied to him. We had a set-to later. Seems they felt cooperating with us would cost them the turf war.

Nealy shakes his head in disgust. Latham muses...

LATHAM (CONT'D)

I don't remember Webster being in our false defector program.

NEALY

He wasn't; but he was in ONI's. Unlike Oswald, Webster has a scientific background, which makes him very attractive to the Soviets. Yet MOTHER says Webster has little CI value.

LATHAM

MOTHER used to be a better liar.

NEALY

One of his deputies in LCIMPROVE wrote that Webster knew a lot about the technology the Soviets need for their military and space programs. They're ten years behind us in plastics technology.

LATHAM

So, what the hell is MOTHER up to with these false defectors?

Nealy shrugs; he's equally at sea.

LATHAM (CONT'D)
Anything else?

NEALY
On July tenth of last year, Oswald brought his wife, Marina, to our Moscow embassy to have her apply for an immigrant visa. While she's being interviewed, he asks about Webster.

LATHAM
So they were in the same program.

NEALY
CI has an asset in Dallas, a George de Mohrenschildt. Oswald was introduced to him by Pete Gregory, a petroleum engineer who teaches Russian at a Fort Worth library. De Mohrenschildt's wife, Jeanne, introduced the Oswalds to another couple, Declan and Katya Ford. Katya's a Russian émigré. She asked Marina why Oswald went to Russia. Marina said he went there for the Rand Corporation to help set up their exhibit at the World Trade Exposition in Moscow.

LATHAM
Sounds like Marina has her defectors mixed up.

NEALY
Yep. Jeanne Mohrenschildt was able to get a hold of Marina's address book, which we copied. It has the address of an apartment building in Leningrad where Webster lived.

LATHAM
She'd met him before she ever knew Oswald... But how was she in a position to meet either of them?

NEALY
Her uncle is Ilya Prusakova, a colonel in the MKVD. One of his jobs is keeping tabs on defectors.

LATHAM
So I was right; she is an agent. Probably under orders to hook up with them.

NEALY

She told Katya Ford she only spoke English to Oswald when they met in Leningrad - except Oswald wasn't in Russia then. Plus, Oswald told an embassy consul he met Marina at a dance in Minsk. And when they were at our Moscow embassy, Marina only spoke to him in Russian. And de Mohrenschildt says even now Marina only speaks Russian to Oswald.

LATHAM

So, other than radar frequencies, what else did Oswald have to offer?

NEALY

Nothing. I'm sure Marina's uncle would've preferred she marry Webster, but he left a wife and kids here when he defected. That's the reason he gave the Russians for wanting to come back.

LATHAM

And for Oswald, it was what - disillusionment?

NEALY

So he says. It's a stretch to think the KGB could make use of Oswald, what with his Undesirable Discharge.

LATHAM

But everyone's interested in him.

ACT TWO

EXT. 2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY - DAY

A view of the compound through the chain links of Gate #1.

INT. BERARD'S OFFICE

WILSON BERARD, Kensington and Latham are there. Kensington and Latham are going at it.

BERARD

Was it necessary to involve MI6, Warren?

KENSINGTON

(interrupts Latham)

No. It's only because he's mismanaged his mandarins.

LATHAM

How? Mandarin Two is out injured, and mandarin One's assignment was at the request of the president.

KENSINGTON

What you should have done was take into account you'd be shorthanded and refuse it. Or assign it to your Special Projects team.

LATHAM

And I've already explained to you why the SPT are wrong for the job!

BERARD

Let's get back to Father Conway. Won't the police resent a British consul looking into a local matter?

LATHAM

Yes, that's why Fiona Jeffries is going.

KENSINGTON

Have you taken leave of your senses? A Black woman asking questions in the Deep South? They'll go berserk!

LATHAM

And being unfiltered they'll reveal more to her than they would to Paul.

BERARD

You realize it won't be very safe for her there.

LATHAM

The State Department's supplying a bodyguard. And they'll be armed.

BERARD

Hmm, it's an unusual approach. I hope it works. Anything else with respect to Warren's review that you want to discuss, Stewart?

KENSINGTON

Yes. I'd like to know why we're monitoring these false defectors, Webster and Oswald. It's certainly not because the FBI wants our help.

LATHAM

No, but someone's running them here, and no one's sure who or why.

(MORE)

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Until we do know, I want to protect
my Ops by monitoring those two.

BERARD

I agree, but for the short term,
Warren. Just keep Stewart informed.

Latham nods then he and Kensington get up and leave.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS - DAY

A panoramic sweep from the historic section of the city to
the Governor's mansion to the nearby Mansion View Inn.

INT. MANSION VIEW INN - MEETING ROOM

A small venue of 100 seats. A quarter of them are filled with
middle-class White men and women. Some wear business suits;
others dress casually, as though they had wandered in out of
curiosity. On the front of the lectern is the logo "JBS."

Standing on the podium, his notes on the lectern, is HOWARD
DAVIES, 50, short and bald, wearing glasses and a seersucker
suit - an odd choice for a rabble-rouser.

DAVIES

The United States is becoming a
socialist nation, a result of the
Red Conspiracy which is supported by
the U.N. My friends, there can be no
compromise, no coexistence with the
communists. They've backed Castro in
Cuba and the Civil Rights movement
here. We must stand up against them.
We must be willing to rid Washington
of its treasonable rats, like that
dirty communist John Kennedy who had
General Edwin Walker kidnapped and
hidden away in a mental institution!
If you truly want to save the United
States from falling into Red hands,
then as loyal Americans you must
start at the top; and that means
getting rid of President Kennedy.

There is APPLAUSE from the audience. Among the approving
faces, seated further back, are those of John and Albert.

EXT. THE LELAND HOTEL - DAY

Stock footage of the hotel on Capitol Avenue and 6th Street.

