

Cool Gray Dawn

Season Two, Episode #15: "Early Departure, Part One"

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Cool Gray Dawn
"Early Departure, Part One"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

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

Stock footage of the National Mall on a winter's day.

3RD STREET, NW - APARTMENT BUILDING #704

The early morning sun reflects against the apartment windows.

INT. BEDROOM

FIONA JEFFRIES and WARREN LATHAM are spooned and asleep under a quilt. The alarm clock RINGS, waking them.

LATHAM
You're closer.

FIONA
Who said chivalry was dead.

She reaches over and shuts off the alarm, then sits up, the quilt up to her shoulders. Latham looks at her, surprised.

LATHAM
You getting up?

FIONA
Uh huh.

LATHAM
Larry said you could take all the time you need.

FIONA
What I need is to go back to work.

Latham sits up as well; he looks disappointed.

FIONA (CONT'D)
What?

Latham shrugs.

FIONA (CONT'D)
Don't do that. What is it?

LATHAM
It's just nice seeing you home.

FIONA
You mean being domestic?

LATHAM
No, relaxed. I just want you to be
sure you're ready to go back there.

Fiona leans over top of Latham.

FIONA
I want to return to my old routine.
Alright?

LATHAM
Alright.

FIONA
I'm going to take a shower.

LATHAM
How 'bout we conserve water?

Fiona whacks him with a pillow. She jumps out of bed and runs to the bathroom. Latham runs after her, both of them naked.

2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY

A crowd of CIA employees enter the compound through Gate #1. Latham enters a couple of yards ahead of STEWART KENSINGTON. A mid-20s CIA OFFICER turns to Kensington and smiles.

CIA OFFICER
Morning, Mr. Kensington.

Latham turns around in time to see Kensington DISMISS the young man with a sneer and walk away.

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

COLLETTE DOWD enters from Latham's Office. Latham enters.

COLLETTE
Good morning.

LATHAM
I just saw Kensington snub one of
our young recruits for saying that.

COLLETTE
He should watch Captain Kangaroo.

Latham doesn't get it and gives her an odd glance.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)
Remember, both mandarins are on
surveillance - the Hate Bus.

Latham nods. Collette grabs a sheet of wire copy from her desk and hands it to him, then follows Latham into...

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Latham sets down his satchel and hangs up his coat. Reports are in three piles on his desk. Latham reads the wire copy.

COLLETTE

That's from UPI.

EXT. AT SEA OFF THE FLORIDA COAST - NIGHT - PAST

A Coast Guard Patrol Boat bobs alongside a speedboat. A spotlight shines on the speedboat where TWO CUBAN MEN are in handcuffs, watched by TWO COAST GUARD CREWMEN with shotguns.

COLLETTE (V.O.)

The Coast Guard stopped a speedboat headed for Cuba...

COAST GUARD CREWMAN #3 shines a flashlight on two open crates; one has packets of Semtex, the other contains limpet mines.

COLLETTE (V.O.)

Loaded with Semtex and limpet mines.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Large and posh. CAROL BLAIR sits up in bed; she's on the phone, and very angry. She SLAMS down the phone's handset.

COLLETTE (V.O.)

Part of Carol Blair's private navy.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE - DAY - PRESENT

Latham lays the wire copy on his desk.

COLLETTE

She can't say you didn't warn her.
Oh, François Bisset called.

LATHAM

This early? What did he have to say?

COLLETTE

The president appreciates how you interceded on his behalf with Miss Blair.

Latham tries to hide a grin. The Gray phone RINGS; one of its buttons BLINKS. Collette answers it.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)

P.A. to D.D.O.

OPERATOR (O.S.)

I have a call for Mr. Latham from a
Gunnar Nagel. Sounds rough.

COLLETTE

Hold on, please.

(puts the call on hold)

You know a Gunnar Nagel?

LATHAM

No, but I'll take it. Have the
trace and recording sent here ASAP.

COLLETTE

Right.

Collette takes the Operator off Hold.

BERARD'S OFFICE

Latham stands; WILSON BERARD, BILL NEALY and Kensington sit.
They all listen as a tape recorder plays Latham's phone call.

NAGEL (O.S.)

Mr. Latham?... Warren Latham?

LATHAM (O.S.)

Yes, who's this?

NAGEL (O.S.)

My name is Gunnar Nagel. I don't
have much time. I am a chauffeur at
the Soviet Embassy in Canberra,
Australia. I drive a 1961 Holden
Special EK, licence number YLU75G.
But please be aware the embassy has
50 sets of plates in reserve they
use if they suspect their vehicles
are being tracked. Now, three Iron
Curtain countries plan to pay
\$100,000 for the assassination of
President Kennedy. Five Soviet
submarines carrying 500 soldiers
will go to Cuba where they will
wait to support Vice President
Johnson should there be any
reprisals. In support of this plot
in America are people from business
and the military. Oh, I have to go.

CLICK. Latham stops the tape and takes a seat.

LATHAM

Our Canberra station doesn't know
him.

KENSINGTON

So it's a crank call.

LATHAM

Not necessarily. It was traced to a payphone at Saint Clare's College, a mile from the Soviet embassy. His accent was identified as Moldavian, and it didn't vary as he spoke. The station says the Sovs frequently rotate people from that region, but they're all low-level employees.

BERARD

The top posts going to Muscovites.

LATHAM

Yes. Low-level staff aren't allowed out except for work. They get bored, which results in a high turnover rate.

KENSINGTON

Fine. But why did this Nagel call you and not the Secret Service?

NEALY

He could have seen Warren's name pop up on intercepted commo. If he's really a chauffeur, his knowledge of our Intel agencies would be limited to the Five Eyes, and that wouldn't include the Secret Service.

BERARD

And the 50 reserve license plates?

LATHAM

Canberra confirms it. He couldn't know that unless he worked there.

NEALY

Or had a confederate there.

BERARD

So what do you suggest?

Berard catches his breath. He takes a pill with water.

NEALY

It's either a credible threat, a KGB provocation, or a crank call. Give it to CI; let them handle it.

BERARD

Warren?

LATHAM

I'd like to check with SMOTH first.

KENSINGTON

Why?

LATHAM

Because I can get answers in half the time, which could be crucial if it's a plot that's already underway.

BERARD

Alright, do that and get back to us.

Latham nods. He and Nealy leave; Kensington stays behind.

CORRIDOR

Latham and Nealy walk toward the stairs. Latham is worried.

LATHAM

That was nitroglycerin Berard had.

NEALY

I know, but he seems to be doing okay, so... Anyway, I wanted to ask you about Senator Reading.

LATHAM

Carol Blair's latest puppy.

NEALY

He told the Herald Tribune Cuba has, or will be getting missiles from the Soviets. He keeps waffling about it.

LATHAM

The moron's just trying to stoke interest in his reelection campaign.

NEALY

He also says he has an Intel source. Your old New York #1, Bruce Wilson - he works for Carol Blair, right?

LATHAM

Yeah, it's possible it could be him.

NEALY

Reading's on a Subcommittee on Cuba that meets at one. I thought you might want to join me. He's such a loudmouth who knows what he'll say.

KENSINGTON (O.S.)

