

Cool Gray Dawn

Season Three, Episode #10: "In Defense of Government"

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Episode #10: "In Defense of Government"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. HAVANA, CUBA - DAY (MORNING)

INSERT: "Havana, Cuba"

A panorama from the ketches and schooners in the marina to Calle Obispo, the main thoroughfare in Old Havana to...

THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

This enormous, neo-classical building is Cuba's opulent face to the world. An SAU-100 tank used to repel Brigade 2506 at the Bay of Pigs sits out front.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - GRAND HALL

A sweeping, Carrara-marble central staircase, guarded by a bust of José Martí, still retains the bullet holes from an earlier unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Fulgencio Batista.

THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Behind a large mahogany desk embroidered with gold leaves sits FIDEL CASTRO eating eggs and sausage. His brother RAUL and CHE GUEVARA sit at a conference table eating their breakfast. All three wear fatigues. Che's trademark beret is on the table.

FIDEL

A qué hora se supone que llega este
Homero Cristalli?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "What time is this Homero Cristalli supposed to arrive?"

CHE

Dos. Llamó anoche para confirmar.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Two. He called last night to confirm."

FIDEL

Este trotskista sólo te gusta
porque es argentino.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "You only like this Trotskyite because he's Argentine."

Che smiles impishly.

CHE

No duele. Mira, tiene seguidores en todo el mundo. Y cree que la historia se volverá inevitablemente hacia el comunismo. Eso solo hace que valga él pena escucharlo.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Doesn't hurt. Look, he has a global following. And he believes history will inevitably turn towards communism. That alone makes him worth listening to."

RAUL

Es esta conexión él haces entre la guerra nuclear y los ovnis lo que me interesa.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "It's this connection he makes between nuclear war and UFOs that interests me."

FIDEL

(recalls)

Yo también. Ese momento en medio de la noche, con los rifles en nosotros rodillas... Entonces, de repente, esta luz se lanza como una flecha entre las estrellas. Se acerca y arroja luz sobre todos nosotros. Recuerda?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Me too. That time in the middle of the night, with the rifles on our knees... Then all of a sudden this light darts like an arrow between the stars. It comes closer and sheds light on all of us. Remember?"

Che and Raul nod.

FIDEL (CONT'D)

Era redondo y enorme! El campo, las montañas, todo se iluminó como si fuera de día.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "It was round and huge! The countryside, the mountains, everything lit up as if it were daytime."

RAUL

Escuchemos lo que tiene que decir.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Let's hear what he has to say."

CHE

Si es un loco, lo enviamos a su manera. Pero si es una amenaza, lo mataremos.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "If he's a crackpot, we send him on his way. But if he's a threat, we'll kill him."

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

Stock footage of The National Mall and the Lincoln Memorial.

WHITE HOUSE - THE ROSE GARDEN

WARREN LATHAM and President Kennedy's PRESS SECRETARY FRANÇOIS BISSET are walking along a path past a hedgerow interspersed with red, yellow and white roses.

BISSET

There's still this sense that something's up.

LATHAM

Two of your boss's enemies on the Joint Chiefs are gone, François.

BISSET

That just moved things further underground, There's talk now that the Senate may investigate Bobby Baker. If they do, LBJ's name is sure to come up.

LATHAM

You're just now figuring out how crooked he is?

BISSET

It's not just him. Remember when the FBI arrested Billy Sol Estes?

LATHAM

Yeah, back in April. Something to do with cotton allotments.

BISSET

Last year, Henry Marshall from Agriculture was investigating him. Marshall was found dead, shot five times. The FBI ruled it a suicide.

LATHAM

You're kidding.

BISSET

Hell, you know people at the Bureau. Go see for yourself!

Bisset is agitated. Latham holds up his hand to calm Bisset.

LATHAM

What's the connection to LBJ?

BISSET

He's given millions to Johnson over the years. After the FBI arrested Estes, they arrested his chief accountant, George Krutilek. Two of his business partners were found dead, Harold Orr and Coleman Wade. They supposedly committed suicide.

Latham shakes his head in disgust.

BISSET (CONT'D)

I know. Sounds more like something your Special Section would arrange.

Latham gives Bisset a sidelong, change-the-subject glance.

BISSET (CONT'D)

Anyway, um, Estes told Wilson Tucker over at Agriculture he'd embarrass the Kennedy administration if the investigation wasn't halted.

LATHAM

Meaning he'd embarrass Kennedy?

BISSET

No, Johnson.

LATHAM

Hmm, I can't imagine Hoover letting that happen. He'd rather hold something over Johnson's head; get him to do his bidding.

BISSET

For me, the fact Hoover's calling those deaths suicides means he and Johnson are planning something to embarrass the president.

LATHAM

(waggishly)

Why? Your boss isn't looking to drop Johnson from the ticket, is he?

Bisset shrugs. Latham realizes something is up.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Don't play games with me, François! Is Kennedy planning to drop Johnson from the ticket?

BISSET

Looks like it.

Latham quickly grows grim.

LATHAM
What's LBJ got on your boss?

BISSET
Come on, you know he sleeps around.

LATHAM
The whole town knows that. What else?

BISSET
I don't know what else! That's why I need your help.

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

A small sign on the chain-link fence features a bald eagle and reads "CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 2430 E ST. NW."

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

The 24-hour wall clock reads 09:10. COLLETTE DOWD pores over a file as Latham enters toting his satchel. Collette looks up, surprised at first then with admonishment.

COLLETTE
Where've you been?

Latham is taken aback.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)
Berard's looking for you. He wants to see you PDQ.

LATHAM
He say why?

COLLETTE
(flippantly)
Oh, yeah. He tells me everything.

LATHAM
Keep it up, Collette, and you'll be in for a spanking.

COLLETTE
Already had one last night.

She sports a mischievous little grin. Latham arches an eyebrow and lays his satchel on her desk.

LATHAM
Ask D-Int to drop by when he's free.

COLLETTE

Wouldn't it be easier for you to go up to Langley?

LATHAM

Where MOTHER's got everyone looking over their shoulders?

COLLETTE

Guess not. Oh, Mr. Kensington's out sick. Something about him drinking the water when he was in Ecuador.

Now Latham grins mischeivously. Collette gets up and takes the satchel into Latham's Office as he leaves.

BERARD'S OFFICE

WILSON BERARD is at his desk sipping tea. An open folder lies before him. A tea service is alongside his desk from which Latham pours himself a cup then takes a seat.

BERARD

You were busy earlier?

LATHAM

The president's press secretary asked to see me.

BERARD

Nothing too earth-shattering, I hope.

LATHAM

They're worried about LBJ being caught up in the switches with Billie Sol Estes and Bobby Baker.

BERARD

If you're looking for a snake pit, Dallas is a good place to start.

LATHAM

One could say that about New York or Chicago, sir.

BERARD

As far as I'm aware, the vice-president doesn't have a home in either of those cities.

Berard's dislike for Johnson is evident; so Latham just nods.

BERARD (CONT'D)

Now, ever hear of Juan Posadas or Homero Cristalli?

LATHAM

No.

BERARD

Well, 'Juan Posadas' is the nom de guerre of Homero Cristalli; he's a Trotskyite from Argentina.

LATHAM

Like Che Guevara.

BERARD

Except Posadas is an even more vulgar Marxist, if that's possible. The man embraces nuclear war. He believes the Soviets should preemptively strike the U.S.

Berard hands the folder to Latham who sets down his teacup and takes the folder. Inside it are photos of Posadas, press clippings, Field Reports and notes.

BERARD (CONT'D)

Posadas says history is inevitably unfolding toward communism; and a nuclear holocaust would hasten the transition. But what he's most noted for are his views on aliens - not immigrants, mind you, but the, um, interstellar kind.

LATHAM

A Trotskyite, warmongering UFO nut?