INT. SECOND-FLOOR HOTEL ROOM

Rags cover the table. Lying on them are the disassembled
parts of the .22-caliber Browning semi-automatic rifle.

Also there are cans of lightweight gun oil and nitro-solvent, a cleaning rod and a small brush. Albert watches in awe as John starts to reassemble the rifle.

He presses the safety button forward of the trigger guard to the right. He grabs the barrel, which has a mount for a telescopic scope, and places the barrel lock in the forward position. Holding the forearm in his left hand, with his right hand John holds the receiver and retracts the breech block, then inserts the barrel into the receiver. He turns the receiver clockwise one quarter turn so it is aligned with the receiver stock - sights on top, forearm down.

Lastly, John releases the breech block, rotates the forearm into position and slides the barrel lock rearward. The rifle is assembled, save for the scope and ammunition. There is a KNOCK on the door. Albert looks worried. John calls out...

JOHN

Just a minute.

He points to the scope. Albert quickly stows it in the black suitcase while John rushes to the linen closet. He takes out a sheet, wraps it around the rifle and slides it under the bed. He crosses to the door and opens it. OLETTA, 55, is there from Housekeeping with her supplies cart.

JOHN (CONT'D)

It's alright. We're fine here.

OLETTA

But I didn't get to it yesterday.

JOHN

'Cause the 'Do Not Disturb' sign was on the door. And it still is.

He nods smartly and closes the door.

HOUSEKEEPING OFFICE

Essentially an anteroom off the Supplies Room. The supervisor, MR. ROSS, sits behind the desk. Oletta enters, irritated.

OLETTA

They wouldn't let me in 23 again. Place must look like a pig sty! And I'll tell you this - them boys is up to somethin'.

ROSS

Why you say that?

OLETTA

'Cause they had me wait at the door while they was movin' stuff around.

As she restocks her cart, Ross muses then picks up the phone.

EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE - WEST WING - DAY

More stock footage of this familiar landmark.

INT. OFFICE

Bazzo circles the corner of Capitol Avenue and 6th Street on the route map. Agent Hanson enters.

HANSON

They're serving dinner. Want me to bring you a plate?

BAZZO

Yeah, thanks. Um, on the route I noticed there was only one fairly tall building - the Leland Hotel.

HANSON

The cops have it covered, remember?

BAZZO

I know, but it's the only place where someone would have a clean sight line to the president.

HANSON

Yeah, and you know who stays there? Conventioneers, old-age pensioners, and whores; that's it.

BAZZO

Anyone question the prostitutes?

HANSON

C'mon, man! If you're holed up there with a chick, the last thing on your mind is the president. The only one you'd be mad at is the maid, interrupting you to clean the room!

As Bazzo mulls it over, Hanson starts to leave.

BAZZO

Why'd you say that about the maid?

HANSON

(stops)

'Cause the cops got a complaint from Housekeeping. Some slobs wouldn't let them in to clean up the room.

BAZZO

And they relayed that to you?

HANSON

We get copies of their roll call.
The desk sergeant told them there
was nothing they could do; being a
slob isn't against the law. So they
closed the complaint. Finito.

BAZZO

Could I get a copy of the roll call?

HANSON

It's in my office. You can pick it
up on your way back from the
kitchen when you get your food.

He leaves brusquely.

EXT. CAPITOL HILL - CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Stock footage of this landmark building and environs.

INT. CANNON CAUCUS ROOM

A hearing is underway in this familiar venue. The SIX
COMMITTEE MEMBERS include SENATOR KEN READING and Stans, all
identified by nameplates. Easton sits behind Reading. The
RUSTLE of papers and the MURMUR of Committee members and their
staff is caught by microphones. At the back of the room sit a
few REPORTERS armed with pencils and notebooks. On the table
before each Committee member is a document:

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

**PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES
IN THE AFRICA COMMAND
U.S. SENATE**

**SUBJECT: Strategies and Policies Regarding The Use Of
Nuclear Weapons As A Deterrent Against
Soviet Aggression, Incursion Or Violations Of
Sovereignty of Independent States In Africa**

**STATEMENT OF: Major General William Stans
Assistant Chief of Staff
Strategic Deterrence & Nuclear Integration**

June 26, 1962

Easton TAPS Reading's shoulder and leans forward to whisper.

EASTON

This is your moment, Ken. Go for it.

Reading opens a folder and reads the prepared remarks.

READING

We acknowledge the competing ideologies we have with China and Russia, but the problem is that members of this Committee are not sensitive to the military threat posed by the Soviet Union with respect to the African continent. The appropriate response to this threat was laid out in detail by General Stans in his extraordinary presentation.

(holds up the document)

Africa is the latest battlefield for the Soviets' global ambitions, an indirect challenge to democracy. Nowhere is this more evident than where sovereign states have emerged from colonialist rule. Here, the insidious expansion of communist domination must be stopped in the only manner the Soviets understand: Nuclear Deterrence.

EXT. BALTIMORE - AIRPORT SQUARE OFFICE PARK - DAY

INSERT: "National Security Agency, FANEX"

Several modernist office buildings abut Friendship Airport.

INT. CORRIDOR

Latham and Nealy wear badges with 'PV' against a white field. A SECURITY MAN wears a photo badge with a Red field and an NSA logo. He escorts the Two Men to a set of double doors; the doorplate reads "Archives." He enters the combination on the cipher lock. CLICK. He opens the doors and they enter...

ARCHIVES - ANTEROOM

The Security Man leaves Latham and Nealy with LIZ KERN, 40. Her badge has her photo against a Blue field and an NSA logo.

LIZ

I'm Liz Kern, an archivist here at FANEX. And you're from the CIA.

NEALY

Bill Nealy.