Bill, you have a moment?

They look back; Kensington is behind them. Latham nods. Nealy walks back to Kensington while Latham goes down the stairs.

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

Poor and Black - a louche neighborhood before gentrification. A Volkswagen CombiVan slowly rolls down the street, giving residents time to read the vile slogans emblazoned on it: "LINCOLN ROCKWELL'S HATE BUS," "WE HATE RACE-MIXING," "WE HATE JEWS AND COMMUNISM" and "WE DO HATE."

From the van's windows glare the faces of hate: four White men in khaki uniforms with swastika armbands - STORM TROOPERS. Two sit in the second row seats. LINCOLN ROCKWELL, 42, is behind the wheel, and CONNOR, 31, sits in the front passenger seat. Some residents recoil in fear; others glare back at them.

ON THE STREET CORNER

PAUL "BAZZO" BARRY sits in a parked gray coupe, snapping photos of the Storm Troopers with an SLR camera.

ROGER SMITH SQUARE - ROGER SMITH HOTEL

The Hate Bus stops at this late 19th-century hotel. Connor alights wearing a buttoned-up overcoat and races inside.

ONE BLOCK AWAY

CARLA DILAURIA is in a green sedan parked at the curb, taking pictures. As the Hate Bus leaves, she gets out of the car.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The lights are on, the blinds drawn. A 16mm projector sits on a table; on the far wall, a portable projection screen. There is a KNOCK on the door. LT. COLONEL EASTON lets Connor inside.

EASTON
How'd you get here?

CONNOR
The bus.

He is chagrined as he doffs his coat. Easton is angry.

EASTON
That damn Hate Bus again. I warned
you about that. You went through
The District again, didn't you?

Connor nods sheepishly and joins Easton at the table.

EASTON (CONT'D)
I told you before to stay away from
there! What if the cops arrest you?

CONNOR

They won't; they're on our side.

EASTON

I don't care! On the days we meet
you stay the hell outta there!

Connor nods dutifully. Easton turns off the lights and starts the projector.

INSERT ON SCREEN: Soundless, black and white, hidden camera shots of BRUCE WILSON passing out leaflets in wintry New York City, interacting with passers-by, and walking by the Soviet Embassy; students at the University of Mexico, Mexico City.

SUIT WORDS TO SCENES

EASTON (CONT'D)

That's Bruce Wilson. You two are
about the same height and weight.

CONNOR

He don't look like me.

EASTON

Doesn't matter. We'll cut and dye
your hair; you'll be close enough.

CONNOR

Those the commies in Mexico City?

EASTON

Some of them. Those are students.

CONNOR

You know I don't speak Spanish.

EASTON

You don't have to; most of them
know English. You'll be joined
later by a guy from Army Intel who
took grad courses there.

BACK TO SCENE

Easton stops the projector and flips on the lights.

CONNOR

I still don't get why you're doing
this when someone's already watching
them.

EASTON

I told you - the students know
those people are CIA and FBI.
That's why they don't talk to them.

CONNOR

So why would they talk to me and
this other guy?

EASTON

'Cause you two are fresh faces.
Plus, he speaks Spanish. Now, I
want you to go to the firing range
again later. You need to practice.

CONNOR

It's really that dangerous?

EASTON

Sometimes. I'll run the film again.
Time is short, so I want you to pay
attention to Wilson's mannerisms.

EXT. MEXICO CITY - DOWNTOWN - DAY (MORNING)

INSERT: "Mexico City"

In the shadow of the TORRE LATINOAMERICANA skyscraper, Wilson stands on a busy street corner in short sleeves. He hands out **"El comunismo desprecia tu religión"** leaflets and copies of the John Birch Society Blue Book. (He speaks Spanish.)

WILSON

Lea sobre la amenaza comunista aquí
en México. El comunismo es una
amenaza para el catolicismo.

ACROSS THE STREET - SMALL CAFE

EDWARDS sits by a window, sipping coffee and watching Wilson. He sees a car with two men, WILL SCHOTT, 50 and paunchy, and GUSTAVO, 40, a Federales Agent; both also watch Wilson. Edwards leaves the café and walks to...

THE CORNER OF JUÁREZ AVENUE AND DOLORES STREET

He enters a phone booth. A well-groomed man with brown hair - call him JOHN - sits on a bench and reads a newspaper. He eyes Edwards, then Schott and Gustavo in the car, then Wilson.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

Stock footage of the Washington Monument and the Mall.

CONSTITUTION AVENUE - RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

Stock footage of this three-story building.

INT. SENATOR READING'S OFFICE

Typically plush. SENATOR KEN READING is on the phone.

READING

Anybody helping Wilson?... No...
But the CIA and the Federales were
watching... In the same car?
Idiots... Okay.

He hangs up.

RAWLINS PARK

Fiona meets Latham at the statue of General John A. Rawlins.
They kiss and walk alongside a long reflecting pool.

LATHAM

Larry keeping you busy?

FIONA

Accounts payments, operational
notes...

LATHAM

So, what do you have for me?

FIONA

A CX report to Whitehall was
forwarded to us warning of a
possible assassination plot against
President Kennedy.

LATHAM

Where did it originate?

Fiona reaches into her purse and hands Latham an envelope.

FIONA

Kishinev, Moldavia. It's all in
there.

LATHAM

I got a call this morning from a
Gunnar Nagel, a chauffeur at the
Soviet Embassy in Canberra. He said
three Iron Curtain countries have
put up a \$100,000 bounty to
assassinate President Kennedy. We
identified his accent as Moldavian.

FIONA

Since when did Moldavia become
capital of the rumor mill?

LATHAM

I know. Nagel said three submarines
with 500 men would set off for Cuba
to support the coup.

FIONA

Cuba doesn't have a submarine base.

LATHAM

They'd wait offshore. Then at night they'd ferry the men into Mariel.

FIONA

500 of them? Bound to cause some kind of stir among the locals.

LATHAM

Hmm... They'd probably segregate them to keep them ready to move.

FIONA

Making them even more conspicuous.

LATHAM

Not if they were supplied with tropical clothes and stayed in hotels. People would think they were in Cuba on holiday.

FIONA

Okay. So I'll ask Havana station about any bulk purchases of clothes by the Russians or the Cubans.

LATHAM

No, just the Russians. If there is a plot with support here, they won't share the details with Cuba.

FIONA

Because it would be all over the street?

Latham nods as they continue their stroll.

CORNER OF E STREET AND 18TH STREET

Latham walks up to the mailbox and drops to a knee to tie his shoes. On one side of the mailbox at the bottom he makes THREE SHORT HORIZONTAL CHALK MARKS. Latham stands and walks away.

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

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

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE

The 24-hour wall clock reads 11:35. Bazzo and DiLauria have folders containing FIRs and photos. Latham TAPS a pencil on a legal pad. They are all clearly concerned.

BAZZO

Two threats and the common thread's
Moldavia? Has to be a provocation.

LATHAM

I tell you, I'd be fine with that.

DILAURIA

You really like President Kennedy.

LATHAM

Yeah, I do... Okay, let's hear your
reports.

BAZZO

Rockwell and his Storm Troopers went
through The District again in their
Hate Bus; they didn't engage anyone.