BERARD

With thousands of followers worldwide. Last month, he gave a speech in Buenos Aires on UFOs, time travel and aliens. He thinks NASA's limited by its capitalist mindset. And any species advanced enough to travel between the galaxies would have evolved beyond capitalism.

LATHAM

Oh, of course.

BERARD

And he has an ego; he's a publicity hound; something one can exploit.

LATHAM

I see it here. But he just sounds pretty ridiculous to me.

BERARD

Che Guevara was at that conference, and now he's a believer. So much so that he has Posadas flying to Cuba today to meet with Castro.

LATHAM

And we're without a station there... Shouldn't this go to Miami?

BERARD

No. As you know, Schott takes his orders from Bobby Kennedy, who says Posadas is just another crackpot.

LATHAM

But he's meeting with Fidel.

BERARD

Schott would just send Alpha 66 to shoot up the hotel where Posadas is staying. If Castro buys into Posadas' theory, he might convince the Presidium to launch a preemptive strike against us.

Berard's words weigh heavily on Latham.

LATHAM

How did we come by this?

BERARD

MI6. Their brief was sent to me via the Ops Room and I sent it to Miami.

LATHAM

Where Bobby Kennedy dismissed it.

Berard nods.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

So, what do you want me to do, sir?

BERARD

Speak to TSD. Learn as much as you can in the short time you have on Posadas, UFOs, the whole lot. Then speak with Bill Nealy; he's aware of all this. We need a counter plan, Warren - and quickly.

LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

Collette has her earphones on as she transcribes from the Dictaphone machine. Latham enters. She stops the machine and lowers her earphones.

COLLETTE

D-Int will be here around four.

LATHAM

Okay. Where's mandarin One?

COLLETTE

Both mandarins are in The Hole.

LATHAM

Good. Get Bazzo up here then get Gene Portman at TSD on the phone.

She picks up the Red phone as Latham enters his office.

THE HOLE

PAUL "BAZZO" BARRY and CARLA DILAURIA pore over folders with various documents. The Red phone RINGS; Bazzo answers it.

BAZZO

1-1-3-7...

COLLETTE (O.S.)

The boss wants to see you, Paul.

BAZZO

Be right up.
(hangs up)
Boss wants me.

DILAURIA

Hm, figures.

BAZZO

Huh? What's that all about?

DiLauria shrugs.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

Come on, Carla...

DILAURIA

He asked for you, so get going.

Bazzo gets up; he's frustrated.

BAZZO

What is it with you, huh? All I asked was what's bothering you.

DILAURIA

I told you, it's nothing.

BAZZO

Don't bullshit me, Carla.

DILAURIA

Maybe he only asked for you because he's still pissed about that dust-up we had back in Quito.

BAZZO

No... That's over and done with.

DILAURIA

And you know that for a fact.

BAZZO

Geezus, you have any idea how many times he and I have gone at it?

DILAURIA

It's not the same, Paul. You guys have been friends since forever.

BAZZO

That's got nothing to do with it.

DILAURIA

No?

BAZZO

No. Remember when he and SMOTH had a falling out? They're friends again.

DILAURIA

He's not gonna be that way with me.

BAZZO

And why not?

DILAURIA

Because I'm a woman, damnit!

BAZZO

Name one time he's treated you any differently than he's treated me.

DiLauria looks away. Bazzo sits on the edge of her desk; he grows more compassionate.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

Look, he expects you to say your piece. If he didn't, neither of us would still be here. Once in a while, yeah, he won't agree with you. That doesn't mean you're wrong. It just means he's exercising one of the perks of being the boss: He gets to run off at the mouth.

DiLauria curls a smile. Bazzo winks at her then leaves.

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Latham is on the Red phone, scribbling notes on a legal pad. There is a KNOCK on the door; Bazzo enters. Latham points to a chair where Bazzo takes a seat.

LATHAM

Okay, what time's good for you?

PORTMAN (O.S.)

How's one o'clock sound?

LATHAM

Fine. Meet me at the Old Angler's Inn. It's on the Canal Trail.

PORTMAN (O.S.)

I know where it is. See you there.

Latham hangs up. Bazzo points inquiringly to the Red phone.

LATHAM

Gene Portman at TSD. Berard wants me to look into this Juan Posadas.

BAZZO

That Marxist, UFO conspiracy nut.

LATHAM

Yeah. He's in Cuba meeting with Castro.

BAZZO

Wow, this must be a really slow day for you.

LATHAM

Hardly. Che Guevara's one of Posadas' devoted followers. If Castro signs on, he might talk the Presidium into a first-strike.

BAZZO

Oh... So, what's my brief?

LATHAM

I'm handling it. I have something else for you. I met with François Bisset earlier. He says there's still a plot against Kennedy, but it's gone further underground. He also said Kennedy plans to dump Johnson in '64.

BAZZO

Really? Why?

Latham pulls a new legal pad from his desk drawer and tosses it to Bazzo, who pulls out a pen to take notes.

LATHAM

Because Johnson's in bed with
Billie Sol Estes and Bobby Baker.

BAZZO

I know Estes is under investigation.

LATHAM

And Baker's likely to face one.

BAZZO

If I were LBJ, that'd be reason
enough to take out Kennedy.

LATHAM

That's what I was thinking. Estes
says if the investigation continues,
he'll reveal something to embarrass
the administration.

BAZZO

He's got something on Kennedy?

LATHAM

Bisset took that to mean LBJ. But
he thinks Johnson and Hoover are
already planning to embarrass
Kennedy unless he calls off any
future investigation of Johnson.

BAZZO

LBJ's desperate to be president. But
he can forget it if he's impeached.

LATHAM

Hey, if Johnson's indicted his
career's over. Now, since the Estes
investigation started, three people
have died. First was Henry Marshall,
an investigator with Agriculture.
Then after Estes' chief account
George Krutilek was arrested, his
business partners Harold Orr and
Coleman Wade died. The FBI says all
three committed suicide.

BAZZO

Sounds to me like Johnson and
Hoover are past the planning stage.

LATHAM

Could be. I want you to go digging
on Johnson.

(MORE)

LATHAM (CONT'D)
Call the Dallas Base, then get in
touch with Los Angeles and Chicago.

BAZZO
Boss, Johnson's not busy in either
of those cities.

LATHAM
No, but President Kennedy is. And
he's their target.

Bazzo stands, curling his hand around the legal pad.

BAZZO
Right. Um, you may have a problem
with Carla.

LATHAM
What?

BAZZO
That disagreement you two had in
Ecuador? She thinks you hold it
against her.

LATHAM
Oh, for God sakes! Since when did
she get so sensitive?

BAZZO
Since Berlin.

This strikes a sobering tone with Latham who nods to himself.

LATHAM
Alright. Give her the lead on the
Kennedy side. You take Johnson.

Bazzo nods and leaves. Latham looks at the 24-hour wall clock -
11:01 - then presses the intercom.

COLLETTE (O.S.)
You rang?

LATHAM
Ask SMOTH to meet me at 11:30, usual
place. If he can't, I'll call him.

COLLETTE (O.S.)
Right.

Latham hangs up the intercom.

EXT. SAMUEL GOMPERS MEMORIAL PARK - DAY

Latham and MI6's LAWRENCE JONES (SMOTH) stroll down a path.

LATHAM

I can't send either mandarin into Cuba. The DGI know their faces. They'd be arrested in a heartbeat.

JONES

So you want to send Fiona there.

LATHAM

Yeah, I want to put her in harm's way! The DGI don't know her. Plus, she can give me a quick assessment of how the Cubans view Posadas.

JONES

Okay, I'll have the embassy introduce her as an employee.

LATHAM

No! I don't want her to have any contact with the embassy or the station. The DGI keep tabs on your people. If they see Fiona anywhere near the embassy, they'll arrest her.

JONES

I take it then you don't want me to tell my masters in London either.

