

Cool Gray Dawn

Season Four, Episode #14: "'Tis The Season"

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Episode #14: "'Tis The Season"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SAIGON, VIETNAM - DAY

INSERT: "Saigon, Vietnam. Early June 1963"

On this hot summer day, just a few blocks southwest of the Presidential Palace, at the intersection of Phan Đình Phùng Boulevard and Lê Văn Duyệt Street, about 350 Buddhist monks (bonzes) and nuns, all dressed in traditional robes, march. They denounce - in Vietnamese and English - the government of President Diem and its anti-Buddhist policy.

THICH QUANG DUC, a 73-year-old bonze, arrives in a car as part of a procession that had begun at a nearby pagoda. Duc emerges from the car along with two other bonzes. The SECOND BONZE places a cushion in the middle of the intersection while the THIRD BONZE opens the trunk and takes out a five-gallon gasoline can.

As the marchers form a circle around Duc, he calmly sits in the traditional Buddhist meditative lotus position on the cushion. The Third Bonze pours gasoline from the can over Duc's head, completely emptying the can.

Duc rotates a string of wooden prayer beads and recites these words...

DUC
Nam mô A di đà Phật.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Homage to Amitābha Buddha."

DUC THEN STRIKES A MATCH AND DROPS IT ON HIMSELF.

Flames consume his robes and flesh; black oily smoke emanates from his burning body. Meanwhile, the Second Bonze picks up a microphone attached to a speaker in the car and reads a letter Duc wrote.

SECOND BONZE
(in Vietnamese)
Turôc khi nhâm màt xuôi tay hurông
ve hình ành Dùc Phật, con kính xin
Tông Thông Ngô Đình Diem hãy phát
tâm từ bi đôi vôi quốc dân đông bào
và thừc hien bình đàng tôn giáo đê
giu vừng quê hừong trưông tôn.

(MORE)

SECOND BONZE (CONT'D)

Tôi kêu gọi chu tôn đức, chủ tôn
đức, tăng đoàn và cư sĩ Phật tử hãy
tổ chức đoàn kết hy sinh để bảo vệ
Phật pháp.

(in English)

Before closing my eyes and moving
towards the vision of the Buddha, I
respectfully plead to President Ngo
Dinh Diem to take a mind of
compassion towards the people of
the nation and implement religious
equality to maintain the strength
of the homeland eternally. I call
the venerables, reverends, members
of the sangha and the lay Buddhists
to organize in solidarity to make
sacrifices to protect Buddhism.

AMONG THE CROWD

There is stunned silence. Many of the bonzes and nuns, as well
as some shocked passersby, prostrate themselves before Duc's
burning body. The Third Bonze takes the microphone.

THIRD BONZE

(in Vietnamese)

Một tu sĩ Phật giáo tử thiêu đên
chết. Một linh mục Phật giáo trở
thành một người tu vì đạo.

(in English)

A Buddhist priest burns himself to
death. A Buddhist priest becomes a
martyr.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

A panorama of the cityscape features the Reflecting Pool and
Washington Monument at the National Mall, and ends with the
White House and the West Wing.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

PRESIDENT KENNEDY is alone at his desk, on the telephone with
his brother, Attorney General ROBERT KENNEDY.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Were those two students, uh, Vivian
Malone Jones and James Hood, I
believe - were they able to enter
Foster Auditorium?

INT. OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Three of ROBERT KENNEDY's youngest children play at his feet
while he is on the phone at his desk.

ROBERT KENNEDY (O.S.)
No. Wallace is scared; he's crazy,
acting like a raving maniac. He's
standing in the doorway, refusing
to let them enter.

CROSSCUT PRESIDENT KENNEDY WITH ROBERT KENNEDY

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
Are the two students still being
guarded by federal troops?

ROBERT KENNEDY
Yes.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
Good. I spoke with General Henry
Graham of the Alabama National
Guard. I told him to order Wallace
out of the way. If he doesn't move
then Graham has federal authority
to remove Wallace by force.

BACK TO SCENE

Just then FRANÇOIS BISSET hurriedly enters; he is shaking and
looks horrified. He holds three photographs and interrupts
President Kennedy.

BISSET
You have to see these, Jack.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
(into phone)
Hold on a minute, Bobby.

He turns to Bisset who hands him the three photographs:

- A bonze pours gasoline over the head of another bonze (Duc).
- Duc is engulfed in flames.
- Duc has collapsed, smoke rises from his body.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY (CONT'D)
(horrified)
Jesus Christ!

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - ROSE GARDEN - DAY

INSERT: "End of August 1963"

Stock footage of the West Colonnade leading to the Oval
Office.

INT. CABINET ROOM

Seated around one end of the conference table are President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, CIA Western Hemisphere Chief WILSON BERARD, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs ROGER HILSMAN, foreign policy consultant AVERELL HARRIMAN, and Secretary of State DEAN RUSK. Before each of the attendees is an open folder revealing two pages of a Department of State telegram.

INSERT PAGES OF THE TELEGRAM:

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

**DiCATE: [] COLLECT DoD/USN
[] CHARGE TO**

**ACTION: AmEmbassy SAIGON - OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE
AUG 24 9 36PM '63**

**EYES ONLY - AMBASSADOR LODGE
FOR CINCPAC/POLAD EXCLUSIVE FOR ADMIRAL FELT
NO FURTHER DISTRIBUTION**

Re CAS Saigon 0265 reporting General Don's views;
Saigon 320, Saigon 316, and Saigon 329.

It is now clear that whether military proposed martial law or whether Nhu tricked them into it, Nhu took advantage of its imposition to smash pagodas with police and Tung's Special Forces loyal to him, thus placing onus on military in eyes of world and Vietnamese people. Also clear that Nhu has maneuvered himself into commanding position.

US Government tolerates situation in which power lies in Nhu's hands. Diem must be given chance to rid himself of Nhu and his coterie and replace them with the best military and political personalities available.

If, in spite of all your efforts, Diem remains obdurate and refuses, then we must face the possibility that Diem himself cannot be preserved.

We now believe immediate action must be taken to prevent Nhu from consolidating his position further. Therefore, unless you in consultation with Hartkins perceive overriding objections you are authorized to proceed along following lines:

Page 2 of telegram to AmEmbassy SAIGON
OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

(1) First, we must press on appropriate levels of GVN the following lines:

(a) USG cannot accept actions against Buddhists taken by Nhu and his collaborators under cover of martial law.

(b) Prompt dramatic actions redress situation must be taken, including repeal of decree 10, release of arrested monks, nuns, etc.

(2) We must at same time also tell key military leaders that we would find it impossible to support GVN militarily and economically unless above steps are taken immediately which we recognize requires removal of the Nhu from the scene. We wish to give Diem reasonable opportunity to remove Nhu, but if he remains obdurate, then we are prepared to accept the obvious implication that we can no longer support Diem. You may also tell appropriate military commanders we will give some direct support in any interim period of breakdown of central government mechanism.

Needles to say, we have held knowledge of this telegram to minimum essential people and assume you will take similar precautions to prevent leaks.

GI-2

END.

BACK TO SCENE

As the attendees prepare to offer their opinions, Hilsman looks at Berard then at President Kennedy.

HILSMAN

I certainly don't mind the CIA being represented here by Wilson Berard, but considering that he heads the Western Hemisphere Division, and our focus here is on Southeast Asia, I'm wondering if it's, well, appropriate to have him here.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

It's appropriate because I value Wilson's completely unfettered opinions. Now, do you have any other objections before we start, Roger?

HILSMAN
No, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
Good. You've all read the telegram.

Heads nod and HARRUMPHS complete the acknowledgment.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY (CONT'D)
Then let's discuss a possible coup
to remove Diem and his brother.

HARRIMAN
If we're unsuccessful here, and
Diem's generals don't do anything,
then we have to deal with Diem as he
is, and his brother Nhu as he is.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
Then the question, what do we do to
protect our own prestige and also
to make it and, um, see if we can
have this thing continue on
successfully? I'd like to hear any
thought about that.

HILSMAN
It's pretty horrible to contemplate,
sir. I mean, Diem's brother, Nhu, is
basically anti-American.