LATHAM

Warren Latham.

LIZ

We're set up in Listening Room One.

So, if you'll come with me...

After shaking hands Nealy and Latham follow Liz to another set of double doors. She enters a combination - CLICK - and opens a door to...

A CORRIDOR

That runs alongside a glass wall enclosing a Monitoring Center. Inside, huge wall panels have unique displays: "WATS Trunks" with line connections to exchanges; "DID Trunks" and "E&M Tie Trunks." Embedded lights flash messages of "Delay Dial," "Wink Start" and "Immediate Start." Three panels display UPI, AP and Reuters news. Men and women wearing headsets sit before monitoring screens. Liz, Latham and Nealy come to a door on the right with a doorplate that reads "LR-1"; it has no cipher lock. Liz leads them into...

LR-1

A sign in bold red reads "**No Recording Devices Allowed.**" The walls and ceiling contain baffling. There is a table with a control panel similar to that of a tape recorder. Also on the table are two headphones, an intercom, and a black binder.

LIZ

I've pulled the intercepts of North Rhodesian air traffic from our Cyprus station for September 17th and 18th of last year. The binder you see contains a summary of each hourly period. I'll be in the adjacent room where the tapes are loaded. I suggest you go through the binder and select the time periods you want, then let me know over the intercom. I'll tell you when the tape is ready.

Liz pulls open a drawer from underneath the table. She takes out two legal pads and plastic pencil cases with #2 pencils, slide rule top and sharpener, and lays them on the table.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Those are for you to take notes.

NEALY

I had better supplies at P.S. 27.

LIZ

Really. A recent graduate, are you?

Nealy sneers. Liz turns to Latham.

LIZ (CONT'D)
You understand we have to vet your
notes before you leave the room.

LATHAM
Yes, Miss Kern.

Liz leaves. As the Two Men sit, Nealy turns to Latham.

NEALY
Teacher's pet.

Latham grins as Nealy flips open the black binder.

EXT. 50 CONSTITUTION AVE, NE - DIRKSEN BUILDING - DAY

Stock footage of this Senate office building, with a focus on the inscription below the building's west pediment: "**The Senate is the Living Symbol of Our Union of States.**"

INT. SENATOR READING'S OFFICE

Cloth couch and chairs, mahogany desk, a non-functioning fireplace with fake logs flanked by the U.S. and New York State flags. Reading is on the phone - and he's beaming.

READING
It really went over well, Carol.

INT. CARBLAIR PUBLISHING - EXECUTIVE OFFICE - DAY

Carol is on speakerphone. DIANA, her aide, flits in and out with galley proofs that she lays on Carol's desk.

CAROL
Did it... I'd have thought Stans
and Easton would go ballistic when
you called for a U.N. resolution to
condemn colonialism in Africa.

CROSSCUT READING WITH CAROL

READING
Why?

CAROL
Because colonialists are generally
anti-communist.

READING
Right, right. You know Kennedy
backtracked on his demand that
Portugal pull out of Mozambique.

CAROL

Yes, it's a mistake.

READING

Stans figures it's an opportune time for a more aggressive approach.

CAROL

Aggressive how? Exactly what did go over so well at the hearing?

READING

My endorsement of his presentation.

CAROL

Which was...

READING

The use Of nuclear weapons to deter Soviet aggression in Africa.

CAROL

Are you insane or just stupid?!

READING

Stop calling me that!

CAROL

Nuclear weapons in Africa?! I was supposed to act as liaison with the insurgent groups. That asinine proposal ruins any chance I have of striking a deal with Frelimo!

READING

You don't understand. It puts us in a position of strength vis-a-vis the Soviets and China.

CAROL

Vis-a-vis... Where'd you get that from, Stans? Hm, you moron. I should have cut you loose a year ago.

The intercom BUZZES.

READING

Hold on.

Reading puts her on hold and answers the intercom.

READING (CONT'D)

Yes?

READING'S AIDE (O.S.)

General Stans is on line two.

READING

(hangs up the intercom and
answers line two)
General Stans...

STANS

Great speech, Ken. I mean it.

READING

Thank you, that means a lot to me.
Um, can you hold a sec? I have
Carol Blair on the other line.

STANS

Okay. We need to talk about her.

Reading puts Stans on hold and answers line one.

READING

I have to take this call.

CAROL

You're in way over your head, and
you're too stupid to realize it.

READING

Maybe, but I know enough to be
through with you.

CAROL

You little prick! You didn't have a
pot to piss in when I met you. Don't
forget who tells you what to say.

READING

Not anymore.

BACK TO SCENE

Reading ends her call and presses the button for line two.

READING (CONT'D)

I'm back, General...

MID-SHOW BREAK

EXT. PIEDMONT AIRLINES PROPJET IN FLIGHT - DAY

Stock footage of a Piedmont Airlines propjet in flight.

INT. FIRST-CLASS CABIN

Fiona pores over a folder while her seatmate, TED HEMMINGS,
reads the Gainesville Sun. He's White, 35, a State Department
Security Bureau officer. A line in the paper reads: "**Father
Conway is in critical condition at Alachua General Hospital.**"

HEMMINGS

I told Farrell, the police chief,
he'd be our first stop.

FIONA

Good. Says here an FBI C.I. attended
a John Birch Society meeting with a
friend of his from the Dixie Klan.

HEMMINGS

They're a pretty violent faction.

FIONA

At the meeting they created leaflets
accusing Father Conway of being
homosexual and of trying to subvert
Protestant values. That's the
leaflet.

She hands Hemmings a copy of the leaflet.

The Pope's Fight on America

Did the fair-minded citizens of this state ever hear such
rot proclaimed? Has anyone anywhere in our broad country
ever known of a Roman Catholic priest who is really and
truly interested in the welfare and prosperity of our
public schools and our free institutions of learning?