LATHAM

I don't want anyone to know.

JONES

So let her go as a BBC journalist. She's already backstopped.

LATHAM

You know how Castro spouts about equality across race and gender? That's just to embarrass the West. Truth is Cuba treats Blacks like shit, same as we do here. It's even worse for Black women. They're shut out of everything except for char work. Fiona's best cover is being a Black woman. That way, wherever she goes, they'll just ignore her.

JONES

You realize if this blows up, I'll be looking for a vacant situation.

LATHAM

Larry, if this blows up, I'll lose the only woman I ever loved.

They continue their stroll.

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

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

INT. OPERATIONS ROOM

The usual PURL of chatter, teletype machines and RINGING phones. Wall maps of Europe and Asia are still there but only maps of U.S. cities and the Western Hemisphere are dotted with RED, GREEN, YELLOW and WHITE STICKPINS.

DUTY OFFICERS JARED STOKES and TOM PERCY man the Duty Desk with MISSION PLANNING'S REID NICHOLS. The 24-hour wall clock reads 12:10. Latham enters carrying the folder on Posadas and walks to the Duty Desk. He hands the folder to Nichols.

LATHAM

NKO and for immediate action. We're sending an MI6 officer into Havana, soon as possible. No one at MI6's Havana station is to be notified.

STOKES

Is that the Posadas brief, sir?

LATHAM

Yes.

NICHOLS

(as an aside)
Guy's a goddamn lunatic.

PERCY

Who else would want to start World War Three?

STOKES

We already have that brief here.
Who are we sending in?

LATHAM

Fiona Jeffries.

The Duty Desk comes to a full, quiet stop.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

She's already backstopped as a BBC journalist. She needs to stay in Old Havana where this Juan Posadas is giving a presentation tomorrow at the Plaza de la Revolución.

Nichols opens a binder and goes through its pages.

NICHOLS

He's booked for three days at the Hotel Santa Isabel; that's in Old Havana. We could put her there.

PERCY

Miss Jeffries shouldn't stay there any longer than that, sir.

LATHAM

Agreed.

STOKES

If we're going to book her in the same hotel as Posadas, why not try to arrange an interview with him?

LATHAM

If you can, that'd be great, Jared.

STOKES

The guy's a publicity hound. He'll relish the chance to spread more of his Marxist-Alien nonsense.

LATHAM

Have whoever speaks Spanish arrange it.

STOKES

I'll do it, sir.

He borrows the binder from Nichols then dials the Gray phone.

LATHAM

Thanks. Reid, see to it that she gets into Havana early enough.

NICHOLS

If I send her to Kingston this evening, she can take a 6:30 A.M. flight from there to Havana. She'll be there in an hour.

LATHAM

Good, she's on her way over. Tom, I'm meeting with D-Int later. We may need some sort of agit-prop activity to counter Posadas, depending on what D-Int says. In any event, I want the Special Projects Team available at a moment's notice.

PERCY

You planning to take him out?

LATHAM

I'll do whatever I have to do.

PERCY

Yes, sir. Um, I believe they're training at Fort McNair right now.

LATHAM

Put them on stand-by.

PERCY

Right. I assume your agit-prop's intended to fit into this 48-hour window with Posadas in Havana?

LATHAM

Yes. Now let's get a move on. I have to get to a meeting, but I should be back by 15:00. If you need me, I'll be at the Old Angler's Inn. Let Miss Jeffries know.

Latham gets up and leaves. Stokes is still on the Gray phone. Percy picks up his Gray phone and dials. Nichols pulls a ham sandwich on white bread from a paper bag.

NICHOLS

Who needs Oysters Rockefeller at the Old Angler's Inn when you can have a good ol' ham sandwich.

Percy rolls his eyes. Then, from his Gray phone...

OPERATOR (O.S.)

Fort McNair. How may I direct your call?

ACT TWO

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - C&O CANAL - DAY

A panorama from the C&O Canal Trail on the Potomac River, across MacArthur Boulevard to...

THE OLD ANGLER'S INN

A Tudor home converted into a restaurant. In addition to the dining hall, there is al fresco dining in...

THE BEER GARDEN

Noisy, even though it is only half-filled with customers. It features a pastel patio, where wrought iron chairs and tables are shielded from direct sunlight by green and white patio umbrellas.

AT A FAR TABLE

Latham dines with his guest, GENE PORTMAN - mid-30s, thin, with black horn-rimmed glasses, a goofier-looking Clark Kent. Latham eats Oysters Rockefeller, surprisingly, along with his usual, a Diet Rite Cola. Portman wolfs down an oversized cheeseburger and french fries, and drinks a stout beer. His cheeks, ruddy from the beer, make his face appear sunburnt.

PORTMAN

Let me explain it this way. In our world, you can move about in three physical dimensions - height, length and width. But you can only move forward in time. That doesn't mean it isn't a dimension though.

LATHAM

For all practical purposes it isn't.

PORTMAN

No, not necessarily.

LATHAM

Uh huh. I can see this is gonna be a long lunch.

PORTMAN

Why? Am I talking too much?

LATHAM

No, no. It's fascinating. Go on.

PORTMAN

UFOs have been in the news a lot lately. Yet, go back to 1492 and in the ship's log Columbus describes a UFO rising from the ocean and hovering over the ship.

LATHAM

That's what drinking sea water will do to you.

Portman laughs and points to Latham.

PORTMAN

The guys all said you were funny.

LATHAM

And the guys were right.

PORTMAN

If you go back thousands of years, you'll find depictions of UFOs in paintings, on murals, in caves...

(MORE)

PORTMAN (CONT'D)

How they're interpreted is, you know, a cultural thing. But if objects seen that long ago resemble ones we see today, then these UFOs aren't a recent phenomenon.

LATHAM

So the UFOs in ancient times are the same ones we're seeing now?

PORTMAN

Yeah, possibly.

LATHAM

Possibly. Is this where we get into time and the fourth dimension?

PORTMAN

Not yet. It's coming though.

LATHAM

Good. I've seen some ancient art with flying saucers and whatnot. I wasn't expecting perfect depictions of them, but they don't even look like other drawings of UFOs from the same period.

PORTMAN

Does a '62 Buick look like one from 1950?

LATHAM

Geezus, don't tell me they're making Buicks up on Mars somewhere.

PORTMAN

No! What I mean is the new cars have fins, but the old ones look like a Sherman tank.

LATHAM

So you're saying UFOs update their model lines every few years?

PORTMAN

Um, something like that. You know about the grandfather paradox?

LATHAM

That's where someone from the future goes back in time and kills his grandparents before they ever had children, which would then mean the time-traveler wouldn't exist.

(MORE)

LATHAM (CONT'D)

So, for time travel to be possible, you'd have to somehow avoid what in effect is a logical contradiction.

PORTMAN

Hey, you got it!

LATHAM

So, we're moving on from Buicks?

PORTMAN

Huh? Oh, yeah. Now, this isn't just about who would or wouldn't be alive today. Future events could be altered or not even exist - all depending on what past event was changed or stopped from taking place. This timeline - the one we live in right now - this can't be altered, no matter what.

LATHAM

Even if I went back and didn't touch anything? I just stayed in my spaceship and waved at ol' granddad?

PORTMAN

Do that and you'd probably give him a heart attack.

Latham looks surprised - and a little offended.

PORTMAN (CONT'D)

Who you are today is an accumulation of past events. Those experiences helped shape your views and your thoughts. Alter just one past experience, no matter how subtly, and it not only affects you but countless others.

LATHAM

Give me an example.

PORTMAN

Okay. Think of all the people that are peripheral to your family and friends, the ones you'd call total strangers.

LATHAM

Which, up until now, would include you.

The virtual lightbulb goes on in Portman's head, as evidenced by the bright look on his face.