DILAURIA

They also went to the Roger Smith
Hotel again, and dropped off the
same guy there. I spoke to the
Concierge but she didn't see him
come in. He must've gone right to
the elevators.

BAZZO

How'd she miss him with that damn
swastika band on his arm?

DILAURIA

He wore an overcoat.

LATHAM

Did you see him leave?

DILAURIA

No.

BAZZO

He could've gone in there to slip
the surveillance and ran out the
back.

DILAURIA

If that's the way he was trained.

LATHAM

Let's not assume everyone we follow
is a spook. Now, what else can you
tell me about Lincoln Rockwell?

EXT. ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA - ROCKWELL'S HOUSE - DAY - PAST
Ramshackle, with a huge swastika painted on one side.

BAZZO (V.O.)

He's divorced. Has a house in Arlington; more like a shack, really, with this big swastika on the side. The Storm Troopers met there twice this month.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Photos of DAVID BEN-GURION, MARTIN LUTHER KING, and PRESIDENT KENNEDY hang on one wall. Each has a sniper-scope crosshairs superimposed on his face; one of Adolf Hitler is untouched. Rockwell and a Storm Trooper watch a variety show on TV.

ROCKWELL

Man, we gotta gas these queers.

Connor, in street clothes, and two STORM TROOPERS enter the house. They give Rockwell a Nazi salute; he returns it.

DILAURIA (V.O.)

He told the Post he supports the FBI in combating efforts to give equal rights to Black people.

Connor sits on the couch. On the coffee table before him lie M-1 carbines and pistols. He picks up an ACP M1911 pistol.

IN THE BASEMENT

Rockwell cranks a mimeograph machine, printing a pamphlet cover and its first page per single sheet of blue paper. As each blue sheet falls into the tray, WE SEE what is on it.

The Cover: "Program of the World Union of Free Enterprise National Socialists."

Page One: "Hate the ENEMY - the vicious gang of colored SCUM attackers and Jewish-Communist traitors - rather than one part of our own people hating another part for the benefit of the Jews and their army of SCUM!"

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - FOLEY SQUARE - DAY

On the courthouse steps, protesters SHOUT EPITHETS while police, Storm Troopers and the MEDIA surround Rockwell.

DILAURIA (V.O.)

He was in New York trying to get a permit for a public assembly when he summed up his manifesto.

REPORTER #1

Mr. Rockwell, can you describe the goals of your American Nazi Party?

ROCKWELL

First, I wanna say that you people have misrepresented us.

REPORTER #1

How so?

ROCKWELL

Contrary to your reports, we're not trying to exterminate anybody. We want to eliminate communism.

REPORTER #2

But you said you intend to gas Jews.

ROCKWELL

No, I said we intend to gas traitors, Jews or not.

REPORTER #1

Just how many Jews might that be?

ROCKWELL

Eighty percent of them, at least.

Protesters JEER while Rockwell climbs the courthouse steps.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE - DAY - PRESENT

Bazzo and DiLauria close their folders as Latham completes his notes.

DILAURIA

Still, the American Nazi Party's a pretty small group. Maybe ten or so here in D.C., about 200 nationwide.

LATHAM

But you add them to the John Birch Society, the Ku Klux Klan, and Hoover's vendetta against Blacks, and the result is White backlash.

The intercom BUZZES; Latham answers it.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Yes?

COLLETTE (O.S.)

Kensington wants to see you.

KENSINGTON'S OFFICE

Kensington is at his desk. The door is open; Latham KNOCKS on it and enters. Kensington looks up from reading a report.

KENSINGTON

Close the door.

Latham shuts the door and stands before Kensington.

KENSINGTON (CONT'D)

Why are you looking into the
American Nazi Party?

LATHAM

I monitor all domestic threats.

KENSINGTON

The FBI doesn't consider them one.

LATHAM

Hoover's a bigot. What else would
you expect from a pig but a grunt?

KENSINGTON

Your pal President Kennedy might
find that amusing but not me.

Latham is caught off guard by this.

KENSINGTON (CONT'D)

I could just as easily say you're
only interested in them because the
woman you're seeing is Black.

LATHAM

That's none of your business.

KENSINGTON

Oh, it is my business - especially
if it affects your judgment.

LATHAM

I guess it did, 'cause now I can
see people for who they really are.

They glare at each other. Latham slowly realizes something.

KENSINGTON

You're running an unsanctioned
operation and I want it stopped.

LATHAM

This isn't about the operation.

Now Kensington is caught off guard.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

'My pal, President Kennedy'? This is
about MONGOOSE. You think I got
Kennedy to fire you.

KENSINGTON

It's no secret you have his ear.

LATHAM

It's a rumor, one you're desperate to lean on.

KENSINGTON

Damnit! I can have you sacked and out of here by the end of the week, despite what Kennedy thinks of you!

LATHAM

That's up to you, but let's set the record straight. Kennedy decided to relieve you of your duties despite my advice to keep you!

Kensington is chagrined as Latham storms out the office.

ACT TWO

EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE - WEST WING - DAY

Stock footage of this familiar building.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

PRESIDENT KENNEDY, ROBERT KENNEDY and ARTHUR SCHLESINGER argue with Carol while having coffee and pastries.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

You were supposed to check back with us, Carol.

ROBERT KENNEDY

We're negotiating with Castro to release members of Brigade 2506. That stupid stunt of yours last night could have ruined everything!

CAROL

Then it was you who had the Coast Guard confiscate my boat!

SCHLESINGER

They were on routine interdiction patrol and got a tip, Carol.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

I scaled back the Cuban Project because of too many actors. We're trying to encourage a junta there, and all these raids have Castro pointing his finger right back here.

CAROL

Well, I don't know who else you've recruited, but I've been successful.

ROBERT KENNEDY

You damaged one Russian cargo ship.

CAROL

It would've been two. Look, unless these ships are carrying - I don't know - nuclear missiles, I don't see what the problem is here.

The Three Men look at each other warily, then back at Carol.

SCHLESINGER

Why did you say nuclear missiles?

CAROL

Makes sense, doesn't it? We have Jupiter missiles in Turkey that can reach Moscow. So why wouldn't the Kremlin want to put missiles in Cuba where they can hit the East Coast?

ROBERT KENNEDY

If they were running missiles into Cuba, I sure as hell wouldn't want you blowing holes in their ships.

CAROL

And I sure as hell wouldn't want someone who had to repeat the third grade advising me on foreign policy.

Robert Kennedy is nonplussed. Schlesinger is surprised.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

There's no evidence the Russians plan to put missiles in Cuba other than Reading's foolish speculation.

CAROL

They have 40,000 troops there.

SCHLESINGER

The CIA says it's only 8,000.

CAROL

Who cares?! They give the Russians a foothold only 90 miles away!

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

I didn't go to war with Khrushchev over Berlin, and I'm not going to go to war with him over Cuba!

CAROL

Well, someone's preparing for it!

This strikes a nerve in all the Men. Schlesinger concedes.

SCHLESINGER

The Appropriations Committee has agreed to upgrade the Titan and Minuteman missile systems, Carol. We won't be taken by surprise.