When you hear a Catholic priest make such statements, you
know that somebody is lying (sic), and the citizens of
Gainesville, Florida will not stand for it!

We have watched the pernicious clutch of Catholicism
closing about our boys, sent here by Protestant parents.
Father Conway publicly casts slurs upon the University
City.

We know why Father Conway has inveigled himself into the
good graces of University authorities and become director
of the school's Drama Club - that he may spend days and
nights with our boys, eating with them, sleeping with
them under a Catholic roof, a homosexual roof!

Wake up, people! Demand the severance of Father Kieran
Conway's association with the University!

The Alachua County Chapter of the Dixie Klan

FIONA (CONT'D)

And here's an entry from Father
Conway's journal. Apparently, he
included them in all his reports.

(MORE)

FIONA (CONT'D)

'Anti-Catholicism is the original deadly sin of Protestantism here in the South. In almost every instance, the Protestant clergy show themselves to be utterly devoid of any idea of truth, justice, or decency. They are the very incarnation of bigotry.'

HEMMINGS

I should've said this to you before; I didn't want this assignment.

FIONA

Why not?

HEMMINGS

How do you think these people are gonna react to you?

FIONA

Like any bigot.

HEMMINGS

No. These idiots kill Blacks for sport. And now here comes a smart Black woman with diplomatic juice. I don't care what you've seen before, you've never seen hate like you're gonna see now. All I wanna do is get out of there alive.

This strikes a nerve with Fiona. Hemmings looks away.

EXT. BALTIMORE - AIRPORT SQUARE OFFICE PARK - DAY

Another view of the modernist office buildings.

INT. LR-1

Latham and Nealy wear their headphones; they're fatigued. Nealy presses the "Play" button.

CAPTAIN (O.S.)

Ndola Flight Control, this is SE-BDY. ETA Ndola 22.20Z. Request permission to descend from 17,500 to 16,000 feet.

NDOLA FLIGHT CONTROL (O.S.)

Granted, SE-BDY. Descend to 16,000.

CAPTAIN (O.S.)

Roger, Ndola.

A long silence ensues. Latham fast-forwards the tape.

LATHAM

A lot of nothing.

NEALY

Hammarskjöld's plane had been fired on the day before. So, this time the captain flew under radio silence.

Latham stops the tape, rewinds it some then presses "Play."

CAPTAIN (O.S.)

SE-BDY to Ndola Flight Control.
Request barometric pressure for
altimeter setting.

NDOLA FLIGHT CONTROL (O.S.)

1021 millibars.

CAPTAIN (O.S.)

Roger, 1021.

NDOLA FLIGHT CONTROL (O.S.)

Ndola Flight Control to SE-BDY.
Will you and your passengers be
spending the night in Ndola?

CAPTAIN (O.S.)

No, we won't be spending the night.

NDOLA FLIGHT CONTROL (O.S.)

Will you need fuel?

CAPTAIN (O.S.)

Affirmative. Will give you details
on the ground. Your lights in
sight, overhead Ndola, descending.

NDOLA FLIGHT CONTROL (O.S.)

Roger, SE-BDY.

CAPTAIN DEPPE (O.S.)

This is 00-RIC. Request clearance to
take off for Salisbury.

NDOLA FLIGHT CONTROL (O.S.)

Hold position, 00-RIC. SE-BDY is
coming in to land.

CAPTAIN DEPPE (O.S.)

Roger, Flight Control.

NDOLA FLIGHT CONTROL (O.S.)

Flight Control to SE-BDY. Confirm
you've landed... Flight Control to
SE-BDY. Come in, please...

(MORE)

NDOLA FLIGHT CONTROL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Flight Control to 00-RIC. Take off
at your own discretion.

Latham stops the tape. He and Nealy lower their headphones.

LATHAM
Does Ndola tower have radar?

NEALY
No, it's a real slipshod operation.

Latham refers to his notes and presses the intercom button.

LIZ (O.S.)
Yes?

LATHAM
Could anyone else listen to the
flight control traffic at Ndola?

LIZ (O.S.)
That area of the copperbelt has
very little phone service, so there
are quite a few radio hams who pass
along communications. Any one of
them could listen to the chatter.

LATHAM
Hmm... There's another tape listed
for 2200: 170961/2200B/USAF.

LIZ (O.S.)
An HF channel used by U.N. ground
forces that the Air Force monitors.
It's already up on another deck.

LATHAM
There's only 30 seconds of audio.
Can you fast-forward it to 22.11Z?

LIZ (O.S.)
Sure. Give me a few seconds.

LATHAM
Thanks.

He hangs up. Nealy leans back and sighs; he's disappointed.

NEALY
I was hoping for a smoking gun.

Latham nods. After a moment, the intercom BUZZES.

LIZ (O.S.)
The tape's ready.

Nealy and Latham don their headphones; Latham presses "Play."

BRITISH VOICE (O.S.)

I see a transport plane coming low.
All the lights are on. I'm going
down to make a run on it. Yes, it's
the Transair DC-6. It's the plane.

There is the distinct CRACKLE of MACHINE GUNS FIRING.

BRITISH VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I've hit it. There are flames! It's
going down. It's crashing! Put an
Ace of Spades on that one!

FLEMISH VOICE (O.S.)

The Americans just shot down a U.N.
plane.

Silence. Latham stops the tape. They take off the headphones.

NEALY

Americans? That pilot was British.

LATHAM

Maybe they meant whoever gave him
the order. You said it yourself.
The mercenaries would be out of a
job if the conflict ended. So maybe
an American made the rounds of the
pilots with a better offer.

NEALY

But the captain had filed a false
flight plan for Luluabourg.

LATHAM

Then someone leaked it was Ndola.