PORTMAN

Yeah, that's right! Okay, say you're standing near the edge of a subway platform. Just as the train approaches, the guy next to you feels faint and starts to fall on the tracks. You yank him back, saving his life!

LATHAM

I feel better already.

PORTMAN

But then you get on the subway and leave, blending in with the crowd. The guy whose life you just saved has no idea it was you. If a time traveler had introduced an event in your past, one that made you want to turn away and not be a good samaritan that day, the guy would be dead. Not only has your life changed, you've altered his future and everyone touched by him.

Latham is no longer glib as the implications of this sink in.

LATHAM

Hmm...

PORTMAN

All I'm saying is that being on this timeline means the events in our past are fixed. They define you and your environment. If you altered the basic fabric of events, an entirely new universe would have to be created to accommodate all the permutations resulting from that one appearance back in time. Now each person affected by you has their own universe affected. That requires an exponential number of universes to accommodate every one of their possible permutations. Just imagine the chaos if time travel were available to everyone. The possible number of universes necessary for all the permutations to occur is like saying infinity plus one! The universe we live in would no longer exist as anything remotely coherent if time travelers are constantly changing history. That's why I don't believe in this theory of multiple universes.

LATHAM

So you're saying you don't believe
in time travel either.

PORTMAN

Not exactly.

Exasperated, Latham drops his fork on his plate.

PORTMAN (CONT'D)

Wait, wait, wait, wait. Let me tell
you what I think is a more likely
scenario. There are more dimensions
within our universe; just not an
infinite number of them. Obviously,
we're unable to see them from our
three-dimensional world where time
is rigid - for us, that is.

LATHAM

Is this finally where time and the
fourth dimension come in?

PORTMAN

Yeah. UFOs aren't hallucinations or
clouds. They're part of this
universe, going back through
recorded history and even further.
We know they're solid objects
because they can be seen on radar
and they leave physical traces here,
like depressions in the ground, or
burnt residue. So, are they from
another planet? Possibly.

Latham is about to interrupt but Portman cuts him off.

PORTMAN (CONT'D)

But, it's just as likely that
they're from right here on Earth,
from a dimension beyond what we can
see. We know for a fact that,
despite their advanced technology,
UFOs have crashed landed here in
the 20th century.

LATHAM

Why do they crash if they have such
advanced technology?

Portman is very animated now, gesticulating nonstop.

PORTMAN

Think of it like this. Bird strikes
can damage a plane's engines and
cause them to crash, right?

(MORE)

PORTMAN (CONT'D)

We have experiments that prove low-frequency sound waves can scare the birds away from airports. This infrasound is below the range of what we can hear, which is 20 megahertz.

LATHAM

That's what I figured.

PORTMAN

Hey, good guess! But even so, low-frequency noise has a large annoyance potential for humans. You don't hear it but your body does. It can cause headaches, tiredness, lack of concentration, irritation, and pressure on the eardrum. It can even kill you.

Latham is genuinely shocked to hear this.

PORTMAN (CONT'D)

Now, let's suppose low-frequency noise is implemented at major airports near large bodies of water, which, by the way, has been done. Airport workers are getting physically ill for no apparent reason. Some who were healthy die after developing these mysterious ailments. A year passes. Now it's 1963, and we learn that the health issues are brought on by the use of low-frequency sound. So we permanently ban the use of low-frequency noise at all airports. 100 years from now, this one-year episode isn't even a footnote in history. So, now it's 2062. We're the Jetsons, zooming all over the place. We develop an anti-gravity drive for our new circular and cigar-shaped spacecraft. The propulsion and navigation systems are tested against all the technology that's current in 2062; stuff we couldn't even dream of today. You with me so far?

Latham nods anxiously in agreement.

PORTMAN (CONT'D)

Okay. The propulsion system pulls the fabric of space-time toward the craft;

(MORE)

PORTMAN (CONT'D)

that's rather than pushing thrust out the back of the engines to propel the craft forward.

LATHAM

Like jet engines work today.

PORTMAN

Like jet engines work today, right. By doing this, our spacecraft has managed to not only overcome gravity, it reaches and surpasses the speed of light! Thus, it can now travel along this single space-timeline of our universe, making itself a time traveler. Now, the spacecraft arrives here in 1962 - a hundred years in the past for the folks in the spacecraft. It flies around the globe, gets tracked on radar and is seen by hundreds of people, whom the Air Force calls kooks. It comes close to Idlewild Airport where the low-frequency noise is being used to keep the birds away. The UFO leaves the area and is then seen skipping about erratically until it crashes somewhere in the woods or in the desert or the ocean. Why? Because the low-frequency noise interfered with its navigation system. Not only that, it has an horrific effect on the UFO's occupants, made worse by the fact that they'd never been exposed to low-frequency noise in their home environment.

LATHAM

And this is because there'd be no need to test the navigation system 100 years in the future against an ancient technology that was discontinued after a year.

PORTMAN

Which isn't even in recorded history, mind you. Yet, that crash is now a part of our space-timeline. It exists within the chain of events that make up this world and this dimension. It cannot be undone.

MID-SHOW BREAK

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

A few CIA officers stroll across the compound.

INT. OPERATIONS ROOM

FIONA JEFFRIES sits with Stokes and Nichols while Percy fields phone calls. Maps of Havana are on Nichols' desk.

STOKES

Your interview with Posadas is at eleven AM tomorrow in the hotel courtyard. I'll be going with you to act as interpreter and photographer.

FIONA

That's good. My Spanish is limited to 'Ponte las pilas en la radio.'

STOKES

Put the batteries in the radio?

FIONA

It came in quite handy at the time.

As Stokes grins Latham enters. Once Fiona sees him, Latham's professional demeanor drops; his eyes brighten like he's seeing her for the first time - something everyone notices.

LATHAM

Miss Jeffries....

FIONA

Mr. Latham.

LATHAM

Where are you with the briefing?

STOKES

We're going over maps of Havana and some personal details on Posadas - the guy's a caffeine addict.

LATHAM

What about the bolthole?

NICHOLS

Sorry, sir. No joy on that.

FIONA

But they did manage to secure an interview with Posadas for me.

LATHAM

I'm sorry about that; I should've remembered you don't speak Spanish.

FIONA

That's okay; Jared's coming along
as my interpreter and photographer.

Latham is somewhat taken aback as Stokes nods dutifully.

FIONA (CONT'D)

From what I gather, Posadas is
anxious to tell the Western world
how they're facing an apocalypse.

LATHAM

(relieved)

And you'll have someone to watch
your back... Good move, Jared.

STOKES

Thank you, sir.

LATHAM

Posadas expects both of you, right?

STOKES

Yes.

LATHAM

Alright. I'll be in my office with
D-Int. Come up after you're done
here, Miss Jeffries.

FIONA

Of course, sir.

Latham nods a bit awkwardly, turns and leaves. Fiona looks at
Stokes. The two share a knowing smile.

LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

BILL NEALY looks skeptical as he waits in the chair, arms
folded. Collette looks up from editing a paper.

COLLETTE

He'll be right in. I promise.

Latham enters; he's surprised to see Nealy who stands.

LATHAM

Oh - you're early, Bill.

Collette smiles at Nealy who is impressed. Latham eyes her.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

What?

NEALY

She's just been showing off her ESP.

Latham is at sea. He shakes his head and ushers Nealy into...

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Latham sits at his desk while Nealy sits in a chair.

NEALY

You see the IG's report on MK-ULTRA?

LATHAM

No.

NEALY

He really reams out Helms. McCone's gonna put a freeze on the project.

LATHAM

Good. People will finally be able to drink their coffee again without having to worry. Now, I spoke with Berard this morning about Juan Posadas, AKA Homero Cristalli.

NEALY

Catastrophic communism meets UFOs.

LATHAM

That's him. Che arranged for him to meet with Castro today, and Berard's asked me to come up with a plan to counter that scenario - and fast.