HARRIMAN
And emotionally unstable.

HILSMAN
I think our position will be
increasingly difficult. Whom do we
support, Diem and Nhu, or the rebel
generals?

RUSK
Mr. President, I think it's obvious
that the choice we have to make
there is that unless there's a major
change in Diem and Nhu's approach to
this whole internal problem - the
Buddhist priests and nuns - we have
to look at the fact that we're on
the road to disaster. We basically
have three choices here. We can take
care of this by our own hands, be
driven out by a complete
deterioration of the situation in
Vietnam, or we can move in such
forces as would involve our taking
over the country.

(MORE)

RUSK (CONT'D)

These are big decisions we have to make, Mr. President.

BERARD

Isn't the real decision here whether or not to continue U.S. support? Not just of Diem but of the entire situation there.

RUSK

I think there's no question we should continue support of the South Vietnamese people against the insurgents, regardless of who runs the country.

BERARD

Is that also your position, Mr. President, that we should continue support?

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

We're not really in a position to withdraw, Wilson.

BERARD

Then it seems to me that the dilemma here is how and to whom we should pose the question. Do we tell Diem or, alternatively, his rebel generals, that we cannot continue U.S. support, except under very specific circumstances, all of which require changes be made within the Saigon government?

RUSK

And to whom would we say this?

BERARD

In my opinion, the proper action of the U.S. government is to tell the chief of state this directly. We tell him when it clearly isn't news to him that the majority of his military leaders feel the same way we do. Then we ask him what he intends to do.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

But if the chief of state, whether that's Diem or not, doesn't accept our proposals, then for us to go through with that next step would be pretty hard.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT KENNEDY (CONT'D)

It would mean withdrawing our assistance, and pulling out all Americans.

BERARD

When you're talking about a coup, the stakes are always high. If you decide to make that move and you fail, then withdrawing all Americans won't be necessary because Diem will throw us out.

HILSMAN

Most importantly is that everyone in the field in Saigon agrees that what you will have in the wake of Diem's desecration of the pagodas and arresting the monks and the nuns, is that everything is drifting away from the key cadre in the army; that means the situation will continue to deteriorate, and rapidly.

ROBERT KENNEDY

This may be a minority opinion, but I don't see that a coup makes any sense on the face of it, Mr. President. I mean, it's different from one in Iraq or some South American country. We're so intimately involved in what's going on in Vietnam. What we're doing really is what we talked about when we were sitting around this table several weeks ago when that Buddhist monk protested Diem's government by immolating himself. We've never seen anything like that, ever. We've put the whole future of the country, and really Southeast Asia, in the hands of somebody we don't really know, that just one official of the United States government, Ambassador Lodge, has had contact with. If there is a coup, Lodge says he's lined up some others to take Diem's place. But it's clear to me from the resolve of the Buddhist priests and from Diem himself that they're all fierce fighters. Look, Diem's not somebody who's just going to get out of there. He's going to stick around and, believe me, he'll go down fighting.

(MORE)

ROBERT KENNEDY (CONT'D)

And he's going to have some troops there that are going to fight too. If the coup's a failure, we risk a hell of a lot because the war, as I understand from Bob McNamara, is going reasonably well.

BERARD

There's no truth to McNamara's assessment.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

It agrees with the one your people presented to me back in March.

BERARD

I know. It matched the one you got from the Defense Intelligence Agency. It's as though CIA were sitting next to the DIA in class and copying answers off each other.

President Kennedy is amused.

BERARD (CONT'D)

In point of fact, sir, CIA later submitted a revised assessment that showed increasing public support for the insurgency and diminishing support for Diem's government.

ROBERT KENNEDY

I read that, and that worries me even more, Wilson. If this support for a coup among Diem's generals is just based on apparently flimsy reports to Lodge, then we're about to risk the whole future of the United States in that area on what are essentially rumors repeated by the ambassador. We have no idea what's really going to occur or how it's going to take place. We have some very large stakes to balance here. We're entitled to know what's going to happen and how, and not just hope that the coup is going to go through and that they're going to be able to work everything out satisfactorily. Unless and until you know more details, Mr. President, I think you should refrain from any continued support for a coup - and tell that to Lodge in no uncertain terms.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Most often we would repudiate some tinpot dictator - unless, of course, they're our tinpot dictator. But Diem is worse, much worse than that.

RUSK

Excuse me, but let's be honest here. If there's a coup, everybody's going to say that we did it. So, if we believe it's the right thing to do, I think we should play a major role. I don't think we can go halfway on this, because we're gonna get the blame for it anyway.

BERARD

And if it's a failure, Diem's intelligence people will tell him who was involved, and he'll arrest or capture these people. He'll then announce to the world that the United States was behind the failed coup; that's a foreign policy disaster we can't afford.

ROBERT KENNEDY

I'm inclined to agree with Wilson. We're just going down the road to disaster here. Now, maybe this coup will be successful, but I don't think that anybody - at least from the reports I've seen - has a plan. This cablegram, sent out like it is, indicates that we're willing to go ahead with the coup. But I say we should not offer any support for a coup - not now.

EXT. Q STREET PARK - DAY

A small park near Dupont Circle, it has many benches where locals go to have lunch. LAWRENCE JONES (SMOTH) sits alone on one of these benches, eyeing the many young women who sashay by, alone or in small groups. WARREN LATHAM approaches, carrying a brown paperbag tucked in the crook of his left arm, and a white paperbag he holds in his right hand, dangling at his side. As Latham stops at the bench...

JONES

Oh, no...

LATHAM

What?

JONES

I said I had something for you and let's meet for lunch, meaning we'd go someplace nice to have lunch.

LATHAM

Why, when I can just bring us some?

JONES

Yeah, right. Joe and Nemo's.

He stands and joins Latham in a stroll. Latham hands him the brown paperbag. Jones takes out two bottles of Seven-Up and tosses the paperbag into a trashcan. Latham opens the white paperbag, pulls out two steamed hamburgers and some napkins.

JONES (CONT'D)

What did I ever do to you?

LATHAM

Stop complaining. Yours has onions.

Jones rolls his eyes. Latham hands him a hamburger and tosses the paperbag into another trashcan. They start eating.

JONES

Remember Rolf Wagenbreth? He's with the Stasi.

LATHAM

Yes, head of Division X, the disinformation unit of their Foreign Intelligence Division. A defector told us about a lecture he gave to his staff. He said something like, 'Our friends in Moscow call it dezinformatsiya, or disinformation; our enemies in Washington call it active measures; I call it my favorite pastime.' Guy's a real peach.

JONES

Well, he's accused the former East German writer Hans Schlager of sedition. A tribunal Wagenbreth headed has tried Schlager in absentia and sentenced him to death.

LATHAM

In absentia... So where is Schlager now?

JONES

He was at a safehouse in the Cotswolds.

LATHAM

Was?

JONES

He'd asked to go to The George, a pub in Swindon. So his minders, these two clowns from MI5, took him there. After several pints, he went to the men's room - as men often do - and he disappeared.

LATHAM

Kidnapped?

JONES

No. Schlager had kept in touch with East German émigrés living in the U.K. Among them was a belief that there was a plant in MI5.

LATHAM

Several, as we now know.

JONES

Yes. Anyway, Schlager reasoned that this plant would sooner or later give away his location to the Stasi, who would either kidnap him or kill him. So, he arranged for his émigré pals to smuggle him out of the pub and to one of their own safehouses, in the West Midlands, we believe.

LATHAM

And how does this concern my firm?

JONES

We lifted most of these East German émigrés. Occasionally, we use them on Ops inside East Berlin - that's where things went awry recently. The last agent we sent back there was captured by the Stasi, apparently given away by Kim Philby.

LATHAM

One of many, no doubt.

JONES

Hmm. To make an example of our joe, the Stasi threw him into a blast furnace, feet first, and filmed it. Then they broadcast the footage over state TV. A copy of the tape was sent to our embassy in West Berlin.

(MORE)

JONES (CONT'D)

Needless to say, word got back to the small émigré community in the U.K. Schlager, whose code name is Picasso, by the way, now wants to relocate to the States. But, given what happened to his colleague, he feels he can't trust MI6 anymore than MI5. So he wants the CIA to help him.