CAROL

So, do I still have a part in this?

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Coordinate your runs with Bobby. Now you'll have to excuse me, I have to get ready for the weekend.

Carol watches President Kennedy curiously as he leaves.

EXT. CAPITOL HILL - CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Reading exits the building, going against the flow of people climbing the steps. He hurries to the curb where Carol alights from a taxi. They walk back up the steps with the large crowd.

READING

How'd it go?

CAROL

They're upgrading Titan and Minuteman.

READING

Good, means money's flowing in the right direction. How'd they react to the idea of missiles in Cuba?

CAROL

Like they never considered it, but they have. I tell you, Jack's no Eisenhower. He's afraid to poke at the Bear. Probably why he put Bobby in charge of the Cuban Project.

READING

Christ, that punk...

CAROL

You hear from Mexico City?

READING

Edwards saw Bruce Wilson handing out the literature. The CIA and the Federales finally put eyes on him.

CAROL

Good. Jack won't know what hit him.

As Reading opens the door for Carol, he looks back at her and is shocked - Latham and Nealy are only two steps behind her. Carol looks back and sees them, but she remains cool.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Mr. Latham...

LATHAM

Miss Blair...

Latham ignores Reading, who follows Carol into the building. Latham and Nealy grin at each other as they go inside.

INT. CANNON CAUCUS ROOM

The ceiling is decorated with a variety of classical motifs. The double-height room has Corinthian pilasters, six windows and four crystal chandeliers. Tables form a 'U' and are surrounded by chairs, and there is room for spectators.

The CHAIRMAN is surrounded by ten committee members, including Reading, and their aides. Latham and Nealy sit in the back among the spectators.

CHAIRMAN

The Chair recognizes the Honorable Senator from New York, Mr. Reading.

READING

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Russia is sending large numbers of personnel to Cuba. What they are doing there has been the subject of much debate in this committee. Obviously, the Russians are helping the Castro regime advance its infrastructure to accommodate new technology. But to what extent? According to five reliable sources of mine, Castro has handed the Russians two keys. One, a giant monkeywrench they can use to endanger our space efforts at Cape Canaveral. The other? Well, its just possible the Russians might be constructing missile bases that aren't just for defensive purposes. They could also be used to attack the east coast here...

BACK OF THE CAUCUS ROOM

Nealy looks at Latham with concern.

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

A view of the compound from the Guard Shack.

INT. OPERATIONS ROOM

The usual PURL of ringing phones, teletype machines and chatter. DUTY OFFICERS JARED STOKES and TOM PERCY man the Duty Desk with MISSION PLANNING'S REID NICHOLS. DiLauria enters.

DILAURIA

What have you got, Jared?

STOKES

From the Associated Press.
(hands her the wire copy)
You know the name Danny Burrell?

DILAURIA

No.

STOKES

I called Davis in New York. He said Burrell's name turned up while they were looking into the American Nazi Party. Burrell was known as Lincoln Rockwell's 'extermination planner' 'till he formed his own group, the National Renaissance Party. Davis is transmitting the file. Seems Burrell used to say he wanted to be America's führer.

DILAURIA

Says here he shot himself.

STOKES

Following in der führer's footsteps.

LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

Collette edits a paper while DiLauria waits, folder in hand.

COLLETTE

He said he was on his way back.

Latham enters. He is mildly surprised to see DiLauria.

LATHAM

Just kibitzing or is something up?

DILAURIA

You need to see this.

She holds up the folder. Latham gestures toward his office and follows her into...

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Latham doffs his coat. DiLauria hands him the folder and they both sit.

LATHAM

Burrell... I remember the name but that's it.

DILAURIA

I spoke to Davis; he's sending over the file.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - MANHATTAN - DAY - PAST

Burrell, Rockwell and Storm Troopers picket the offices of B'nai B'rith, carrying signs reading "Gas Jews and Niggers."

DILAURIA (V.O.)

Burrell used to picket with Rockwell here and in New York. The NYPD kept tabs on him because they were afraid he'd go out and kill people.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM

POLICEMEN watch Burrell empty his pockets. Among the litter is a bar of soap. POLICEMAN #1 picks it up. On the wrapper are the German words "Aus feinstem jüdischem Fett hergestellt."

DILAURIA (V.O.)

Once, when he was arrested, Burrell was carrying this bar of soap. It was wrapped in paper printed with the German words 'Aus feinstem jüdischem Fett hergestellt'... 'Made from the finest Jewish fat.'

EXT. QUEENS, NEW YORK CITY - CUNNINGHAM PARK - DAY

A man in the hooded garb of the Ku Klux Klan stands beside Burrell in his blue-black National Renaissance Party uniform. Burrell gives a Nazi salute; the Klansman raises his left arm.

DILAURIA (V.O.)

Burrell also had strong ties to the Ku Klux Klan. Rockwell eventually booted him out. Seems he was too crazy, even for them.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE - DAY - PRESENT

Latham shakes his head, darkly amused. DiLauria leans forward.

DILAURIA

And get this: Burrell was Jewish.

Latham is aghast.

DILAURIA (CONT'D)

He even attended Hebrew school. He said it was a history teacher in the New York public schools who 'crystallized' his thinking.

EXT. FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY - BARRACKS - DAY - PAST

PFC Burrell grabs a rifle with a bayonet affixed and lunges at a Black Warrant Officer. He's tackled by other soldiers.

DILAURIA (V.O.)

He joined the Army but according to his DD 214 was discharged due to Unsuitability - he attacked a Black Warrant Officer with a bayonet.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICES - DAY

Burrell, in coveralls, sweeps the sidewalk.

DILAURIA (V.O.)

After that he worked as a janitor at the Chamber of Commerce where he was fired for disciplinary reasons.

INT. SMALL BASEMENT OFFICE

A BLACK MAN in a suit DRESSES DOWN Burrell. The Man points to the door. As Burrell leaves, he gives the Man the finger.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE - DAY - PRESENT

DILAURIA

There's also a connection between him, Carol Blair and Robert Welch.

LATHAM

Wait. Welch of Welch's Grape Juice? Founder of the John Birch Society?

DILAURIA

The same. Davis has a photo of the three of them with their arms around each other, taken in her office.

INSERT: In the CARBLAIR Publishing's Executive Offices, Bruce Wilson takes a photo of Burrell, Carol and ROBERT WELCH, JR.

BACK TO SCENE

LATHAM

That doesn't make sense. Carol Blair's maiden name is Feldman.

DILAURIA
She's Jewish, too?!

LATHAM
Yeah, but she can't blame P.S. 143.
She went to private school.

DILAURIA
Well, the NYPD are curious. They
sent a detective to her office.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - PAST

Burrell talks amiably to John, in a suit and wearing gloves. They sit on the sofa. An open briefcase on the coffee table displays an array of handguns. John hands Burrell a .38 Police Special and a Baby Beretta.

LATHAM (V.O.)
So, how did Burrell die?

While Burrell examines the pistols, John takes an ACP M1911 with a silencer from the briefcase. He points to the silencer then to the Beretta in Burrell's left hand. When Burrell looks at the Beretta, John shoots him in the temple. Burrell slumps onto the sofa, dropping both pistols to the floor.

