

Cool Gray Dawn

Season Three, Episode #13: "The Other Option Is Extinction"

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Episode #13: "The Other Option Is Extinction"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

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

Stock footage of the National Mall and Lincoln Memorial.

704 3RD STREET NW - APARTMENT BUILDING

The shades are up in most of the windows.

INT. KITCHENETTE

FIONA JEFFRIES and WARREN LATHAM barely touch their breakfast. Fiona swirls her fork around her plate then finally stops.

FIONA

What time do you have to be there?

LATHAM

10:00. There's been a late change.

FIONA

To what?

LATHAM

The air strike option.

FIONA

You said Kennedy had decided against that.

LATHAM

The Pentagon wants him to reconsider it.

FIONA

Reckless bastards.

LATHAM

Don't say anything to Larry, okay?

FIONA

Oh, God forbid your closest ally should know the world's about to go to hell in a handbasket.

LATHAM

Fiona...

FIONA

What if Kennedy changes his mind and chooses an air strike, then what? We wait by the radio for Conelrad to say take shelter?

Latham caresses her hand.

LATHAM

Come on.

They stand and scrape the food from their plates in the trash.

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

CIA personnel enter through Gate #1.

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

The 24-hour wall clock reads 08:15. COLLETTE DOWD and PAUL "BAZZO" BARRY watch the "Today" show on the portable TV set where news anchor Frank Blair discusses Berlin. Latham enters. He looks at the TV set then at Collette and Bazzo.

COLLETTE

They're speculating Kennedy's going to talk about Berlin tonight.

LATHAM

He asked the Post and the Times to hold off printing we're going with a quarantine.

BAZZO

Good thing, too. Otherwise, the country would be in a panic.

LATHAM

Is Carla downstairs?

Bazzo nods.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

I'll be out a lot today, so you might as well work up here.

The Red phone RINGS; Collette answers it.

COLLETTE

2-3-6-2... Yes... I'll tell him.
(hangs up; to Latham)
Berard wants you.

Bazzo looks worried. Latham sets his satchel on Collette's desk, takes off his trench coat and hands it to Collette - then he leaves.

BERARD'S OFFICE

WILSON BERARD sips tea as Latham enters.

BERARD
Some Earl Grey, Warren?

LATHAM
Oh, thank you.

Berard pours a cup for Latham who adds two cubes of sugar, then takes the cup and saucer, and sits.

BERARD
I wanted to speak with you before you left for the White House. This reworked air strike you'll be reviewing... No one can predict what the Soviets will do after tonight's speech, but an air strike - even a revised one - can only provoke them. I hope Khrushchev sees the quarantine as an opportunity to open a dialogue with the president rather than retaliate and take West Berlin.

LATHAM
Is that likely?

BERARD
The JCS believe it is. They say a quarantine alone is a weak response unless we also act militarily.

LATHAM
Thus, the reworked air strike.

BERARD
Yes. Our counter-argument is that a quarantine can't be construed as an act of aggression. It gives the Soviets less reason to retaliate.

LATHAM
Still, it's a gamble nonetheless.

BERARD
One that carries the least risk of nuclear war. Remember that when you give your evaluation.

LATHAM
I will. I'm glad we have a source in the Kremlin who can give us some idea what Khrushchev's thinking.

BERARD

You mean HERO - or what is it MI6 calls him, IRONBARK?

LATHAM

Yes, sir.

BERARD

One more thing... There's been talk in the Pentagon of impeachment.

LATHAM

I really doubt President Kennedy's worried about that now.

BERARD

Well, I am. It's meant to rouse more hostility against him. The truth is, Kennedy's in a no-win situation.

LATHAM

How? If we come out of this without any shots fired, he'll be a hero.

BERARD

A hero whom the right-wing will see as guaranteed to win reelection. He's already had two and possibly three attempts on his life. If he survives this, there'll be an urgency to kill him.

His words are a like a deathknell to hope. Berard rises and goes to the window while Latham despairs.

LATHAM

If Kennedy loses this gambit, it'll all become moot, won't it? His won't be the only life sacrificed.

BERARD

For a while I thought we'd silenced Kennedy's worst enemies. Now, it'll be communism or civil rights or even his brother Bobby - those will be the excuses given for his assassination, unless we act.