LATHAM

What did Grosvenor Square say when your people asked for help?

JONES

They told me to coordinate directly with your Counterintelligence Chief, John Middleton.

LATHAM

MOTHER...

JONES

I know Kim Philby was his mentor, and his drinking buddy.

LATHAM

Let me tell you, when MOTHER got drunk, he'd have given away the store. Imagine how he feels now, knowing he was duped by Philby.

JONES

I guess that's why he's made it clear he believes MI6 is riddled with Soviet plants. And I have no doubt he'll assume Schlager's one. If we hand Schlager over to CI, it'll be the same as if the Stasi had snatched him. That's why I'd like you to send one of your mandarins to lift him.

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

A CIA officer crosses the compound. He has hooked his suit jacket with two fingers and slung it over his shoulder, revealing a short-sleeved white shirt and a plain tie.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE

PAUL "BAZZO" BARRY and CARLA DILAURIA sit across from Latham who sits at his desk.

BAZZO

The London station should be handling this. McCone will hit the roof when he hears it's us.

LATHAM

He won't be the one heard screaming if MOTHER gets ahold of Schlager.

DILAURIA

I don't know... Schlager really should be turned over to CI for debriefing. I mean, he is a dissident, sentenced to death in absentia by the Russians.

BAZZO

You mean by the East Germans.

DILAURIA

Like there's a difference. You pick a Soviet satellite and I'll show you one of the Kremlin's poodles.

LATHAM

The point is Philby's defection has some people on The Hill questioning MOTHER's loyalty. Face it, his pride's been wounded. Schlager could be FLUTTERED and pass, and MOTHER will still insist he's KGB or Stasi. Now, SMOTH says Schlager's genuine, that he's risked too much over the years to be an agent-of-influence; the proof being him sentenced to death in absentia.

DILAURIA

Still, it could all be a ruse, Boss.

LATHAM

Alright, say it is, and some Stasi hit team takes it upon themselves to kill Schlager while he's in England. If he were their joe, they certainly couldn't admit it. They'd be forced to praise their comrades for carrying out the state's sentence.

DiLauria concedes and shrugs.

BAZZO

But how do we justify our role in bringing him over here?

Latham gets up and meanders about, mulling things over.

LATHAM

Carla, a while ago you were in East Berlin to lift Dom.

DILAURIA

Which didn't turn out too well.

LATHAM

That was all his fault; you did everything right. I was thinking we could say Schlager was part of Dom's network and knew about the lift; that's why he asked for us.

DILAURIA

I guess that could work.

LATHAM

MI6 have agreed to share Schlager with Domestic Ops. That way we can have his work analyzed by D-Int's people and their contacts in the academic community. Let them decide if Schlager's genuine or not, rather than MOTHER. All we're doing is providing a service, which we've done before. The British will be responsible for providing him with permanent living arrangements.

BAZZO

You know, he'd be worth more to us if he were a defecting Stasi agent.

DILAURIA

But if Schlager's what SMOTH says he is, the Voice of America could certainly use him.

LATHAM

Hmm, in that case I hope he is the Stasi's joe. Imagine what we can get him to say if we can turn him.

Bazzo and DiLauria smile to themselves; they like the idea.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

I'll go see Berard, get his approval.

He presses the BUZZER button on the intercom.

COLLETTE (O.S.)

You rang?

LATHAM

When's Berard due back?

COLLETTE (O.S.)

15:00, according to his aide.

Latham checks the 24-hour wall clock; it reads 14:25.

LATHAM

Tell his aide I need to speak with Berard as soon as he gets back.

COLLETTE (O.S.)

Sí, señor.

Latham rolls his eyes as he hangs up the intercom.

LATHAM

She's taking Spanish, correspondence course. Anyway, you're on your bike, Paul. Both of you go downstairs and get briefed, pending approval. Make sure Mission Planning understands you'll be working independent of the station, and not to involve CI.

BAZZO

Right.

He and DiLauria get up and leave.

EXT. THE PENTAGON - DAY

Stock footage of this familiar five-sided building.

COURTYARD

Located in the center of The Pentagon, this five-acre park has benches and a hot dog stand. Rusk, GENERAL CARROLL, and COLONEL H. BEACHEM stroll about eating hot dogs. It's hot and the air is still, as one would expect in this enclosed space. Using one of the paper napkins given to him with his hot dog, Rusk dabs at the beads of sweat on his forehead.

RUSK

It's Diem's treatment of the Buddhists; it's horrendous. We tell him to ease up, to let them publicly celebrate their holidays. He gives Lodge his stock assurances he will, then he throws more monks and nuns in jail. That's why they hate him.

BEACHEM

I didn't think it was possible for the Buddhists to hate anyone, even a prick like Diem.

RUSK

They're not alone. Most of the South Vietnamese people hate Diem. Even Bobby Kennedy can't stand him. But he says Lodge hasn't shown him or the president any proof that there's support for a coup among Diem's generals.

BEACHEM

That's strange; they've certainly been talking about it a lot. I guess Lodge hasn't been listening.

CARROLL

Look, Diem's a bastard, always has been. If he weren't our bastard, we'd have taken him out already.

RUSK

You see today's New York Times?

BEACHEM

I haven't gotten through my In-tray yet.

RUSK

Another Buddhist monk immolated himself. That's seven of them now.

Beachem HUFFS, disgusted; this gets Carroll's attention.

CARROLL

So, what does that tell you?

BEACHEM

Tells me Diem can't buy support, even from the anti-Communists.

CARROLL

Dean?

RUSK

It tells me there's something going on here, the likes of which we've never seen before. The Vietnamese have this quiet resolve that I doubt any of us understand - and I'm not just talking about the Buddhists.

(MORE)

RUSK (CONT'D)

It makes me wonder if their fight isn't so much against the Communists as it is for national sovereignty.

BERARD

Christ, here we go with more of your intellectual bullshit.

RUSK

(dryly)

If I weren't an intellectual, I'd be offended by that.

CARROLL

Alright. It tells me we're not as good at propaganda as the VC. It tells me anything short of a full commitment there, and you might as well hand all of South fucking Vietnam over to the North.

Beachem nods. For his part, Rusk shrugs - not because he disagrees but for the lack of any alternative.

ACT TWO

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

CIA officers walk about the compound, occasionally wiping sweat from their foreheads.

INT. BERARD'S OFFICE

Latham sits across from Berard, who sips water at his desk.

LATHAM

Mission Planning is coordinating with MI6 and a group of East German émigrés in the U.K.

BERARD

On the condition we don't tell CI.

LATHAM

Yes.

BERARD

How do you plan to pull that off?

LATHAM

Remember when mandarin One went to East Berlin to lift Dom?

BERARD

Yes, damn chauvinist. He wouldn't listen to her and it cost him his life.

LATHAM

Well, MI6 is drafting a memo to us that identifies Schlager as a former member of Dom's ring. It'll explain why he asked for Domestic Ops specifically.

BERARD

And all this is because Schlager believes a plant in MI5 will give away his location to the Stasi, who'll carry out his death sentence.

LATHAM

According to SMOTH, yes.

BERARD

I presume you've considered the possibility that Schlager could be an agent-of-influence for the Stasi?

LATHAM

I have. That's why MI6 is sharing Schlager with us. If he has snow on his boots, we can either try and turn him or, failing that, let MI6 take care of him, making it look like the Stasi assassinated him.

Berard sighs. The lines on his face, drawn by an invisible weight, give evidence to a deep concern. He gets up and meanders to the window. Near the curtains he mutters...

BERARD

Seems to be the season for assassination.

LATHAM

Sir?

There is a spark of defiant resolve within Berard. He walks back to his desk, opens the center draw and takes out the Department of State telegram encouraging a coup against South Vietnamese President Diem. He hands it to Latham.

BERARD

You never saw that.

As Latham reads it...

BERARD (CONT'D)

Another Buddhist monk immolated himself in Saigon. They're martyrs now, a symbol of the people's frustration with President Diem. The Joint Chiefs want him assassinated in a coup. Meanwhile, President Kennedy still wants to assassinate Chief Minister Jagan of British Guiana. And let's not forget how many of these right-wing lunatics here want Kennedy himself dead.