DILAURIA (V.O.)
He shot himself in the head.

John removes the silencer and puts it in the briefcase. He places the M1911 in Burrell's right hand, wraps Burrell's fingers around the stock and trigger, then drops the gun to the floor. John picks up the Police Special and Baby Beretta and puts them in his briefcase. He closes it, picks it up, and leaves.

EXT. AEROMEXICO PROPJET IN FLIGHT - NIGHT

The plane soars above the clouds, lit by a full moon.

INT. AIRPLANE CABIN

The plane is full. John sits in a window seat. A STEWARDESS at the bulkhead picks up a microphone.

STEWARDESS
(in Spanish)
En treinta minutos aterrizaremos en
el Aeropuerto Internacional de la
Ciudad de México. Tome asiento y
abróchese el cinturón de seguridad.

(in English)
In thirty minutes we will be
landing at Mexico City
International Airport.

(MORE)

STEWARDESS (CONT'D)
Please take your seats and fasten
your seat belts.

John buckles up and returns his gaze out the window.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE - DAY - PRESENT

Latham and DiLauria lean back in their chairs.

LATHAM
Get back onto Rockwell. If you see
that joker from the hotel, tail him.
Find out what that's all about.
Meanwhile, I'm sending Bazzo to
Mexico City. Bruce Wilson's there
doing something for Carol Blair and
I want to know what the hell it is.

MID-SHOW BREAK

EXT. 1427 F STREET NW - OLD EBBITT GRILL - DAY

Housed in a townhome between a sandwich shop and a bank.

INT. OLD EBBITT GRILL

A bar with backless stools runs the length of one wall. On the
opposite wall are two long rows of two- and four-seat tables
with checkerboard tablecloths. WAIT STAFF are busy setting up.
Carol and Reading are the only patrons eating at a far table.

READING
I'm sure Latham heard us.

CAROL
So? What did he hear? My opinions
on the Cuban Project.

READING
What about Bruce Wilson?

CAROL
If he wants to watch him, let him.

READING
(mulls over something)
That call you took in my office...
My aide said it was from a New York
City detective. Are you in trouble?

CAROL
I'm too rich to be in trouble.

READING
Well I'm not. What did he want?

CAROL

To tell me Danny Burrell's dead.

Reading shrugs; he's at sea.

CAROL (CONT'D)

He's this neo-Nazi I had working
with Bruce Wilson.

READING

What?!

CAROL

I needed his help. Leave it at that.

READING

No. I want to know how he died.

CAROL

I was told it was suicide. Eat your
food.

READING

Hey, I'm not one of your boys.

CAROL

Then what is your problem?

READING

All this shit I'm doing for you...
I want to know what's going on.

CAROL

Why? The newspapers love you. You're
a big hero, fighting communists 90
miles offshore. Now you suddenly
want to get your hands dirty?

READING

Being with you, they already are.

CAROL

You bastard... Burrell was talking
to the newspapers, bragging about
how he knew me and Robert Welch.

READING

So? Who'd believe him?

CAROL

There's a photo of the three of us
taken in my office on Christmas.

READING

Christ. Who else knows about it?

CAROL

Bruce Wilson - he took the picture.

READING

Great. And how long has he got?!

Wait Staff glance at them. Carol glares at Reading.

CAROL

Keep your fucking voice down and focus.

Reading bites his lip and leans back in his chair.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Now, Jack believes Castro's exporting his Marxist revolution. The Right's already screaming for him to defend Latin America.

READING

Who's that? The neo-Nazis? The John Birch Society? No one cares what they say.

CAROL

We also have the Klan.

READING

Are you crazy?!

CAROL

We need their support! Burrell's the one who got it for us. Now eat your food before it gets cold.

EXT. ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA - ROCKWELL'S HOUSE - DAY

Connor leaves the house. Rockwell stands in the doorway and gives him a Nazi salute as Connor gets into his Ford Falcon.

UP THE STREET FROM ROCKWELL'S HOUSE

DiLauria watches from her green sedan. The Ford Falcon backs out the driveway. As Connor drives down the one-way street, DiLauria follows him.

EXT. STRIP MALL - "FREE RANGE SHOOTING RANGE" - DAY

The range is crammed between a pawn shop and a laundromat.

INT. SHOOTING RANGE

Ten lanes, each with a shooter firing a pistol at silhouetted bullseye targets. Behind them is an overflow, all-White crowd of onlookers and waiting shooters.

Connor is in Lane Two, firing an ACP M1911. Watching from the back of the crowd is DiLauria.

EXT. THE PENTAGON - DAY

Stock footage of this familiar landmark.

INT. GENERAL STANS' OFFICE

Plush, befitting a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. GENERAL STANS and Easton gulp whisky shots. Easton smokes a cigar while Stans cleans his disassembled ACP M1911 pistol.

STANS

How'd you find this guy, Connor?

EASTON

Through his shrink at the VA.

STANS

He's seeing a shrink? For what?

EASTON

He and two of his brown shirts were beating up a colored guy at the bus station. They were arrested and got probation, but Connor's was contingent on him seeing a shrink.

STANS

Why?

EASTON

The judge ruled Connor was the brains of the bunch, like Moe is with The Three Stooges.

Stans chuckles and starts to reassemble his M1911.

EASTON (CONT'D)

The guy's perfect. He's a ninth-grade drop-out, Korean War vet. His shrink says Connor needs to feel like he's part of something important. That's why he joined Rockwell's American Nazi Party.

STANS

And you trust this bozo?

EASTON

To a point. I told him we wanted him because of his war service. But I had to change a few details; make it sound more plausible.

STANS
(disdainfully)
Like what?

EASTON
I told him Bruce Wilson was a member
of the Socialist Workers Party.

STANS
Where'd you come up with that shit?

EASTON
Connor demonstrated outside their
headquarters once. I told him the
FBI was using Wilson without his
knowledge to keep tabs on the Party.

STANS
What's Connor know about us?

EASTON
That we're stepping in because the
leftists in Mexico City know who's
FBI and CIA down there.

STANS
They probably do. Look, this change
in our timetable... I still don't
like it. The June target date was
perfect.

EASTON
Last month he was ready to go,
remember?

STANS
Yeah, so?

EASTON
He did a run-through just to prove
it could be done. And that was when
circumstances weren't in our favor.

STANS
But no one else is ready now.

EASTON
That's the beauty of it. We don't
need their support. The fewer loose
ends we have, the less we have to
clean up. Plus, our man says things
are even more lax now. Look, if we
have to abort, fine. We just aim for
June as planned.

STANS

Alright. Just make sure Carol Blair
doesn't get wind of this. I mean it.

His M1911 reassembled, Stans stares down its barrel.

EASTON

Careful! There could be a round in
the chamber.

STANS

Not this time.

Easton looks very worried.

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

Night shift crews enter the compound.

INT. BERARD'S OFFICE

Latham and Berard are alone. Berard puts files in his satchel.

BERARD

You hear anything from SMOTH?

LATHAM

He told me about a similar threat
from Moldavia.

BERARD

So you don't think it's a hoax.

LATHAM

I'd settle for a KGB provocation.