LATHAM

How? We don't have the resources.

BERARD

That's another excuse - and I won't hear it. You need to mend fences with Carl Durang.

(MORE)

BERARD (CONT'D)

The FBI has C.I.'s in these
extremist groups who report threats
against the president, even if
Hoover ignores them.

LATHAM

Sir, some of their threat reports
never even reach Durang's desk.

BERARD

But we can act on the ones that do.

LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

The TV set is turned off. Collette is typing. The Gray phone
RINGS; she answers it.

COLLETTE

Yes?

OPERATOR (O.S.)

This is DC-COMM. I have a call for
Warren Latham from a Noëlle Lavigne,
originating from Paris, France.

COLLETTE

Put her through, please.

OPERATOR (O.S.)

One moment... Go ahead, caller.

NOELLE (O.S.)

(French accent)

Mr. Latham?

COLLETTE

No, I'm Mr. Latham's personal
assistant. How may I help you?

NOELLE (O.S.)

My name is Noëlle Lavigne. I'm a
teacher here at...

(in French)

L'école commune des garçons.

(back to English)

Sorry, the Communal Boy's School
here in Paris. Mr. Latham gave me
his card and said I could call him.

COLLETTE

He's out of the office at the
moment. Can he call you back?

NOELLE (O.S.)

Yes. I will be here until 4:00, my
time. My number here is 1-42-59...

As Collette writes on her notepad, BILL NEALY enters.

COLLETTE
I'll give him the message.

NOELLE (O.S.)
Thank you. Au revoir.

COLLETTE
Goodbye, Miss Lavigne.

She hangs up then looks up at Nealy.

NEALY
Warren's out?

Before Collette can answer Latham enters. She tears the sheet off her notepad and hands it to Latham.

COLLETTE
From a teacher in Paris.

NEALY
Dog eat your homework again?

LATHAM
(grins)
They're five hours ahead, right?

COLLETTE
Yes. She'll be there until 11:00,
our time.

LATHAM
Okay. Call Carl Durang. Tell him
I'm stopping by around 1:00.

Collette flips through her Rolodex.

NEALY
You got a minute for me?

LATHAM
I'm going to be in and out all day,
so I have Paul sitting in for me.

NEALY
No problem. I'll bring this to him.

LATHAM
What the hell, I have time. Come on.

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Latham's trench coat hangs on the coat rack. Latham and Nealy enter. Bazzo looks up from a report he's reading as they sit.

BAZZO

You want the office?

LATHAM

No, no, this is for you too.

NEALY

Warren, remember Nikolai Khokhlov?

LATHAM

Yeah, the KGB defector from their 13th Directorate. I debriefed him my last month in Frankfurt.

NEALY

March of '54, wasn't it?

LATHAM

Yeah, my second tour there. In between I was in Southeast Asia.

NEALY

What do you remember about that debrief?

EXT. FRANKFURT, WEST GERMANY - DAY - PAST

INSERT: "Frankfurt, West Germany"

Stock footage of "der Hauptbahnhof" (main train station), "der Römerplatz" (Roman Square) and a kiosk with a sign that reads "Erfrischungen" (Refreshments).

LATHAM (V.O.)

January of '54... Khokhlov had been ordered to go to Frankfurt.

INT. KHOKHLOV'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

NIKOLAI KHOKHLOV, 35, goes over a street map with FELIX and FRANZ, his two German agents.

LATHAM (V.O.)

He was there to supervise Felix and Franz, two operatives whose job was to kill a political dissident...

MEETING HALL

GEORGIY OKOLOVICH addresses an audience with a fiery speech.

LATHAM (V.O.)

Georgiy Okolovich.

"Felix" and "Franz" are in the audience.

EXT. I.G. FARBEN BUILDING - DAY

INSERT: "CIA Station, Frankfurt"

This huge, former corporate headquarters was the actual home of CIA in Germany after World War II. Its 1920s modernist, New Objectivity style gives it the austere look of an asylum.

LATHAM (V.O.)

Operation Rhine was the plan to kill Okolovich, and it was simple.