Latham looks up from reading the telegram. He sees Berard so disgusted that he almost falls back into his chair.

EXT. VAN HORN, TEXAS - DAY

A sign on a rural road reads "CITY LIMIT/VAN HORN/POP. 1807."

RANCH

10,000 acres of land, ranging from wide open tabosa grass flats to dense pockets of buffalo grass, love grass, spangle-top and grammas. A cabin is so well-hidden by the flora that unless one knew exactly where it was, it could not be found.

A stretch of land has been cleared to serve as a landing strip. Above, a Cessna 175 circles then lands, kicking up dust on the ground. When it comes to a stop, CALVIN HOLMES alights. He looks about. A Kaiser-Willys Jeep driven by ROSCOE WHITE pulls up.

HOLMES

What's shakin', White?

WHITE

Hey, Cal. Welcome to West Texas.

Holmes gets in the Jeep and they drive away.

WHILE THEY DRIVE ACROSS THE RANCH...

There is the distant CRACK of gunfire. Holmes turns to White.

HOLMES

Someone out here hunting?

WHITE

No, target practice. I understand you rebored a Mauser M59, a Russian Dragunov SVD, a Savage 10FP, and a Heckler & Koch G3, and fit 'em all with sniper scopes and silencers.

HOLMES

(warily)

What about it?

WHITE

We're gonna need a few here. I have the total number of each rifle we'll need back at the cabin. When you're there, you can also call that lawyer of yours on the left coast. He was given instructions to put some cash in your account. You can verify it with him.

EXT. CABIN

Beside it is a large directional antenna. A thick cable from the antenna leads into one side of the cabin near a door. The Jeep pulls up. White and Holmes alight, and White opens the door. There on the floor sits an RS-1, a valve-based radio transceiver consisting of several modules.

INT. CABIN

Each metal module of the RS-1 is housed in its own water-tight container. This allows the radio to be stored under harsh conditions for an extended period of time. Each metal box has a lid with four flat screws - one at each corner - and a surrounding rubber gasket to protect it against water.

Holmes walks up to the dusty radio set and examines it. He smiles, recognizing it.

HOLMES

An RS-1. Must be war surplus.

WHITE

Naw, can't be that old. We had one like it when I was in the Marines, at Atsugi.

HOLMES

That's 'cause after Korea the CIA sold it to the Army who renamed it the AN/GRC-109. The Army then resold it - at a profit, mind you - to the Marines.

(archly)

I wouldn't be surprised if the Salvation Army were next in line.

WHITE

Fuck you.

Holmes grins. White returns the grin.

WHITE (CONT'D)

We hooked it up to that directional antenna you saw outside; but when we tested it we didn't get anything. That's the main reason you were called in, to fix it; the other's to get us the sniper rifles.

Holmes pulls a Swiss Army knife from his pocket, selects a flathead screwdriver blade and removes the "crystal oscillator" cover on the receiver.

WHITE (CONT'D)

What are you looking for?

HOLMES

After a while, oxides and sulfides form on the contacts; that's what's happened here. You got any isopropyl alcohol?

WHITE

In a first-aid kit in the Jeep.

HOLMES

I'll need that and something to clean the contacts with, like a toothbrush.

WHITE

There's one in the cabin.

The Two Men go back outside.

EXT. CABIN

White goes to the Jeep and pulls the first-aid kit from a small cargo hold. Meanwhile, Holmes looks up curiously at the directional antenna. White rejoins Holmes and opens the first-aid kit. He takes out the bottle of isopropyl alcohol.

WHITE

Here.

(hands it to Holmes)

I'll get you the toothbrush.

HOLMES

That antenna - shouldn't it be facing south towards Mexico, where Phillips is? How come you have it facing east?

WHITE

'Cause that's where Stonewall is.

Holmes is at sea.

HOLMES

What the hell's Stonewall?

As White heads around the cabin to the front door...

WHITE

Lyndon Johnson's ranch.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

Stock footage of the cityscape.

2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY

A female CIA officer suns herself on the steps of Building C.

INT. OPERATIONS ROOM

The 24-hour wall clock reads 15:55. There is the usual PURL of chatter, teletype machines and RINGING phones. One wall is covered with a complete map of North America; an adjoining wall has maps of Central America, U.S. Territories, and strategic regions in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and the Caribbean Sea. All maps sport GREEN, YELLOW, WHITE and RED stickpins clustered in major cities or regions.

Maps of Europe occupy a third wall. A few major cities have stickpins representing legacy operations.

DUTY OFFICERS JARED STOKES and TOM PERCY man the Duty Desk with MISSION PLANNING'S REID NICHOLS. Also sitting with them is GWYNETH ALBRIGHT. Bazzo and DiLauria sit together, sharing the contents of an open file folder displaying Schlager's photo and biographical data, and plane tickets.

STOKES

We don't want MI5's airport spotters to see you getting off the plane at Heathrow. Being so painfully polite, they'd notify Grosvenor Square that you'd arrived safely.

NICHOLS

So we think the best way of avoiding them would be to fly you from Dulles Airport to Dublin on Aer Lingus, then take BEA to Prestwick Airport in Glasgow, Scotland. There's an Aer Lingus flight leaving today at 18:55, arriving tomorrow in Dublin at 09:05. The BEA flight leaves at 10:10, arriving Glasgow at 11:55.

BAZZO

Hm, I'll take some Sominex so I can sleep through that first leg.

DILAURIA

(archly)

I heard some sleeping pills can
cause diarrhea.

BAZZO

I'll change my underwear in Dublin.

STOKES

Um, let's continue. Reid...

NICHOLS

You'll rent a car from Godfrey-Davis
at the airport, then drive south on
the A76 to the A702 to Abington.
When you get to the town, pull over
to a callbox and call the number in
your notes. Ask for Aileen Black.

BAZZO

Is she a real person?

NICHOLS

Yes, she heads Clydesdale Housing
Limited. She also owns the safehouse
where Schlager's staying. The
address is in your notes. When you
contact him, use his code name,
Picasso, so he'll know you're CIA.

BAZZO

Is Aileen expecting me to call?

STOKES

Yes. Gwyneth...

GWYNETH

I spoke with SMOTH. He told me he'd
had an MI6 officer contact Miss
Black. She's dealt with MI6 before,
resettling émigrés. Apparently, she
doesn't trust MI5 any more than the
dissidents do.

DILAURIA

Why is that?

STOKES

MI5 noticed that most Russian and
East German dissidents pay the rent
for their safehouses in cash,
whereas most everyone else pays by
check - unless the safehouse is
council housing, then the U.K.
government pays a monthly allowance
into the tenant's rent account.

(MORE)

STOKES (CONT'D)

With so many people on the dole, MI5 can't tell which émigré is using their place as a safehouse. So they're convinced they all are.

GWYNETH

Miss Black will be expecting a call after 14:00 from a Tom Sterling. I believe that's your working name.

BAZZO

One of them.

GWYNETH

You've bought a broodmare and you're looking to board your Clydesdale. If everything's okay, she'll ask you up to the house. If not, she'll say the stables are full at the moment.

STOKES

Reid...

NICHOLS

You'll be carrying tickets and a passport for Schlager in the name of Dieter Frye, a West German. SMOTH sent Schlager's photo and particulars over to TSD, who say they'll have the passport here by 17:00. It'll have a visa stamp showing a prior visit to the U.S.

BAZZO

Will I be armed?

PERCY

No. We did discuss it, but a Stasi hit team roaming about the Scottish Highlands seems pretty unlikely - unless they're nature lovers.

BAZZO

Let's hope you're right.

Surprisingly, this upsets Gwyneth as much as Bazzo.

STOKES

Even if they were there, Paul, the last thing you'd want is a pitched battle in the streets of Glasgow. The Stasi wouldn't be able to deny their involvement.

(MORE)

STOKES (CONT'D)

It would also identify you and Schlager as being someone other than tourists - not to mention the likelihood of collateral damage. Remember, Grosvenor Square isn't supposed to know you're in the country. Any questions?

Bazzo and DiLauria shake their heads no.