BERARD

Speaking of which, do you intend to
meet with Yuri Gvozdev?

LATHAM

Yes.

BERARD

You have a unique relationship with
him. I hope it survives this.

Berard grabs his coat. Latham helps him put it on.

BERARD (CONT'D)

Thank you. I want this handed off
to CI tomorrow, Warren.

LATHAM

Yes, sir. You should know that I
sent mandarin One to Mexico City.

BERARD

Why?

LATHAM

Bruce Wilson, our old New York Station #1, is there on behalf of Carol Blair.

BERARD

Is that a problem?

LATHAM

D-Int and I overheard her talking to Senator Reading. She has Wilson handing out literature there to purposely attract our attention and that of the Federales.

Berard sighs, frustrated.

BERARD

I wish I could tell you what she's up to, but I honestly don't know.

LATHAM

New York also has a photo of her, Robert Welch and a neo-Nazi named Danny Burrell, who's dead. The coroner says it was suicide, but the NYPD still want to talk to her.

BERARD

She and Welch think they run foreign policy. I can see him consorting with neo-Nazis; but why she'd be around that rot is beyond me.

LATHAM

May I ask a personal question?

BERARD

Go ahead.

LATHAM

I was wondering if you're alright. I saw you're taking nitroglycerin now instead of aspirin.

BERARD

It's controlling my angina.

LATHAM

I'm glad to hear that.

BERARD

I'm not ready to go, not just yet.

EXT. MEXICO CITY - PLAZA DEL ZÓCALO - DAY

INSERT: "Plaza del Zócalo, Mexico City"

Location of Mexico's Day of the Dead celebration. Crammed with people. Wilson walks about with a shoulder bag, taking photos with a Polaroid camera. At the Metropolitan Cathedral he takes pictures of the streets, then walks to...

SAGRARIO METROPOLITAN - A SMALL CHURCH NEXT TO THE CATHEDRAL

POLICEMEN move the crowds back from the church. Two black Cadillac sedans pull up. Mexican PRESIDENT MATEOS gets out of the second car and enters the church; a BODYGUARD is with him.

Wilson snaps their picture and the two sedans. The men in them pay no attention to him. Wilson checks his watch. He puts the self-developing photos in his shoulder bag and leaves.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - NIGHT (EVENING)

Stock footage of the National Mall.

RIZIK'S DEPARTMENT STORE

In the picture window are women's winter fashions of the day and a sign that reads "Winter Sale."

INT. MAIN FLOOR

Latham rides the 'Up' escalator. He looks below at the women and few men crowding the fragrance and jewelry counters, including one conspicuous MAN IN A FEDORA AND OVERCOAT.

SECOND FLOOR - WOMEN'S WEAR

Racks of overpriced clothes are arrayed against the walls and windows; in the center are long, tufted-leather couches. YURI GVOZDEV wanders among the full-length dresses until he espies Latham getting off the escalator. The two meander to a corner.

LATHAM

I saw your shadow downstairs, Yuri.

GVOZDEV

Buying jewelry. He had an argument with his girlfriend. So, what manner of intrigue is this?

LATHAM

An anonymous caller said three countries on your side of the Curtain have put a \$100,000 bounty on President Kennedy's head.

(MORE)

LATHAM (CONT'D)

And that the Soviets will send three subs with 500 men to Cuba to help Vice President Johnson in case there were any reprisals.

GVOZDEV

To help Johnson?

Latham nods.

GVOZDEV (CONT'D)

Then this person is an idiot, just like Johnson! It is not true.

LATHAM

Could it be a provocation?

GVOZDEV

Would you admit to one against us?

LATHAM

No. But this time I need you to prove to me it isn't true.

GVOZDEV

Are you - is this a threat?

LATHAM

If it sounds that way, I apologize; the threat isn't mine. But make no mistake - if this is true, no admiral, no general, no fleet or airborne commander is going to wait for orders from Washington before firing on the Soviet Union.

GVOZDEV

(incredulous)

The summit in Vienna, the Bay of Pigs... Warren, Premier Khrushchev holds the upper hand over Kennedy. There is no reason for him to order such a thing. If this is true, then a cabal exists inside the Kremlin.

LATHAM

I hope not. But until you do know, you might want to move your family to your dacha on the Black Sea.

Gvozdev is truly shaken.

GVOZDEV

If this is true, then you and Fiona are also under threat.

LATHAM

The difference is we'll be here
with you. If it ends badly, at
least we're with a friend.

GVOZDEV

(touched by this)
Leave now. We will talk later.

Latham turns around and leaves.

EXT. CHINATOWN - NIGHT

Latham and Fiona stroll along the street packed with residents
and sightseers, all seemingly oblivious to the cold.

LATHAM

Moldavia... Why the hell Moldavia?

FIONA

Maybe we'll know more when I hear
from Havana station.

Latham shrugs.

FIONA (CONT'D)

I hope your gambit with Gvozdev
hasn't cost you a friendship.

LATHAM

I'm hoping I live to regret it.

Fiona pulls Latham close as they stroll.

ACT THREE

EXT. MEXICO CITY - HOTEL AMIGO - NIGHT

The sign, "Hostal Amigo," is hand-drawn. The entrance has a
wrought iron gate to keep vandals out and residents in.

INT. HOTEL ROOM

The walls are pink, with bed linen to match. A "flamingo" lamp
is lit. At the window are a small table and two mismatched
vinyl chairs. Bazzo sits in one of them and drinks a Coke;
several more unopened bottles of Coke are on the table. There
is a KNOCK on the door. Bazzo warily walks up to it.

BAZZO

Yes?

SCHOTT

The Footman.

Bazzo opens the door. In steps Schott, CIA's Mexico City station chief.

SCHOTT (CONT'D)
Will Schott. Welcome to Mexico.

BAZZO
Paul Barry.

As they shake hands, Schott's sports jacket parts, revealing a .38 revolver in a holster on Schott's hip.

BAZZO (CONT'D)
Want a Coke? It's probably warm.

SCHOTT
That's all you got?

BAZZO
It's either that or brown water.

SCHOTT
A Coke'll have to do, then.

Bazzo turns around, a look of disdain on his face as he heads to the table. Schott follows him. Bazzo opens a bottle and hands it to Schott. They sit.

SCHOTT (CONT'D)
What do you think of the place?

BAZZO
I'm trying not to.

SCHOTT
Hey, it's clean and las prostitutas never use it.

BAZZO
At least somebody has taste.

SCHOTT
Take a look above the bed.

Bazzo gets up and goes to the bed. Above the headboard is a large black moth encased in a glass frame.

BAZZO
What is that, a moth?

SCHOTT
Yep, 'una gran polilla negra.' The locals say, 'If a large black moth enters the house, you have to sweep it out immediately or someone will die soon after.'

BAZZO

I'm guessing this isn't the honeymoon suite.

SCHOTT

We rent the room by the month and hang that on the wall to keep the trade out when we're not using it.

BAZZO

So, what's Bruce Wilson been up to?

SCHOTT

You know he's a private citizen now.

BAZZO

You're not running him, are you?