NEALY

Hmm... Why didn't he send out a
distress call?

LATHAM

(mulls it over)

You know that Sherlock Holmes story
about the dog that didn't bark?

Nealy is puzzled and shakes his head no.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

There was a murder and the police
concluded the assassin came through
the garden. But Holmes says it's
unlikely because the dog would've
barked.

(MORE)

LATHAM (CONT'D)

The reason he didn't bark is because the murderer was the dog's owner. When its master approaches, a dog doesn't bark - it wags its tail.

NEALY

He didn't suspect anything, did he?

LATHAM

No. The cannon fire must've killed him right away.

NEALY

And the Ace of Spades?

LATHAM

The 101st Airborne used to paint it on their helmets for good luck... Though GALAHAD used them in Burma.

NEALY

GALAHAD - the 5307th Composite Unit?

LATHAM

It was mostly our troops, but there were some British Royal Marines too. They left the Ace of Spades on Japanese officers they'd killed.

NEALY

Van Riesegehel was a Royal Marine.

LATHAM

I thought he was Belgian?

NEALY

His mother's British;; his father's a naturalized citizen from Belgium.

LATHAM

You know, Easton served under Stans in GALAHAD.

NEALY

That's no proof they were involved.

LATHAM

Not enough, anyway.

ACT THREE

EXT. 2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY - DAY

A view of the Guard Shack, Gates #1 and #2, and the compound.

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

Latham returns looking disconsolate and carrying a bottle of something in a paper bag.

LATHAM
Bring me some aspirin.

Collette reaches into the top drawer of her desk and takes out a tin of Anacin. As Latham heads into his office...

LATHAM (CONT'D)
You hear from Fiona?

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Collette follows Latham inside. He takes a bottle of Diet-Rite Cola from the paper bag.

COLLETTE
Yes, they're in Gainesville.

LATHAM
So, they're on their way to see the police chief.

COLLETTE
No. That State Security man - Ted Hemmings? - he made some sort of arrangement before they left. So they're going to the hospital first.

Latham is surprised. Collette opens the tin and shakes two tablets onto Latham's outstretched hand. She closes the tin.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)
Also, Carol Blair called.

LATHAM
Better give me two more of those.

COLLETTE
Two's enough. Miss Blair wants you to call her back; says it's urgent.

LATHAM
She at her office?

COLLETTE
No, the Blair House. She just flew in.

LATHAM
She's there so often you'd think the place was named after her.

COLLETTE

Well, it was named after her great grand-uncle, Francis Preston Blair.

LATHAM

Just get her on the phone.

Collette grins and leaves. Latham sits. He washes down the Anacin with two swigs of Diet-Rite Cola. The intercom BUZZES.

COLLETTE (O.S.)

Carol Blair is on Gray.

Latham picks up the Gray phone.

LATHAM

How are you, Miss Blair?

INT. TWO-ROOM SUITE - LIVING ROOM

Posh, befitting the upper class. Carol is on the phone.

CAROL

Fine. Listen, I need to speak with you but it's not something I can discuss over the phone.

CROSSCUT LATHAM WITH CAROL

LATHAM

At the Blair House then.

CAROL

No. Someone I know could see us. You know the Canal Towpath, by Lock #1?

LATHAM

Yes.

CAROL

Say, in an hour? Please, Warren.

LATHAM

Alright. See you there.

BACK TO SCENE

Latham hangs up. A look of worry creases his face.

EXT. GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA - ALACHUA GENERAL HOSPITAL - DAY

The name is on the building's facade near the Emergency Room.

INT. HALLWAY - OUTSIDE THE PRIVATE ROOMS

NURSE JOANNE MARTIN, 50, is no-nonsense.

She leads Fiona and Hemmings to the room door.

NURSE MARTIN

Respect Father Conway's privacy and stay outside the curtain. He's under sedation and I have to change his bandages soon. So keep it short.

INT. PRIVATE ROOM

FATHER KIERAN CONWAY lies in a bed, silhouetted behind a curtain. Nurse Martin enters with Fiona and Hemmings. Fiona takes a notepad and pencil from her handbag.

NURSE MARTIN

It's Joanne, Father Conway. I've brought the embassy people, Fiona Jeffries and Ted Hemmings. I'll be right back to change your dressing.

She leaves.

FIONA

I'll be brief, Father Conway. Do you know who did this to you?

FATHER CONWAY

(slurs his words)

Leeman Farrell, he's the Chief of Police; the mayor, Walton Hymes; and that policeman, Harlon Baker.

FIONA

You're absolutely certain of this?

FATHER CONWAY

I know them. They didn't wear masks. They live near my church.

FIONA

But they kidnapped you from the university chapel, not your church.

FATHER CONWAY

Yes, Crane Hall.

FIONA

Do you know why they did this to you? Did they say anything?

FATHER CONWAY

Said I'm a cocksucker. 'Catholics ain't no better than the coloreds.' Farrell and Hymes held me down; Baker cut me. He mutilated me! Why?

He weeps. Hemmings peeks behind the curtain; he is shaken and leaves, just as Nurse Martin returns. She looks in on Father Conway and is upset.

NURSE MARTIN

That's enough. You have to go.

FIONA

We're leaving, Father. Try and rest.

HALLWAY - OUTSIDE THE PRIVATE ROOM

Hemmings' eyes well with tears as Fiona approaches him.

HEMMINGS

Fucking animals!

Hospital staff stare. Agitated, Hemmings unbuttons his collar. That's when Fiona sees the cross around his neck.

FIONA

Are you going to call the hotel?

HEMMINGS

Damn right I am! Then we'll go see that police chief.

FIONA

Okay, but let's not forget the brief. I want him upset with me.

Hemmings nods. They go to a payphone at the end of the hall.