STOKES (CONT'D)

Then I'll call you when TSD delivers Schlager's passport.

Bazzo turns to DiLauria.

BAZZO

Do me a favor, will you?

DiLauria raises her eyebrows curiously. Bazzo reaches into his pants pocket, takes out a set of keys and hands them to her.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

Go around to my place and turn on the timer for the lights and the radio.

DILAURIA

Okay.

She and Bazzo stand, as does Gwyneth who shyly turns to Bazzo.

GWYNETH

Be careful, Paul.

Bazzo is a bit surprised, but mostly his heart is warmed by Gwyneth's concern.

BAZZO

I will.

Gwyneth leaves. DiLauria discreetly smiles at Bazzo, who watches Gwyneth enter the Communications Room.

MID-SHOW BREAK

EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY (DUSK)

Stock footage featuring the West Wing.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

On a console television set, a middle-aged NEWS READER soberly alternates between reading from the news copy on his desk and looking into the lens of the television camera.

As he speaks, filmed footage shows thousands of onlookers watching 250 Buddhist monks and nuns praying in the street outside the Xa Loi pagoda. Other Buddhist monks carry signs in Vietnamese and English that read:

- "Giết chúng tôi - Kill us"
- "Phật giáo và Công giáo bình đẳng - Buddhists and Catholics are equal"
- "Yêu cầu ngừng bắt giù và bắt cóc - Request to stop arrests and kidnappings."

The police - armed with batons, pistols and rifles - confront the Buddhists.

NEWS READER

In Saigon today, thousands of onlookers watched as a group of 250 Buddhist monks and nuns prayed in the street outside the Xa Loi pagoda. It was here that the body of 73-year-old Quang Duc, the first Buddhist monk to immolate himself in protest against President Diem's government, had been taken. The leader of the Buddhists, chief monk Thich Tri Quang, spoke to the crowd about the power of martyrdom, and appealed for non-violence while hundreds of police watched. Earlier, President Diem had been given a list of demands by the Buddhists, asking to rescind his order against displaying their flag, to permit them the same legal rights allowed to Catholics, halt arbitrary arrests and intimidation of Buddhists, allow them religious freedom, and to compensate the families of those killed and punish the perpetrators.

Suddenly, the police FIRE their guns into the crowd. SCREAMS and CHAOS ensue as the dying and wounded - including children - fall to the ground. The police then swarm the monks and nuns, striking them with the batons and arresting many of them.

NEWS READER (CONT'D)

The response from police, apparently on orders from President Diem, was to fire into the crowd. Eight people were killed, including children; four others were left severely wounded. Police also beat and arrested thirty Buddhist nuns and six monks.

From his desk President Kennedy watches television. His brother Robert watches from a leather chair. Anger and disgust dominate their reactions to the news. Robert Kennedy appears to have pangs of regret, as he mutters...

ROBERT KENNEDY
Diem's a fucking bastard.

President Kennedy kneads his brow, as though it will wipe away the anguish from the horror he is witnessing. Robert Kennedy now redirects his anger.

ROBERT KENNEDY (CONT'D)
I don't understand why the networks are showing this? You talked with Bill Paley at CBS.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
I did, and he spoke with Kintner at NBC and Hagerty at ABC News. They promised me: no self-immolation scenes and no violence against the Buddhists from Diem's forces.

ROBERT KENNEDY
So how did this get through?

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
This is the Educational channel, NET. They have their own arrangement with the BBC.

ROBERT KENNEDY
They would.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
There's some consolation in that.

ROBERT KENNEDY
What?

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
Except for a few college professors and their students up in Boston and New York, most of the country won't ever see any of this footage.

EXT. 704 3RD STREET, NW - APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY (DUSK)

After the sun has set, a purple and orange hue emanates from the clouds and is reflected in all the window panes.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Latham and FIONA JEFFRIES eat dinner while sitting on the sofa, their plates and glasses of wine on the coffee table.

This evening, the fare is salmon fillets glazed with a marinade of honey, garlic and herbs, topped with fresh thyme and a lemon slice, and served with asparagus and chopped potatoes along with white wine.

The TV set is on, tuned to a lengthy news program. The set has two dials: one for VHF, channels 2 - 13, and the other for UHF, channels 14 - 83. When tuned to a UHF channel, a small hole in the channel selector which contains a lens - a magnifying glass - enlarges the channel selected. Here, the UHF tuner highlights channel 26, WETA, an NET station.

As the television shows the dead and wounded Vietnamese people lying in the street, and the police beating and arresting Buddhists monks and nuns, Fiona and Latham stop eating. Their appetites have been vanquished by the unprovoked attack.

NEWS READER

Many journalists who have recently returned from Vietnam say that the United States is slipping into a quagmire there, and that the U.S. has vastly overestimated its ability to control the South Vietnamese generals. However, top officials at the Pentagon and in President Kennedy's cabinet deny this.

Latham can no longer contain his anger. He gets up and lowers the volume on the television set.

LATHAM

That goddamn Diem! He's gotta go; that's all there is to it. If he's smart, he'll leave voluntarily.

He plops back down on the sofa.

FIONA

He won't. Even if he wanted to, who'd take him? Not Cambodia or Laos or Thailand. They'd shoot Diem for his persecution of the Buddhists.

LATHAM

How about The Philippines?

FIONA

No.

LATHAM

Why not? President Macapagal's a Catholic, just like Diem. And I'm sure Diem would compensate him.

FIONA

I doubt Macapagal would want to ruin his slim chances of getting into heaven. No, I think eventually there will be a coup, and Diem won't survive it.

LATHAM

That's what the Joint Chiefs want. But I understand the Kennedy brothers won't support a coup that ends with Diem's assassination.

FIONA

It may not matter.

LATHAM

Why do you say that?

FIONA

If I were on your Joint Chiefs of Staff, I'd have established back-channel communications with Diem's generals. I'd promise them the U.S. would recognize whomever they put in charge after killing Diem.

LATHAM

And if President Kennedy refuses to recognize the new government?

FIONA

He will. After the embarrassment at the Bay of Pigs, he'll do anything to save face.

Her words strike a disquieting chord with Latham.

LATHAM

Assuming Kennedy's still alive.

Fiona sighs, as this harbinger of a possible future outcome settles heavily over them.

EXT. SAIGON, VIETNAM - DAY (MORNING)

INSERT: "Saigon, Vietnam"

The hustle and bustle is reminiscent of the city's French colonial era: bicycles, rickshaws, and motor scooters clog crowded streets lined with 18th- and 19th-century buildings.

THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Located in a seven-story art deco building at 39 Hàm Nghi Boulevard, it shows the U.S. at its most arrogant.

No effort has been made to safeguard the consulate or its inhabitants.

INT. ANTEROOM

A SECRETARY - female, mid-30s - sits at her desk. The phone RINGS; she answers it.

SECRETARY

U.S. Embassy, Ambassador Lodge's office. May I help you?

OFFICE OF U.S. AMBASSADOR HENRY CABOT LODGE

Plush. A large, slowly-spinning ceiling fan has little effect on 61-year-old HENRY CABOT LODGE. He sits at his desk, with his reading glasses sloped near the tip of his nose, beaded with sweat. Lodge reads a State Department telegram. He wears no tie; the sleeves of his white shirt are rolled up above the elbow. The intercom BUZZES. Lodge sets down the telegram and answers the intercom.

LODGE

Yes?

SECRETARY (O.S.)

President Diem is on line one, sir.

LODGE

Thank you.

He hangs up the intercom. Lodge clears his throat, lifts the handset of the black telephone, and presses the blinking button of line one.

LODGE (CONT'D)

Mr. President, it's Ambassador Lodge.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - PRESIDENT DIEM'S OFFICE

Cartoonishly ornate, it wreaks of hedonism. PRESIDENT NGÔ DÌNH DIEM, dressed in a linen suit and tie, is on the telephone.

DIEM

I know you are busy. So, thank you for taking my call.

CROSSCUT LODGE WITH DIEM

LODGE

I'm always available to speak with you, Mr. President. How may I help you this morning?