NEALY

I hope that stops short of killing him. We don't need another martyr.

Latham gets up and emphatically waves off this possibility.

LATHAM

No. I'm sending Fiona to Havana to assess the Cubans' reaction to him.

NEALY

Meaning if they think he's crazy, we'll just ignore him.

LATHAM

Yeah. I'm hoping for some help here.

NEALY

I'll try.

LATHAM

What about Posadas' psychological profile? Anything there I can work with?

NEALY

Hmm, he's a zealot, whereas Castro's cerebral and pragmatic - despite the way we portray him to the media.

LATHAM

I'll take your word for it.

NEALY

Now, wait a second. You were here when Castro first came to us for help. He was a Marxist then and he still is; but he wasn't a communist and you know that!

LATHAM

Sorry, Bill.

NEALY

What can work in our favor is that Castro's had a lot of success - the Cuban revolution for one, and his victory at the Bay of Pigs. He may like things just as they are. On the other hand though...

LATHAM

There would be another hand.

NEALY

Castro's had his own UFO encounter; and he feels it was transformative. On that alone he might decide to throw his lot in with Posadas.

LATHAM

Damn... For a minute I thought you were onto something.

NEALY

One thing I do worry about is that the Soviets might use UFO reports to touch off mass hysteria and panic here. Or they'll find some way to use UFO sightings to overload our air warning system so it can't distinguish real targets from phantom UFOs. You combine that with a Soviet first-strike and Posadas looks like a prophet.

Latham stops, as he suddenly realizes something.

LATHAM

Helms Is reamed out for MK-ULTRA...
And the lunatic's a prophet.

NEALY

You lost me. What's the connection
between Helms and Posadas?

Latham rushes to his desk, picks up the Red phone and dials.

LATHAM

Caffeine.

STOKES (O.S.)

0-4-3-3...

LATHAM

It's Latham. Is Miss Jeffries still
there?

STOKES (O.S.)

Yes, sir.

LATHAM

Good. Have her wait there.

He hangs up and turns to Nealy.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Come downstairs with me, Bill.

Nealy gets up and follows Latham out the office.

THE HOLE

DiLauria is there alone, on the Red phone and taking notes.

DILAURIA

What's that actor's name again?

INT. CIA LOS ANGELES BASE - COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

No windows. The door has oversized hinges and a pin-lock. A
teletype machine and a KW-26 encryption machine sit silent.
CALVIN MOORE, a 32-year-old Black man, is on the Red phone,
reading from a file.

MOORE

Peter Lawford.

CROSSCUT DILAURIA WITH MOORE

DILAURIA

Right. He's married to JFK's sister.

MOORE

But this isn't about him, Carla;
it's about one of his neighbors, a
couple who live next door to Marilyn
Monroe. That Sunday when she died?

(MORE)

MOORE (CONT'D)

Well, earlier that morning, a little after midnight, they heard shouting, glass breaking, and a helicopter.

DILAURIA

A helicopter?

MOORE

They said it blew dust and leaves into their pool.

DILAURIA

You know what the yelling was about?

MOORE

Yeah, hang on... Some woman said, 'Murderers! You murderers! Are you satisfied now that she's dead?!'

DILAURIA

(checks a calendar)

And this was just after midnight, Sunday, August 5th?

MOORE

Right.

DILAURIA

I'm surprised you got the LAPD to cooperate.

MOORE

Morales gave me the files.

DILAURIA

Ah, that's why. Pays to have spooks in their Intel unit.

MOORE

That's for sure.

DILAURIA

Is this the only thing you haven't sent me?

MOORE

So far. I figured I'd call you with it first, then send it off to you.

DILAURIA

Okay, thanks. Talk to you later.

BACK TO SCENE

She hangs up. Bazzo enters carrying several folders.

DILAURIA (CONT'D)

You wouldn't believe how much I got from L.A.

BAZZO

Yeah? I got a stack from Dallas, and I checked Archives for LBJ. They had a file in there on Kennedy.

He sets the stack on his desk and opens one file. DiLauria gets up and looks over his shoulder. She's surprised.

DILAURIA

FBI Airtels.

BAZZO

Hoover doesn't know we get copies of his commo. You have this one?

DILAURIA

No, it's the first I've seen it.

INSERT FIRST FBI AIRTEL MEMO:

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (92-3267)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES
RE: JOHN ROSELLI, aka AR

The Los Angeles office currently rents an apartment at 660 North Doheny Drive, Los Angeles, for use as an observation post in connection with physical surveillance conducted of JUDITH E. CAMPBELL, 8401 Fountain Avenue, and in efforts to establish a highly confidential informant who can furnish information concerning CAMPBELL's activities.

CAMPBELL is a friend of JOHN ROSELLI and also of SAM GIANCANA, Chicago hoodlum, to whom CAMPBELL makes numerous long distance telephone calls. On several occasions CAMPBELL has made long distance telephone calls to EVELYN LINCOLN, Confidential Secretary, White House, Washington, D.C.

At approximately 9:30 p.m., on 8/7/62 SA WILLIAM R. CARTER, who at the apartment, 1B, at 660 North Doheny Drive, observed two white males on the balcony of CAMPBELL's apartment at 8401 Fountain Avenue. The two men walked back and forth past the windows of CAMPBELL's apartment and peered inside. The drapes were drawn and lights were on in the living room of CAMPBELL's apartment.

One of the men appeared to knock on the window, and when he apparently received no answer, he opened the lanai type window and entered while the other man kept a lookout from a kneeling position on the balcony.

3 - Bureau (REGISTERED)
1 - Los Angeles

BACK TO SCENE

DILAURIA (CONT'D)
Judith Campbell. I have some notes on her. Sinatra introduced her to JFK in Vegas, back when he was candidate Kennedy. I also have a White House note on JFK meeting Hoover on March 22nd. After that meeting, there were no more calls from her to the White House.

BAZZO
The memo also confirmed she's keeping company with two mobsters, Sam Giancana and Johnny Roselli. This memo corroborates that.

He hands the second FBI Airtel memo to DiLauria.

INSERT SECOND FBI AIRTEL MEMO:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
March 20, 1962

JUDITH E. CAMPBELL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Information has been developed that Judith E. Campbell, a free-lance artist, has associated with prominent underworld figures San Giancana of Chicago and John Roselli of Los Angeles.

A review of telephone toll calls from Campbell's Los Angeles residence discloses that on November 7 and 15, 1961, calls were made to Evelyn Lincoln, the President's Secretary at the White House.

Telephone toll calls were charged to residence Campbell rented in Palm Springs, California, to Evelyn Lincoln at the White House on November 10, 1961, and November 13, 1961.

Campbell was also charged with a call to Mrs. Lincoln on February 14, 1962, from Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in Los Angeles, where Campbell was a patient at the time. The nature of the relationship between Campbell and Mrs. Lincoln is not known.

A CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT of questionable reputation advised that he has seen Campbell with John Roselli. The CI referred to Campbell as the girl who was "shacking up with John Kennedy in the East."

BACK TO SCENE

DILAURIA

So, Hoover got JFK to end the affair, no doubt by threatening to make it public. So, I can't see him now using it to blackmail Kennedy.

BAZZO

Yeah, me neither.

DILAURIA

What else have you got?

BAZZO

I'm not sure. It involves Lee Oswald of all people. D-Int's been keeping eyes on him since his re-defection. It's crazy but it looks like there's a tie-in with your Judith Campbell.

DILAURIA

What?

Bazzo pulls another file from the stack and opens it.

BAZZO

A woman named Virginia Hale got Oswald a job in July at the Leslie Welding Company in Fort Worth. Her family's friendly with the White Russian community in Dallas. She's married to I.B. Hale, a former FBI agent who's now chief of security at General Dynamics in Fort Worth. I.B. knows an attorney named Max Clark, who represents Oswald's minder, George De Mohrenschildt. Back in '59, Clark got a Covert Security Approval from D-Int's foreign Intel chief so he could work on Project ROCK.