EXT. C&O CANAL LOCK 1 - TOWPATH - DAY

A crushed stone trail runs alongside the canal. Latham meets Carol who waits by Lock 1, a patchwork of brick and stone. They walk the towpath.

CAROL

There's something going on at the Pentagon; something more than their usual grab for power.

LATHAM

What?

CAROL

I'm not sure.

LATHAM

Then why did you want to see me?

CAROL

Because it involves the president. They're manipulating him.

LATHAM

To do what?

Carol shrugs. Latham is frustrated and stops, Carol along with him.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Look, I don't have time for any of your misgivings about the Defense Department. You either say what's going on or I'm leaving.

Carol sighs, seemingly dropping her guard.

CAROL

You already know enough about General Stans and Lt. Colonel Easton's double dealings.

LATHAM

And yours.

CAROL

Well, I'm not part of this.

LATHAM

Why? You have a falling out?

CAROL

Something like that. They've managed to persuade Jack to back off his demand that Portugal end its colonial rule in Africa. He's now supporting a protracted proxy war there with the Soviets. Along with Senator Reading's help, those two actually have him considering putting nuclear weapons in Africa.

LATHAM

Geezus. And Reading's part of this?

Carol nods.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

I thought he followed your lead?

CAROL

Not anymore. Look, Stans and Easton have hated Jack since day one. All this cozying up to him now... No, there's something far more insidious going on here.

LATHAM

Why are you so sure?

CAROL

Ask yourself this: Why do they want Jack to take a more aggressive stance against the Russians? And why did he agree to it?

LATHAM

You tell me.

CAROL

I've been doing a lot of thinking about this. Jack's been making back-channel overtures to Khrushchev, trying to take some of the frost off the Cold War. I know you're aware of it, but what if those crazies on the right learned about it? They already accuse him of treason. Killing him would make sense to them. I know Jack's opted for this hardline stance as a way to curry favor with the right so he can maneuver with Moscow. But if he's assassinated, the JCS can say they're following his hardline policy to its logical end, a first-strike on the Russians.

LATHAM

You think Stans and Easton - and maybe Reading - are involved in a plot to kill Kennedy?

CAROL

You know they are. You've suspected it since Mexico City. If that were to happen, they'd look like angels avenging a martyred president.

Latham mulls this over.

CAROL (CONT'D)

They have to be stopped, Warren.

EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY (DUSK)

Set behind a fence and a grove is a modernist building in autumnal tan with "Police Headquarters" on its facade.

INT. POLICE CHIEF LEEMAN FARRELL'S OFFICE

Typical, with photos of the mayor and governor on the wall, U.S. and state flags in opposite corners. POLICE CHIEF LEEMAN FARRELL is at his desk, easily recognizable as Man #1 in Father Conway's kidnapping. Fiona and Hemmings sit before him. Farrell's disdain for Fiona is obvious. He addresses Hemmings.

FARRELL

Did I get y'all mixed up?

FIONA

I'm not sure what you mean.

Farrell ignores her.

FARRELL

You're from the British Embassy in Washington, right?

HEMMINGS

(points to Fiona)

Miss Jeffries is. I'm from the State Department's Bureau of Security.

FARRELL

Well! Y'all pretty broad-minded over there in England. No offense, Miss.

FIONA

I never take offense with inchoate remarks or their makers.

FARRELL

I see. You, uh, said you was coming straight from the airport. So, here we went to all this trouble to get set up and you don't show 'till now.

FIONA

We had to make a stop along the way.

FARRELL

Oh? Where'd you go?

FIONA

The hospital - to see Father Conway.

Farrell is nonplussed, the face of someone caught in the act.

FIONA (CONT'D)

Given how heinous the attack was, I wanted his version of events while they were still fresh in his mind.

FARRELL

I don't see as I like you seeing a crime victim without my permission.

HEMMINGS

She doesn't need your permission.

He and Farrell glare at each other.

FARRELL

What I meant was I don't see how you can rely on him. Boy's in pretty bad shape. Delusional, from what I hear.

FIONA

He was quite lucid with me.

FARRELL

Was he. Well, you being an outsider, so to speak, you wouldn't understand how things work down here.

FIONA

Assault is a crime everywhere.

FARRELL

Yes, but there's certain things that don't go over well here in Gainesville; one of them's outside agitators. Our people here are a peaceful people. We don't have no trouble unless people come into our city lookin' for trouble. And I've never seen anyone yet look for trouble who didn't find it - that includes your Father Conway.

FIONA

And what sort of trouble was that?

FARRELL

Agitatin' our Negroes; underminin' our Baptist faith. Homosexuality. We don't sit still for none of that.

FIONA

Yes, I can see how being fiercely invested in parochialism can warp one's mind.

This gets Farrell's back up even more. He glares at Fiona.

FARRELL

You're showing your ignorance.

HEMMINGS

I think the British consul here has accurately depicted backwoods life.

FARRELL

Even in England y'all get uppity.

FIONA

We have a longer history of dealing with rank stupidity and ignorance.

FARRELL

Well, whatever that priest told you don't mean a damn thing. Ain't no witnesses to what happened.

FIONA

Except for Father Conway.

HEMMINGS

Who'll have federal marshals here to keep him company - in case your peaceful people lose it again.

FARRELL

Bullshit. Y'all came here alone.

Just then, there is a frantic KNOCK on the door. It opens quickly and Patrolman HARLON BAKER races in.

BAKER

Chief, there's a bunch of federal marshals outside askin' for them two.

Farrell looks out his window and sees three gray sedans. Leaning against them are ten men in dark suits and Ray-Bans.

HEMMINGS

They came down on a military flight.

FARRELL

Tell them they'll be right out, Harlon.