DIEM

I know you are aware of some discord among the ranks of generals in my armed forces. There has been talk that some units may engage in a rebellion. I want to know what would be the attitude of the United States should that happen?

Lodge is discomfited by Diem's admission and direct question.

LODGE

I do not feel well-enough informed to be able to tell you. I have heard about the shootings at Xa Loi pagoda, but I don't have all the facts. Also, you have to remember that we're 12 hours ahead of Washington; it's still yesterday evening there. What has happened here would be relatively fresh news there. No one in my government could possibly have an opinion at this juncture.

DIEM

(panicking)

But you must have some general idea. After all, I am Chief of State. I have tried to do my duty. I want to do now what duty and good sense require. I believe in duty above all.

LODGE

You have certainly done your duty. As I have mentioned to you before, I admire your courage and your great contribution to your country. No one can take away from you the credit for all you have done. That being said, sir, I am worried about your physical safety. In situations like this, we can offer you and your brother safe conduct out of the country if you resign.

DIEM

No, that is not something I am considering at this time. You do have my private phone number.

LODGE

Yes. If I can do anything for your physical safety, please call me.

BACK TO SCENE

Lodge takes a handkerchief from his pocket and wipes his face.

DIEM (O.S.)

For now, I am trying to re-establish order.

CLICK. Diem hangs up. Lodge is affronted by Diem's abrupt ending of the call. He hangs up the phone, puts the handkerchief back in his pocket, then presses the BUZZER button on the intercom.

SECRETARY (O.S.)

Yes, sir?

LODGE

Come in here, please.

Lodge hangs up the intercom. A moment later his office door opens and his Secretary enters, notepad and pencil in hand.

LODGE (CONT'D)

I want you to go downstairs to Communications. Have them make two copies of my phone conversation with Diem and to give you the tapes. If they give you any trouble have them call me, but make sure they call on the Red circuit. I don't want what I say to them to be recorded. Send one tape to President Kennedy and the other to the Director of the DIA.

SECRETARY

You mean the CIA.

LODGE

No, the Defense Intelligence Agency.

SECRETARY

Um, may I ask why, sir?

LODGE

Because that way General Taylor at the Pentagon will hear the tape. Look, the CIA analysts down on the third floor keep sending reports back to Washington praising Diem's leadership and his accomplishments, yet his generals are actively plotting against him. The analysts are like Diem himself, indulging in fantasy. Do you know Diem actually believes he has a mandate from God to persecute the Buddhists?

(MORE)

LODGE (CONT'D)

As far as I can see, the only God-given talents Diem has are his knack for self-delusion and extreme cruelty. Get on that right away, please.

His Secretary nods and leaves.

EXT. VAN HORN, TEXAS - DAY (DUSK)

A panorama of the ranch, ending with The Cabin.

INT. CABIN

The lights are on. As White watches, Holmes wipes sweat from his forehead then reattaches the covers of the modules, except those of the transmitter and receiver. He takes an oscillator telegraph key from the transmitter module and plugs it in.

HOLMES

I went through the other modules; they're fine. The antenna's still aimed at the Johnson ranch?

WHITE

Yeah.

HOLMES

Is Johnson there now?

WHITE

I was told he is.

HOLMES

Try and contact the ranch again. What call sign will you use?

WHITE

VOLCANO.

HOLMES

Okay, tell me the procedure.

WHITE

It's basic Morse code. I enter 'CS' then 'VOLCANO,' followed by 'DE' and our call sign, 'WINNER.'

HOLMES

Assuming someone's monitoring the frequency, how do they respond?

WHITE

With 'VOLUNTEER.'

Holmes turns the voltage selector to '110.' He plugs it into a wall socket, flips the 'ON' switch and turns up the volume on the receiver module. He takes a pad of paper and a pencil from his pocket and lays them on top of the receiver module.

HOLMES

Let's see if anyone responds.

White sits next to the module and begins transmitting in Morse code. He finishes and they wait. After a moment, the receiver CRACKLES. White grabs the notepad and pencil. The five distinct sounds of International Morse code spell out the message being sent. White translates each permutation of 'dah,' 'dit,' 'di,' 'didy' and 'didit' into letters and phrases. The transmission is short. White smiles.

WHITE

It reads, 'Calling station WINNER.
From VOLCANO: Received. VOLUNTEER
has confidence in you.'

White quickly taps 'EC' with the telegraph key while saying...

WHITE (CONT'D)

End of transmission.
(smirks)
For now, that is.

ACT THREE

EXT. GLASGOW PRESTWICK AIRPORT - DAY

Stock footage of a BEA (British European Airways) propjet landing.

GODFREY-DAVIS RENTAL CAR LOT

With an overnight bag slung over his shoulder and a wad of rental-car paperwork in hand, Bazzo walks up to a yellow 1963 Hillman Imp, two-door sedan. He opens the rear hatch and stows his overnight bag in the back seat rest. Closing the hatch, Bazzo starts for the left-hand side of the car then quickly reverses track and gets into the right-hand side, where the steering wheel is located on all cars made in and for Britain.

A76 DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

The little Hillman Imp putters through the stunning scenery of the Highlands, past castles and stately Tudor manors.

A702 SINGLE CARRIAGEWAY - THE SCOTSMAN (PUB)

Bazzo pulls up and stops. A red callbox is outside the pub. He enters the callbox, takes a fourpence coin from his pocket, drops it in the coin slot and dials.

The "double ring" (actually, Morse code for 'M') of a U.K. phone continues unabated. Bazzo hangs up. His coin is returned and he repeats the routine. Again, no one answers the phone. Frustrated, Bazzo enters the pub.

INT. THE SCOTSMAN

Noisy, even though the place is only half-filled, mostly with men drinking pints of stout ales or lagers. Bazzo approaches the portly, middle-aged bartender, EWAN.

BAZZO

Hi, I wonder if you can help me.

EWAN

You're a Yank. Can't help you with that.

BAZZO

No, I guess not. I just bought a Clydesdale. I was using the phone outside trying to reach Clydesdale Housing Limited.

EWAN

Aileen Black.

BAZZO

Yes, that's her name. But the phone just keeps ringing, no one answers.

EWAN

Hmm, let me ask our local operator to give it a try.

Ewan pulls a telephone without a dial from underneath the near end of the bar. He lifts the handset to his ear, taps the hook switch twice then speaks into the phone.

EWAN (CONT'D)

Kenzie, it's Ewan. I've got a fellow here trying to call Aileen up at the stables, but he says no one's answering. Can you give it a try for me, please?... Thanks.

He holds up an index finger to Bazzo, indicating to wait while Kenzie, the local operator, tries to complete the call.

EWAN (CONT'D)

Yes, I'm still here... That's odd. There's always someone there who hears the dog. Okay, thanks for trying.

(hangs up; to Bazzo)

(MORE)

EWAN (CONT'D)

Kenzie called the stables but no one answered. I'm wondering if I should call for a constable to go up there and check on the place.

BAZZO

Maybe her phone isn't working.

EWAN

You heard it ring, didn't you?

BAZZO

Yes, but that's not actually her phone. The ring's electronically generated.

EWAN

Really. I didn't know that.

BAZZO

I think I'll go over there, see for myself.

EWAN

It's a mile up the A702 in Abington. You can't miss it, big sign on the road. Would you like to slake your thirst with a pint before you go?

BAZZO

No, but thanks for your help.

EWAN

No trouble.

Bazzo leaves.

EXT. A702

The Hillman Imp follows the road sign for "Clydesdale Housing, Ltd.", turning off the single carriageway and onto a country road. He soon arrives at...

A PADDOCK

A sign on the fence reads "Clydesdale Housing, Ltd." Here, several Clydesdale horses saunter about. AILEEN BLACK - a fit woman in her mid-40s, wearing a lambs wool shawl, dungarees, and boots - leads a Clydesdale by the reins to the stables. She takes notice of the Hillman Imp and Bazzo eyeing her.

Bazzo alights from the Hillman, walks up to the fence and waits. Aileen comes out of the stables and approaches Bazzo from the opposite side of the fence. She smiles.

AILEEN

May I help you?

BAZZO

I'm looking for Aileen Black.

AILEEN

And you've found her.