SCHOTT

Me? No - but someone is. He's been downtown handing out anti-communist leaflets and copies of the John Birch Society Blue Book.

BAZZO

I'm surprised Mateos didn't have the Federales arrest Wilson.

SCHOTT

They want to know who his pals are. But I'm sure he's spotted all of us by now, especially the unwashed.

BAZZO

Why is that?

SCHOTT

Most of them are sent here with more training in English than in Spanish. After a while their English improves but their Spanish doesn't.

BAZZO

Where's Wilson staying?

SCHOTT

At the Hotel Moneda. I'll pick you up tomorrow morning at eleven.

He finishes his Coke and gets up. Bazzo sees him to the door.

SCHOTT (CONT'D)

Oh, if you return the bottle you can get your two centavos deposit back.

Bazzo rolls his eyes as Schott grins and leaves.

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

The compound is partly lit by floodlamps.

INT. SCIF

RAMONA, 30 and Black, sits before a TSEC/KL-7 cipher machine, receiving a message, numerically enciphered. She decrypts it and puts it in a folder, then gets up and leaves.

OPERATIONS ROOM - DUTY DESK

Manned by NIGHT DUTY OFFICERS JAMES OWENS and PETE FARRELL, and MISSION PLANNING'S WILSON BRADLEY. Ramona brings the folder to Owens. He reads the message, checks the 24-hour wall clock - 03:40 - then picks up the Red phone.

INT. LATHAM'S BEDROOM

Latham and Fiona are snuggled together, asleep. The phone RINGS, waking them both. Latham gets up and goes into the...

LIVING ROOM

A Red light BLINKS on the phone as it RINGS. Latham rolls a thumbwheel switch beneath the phone then answers it.

LATHAM

Latham...

CROSSCUT OWENS WITH LATHAM

OWENS

It's James Owens at the Duty Desk, sir. You requested a call if we received commo related to the threat against Lancer. Do you want me to read it?

LATHAM

No, I'm coming in.

BACK TO SCENE

Latham hangs up and stumbles back into the...

BEDROOM

Latham enters. Fiona is concerned; she sits up in bed.

FIONA

What is it?

LATHAM

The Ops Room has commo on the Kennedy threat.

FIONA

Can I help with anything?

LATHAM

I'll let you know.

He heads into the bathroom.

INT. OPERATIONS ROOM

Latham enters looking haggard and without a tie. He approaches Owens who hands him the decrypted message.

OWENS

Punta Gorda's this posh waterfront section of Cienfuegos, on the south coast of Cuba. A PATHFINDER reports that over several months, long-time residents are being moved out and replaced by the Russians. They've put up barbed wire and have guard dogs to keep everyone out.

LATHAM

How does this relate to Nagel's threat against President Kennedy?

FARRELL

Cienfuegos Bay is very deep - deep enough to accommodate submarines.

Latham gets it. Ramona enters again. She hands Latham another decrypted message and leaves. Latham reads the message and picks up the Gray phone on Owens's desk.

EXT. SAMUEL GOMPERS PARK - DAY (MORNING)

It's dawn. Latham carries a take-out bag and meets LAWRENCE JONES (SMOTH) by Gompers' statue. Latham offers him a fried egg sandwich.

JONES

I didn't think they were open now.

LATHAM

You said you were hungry.

JONES

That was just an expression.

LATHAM

I can always take it back.

JONES

You realize that's not a threat.

He snatches the sandwich from Latham. They eat while walking. Latham takes two sheets of paper from his pocket and hands them to Jones. As Jones reads...

JONES (CONT'D)
Cayo Alcatraz...

LATHAM
It's a small island in Cienfuegos Bay. Fishermen have been seeing floodlights at night there for months now. And the bay's deep enough for submarines.

JONES
I know what you're getting at. But a submarine base would be part of the Russians' overall strategy.

LATHAM
Larry, the Russians aren't going to tell Castro the base will be used to support a coup over here.

JONES
Khrushchev isn't going to tell him a lot of things. But that doesn't mean he's keeping a plot to kill Kennedy from him.

Latham HUFFS; he is frustrated and angry. He waves off Jones.

JONES (CONT'D)
What is it with you? It's as though you're only seeing what you want to see.

LATHAM
That's bullshit!

JONES
Is it? Something's going on in your head, and I sure as hell don't know what it is!

LATHAM
I ask you for help and I get this!

JONES
I am trying to help.

LATHAM
Did it ever occur to you that I might like this president?! That I want to see him succeed?!

JONES

Even more reason not to jump to conclusions, Warren! You know as well as anyone that these threats come from nutters. Kennedy hasn't been in office long enough to make any enemies behind the Curtain.

They walk on in silence. Then...

JONES (CONT'D)

I'll ask Fiona to get onto Havana station again, and I'll call GCHQ.

Latham nods, then they go off in opposite directions.

CORNER OF E STREET AND 18TH STREET - DAY (MORNING)

A crowded city bus pulls to the curb; Latham alights. As the bus pulls away he walks to the mailbox.

LATHAM

SEES TWO SMALL VERTICAL CHALK MARKS on one side at the bottom. He pulls a handkerchief from his pocket, wipes his nose, then squats to untie and tie his shoe. As he finishes he wipes the chalk marks off the mailbox. He then stands and hails a taxi.

EXT. ROGER SMITH SQUARE - ROGER SMITH HOTEL - DAY

More archival footage of this late 19th-century hotel.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - LIVING ROOM

Easton and Connor sit at the table. Connor's hair has been cut and lightened to dark brown, like Wilson's. He yawns and sips coffee. Easton draws items from a folder and puts them on the table before Easton.

EASTON

A Pennsylvania driver's license in the name of Thomas Rhodes... ID and business cards in the same name from the Philadelphia Evening Herald...

CONNOR

Why Philly?

EASTON

It's closer to your natural accent.

Connor is about to object when Easton cuts him off.

EASTON (CONT'D)

Trust me on this. You don't sound like someone who works for Time...

(MORE)

EASTON (CONT'D)

Round-trip ticket on Eastern from Philly to Mexico City... A one-way train ticket from here to Philly. When you get off the train, throw the ticket stub away. You got it?

CONNOR

How come it's just one way?

EASTON

If you're stopped for any reason and searched, all they'll find is a round-trip plane ticket back to Philly, where you, Thomas Rhodes, work for the Evening Herald.

Connor gets it and nods. Easton puts the items back in the envelope and gives it to Connor.

EASTON (CONT'D)

You drive in like I asked you to?

CONNOR

Yeah.

EASTON

Park your car on the top level of the Union Station garage so you'll remember. Leave the ticket in the glove box. When you get back to Philly, take the train back here. Buy your ticket on the train.

CONNOR

Gotcha. When am I gonna meet this guy from Army Intel?

EASTON

He'll call on you at the Comercio.

Connor has a blank look on his face.

EASTON (CONT'D)

The Hotel del Comercio? Where you're staying in Mexico City?

CONNOR

Right, right.

EASTON

You'd better get going.

They shake hands. Connor puts on his coat, grabs a travel bag and the envelope, and leaves. Easton pulls a notebook from his pocket and opens it to a page titled "CONNOR" followed by...