Baker nods and leaves. Hemmings parts his suitcoat, revealing his shoulder holster and .38 Colt Special.

HEMMINGS

I'll make this easy for you, Chief. Anything else happens to Father Conway, or if Miss Jeffries should so much as crack a nail before leaving here, we'll come after you. And you have my personal guarantee you will experience exactly what Father Conway's going through.

Fiona gets up. Hemmings follows suit and they leave.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - THE NATIONAL MALL - NIGHT

Accent lights highlight the environs.

2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY

The lights are still on in several buildings in the compound.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE

Latham is on the phone.

LATHAM

The mayor, the police chief and a
cop...

INT. MOTEL ROOM

A serviceable one-star room. Fiona is on the phone.

FIONA

All members of the Dixie Klan. And
Father Conway recognized them all.

CROSSCUT LATHAM WITH FIONA

LATHAM

And the chief confirmed it?

FIONA

Warned me there were no witnesses.

LATHAM

And you're sure they don't know
Father Conway worked for us?

FIONA

They're an insular community run by
the Dixie Klan, who themselves are
constrained by their own ideology.

LATHAM

That's easy for you to say.

FIONA

Smart ass. Anyone who disagrees
with them is labeled a communist.
Their main worry is 'outside
agitators' rocking their racist
boat, not being infiltrated by
spies.

LATHAM

I see.

FIONA

What you should have seen was their
reaction to those federal marshals.
Scared to death.

LATHAM

I'm glad Hemmings brought them
along. Thank him for me.

FIONA

I will.

LATHAM

When are you coming back?

FIONA

Tomorrow morning. We're taking a MATS flight from Moody Air Force Base to Andrews.

LATHAM

You sure you're safe there?

FIONA

Yes, the marshals are still about.

LATHAM

(sighs)

Okay. I'll see you tomorrow then. I love you.

FIONA

I love you too. Good night.

LATHAM

Good night, hon.

BACK TO SCENE

Latham hangs up.

MOTEL ROOM

Fiona smiles and hangs up. She is in her pajamas. She turns off the lights and gets into bed. There is a growing ROAR of engines. Her window is suddenly filled with light. She grabs her Beretta from the nightstand and sidles beside the window.

Outside at the edge of the brush surrounding the motel are several cars and pick-up trucks with their lights on. Dixie Klansmen armed with rifles and two with torches lean against their vehicles.

There is a KNOCK on the door. Fiona whirls around and aims at the door.

HEMMINGS (O.S.)

It's Hemmings, Miss Jeffries.

Fiona opens the door. Hemmings enters.

HEMMINGS (CONT'D)

Looks like Farrell got his Dixie Klan playmates to pay us a visit.

He and Fiona go to the window. Six Federal Marshals armed with submachine guns and shotguns emerge from their rooms. Hemmings' walkie-talkie CRACKLES.

GATES (O.S.)
Whatever happens, do not let them
get to our vehicles. Force One to
Red One.

HEMMINGS
Red One, over.

GATES (O.S.)
Keep Star One inside.

HEMMINGS
Roger, Force One.

As Hemmings and Fiona watch, every announcement now comes over a bullhorn.

GATES
I'm Henry Gates, a federal marshal.
You are in violation of Section
877.03 of the Florida Penal Code.
I'm ordering you to get back in
your vehicles and leave.

The Dixie Klansmen do not move.

GATES (CONT'D)
This is your last warning. Leave
the area immediately, or we will
respond with deadly force.

EXT. THE MOTEL

The Dixie Klansmen SNICKER. Gates points to his officers. The ones holding shotguns RACK them. The other Federal Marshals raise their submachine guns.

DIXIE KLANSMAN #1 faces the others and waves them back into their vehicles. Engines ROAR. The two men with torches climb into the back of a pick-up truck. As the vehicles pull away, one Dixie Klansman tosses his torch into the brush, starting a small fire.

SCREAMS come from a couple of motel rooms. The MOTEL MANAGER runs out of his office lugging a fire extinguisher and starts to spray the fire. A couple of Federal Marshals return to their rooms and quickly reemerge with fire extinguishers. In a few moments, the fire is out.

INT. MOTEL ROOM

Hemmings holsters his pistol. Fiona lowers her Beretta.

GATES (O.S.)
Call the detail at the hospital.
See if they need backup.

Hemmings turns to Fiona.

HEMMINGS
Get some sleep if you can. We're
leaving at 06:00 instead of 07:30.

He leaves. Fiona turns on the light on the nightstand. She lays the Beretta there and resets the alarm clock from 06:30 to 05:00. She climbs into bed and turns off the light.

A moment later, the light goes on. Fiona gets up. She turns on the TV set then props the pillows against the headboard. She leans back against them and watches a late movie.

EXT. AIR FORCE ONE IN FLIGHT - DAY (DAWN)

Stock footage of the president's plane in flight.

INT. CABIN - OFFICE

Bazzo sits with other Secret Service agents, including Agent Hanson. As they chat about baseball, Bazzo again reads the complaint in the Springfield Police Department's Roll Call:

"Leland Hotel housekeeping manager ARTHUR ROSS complained that two male Subjects, JOHN FIELDS and ALBERT MACKINNON, in second-floor room 23, refuse to allow Housekeeping staff to clean the room. SERGEANT PORTER MCFARLAND told Mr. Ross that it was not a crime to refuse to have the room cleaned for two days. But if their hygiene became an issue, the police department would intervene. Complaint closed."

Hanson looks over Bazzo's shoulder and is dismayed.

HANSON
You still looking at that?

BAZZO
I'm still uneasy about it.

HANSON
That complaint's closed.

BAZZO
I know, but... Look, when we land, I'd like to have one of the local cops take me up the route ahead of the motorcade.