BAZZO

Good. I'm Tom Sterling. I'm looking to board my Clydesdale.

Aileen's disposition quickly turns dour.

AILEEN

You were supposed to call first.

BAZZO

I did. Twice. I even had the bartender at The Scotsman have the local operator call you.

AILEEN

I don't understand. I've been here all day, and none of my staff say anyone's called.

BAZZO

When did you last use the phone?

AILEEN

Last night when I spoke with Hans, to remind him you'd be here today.

BAZZO

You normally go through the day without any calls?

AILEEN

No, but I've been very busy. I haven't had time to think about it.

BAZZO

Mind if I check your phone?

Aileen shrugs. She climbs over the fence and the Two head toward a three-story, Alpine-style country house with a dirt-and-gravel driveway.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

That's a pretty big house.

AILEEN

Seven bedrooms.

BAZZO

Really. How many people live here,
if you don't mind me asking?

AILEEN

Just me.

Bazzo is surprised.

AILEEN (CONT'D)

My kids left for Edinburgh and
London - the lure of the city.

BAZZO

You don't rent out any of the rooms?

AILEEN

Sometimes. Hans lived here until two
weeks ago when he moved into my old
cottage.

INT. HOME OFFICE

Modestly appointed with an oak desk, two file cabinets, and
bookshelves crammed with equestrian subject matter. Aileen and
Bazzo enter. On the desk is a black Western Electric 302
telephone with a cloth-covered cord but without a dial. Beside
it, lies mail addressed to "Hans Schlager." Bazzo eyes this.

AILEEN

Sometimes the postman forgets Hans
doesn't live here anymore.

She picks up the telephone handset and listens; she is
surprised.

AILEEN (CONT'D)

My goodness, there's no dialtone.

She gives Bazzo the handset. The same results, or lack
thereof, makes him wary.

BAZZO

What time did you call Schlager?

AILEEN

About nine-thirty. Why?

Bazzo handles the telephone cord, following it to the wall.

BAZZO

The cord isn't frayed... Does it
run outside or to the cellar?

AILEEN

The cellar.

BAZZO

Show me.

Aileen leads Bazzo out the Office and into...

THE CELLAR

Dark. A chain CLINKS and a bare, overhead lightbulb comes on. Aileen leads Bazzo down the creaking wooden stairs, past cobwebs and to a near corner. She pulls the overhead chain on another light fixture. With this light on, the cloth-covered black cord from the telephone can be seen snaking its way through a small hole in the ceiling, clinging like a vine down the wall to a junction box where the cord has been cut.

AILEEN

It's come loose.

Bazzo examines the cord; it has a clean, straight cut through the cloth and the wire.

BAZZO

No, it's been deliberately cut.

AILEEN

Oh, my God...

BAZZO

There another way into the cellar?

Aileen is too consumed with shock to respond.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

Aileen... Aileen!

She snaps to.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

Is there a way into the cellar from outside?

AILEEN

Yes, through the cellar doors at the side of the house.

BAZZO

Are they locked?

AILEEN

Of course not! We don't have housebreakers here in Abington.

BAZZO

The cord didn't cut itself.

The truth embarrasses Aileen.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

The house Schlager rents from you -
how far is it from here?

AILEEN

About a mile, it's the white cottage-

BAZZO

With the name 'Black' on the
mailbox. Just up the main road?

AILEEN

It's shorter if you follow the road
outside the paddock.

(grows more worrisome)

You don't think anything's happened
to Hans?

Being purposely non-committal, Bazzo shrugs.

AILEEN (CONT'D)

I'll go with you.

BAZZO

No. Ewan said he might call the
police to come and check up on you.
If you're not here they might
suspect foul play.

Aileen sighs and nods, conceding that Bazzo has a point.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

If they do show up, say the phone's
had its day and that you're going
to have Marconi replace it; but
that's all. Don't tell them about
the cord being cut or that I was
here. The last thing I want is the
police looking for me. I'd better
get going.

Aileen leads Bazzo back up the stairs.

EXT. PADDOCK

Aileen and Bazzo walk to the Hillman Imp. He gets in and
drives away while Aileen watches worriedly.

COUNTRY ROAD - WHITE COTTAGE

Bazzo pulls up to a small house with the name "Black" on the
mailbox. He looks around. Seeing no other vehicles, he takes a
pair of leather gloves from the glovebox, puts them on, and
alights. He goes up to the front door. Using an agreed-upon
numeric form of the Tap Code, Bazzo RAPS on the door:

35 24 13 11 43 43 34 - 24 44 43 - 44 34 32 - 43 44 15 42 31 24
33 22

INSERT: "Picasso, it's Tom Sterling."

Bazzo waits a moment but no response. Finally...

BAZZO

Picasso?

Again, no response. Bazzo speaks German.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

Picasso, bist du da drin?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Picasso, are you in there?"

Still no response. The front door has a single cylinder, exterior entrance, handleset doorknob. Bazzo tries it - the door is unlocked.

INT. LIVING ROOM

The wallpaper is a bright yellow with multi-colored flowers. The windows have valences and closed curtains. Around an area rug are a fabric sofa and two chairs from the same set, and a chest of drawers, atop which sits a miniature ship, the HMS Victory, in a glass bottle. On an end table is a black telephone, also without a rotary dial. There is a fireplace and, adjacent to it, a bookcase built into the wall. Opposite the living room is the kitchen. A short hallway between the living room and the kitchen leads straight to the...

BATHROOM

Bazzo heads down the hallway with some trepidation. The bathroom door is closed. On the door is a sign with a hand-drawn image of a toilet. A movable arrow overlays the image and can be pointed to either "Available" or "In Use"; the arrow points to the latter. From inside the bathroom comes a continual WHOOSH of running water.

Bazzo tries the doorknob; it opens easily, revealing first the clawfoot bathtub then the throne, inches away. Sitting on the throne, pants and underwear down by his ankles, is HANS SCHLAGER, portly and in his late-40s. He is leaning towards the tub and back against the trip handle on the toilet tank, causing it to continuously flush. His right eye bulges and is fixed on the tub; but his left eye - in fact, the entire left side of his face - has been obliterated, the result of an ultra-frangible bullet fired at close range.

Bazzo does not enter the bathroom. Instead, he shuts the door and heads back into the...

LIVING ROOM

Almost as an afterthought, Bazzo picks up the handset on the telephone. To his surprise, there is a loud dialtone. He replaces the handset, goes to the front door and leaves.

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

A panorama of the cityscape, ending at Foggy Bottom.

2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY

Stock footage of Building C.

INT. COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

MINNIE, Chief Communications Officer, sits before a TSEC/KL-7 cipher machine and decrypts a message. Gwyneth sits at a TC-53 cipher machine entering unencrypted text. Latham is also there, sitting at a desk and speaking into a Gray phone. Near him the reels of a tape recorder spin during his conversation.

LATHAM

Where are you again?

INT. PRESTWICK AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

Typically busy. Passengers, plane crews, and airport workers move about in close choreography, barely avoiding running into each other. At a far wall is a line of phonebooths. Inside one of them, Bazzo speaks into a payphone.

BAZZO

Prestwick Airport. I didn't dare use a phone in town because all the calls go through the local operator. The artwork was damaged.

CROSSCUT LATHAM WITH BAZZO

LATHAM

How badly?

BAZZO

Beyond repair. Looks like vandals took to ruining it in a signature fashion.

LATHAM

How familiar was it?

BAZZO

Remember the greeting card given to Gerald Radcliffe in Central Park?

LATHAM

When he met with the unwashed?

BAZZO

Yeah. The right side was untouched but the left was unrecognizable. There were a few other things. Mail for the artist was still being sent to the patron's place, though the art had recently been moved to the gallery. Plus, the phone line in the patron's cellar had been cut some time after 22:00 yesterday.

LATHAM

Why would they do that? The artwork was in the gallery. The vandals knew that because they knew where to go.

BAZZO

And they left the phone line in the gallery in tact.

LATHAM

Really. Then - what? - are we dealing with two different groups of vandals - one who thought the artwork was in the patron's home, and the other who knew where it had been moved?

BAZZO

I don't know. Could be.