DILAURIA

'59 - I'd just started here.

BAZZO

It involved U-2 flights out of Atsugi, Japan. Apparently, Clark and I.B. are good buddies.

(MORE)

BAZZO (CONT'D)

Now, here's where the Hales intersect with Judith Campbell. The FBI's watching her place in Palm Springs. Two weeks after Virginia Hale gets Oswald the job, on August 7th, FBI Agent Carter sees two guys on the balcony outside Campbell's apartment. Those two were Hale's twin sons, Robert and William.

DILAURIA

Is he sure?

BAZZO

Carter took down the license plate of their car; it belongs to daddy. Plus, Carter's description of them matches the two. Since nothing was taken, they must have been there to plant bugs.

DILAURIA

If it's blackmail, they're five months too late. Kennedy had already ended his affair with Campbell.

BAZZO

That's assuming they intended to blackmail him about Campbell.

DILAURIA

Why else would they be there?

Bazzo shrugs; he doesn't know. DiLauria mulls it over.

DILAURIA (CONT'D)

The break-in happened on August 7th, two days after Marilyn Monroe died. And we know JFK slept with her.

BAZZO

Doesn't mean there's a connection. He's slept with a lot of women.

DILAURIA

But what if they weren't trying to get dirt on Campbell per se, but on her mob connections, Roselli and Giancana? They know Kennedy.

BAZZO

But to blackmail him over what? It couldn't just be for the money. If that were the case, JFK would get his mob pals to shut them up.

DILAURIA

Hmm... Has to be another reason.

BAZZO

We need to look more closely at
I.B. Hale and friends.

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

Stock images of the Capitol and the State Department Building.

INT. STATE DEPARTMENT AUDITORIUM

President Kennedy gives a news conference before 307 reporters and government officials. To the side of the dais are VICE PRESIDENT JOHNSON, and GENERAL J. F. CARROLL and COLONEL H. BEACHEM from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

I have a preliminary statement.
There has been a great deal of talk on the situation in Cuba in recent days both in the Communist camp and in our own, and I would like to take this opportunity to set the matter in perspective. In the first place, it is Mr. Castro and his supporters who are in trouble. In the last year, his regime has been increasingly isolated from this Hemisphere. His name no longer inspires the same fear or following in other Latin American countries.

BACK OF THE AUDITORIUM

While Kennedy speaks, highly visible SECRET SERVICE MEN stand by the doors alongside MARINE CORPS GUARDS; more AGENTS roam the auditorium.

Latham sits in the last row, several seats away from anyone. He eyes the increased security then scans the audience. All eyes appear rapt on President Kennedy except at the dais where Johnson, Carroll and Beachem stare into the audience. Latham scribbles in his pocket notepad: "Twice the usual LNBEET detail. Volunteer and JCS appear tense. Threat is real."

ACT THREE

EXT. HAVANA, CUBA - DAY (MORNING)

The familiar panorama from the marina to Calle Obispo, the main thoroughfare in Old Havana, now ends with...

THE HOTEL SANTA ISABEL

The former mansion of the Santovenia Counts of the 17th century is a true first-class hotel. The colonial-style property features an open courtyard with limestone columns where Fiona and Stokes sit at a table - waiting.

On a chair next to Stokes is a medium-format press camera: a Rolleiflex MX EVS with 75mm f/3.5 lens and leather case. Fiona has her shoulder bag on the seat near her. Her black handbag lies on the shoulder bag.

FIONA

He likes to be called Señor Posadas.

Stokes nods. JUAN POSADAS enters from the Gallery. He wears a white cotton suit and teal shirt. Fiona nods slightly at him.

STOKES

(sotto voce)

I'll order for all of us.

(stands to greet Posadas)

Señor Posadas, soy Roberto West y esta es la Señorita Wilma Brewster. Soy el que llamó y concertó la cita para entrevistarlo.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Mr. Posadas, I'm Robert West and this is Miss Wilma Brewster. I'm the one who called and made the appointment to interview you."

They shake hands. Posadas points to the camera.

POSADAS

Eso es un Rolleiflex, no?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "That's a Rolleiflex, isn't it?"

STOKES

Si.

POSADAS

Formato medio, gran cámara.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Medium format, great camera."

STOKES

Gracias.

Posadas moves a chair so he sits across from them, like the third leg on a tripod. Immediately, a WAITER approaches them.

WAITER

Qué le gustaría? Algo de beber?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "What would you like? Something to drink?"

Posadas is about to speak when Stokes gently cuts him off.

STOKES
(smiles)
Por favor, señor Posadas, déjeme
ordenar por nosotros.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Please, Mr. Posadas, let me order for us."

STOKES (CONT'D)
(to the Waiter)
Una olla de Cortadito y tres
sándwiches de medianoche, por
favor.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "A pot of Cortadito and three midnight sandwiches, please."

POSADAS
Hiciste tu tarea. Bien por usted!

INSERT TRANSLATION: "You did your homework. Good for you!"

He addresses Fiona; Stokes simultaneously translates.

POSADAS (CONT'D)
Bebe café, señorita Brewster?

STOKES
You drink coffee, Miss Brewster?

FIONA
Oh, yes. I'm anxious to try this
Cortadito and the midnight sandwich.

STOKES
Oh sí. Estoy ansioso por probar
este Cortadito y el sándwich de
medianoche.

Posadas holds up his hand to stop Stokes from speaking. He struggles to speak English.

POSADAS
I... Understand English well. But
my speaking... Not so good.

He nods to Stokes then speaks Spanish.

POSADAS (CONT'D)
Entonces, elijo hablar español.
Señorita Brewster, su acento
británico hace que tu palabras sean
muy fáciles de entender.

STOKES

So, I choose to speak Spanish. Miss Brewster, your British accent makes your words very easy to understand.

Fiona smiles. The Waiter returns with a tray with cups, saucers and teaspoons, a creamer filled with a creamy brown sugar and coffee mixture, and another creamer with hot milk. Fiona opens her handbag and takes out a handkerchief with which she covers her mouth as she coughs. The Waiter is about to pour the creamers into cups when Fiona stops him.

FIONA

Tell him I'll do that.

STOKES

Ella preparará el café.

WAITER

Como desées. Regresaré con los bocadillos.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "As you wish. I'll be back with the sandwiches."

He leaves. Fiona gets up. She circles behind Posadas and approaches the tray.

FIONA

You are our guest, Señor Posadas.

POSADAS

Gracias.

Fiona pours hot milk into a cup, filling it halfway. She moves her hand over the mouth of the cup and lifts the creamer of coffee, pouring some into the cup until it is filled. She puts the cup on a saucer along with a teaspoon and sets it before Posadas. She repeats the ritual for Stokes and herself then sits down. Fiona raises her cup. As gentlemen, Posadas and Stokes follow suit and raise theirs; they all then take a sip.

POSADAS (CONT'D)

Excelente.

FIONA

Gracias. What time is your speech in the Plaza of the Revolution?

Posadas checks his watch.

POSADAS

Está bien, nosotros tenemos tiempo.

STOKES

He has time.

FIONA

Then let's get started.

POSADAS

Primero, me gustaría decir algo. Entiendes que el hombre blanco no puede defenderse en una guerra atómica, excepto entrando en cuevas y tratando de destruir todo lo que pueda. Las masas, en cambio, van a salir a la luz, tendrán que hacerlo porque es la única forma de sobrevivir, de derrotar al enemigo. Dañará a la humanidad como de costumbre, pero no podrá destruir el nivel de conciencia alcanzado antes de que lo destruyamos.