520 Atlantic St. SE, Apt. 5E
Ford Falcon LWL-536
Union Station Garage - Top Level
Eastern flight 107
Hotel del Comercio, Room 8

Easton checks his watch then picks up the phone and dials.

EXT. ROGER SMITH SQUARE - ROGER SMITH HOTEL

Connor leaves the hotel.

INT. GREEN SEDAN

DiLauria watches Connor cross the street and enter the parking lot. She starts her car's engine.

DILAURIA

Follows Connor's Ford Falcon to the Union Station Parking Garage. As he enters, she pulls over at a parking meter.

INT. UNION STATION - GREAT HALL

Connor checks the schedule board, sees the 08:25 train for New York City, Philadelphia and Baltimore. He joins the queue of passengers waiting by the track entrance door. DiLauria follows suit.

I/E. TRAIN CAR

The train leaves the station. Connor is nestled into a seat near the front. Several rows back, a CONDUCTOR with a coin changer hands DiLauria three dollars and two quarters.

CONDUCTOR

Three-fifty's your change.

He punches a ticket and slides it beneath the tab on the seatback in front of her.

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

A view of the compound through Gate #1.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE

The usual three piles of folders have been moved off to the side. A running tape recorder sits on Latham's desk. Latham is in his chair, listening to the tape...

NAGEL (O.S.)

...Three Iron Curtain countries
plan to pay \$100,000 for the
assassination of President Kennedy.

(MORE)

NAGEL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Five Soviet submarines carrying 500
soldiers will go to Cuba where they
will lie in wait to support Vice
President Johnson should there be
any reprisals...

The Intercom BUZZES. Latham stops the tape and answers the
Intercom.

LATHAM
Yes...

COLLETTE (O.S.)
Fiona is on Gray.

LATHAM
Okay... Get me an appointment with
Durang, soon as possible.

COLLETTE (O.S.)
Right.

Latham hangs up the Intercom and picks up the Gray phone.

LATHAM
Hi, it's Warren.

INT. FIONA'S OFFICE

Fiona is at her desk on the phone, a notepad in hand.

FIONA
I have something for you, but it
puts us in a bad spot.

CROSSCUT LATHAM WITH FIONA

LATHAM
What is it?

FIONA
A source inside STB overheard
another Czech Intel officer say the
Russians bought several boxes of
clothes in Havana. They paid the
merchants in U.S. dollars.

LATHAM
Yeah, 'cause the merchants there
can't off-load rubles; they're as
worthless as Cuba's peso.

FIONA
True, but it's likely a provocation.

LATHAM

Why do you think so?

FIONA

The Herald Tribune ran a story on how Cubans are desperate for hard currency to trade on the black market, especially dollars. We think the Russians picked up on this because of its topicality.

LATHAM

Hm, the Czechs confirming a Russian operation... It also means the Czechs are onto your source.

FIONA

Or want us to think they are. If we move on this, they'll know for certain we have a source there. So, for now we'll just sit and wait.

LATHAM

Okay, thanks for the info. See you later.

FIONA

Bye-bye.

BACK TO SCENE

Latham hangs up. He leans back in his chair and muses...

EXT. SAMUEL GOMPERS PARK - DAY (MORNING) - PAST

As Latham and Jones stroll...

JONES

...Kennedy hasn't been in office long enough to make any enemies behind the Curtain.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE - DAY - PRESENT

Latham restarts the tape recorder.

NAGEL (O.S.)

...In support of this plot in America are people from business and the military.

Latham stops the tape recorder; he looks very apprehensive. The Intercom BUZZES; he answers it.

LATHAM

Yes?

COLLETTE (O.S.)
Durang's available at 14:30.

LATHAM
Good. See if François Bisset can
meet me at close of play today -
anywhere but the West Wing.

COLLETTE (O.S.)
Right.

Latham hangs up. He checks the 24-hour wall clock, 10:50,
then gets up, grabs his coat and leaves.

EXT. 814 E STREET, NW - "THE LITTLE TAVERN" - DAY

Stock footage of this original hamburger joint that years
later became White Castle. A few taxis are parked out front.
Some utility workers queue outside the take-out window.

INT. "THE LITTLE TAVERN"

The Hacks sit on stools at the counter eating "deathballs"
(hamburger sliders) and sipping mugs of coffee. Gvozdev sits
at the far end of the counter enjoying his early lunch.

Latham enters. One of the Hacks has finished his meal and
leaves. Latham speaks to the fellow sitting between Gvozdev
and the empty stool.

LATHAM
You mind sliding over?

The Hack rolls his eyes and slides onto the empty stool.
Latham sits beside Gvozdev. The COUNTERMAN approaches them.

LATHAM (CONT'D)
Just coffee.

The Counterman leaves.

GVOZDEV
You read the horoscope in the
newspapers?

LATHAM
Once. It recommended Showdown in
the third race at Pimlico. That was
five years ago. Last I heard, the
horse still hadn't finished.

Gvozdev grins. The Counterman returns with a mug of coffee
for Latham who hands the Counterman a quarter.

GVOZDEV

There was one published recently in Dnestrovskaya Pravda; it's a newspaper in Kishinev. For aquarians it said, when soliciting business overseas, do not offer local currency; instead, offer dollars. That should tell you everything.

He puts some change on the counter and leaves, while Latham sips his coffee and mulls over Gvozdev's words.

INT. BERARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Berard, Kensington, Nealy and Latham sip coffee or tea. Each has a folder open to the decrypted messages.

LATHAM

MI6 has a source inside the STB who says the Russians purchased local clothing in Havana in bulk.

BERARD

So, the Russians did exactly as you predicted they would.

LATHAM

Yes, but MI6 believes it's related to a topical story on Cuban trade in the Herald Tribune.

BERARD

Making it a provocation.

Latham nods, albeit half-heartedly.

KENSINGTON

Well, Six's assessment is certainly good enough for me.

NEALY

There's still the fact that there are several thousand more Russian troops in Cuba than we thought, Stewart.

KENSINGTON

Yes, yes, but at least it puts this nonsense of a coup d'état to bed.

BERARD

Alright. Pass it onto CI. Now, gentlemen, I have an EXCOMM meeting.

Latham, Nealy and Kensington stand.

BERARD (CONT'D)
Oh, Warren - one minute.

Nealy and Kensington leave; Latham stays behind.

BERARD (CONT'D)
You still believe there's a plot.

LATHAM
Yes. What if it began here rather than behind the Curtain?

BERARD
You mean here in the Agency?

LATHAM
No, the Pentagon, who then would've leaked it behind the Curtain.

BERARD
For what reason?

LATHAM
I think it started as a counter-espionage operation against the GRU or the KGB. It didn't matter if the unwashed believed the plot was real or not. The point was to goad them into launching an operation against us.

BERARD
The bounty on President Kennedy.

LATHAM
Which the DIA would monitor. But then someone here decided to seize the opportunity and implement a real plot to kill Kennedy, one using the unwashed's provocation to divert attention away from the plotters.

BERARD
My God... Earlier today I learned the John Birch Society had labeled the president a traitor. Now this...

LATHAM
I'd like to move on this, sir.

BERARD
Do it quietly, Warren. Very quietly.

END