HANSON
What for? That's all been assigned to them. I've told you that.

BAZZO

I'd still like to check it out for myself.

HANSON

You're job's to ride in the front seat of the convertible; that's it.

BAZZO

You originally had Roush there. Let him sit in the car instead of running alongside it.

AGENT ROUSH nods agreement. Hanson sighs and shakes his head.

HANSON

If that means I don't have to hear you whining about this, then fine, go do it.

BAZZO

Thanks.

EXT. THE PENTAGON - DAY (MORNING)

Stock aerial footage of this landmark building.

CENTER OF THE PENTAGON - PARK

Military and civilian personnel queue at the stand to buy coffee and breakfast treats.

Stans sits on a bench at a table. He has a magazine open as he sips his coffee. The headline "**Africa: Crossroads for Democracy**" is spread across both pages. On one page is a photo of President Kennedy and beneath him a box with an excerpt.

<p>What is now at stake in the decision for intervention or nonintervention in Central Africa is the question not only of American prestige but of American survival. Proxy wars against the Soviet Union are one thing; but annihilation from a nuclear confrontation is a policy of madness.</p>
--

Stans is joined by Easton who also has a cup of coffee. Stans slides the open magazine to Easton.

STANS

Carol Blair, taking her best shot.

EASTON

(grins)
And her last.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS - DAY (MORNING)

Stock footage of the sleepy downtown area.

CAPITOL AVENUE AND 6TH STREET - THE LELAND HOTEL

No crowds as of yet. Early risers head to their businesses.

INT. HOTEL ROOM

The .22-caliber Browning semi-automatic rifle has its scope mounted and lies on the table. John sits in a chair, sipping a glass of water. Albert reads the Illinois State Journal. On the front page is the itinerary of President Kennedy's visit and the motorcade route. Albert checks his watch.

JOHN

Relax, we got plenty of time. Go to that diner on the corner and bring back some breakfast.

ALBERT

Just call Room Service.

JOHN

(points to the rifle)
And have them see that?

ALBERT

(sheepishly)
Right.

He gets up and leaves.

EXT. ABRAHAM LINCOLN CAPITAL AIRPORT - DAY

- President Kennedy steps out of Air Force One.

- President Kennedy rides atop the back seat of an open convertible with Sidney Yates and Governor Otto Kerner as the crowds at the airport look on.

CAPITOL AVENUE

Crowds line both sides of the street, waiting for the motorcade. A patrol car slowly drives past them.

I/E. PATROL CAR

OFFICER THOMAS, 45, drives. Bazzo looks out the window.

BAZZO

How far back is the motorcade?

THOMAS

About a half mile.

The patrol car approaches the corner of 6th Street and the Leland Hotel. A window on the second floor at the corner of the hotel facing the patrol car opens. A rifle barrel emerges.

Bazzo sees it.

BAZZO

Up there! Second floor of the hotel, southeast corner. That's a rifle barrel.

The patrol car pulls up to the curb, just past the hotel. Bazzo and Officer Thomas rush from the car into the Leland Hotel.

INT. LELAND HOTEL - LOBBY

The DESK CLERK looks at Bazzo and Officer Thomas oddly.

DESK CLERK

Can I help you two?

BAZZO

You got a passkey for room 23?

DESK CLERK

Yeah.

BAZZO

Get it.

THOMAS

Go on, boy. Do it now!

The Desk Clerk gets the key and hands it to Bazzo.

BAZZO

I want you to count to ten then call Room 23. Tell them Housekeeping's coming up to clean the room no matter what. You got that?

DESK CLERK

Yes, sir.

Bazzo and Officer Thomas race into the elevator. The doors close.

SECOND FLOOR

Bazzo and Officer Thomas approach Room 23 with guns drawn.

ALBERT (O.S.)

I told you we don't want nobody coming in to clean right now!

Bazzo inserts the passkey into the lock and turns it.

ALBERT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Goddamnit...

Bazzo shoves open the door, hitting Albert. He then SLUGS Albert in the eye with the pistol grip. Officer Thomas enters.

John pulls back his rifle from the window, turns around and aims it at the door. Bazzo FIRES, hitting John in the groin. John SCREAMS and drops the rifle on the floor.

As Officer Thomas handcuffs Albert, who is bleeding profusely from his eye, Bazzo goes over to John and picks up the rifle. John lies on the floor, clutching his groin, bleeding and WRITHING in pain.

Bazzo sits on the edge of the bed and unloads the rifle while Officer Thomas pulls his radio from its holster.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

Stock footage of the Lincoln Memorial and the White House.

2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY

A few CIA officers trickle through Gate #1 into the compound.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE

Latham is at his desk on the Gray phone. Kensington enters. Latham holds up his hand to give him a moment.

LATHAM
Are you alright?... Good. Then I'll see you tomorrow.

(hangs up)
That was Paul. There was an assassination attempt on President Kennedy. A man with a rifle was about to fire from a second-floor window of the Leland Hotel when Paul intervened. Two men were taken into custody.

KENSINGTON
(defensively)
I'm sure the Secret Service would have spotted the man and gotten to him.

LATHAM
The Secret Service had downplayed the possibility of an assassination and had no one assigned to the hotel.

(MORE)

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Paul rode ahead of the motorcade
and saw a window open, then he saw
the rifle. Had he not been there,
we'd be discussing security for the
president's funeral.

KENSINGTON

(chagrined)

Well, stitch in time and all.
Fortunately, he was there.

LATHAM

No thanks to you.

Kensington is nonplussed.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, you wanted me for
something?

KENSINGTON

It can wait.

He leaves. Latham curls a victor's grin. Collette hurries in
looking upset.

LATHAM

What is it?

COLLETTE

Carol Blair's dead. Her body was
found in the canal.

Latham is shocked.

END