STOKES

First, I would like to say something. You understand that the white man cannot defend himself in an atomic war except by going into caves and trying to destroy everything he can. The masses, on the other hand, are going to come out in the open; they will have to because it is the only way to survive, to defeat the enemy. He will harm humanity as usual, but he will not, cannot, destroy the level of consciousness reached before we destroy him.

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

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

INT. THE HOLE

Bazzo and DiLauria are at their desk poring over notes and reports. Bazzo is perplexed as he reads.

BAZZO

Take a look at this? It's part of that cache on I.B. Hale that came in from Dallas.

He hands copies of a Fortune magazine article to DiLauria. As she reads through the article...

DILAURIA

General Dynamics is close to bankruptcy.

She shrugs.

BAZZO

Unless they get the TFX contract.
It's worth seven billion dollars.

DILAURIA

Where's the connection to Johnson?

Bazzo pulls a report from another folder.

BAZZO

Continental National Bank of Fort
Worth is General Dynamics' largest
creditor. You know who Fred Korth
is?

DILAURIA

He was appointed Secretary of the
Navy back in January.

BAZZO

And before January he was president
of Continental National Bank. Korth
only got his government job because
Johnson lobbied on his behalf.

DILAURIA

So? I can see Kennedy appointing
him to curry favor in the South.

Bazzo shrugs, conceding the point, and returns to the thick
folder. As he reads a handwritten note...

BAZZO

This was written by Agent Carter,
the one watching Judith Campbell's
place. Another agent asks him why
the Hale boys aren't being arrested.
Carter tells him they can't because
it would reveal they've got her
place under surveillance.

DILAURIA

Proves the Hale twins didn't know
about that. But I can't believe
those two did that on their own.

BAZZO

I agree. I think I.B. Hale being a
former FBI agent figures into it.

DILAURIA

How?

BAZZO

Money, and his loyalty to his old
firm.

(MORE)

BAZZO (CONT'D)

What if this starts with Johnson? He lobbies for Fred Korth and for General Dynamics. He's about to be dropped from the ticket, and he's facing a probable indictment by Bobby Kennedy's Justice Department.

DILAURIA

Who's investigative arm is the FBI.

BAZZO

Exactly. Bear with me now. Hoover's used to blackmailing politicians. He's also got Mob connections of his own.

DILAURIA

So does JFK. The election, remember?

BAZZO

Right. Johnson and Hoover hate the Kennedy brothers with a passion. I think Johnson's schemed to get dirt on his boss and have Hoover go easy on him in their investigation. It doesn't stretch my imagination to believe Hoover would want to get even more leverage on Kennedy and LBJ. Now, like most ex-agents, I.B. Hale would've kept in touch with the Bureau. If he were asked to help his old boss get information on a mobster like Giancana who talks too much to his mistress, and make a few bucks for himself - and maybe help his employer - I don't see him turning down the work.

DILAURIA

Hoover already used evidence of JFK's philandering to end the affair with Judith Campbell. And we agreed he couldn't use it again because it'd sound like an idle threat.

BAZZO

Yes, but I still think it's part of their blackmail scheme.

DILAURIA

Hmm... I've found some stuff here the seems pretty damning. I'm not sure any of it should come to light.

BAZZO

Involving the president?

DILAURIA

The Kennedys. Here, read it.

She slides a pile of folders to the side of her desk. Bazzo gets up, retrieves them and returns to his seat.

EXT. HAVANA, CUBA - DAY

Stock footage of scenes previously presented.

HOTEL SANTA ISABEL - COURTYARD

Fiona writes notes in shorthand on her legal pad while Stokes grabs his camera. Posadas' attention wavers. He looks about then snaps his head up to gaze at the sky.

FIONA

Thank you for the interview, Mr. Posadas. It's been a pleasure.

Posadas doesn't respond.

FIONA (CONT'D)

Mr. Posadas?

Posadas suddenly appears to be in some distress, shaking his head as though to clear his vision.

FIONA (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

STOKES

Señor Posadas, se encuentra bien?

POSADAS

Sí, sí.

FIONA

Good. Jared will take a couple of photos of you, if that's alright.

Posadas doesn't answer. Instead, he swats at a fly - which isn't there. Stokes quickly takes photos of Posadas fending off an attack by his imaginary fly.

FIONA (CONT'D)

You don't want to be late for your presentation, Mr. Posadas. We'll see you to a taxi.

Stokes eyes the check on the table. He leaves the amount due plus a generous tip and signals for the Waiter. Stokes puts his camera back in its leather case. Fiona stows her legal pad and handbag in her shoulder bag. They get up with their belongings and urge Posadas to his feet. The Waiter approaches the table where Posadas is still at war with his fly.

STOKES

Él, eh, mató una mosca antes y
ahora solo está advirtiéndolo a otras
moscas que mantengan la distancia.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "He, uh, killed a fly before and now he's just warning other flies to keep their distance."

The Waiter shrugs; he could care less. As Stokes and Fiona escort Posadas out the courtyard, the Waiter busses the table.

WAITER

Maldito lunático.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Damn lunatic."

EXT. HOTEL SANTA ISABEL - ENTRANCE

A DOORMAN stands inside the lobby by the glass-paned front doors. He opens them and Stokes and Fiona escort Posadas out the hotel. Stokes turns to the Doorman.

STOKES

Taxi, por favor.

The Doorman blows his whistle and a taxi pulls up from a queue. The Doorman opens the passenger door. Fiona gets in then Posadas, whom Fiona pulls inside. Stokes tips the Doorman and gets in the taxi. The Doorman shuts the passenger door.

I/E. TAXI

The HACK looks back at his passengers. Fiona smiles at him.

STOKES

Plaza de la Revolución, por favor.

The Hack nods, turns around and drives away.

EXT. PLAZA DE LA REVOLUCIÓN - DAY

A huge public square with several government buildings, two of which have facades that feature murals: one of Che Guevara, with a quotation: "Hasta la Victoria Siempre" (Ever Onward to Victory); the other mural depicts Camilo Cienfuegos, who looks like Fidel Castro, and the quotation "Vas bien, Fidel" (You're doing fine, Fidel).

A stage has been set up. About one hundred people stand before it - a tiny amount considering the acreage. A few LA GUARDA MEMBERS are there. Seated on stage are Che, Fidel Castro and his brother Raul. They look annoyed, checking their watches.

FAR BEHIND THE SPARSE CROWD

The taxi pulls up. The passenger door opens.

Stokes gets out and beckons Posadas out the taxi. Fiona gets out the other door. The taxi waits there while Stokes pats Posadas on the back.

STOKES

Ve por ellos, tigre. Te están esperando.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Go get 'em, tiger. They're waiting for you."

Posadas RUNS toward the stage, pushing anyone out of his way who doesn't make way, prompting comments from the crowd, "Cuál es tu problema, idiota?"

INSERT TRANSLATION: "What's your problem, idiot?"

Fiona turns toward Stokes.

FIONA

Tiger?

Stokes is chagrined and shrugs. Fiona smiles.

AT THE STAGE

Posadas climbs the steps and races into Che's arms.

CHE

Qué es?

POSADAS

Hay un tigre persiguiéndome!

INSERT TRANSLATION: "There's a tiger chasing me!"

CHE

Qué dijiste?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "What did you say?"

POSADAS

Un tigre! Mirar!

INSERT TRANSLATION: "A tiger! Look!"

CHE

Estás jodidamente loco?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Are you fucking crazy?"

FIDEL

No creo esta mierda.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "I don't believe this shit."

RAUL
Está loco.

FIDEL
Saca a ese idiota de aquí, Che.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Get that idiot out of here, Che."

Posadas pushes Che away and jumps off the stage. The La Guarda Members chase him through the square to the laughter of the crowd.

POSADAS
Los tigres se han multiplicado!

INSERT TRANSLATION: "The tigers have multiplied!"