LATHAM

Hmm... Could the line have been cut to force the patron to go to the gallery, see how the artwork was being received by the public?

BAZZO

It's possible, I guess.

LATHAM

Have the patron pass the word along.

BAZZO

Already did that. Our cousin's gonna have a fit. The Picasso was supposed to be safer with us.

LATHAM

Hmm... When's your flight back?

BAZZO

22:00 tonight.

BACK TO SCENE

Latham sighs, clearly disappointed but also in a quandary.

LATHAM

We'll talk when you get back.

He hangs up. Exactly what happened to Schlager occupies his thoughts. Gwyneth turns to him.

GWYNETH

Excuse me, Mr. Latham. Is Paul okay?

LATHAM

Huh? Oh, yes, he's fine. He'll be back tomorrow.

Relieved of her worry, Gwyneth half-smiles and nods. Latham is too abstracted to give a second thought to her concern about Bazzo. He gets up and leaves.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - WEST WING - DAY

Stock footage of this familiar landmark.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

The clock on the desk reads 12:05. President Kennedy's TWO CHILDREN play with their toys on the floor by the bulletproof windows behind the mahogany desk. The glass-paneled doors looking out upon the Rose Garden are open. President Kennedy and his brother Robert stand in the doorway. Robert Kennedy loosens his tie.

ROBERT KENNEDY

What happened to the air conditioning?

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

On the fritz. They're working on it. Lodge sent me a tape recording of a phone conversation he had with President Diem. The man knows his generals are plotting against him and wonders if we still support him.

ROBERT KENNEDY

It won't be for much longer. Ask him to stop his oppression of the Buddhists, and he responds by having the police fire into a crowd of civilians watching them pray.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

He justified that by saying he's doing what's best for his country.

Robert Kennedy HUFFS.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY (CONT'D)
Lodge tried sympathizing with him,
but who knows what Diem'll do next.

ROBERT KENNEDY
The man's become delusional.

They are interrupted by a KNOCK on the door.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
Come in.

MAUD SHAW, the middle-aged governess to President Kennedy's children, enters. The Two Children giggle upon seeing Maud and run up to her. Maud affectionately hugs them.

MAUD
Who's ready for some lunch?

The Children erupt in SQUEALS of excitement. Maud takes them by the hand and leads them out the office, shutting the door behind her. Robert Kennedy smiles.

ROBERT KENNEDY
Mine react the same way to Kathy Conboy.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
Speaking of delusional, did you hear what the CIA's liaison with the South Vietnamese generals told the House Oversight Committee?

ROBERT KENNEDY
You mean Lucien Conein, their Saigon lap dog?

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
Yes. He told them the Agency spent only \$70,000 a year on food and medical supplies for the families of ARVN soldiers killed by the Viet Cong. But McNamara told me the funds were earmarked for any of Diem's generals who supported a coup.

ROBERT KENNEDY
And the House believed the CIA.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
You surprised? After the Bay of Pigs and the Berlin Wall, people are desperate to believe the CIA's back on track and getting it right.

EXT. VAN HORN, TEXAS - DAY

A view of the directional antenna and the Cabin.

INT. CABIN

White and Holmes sit at an old wooden table. White takes a typewritten sheet of paper from a briefcase and hands it to Holmes.

INSERT SHEET OF PAPER:

1 - Mannlicher-Carcano Model 38
2 - Mauser M59
2 - Russian Dragunov SVD
3 - Savage 10FP
3 - Heckler & Koch G3
Plus silencers and sniper scopes for all the above

Bore the SVD to accept 7.62x54mmR rounds
The others should accept 7.62x51mm NATO or .308 Winchester,
whichever does not diminish in velocity from a silencer.

Badges:

10 - Dallas Police Officer
10 - Dallas Sheriff's Officer
5 - Army CIC (Counterintelligence Corps)
5 - FBI Special Agent
5 - Secret Service Agents

IDs:

5 - Union Terminal Company

BACK TO SCENE

Holmes looks up from the list.

HOLMES

I have the specs for the rifles, so that's not a problem. But the badges - when do you need them?

WHITE

End of September.

HOLMES

I guess I can do that.

WHITE

Good. That'll give everyone time to know who they'll be and where. Then they'll use the rifle best suited for their role.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

Stock footage of the cityscape.

2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY

Long shadows indicate a later hour on a late-summer day, with the temperature reserved for mid-July. A CIA officer crossing the compound sans suit jacket has his short-sleeved white shirt appear semi-translucent from sweating.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE

Latham is at the table writing notes on a legal notepad:

- Schlager still gets mail at Aileen Brown's stables. So the locals believe he still lives there.

- The death sentence in absentia was only just issued. Not enough time for a Stasi hit team to complete their surveillance and learn Schlager had moved to the cottage.

- Surveilling the stables, the hit team would have checked her mailbox and seen mail for Schlager. They wouldn't know Schlager was only there to retrieve his mail.

There is a KNOCK on the door; it opens and Bazzo enters.

LATHAM

Welcome back. How do you feel?

BAZZO

Jet-lagged, but I'll survive.

LATHAM

Okay, I'll keep it short then. Come and sit down.

Bazzo sits at the table.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

I've made some notes based on our conversation.

He slides the legal notepad to Bazzo who reads Latham's notes.

BAZZO

I was thinking about this on the way back. Yeah, they couldn't have had enough time to complete their surveillance of Schlager. If they saw him at the stables, they'd have to assume he lived there.

LATHAM

Where'd you find Schlager's body?

BAZZO

In the bathroom. He was sitting on the throne, leaning back against the flush handle. The water was rushing into and out of the bowl. You could hear it from the hall.

LATHAM

Had he used the toilet or had he been propped up there?

BAZZO

Not sure. His pants and underwear were down by his ankles, so I tend to think he was doing his business.

LATHAM

If that's the case, then maybe he knew his attacker. He could have let him in.

BAZZO

It's possible, yeah.

LATHAM

I can't imagine a Stasi hit team going to those lengths.

BAZZO

I agree, though given that half his face was blown off, I couldn't tell if his killer had surprised him or not.

Latham gets up and meanders about the room.

LATHAM

If Schlager was legit, we'd have used him in some of our own agit-prop - making speeches, writing leaflets to be dropped over East Germany...

BAZZO

Or send him back into East Germany as our joe.

LATHAM

No, MI6 would've already done that if they'd felt he'd be of any use.

BAZZO

Yeah, that's true. Well, he's of no use to anyone now.

LATHAM

It looks like-

He stops mid-sentence as he realizes something.

BAZZO

Looks like what?

Latham is still fitting the pieces of the puzzle together.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

You were saying...

LATHAM

Wait. Schlager may be of more use now than he ever was - as a martyr.

This piques Bazzo's interest.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Look, in South Vietnam, the monks who immolated themselves have been proclaimed martyrs by the Buddhists. It's galvanized the people against the Diem government. What if the same thing were done in Scotland? Kill Schlager in a manner typical of the KGB or the Stasi, then portray him as a martyr to the world.

BAZZO

Who would do that? His fellow émigrés?

LATHAM

No, MI6.

BAZZO

What?!

LATHAM

Treat it as a crime, Bazzo. Who benefits most from Schlager's assassination? The people who are a primary target of the Eastern Bloc. The same people trying to recruit and run émigrés back across The Curtain.

BAZZO

So, SMOTH was conning us.

LATHAM

Maybe. I'm hoping he didn't know the full scope of the operation. Then again...

BAZZO

When are you gonna confront SMOTH
with this?

LATHAM

I'm not. I'll add it to the list of
times MI6 has used us. When I move
against them, SMOTH will never know
it's me.

Bazzo gets up; he's weary and has had heard enough.

BAZZO

I'm going home and get some sleep.

LATHAM

I'll see you tomorrow.

Bazzo gets up, goes to the door and opens it. In the Outer
Office, COLLETTE DOWD and Gwyneth talk amiably. They pause
their conversation as Gwyneth sees Bazzo. She smiles at him.
He smiles back and closes Latham's Office door behind him.

Meanwhile, Latham picks up his legal notepad from the table
and crosses to his desk. He SLAMS the notepad down on the
desktop and plops down angrily into his chair.

END