The Hack is standing outside the car, looking curiously at the scene. Stokes leans over to Fiona.

STOKES
You're a genius.

FIONA
Thank Mr. Latham. It was his idea to slip LSD into Posadas' coffee.

The Hack turns his palms skyward.

HACK
Que está pasando?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "What's going on?"

STOKES
Ni idea. Llévanos de regreso al hotel?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "No idea. Take us back to the hotel?"

The Hack nods. He gets behind the wheel; Fiona and Stokes get in the back seat, then the taxi pulls away.

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

A view of Building C.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE

Bazzo and Dilauria are seated. Latham is on the Gray phone.

FIONA (O.S.)
It's safe to say he's off Castro's radar. We'll cut short the busman's holiday and take the first flight back to Kingston.

LATHAM

Okay. Nice work, both of you.

FIONA (O.S.)

See you when we get back. Bye.

LATHAM

Bye.

(hangs up looking pleased)
Posadas never delivered his speech.
He ran off the stage and was last
seen screaming that tigers were
chasing him.

Bazzo and DiLauria grin.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

So, what have you got for me?

BAZZO

It looks like Hoover and Johnson
are trying to blackmail President
Kennedy, possibly into awarding the
TFX contract to General Dynamics;
they're headquartered in Johnson's
home state. He's lobbied for them
to get the contract, and he's close
to the former president of their
largest creditor. We believe they
intend to reveal JFK's trysts with
Judith Campbell, who may be a go-
between for JFK and Sam Giancana.

LATHAM

Okay...

BAZZO

But Carla made a good point. She
believes Hoover used that same ploy
back in March to get Kennedy to end
his relationship with Campbell. If
Hoover were to reuse it, it would
just sound like an idle threat.

LATHAM

So, is the TFX contract part of a
blackmail scheme or not?

DILAURIA

Oh, it is, sir. But I think Hoover
has sweetened the pot.

LATHAM

Let's hear it then.

DiLauria refers to a folder containing her copious notes.

DILAURIA

This involves Marilyn Monroe as well as the Kennedys. We have FBI and LAPD Intel reports that suggest Bobby Kennedy was not at a San Francisco ranch with his wife and kids on August 4th, But in southern California that Saturday, the day before Monroe was reported dead. Ward Wood lives near Peter Lawford's place in Santa Monica. He saw Robert Kennedy outside Lawford's home that afternoon. Then later that day, Monroe's housekeeper, Eunice Murray, says Bobby Kennedy was at Monroe's house. We also have a report from a neighbor of Monroe's who heard a helicopter land there that night. They heard glass breaking and a woman yelling from Monroe's house.

LATHAM

Yelling what?

DILAURIA

'Murderers! You murderers! Are you satisfied now that she's dead?!'

Latham is stunned.

DILAURIA (CONT'D)

That happened just after midnight, on August 5th. Monroe's doctor had called Schaefer Ambulance around four A.M. on Sunday, the 5th, saying Monroe had just died.

She pauses, seemingly to steel herself against something vile.

LATHAM

Are you alright?

DILAURIA

(nods, clears her throat)

This is from a Confidential Informant. 'A guy known as The Doctor - a real doctor who's done hits for the Mob - injected air into a vein near Marilyn's pubic region. She died of an embolism, but it looked like drugs to the coroner.'

BAZZO

There's rumors she was going to tell the press about herself, the Mob and JFK. So I guess they shut her up.

LATHAM
(defiantly)
You think so?

DILAURIA
This is speculative but I believe Hoover and Johnson planned to expose Bobby Kennedy's presence at Monroe's house, and whatever role he may have had prior to her being found dead. That would be in addition to revealing the president's trysts with Monroe and Campbell, all of which would then be used to get JFK to pressure the Pentagon into giving the multibillion-dollar TFX contract to General Dynamics.

Latham gets up and meanders about. He's seething.

LATHAM
Bastard!

DiLauria and Bazzo look curiously at each other, unsure whom Latham is referring to.

LATHAM (CONT'D)
Alright, good work. I'll talk to you later.

Bazzo and DiLauria get up and leave. Latham picks up the Gray phone and dials.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - THE ROSE GARDEN - DAY

Latham waits by a hedgerow, hands in his pants pockets. After a moment, Bisset enters from the Oval Office.

BISSET
Sorry to keep you waiting, Warren.
You said you had something for me?

LATHAM
Yes. Your boss isn't just worried about what Johnson and Hoover might have on him, is he?

BISSET
Of course he is.

LATHAM
Uh huh. The president's slept in more beds than George Washington. So I tend not to place a red letter on him for that.

BISSET

What are you getting at?

LATHAM

Six months ago Hoover found out about Judith Campbell and warned JFK off. He hasn't seen her since.

Bisset grows worried.

BISSET

Warren...

LATHAM

No, let me talk. This wasn't about the president's affairs coming to light; this was about his brother Bobby's own sordid mess.

BISSET

Come on...

LATHAM

Shut up! You used me to get information on the president's affairs, knowing full well brother Bobby's name would come up. You wanted to know just how much Hoover knew about what happened that Saturday, August 4th, the day before Marilyn Monroe supposedly died. If Hoover knew Bobby was at her house instead of with the wife and kids at a friend's ranch, you'd know for sure the president would have no choice but to get the Pentagon to award the TFX contract to General Dynamics. If he didn't, family man Bobby would be exposed. At best, he'd be another Kennedy philanderer having a relationship with Marilyn Monroe. At worst, he'd be complicit in her murder.

BISSET

Jesus Christ, man! Do you hear yourself? There isn't one word of truth in any of that.

Latham is so angry he's ready to explode.

LATHAM

Look who's talking about the truth, you little prick. You got me to do your dirty work for you, now go run to your boss and tell him.

BISSET

Warren, please - I'm just doing my job.

LATHAM

Yeah, you're just a messenger boy. Well, remember this: I know what went on at Monroe's house. I know a mob doctor injected air into a vein near Monroe's pubic region. She died of an embolism; the barbiturates were administered post mortem.

He walks to within a few inches of Bisset, who flinches.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

And I also know the Mob didn't order the hit.

BISSET

(shocked)
Oh, my God...

LATHAM

You're lucky my hands are in my pockets, because right now I'd like to break your fucking neck.

Bisset is shaking. Latham turns and leaves.

INT. BASEMENT

Located in a nondescript house. Pipes run across the ceiling. The walls are dank. A 40-watt lightbulb hangs over a table up against the wall, throwing deep shadows on the floor.

On the table are two reel-to-reel tape recorders with wires running to a telephone junction box. The one on the left is running. Sitting at the table is a man, mid-30s, in a white shirt with the sleeves rolled up, a tie and dark trousers. He wears headphones and takes notes on a legal notepad.

Another man enters, about the same age and dressed in a business suit. He unbuttons his suitcoat, revealing a holstered .38 Police Special. They are both FBI AGENTS. AGENT #1 removes his headphones and turns to AGENT #2.

AGENT #1

Trafficante's on the phone with José Alemán.

He stands up and stretches, revealing his waist-holstered .38.

AGENT #2

Put it on speaker. No one's home.

Agent #1 flips a switch. Two voices come through a speaker.

TRAFFICANTE

Those fucking Kennedys are not honest, José. They took graft and they did not keep a bargain.

ALEMÁN

Hey, what can you do, Santos? John Kennedy got what he wanted; he's president. He can do whatever he wants now.

TRAFFICANTE

Listen to me. Mark my words, this man Kennedy is in trouble, and he will get what's coming to him.

ALEMÁN

Come on... Kennedy's popular. He's gonna be reelected to a second term.

TRAFFICANTE

(sotto voce)

No. Kennedy's not going to make it to the election. He is going to be hit, José.

ALEMÁN

What? No, no way.

TRAFFICANTE

I'm telling you. He is going to be hit.

The FBI Agents look at one another, shocked.

END