INT. MEETING ROOM

On a table are a running tape recorder; two bottles, vodka and Coca-Cola; a pitcher of water; two drinking glasses, and a pack of Gauloises cigarettes that Khokhlov chain-smokes. Latham debriefs him.

LATHAM (V.O.)

Khokhlov chose a gun disguised as a pack of cigarettes. It was silenced and fired cyanide rounds. Franz would approach Okolovich from behind and shoot him, then slip the weapon to Felix walking in the opposite direction. Franz would get in a car driven by Khokhlov. Felix would make sure Okolovich was dead, and leave in his own car. They'd all meet behind the Iron Curtain before anyone knew what happened.

INT. KHOKHLOV'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

A despondent Khokhlov is on the phone with his wife, YANA.

LATHAM (V.O.)

But then Khokhlov spoke to his wife.

YANA (O.S.)

Yesli Okolovicha ub'yut, ty stanesh' ubiytsey. YA ne mogu byt' zhenoy ubiytsy.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "If Okolovich is killed, you'll be a murderer. I cannot be the wife of a murderer."

EXT. KAISERSTRASSE AT FRANKFURT-ON-MAIN - DAY

Trolley cars clog the busy downtown. Khokhlov alights from one and enters an apartment building on Kaiserstrasse.

INT. CORRIDOR

Khokhlov KNOCKS on an apartment door. Okolovich opens it.

KHOKHLOV
Georgi Okolovich?

OKOLOVICH
Da, eto ya.

KHOKHLOV
Mogu li ya voyti?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Can I come in?"

Okolovich nods and opens the door wider. Khokhlov enters.

LIVING ROOM

KHOKHLOV
Ya iz Moskvyy. Tsentral'nyy Komitet
Kommunisticheskoy partii zakazal
vashe ubiystvo.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "I'm from Moscow. The Central Committee of the Communist Party has ordered your assassination."

Okolovich is too frightened to move or speak.

KHOKHLOV (CONT'D)
No ya ne mogu etogo dopustit'.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "But I can't let that happen."

LATHAM (V.O.)
After telling Okolovich the KGB
would send others after him,
Khokhlov defected.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE - DAY - PRESENT

Nealy and Bazzo are rapt listeners to Latham.

LATHAM
That's as far as my debrief went.

NEALY
The KGB went further and sent his
wife and son to Siberia.

LATHAM
Oh, man...

NEALY
Against our advice, Khokhlov went
to Bonn and held a press conference
where he outlined Operation Rhine.
After that he held up pictures of
his wife and son, and begged for
help to save his family.

(MORE)

NEALY (CONT'D)

For the next two years he went on TV here and sold his story to magazines. Each time he pleaded for help to save his family but nothing happened. When the Russians sent tanks into Budapest in '56, Khokhlov went back to Frankfurt to work with Okolovich. That's when the KGB decided they'd had enough.

EXT. FRANKFURT - PALMENGARTEN - DAY - PAST

A sign at the entrance reads "Palmgarten," a botanical garden located in the Westend-Süd district.

INT. PALMENHAUS

A 16,000-square-foot, steel-and-glass maze of greenhouses with green palms and sub-tropical plants. It also houses a cascade falling from an artificial hill, a pond full of koi and an aquarium with tropical fish in a grotto just under the hill.

CAFÉ

A new wing in which Khokhlov addresses a packed audience.

LATER

Kholkhov, Okolovich and friends sit at a table. The WAITER brings Kholkhov a cup of coffee. Kholkhov takes a sip.

KHOKHLOV

(speaks Russian)

Khm, ne tak khorosho, kak obychno.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Hmm, not as good as usual."

He shrugs then shakes his head as though to clear his vision.

NEALY (V.O.)

Khokhlov felt tired. He began to hallucinate and finally collapsed in the parking lot.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE - DAY - PRESENT

Bazzo takes notes as he and Latham listen to Nealy.

NEALY

Later, Khokhlov's skin began to crack; he lost his hair. He began to bleed but his blood wouldn't clot. He knew then what was happening to him - he'd been poisoned.

Latham and Bazzo look at each other and nod knowingly.

LATHAM

Thallium-201.

NEALY

The German doctors irrigated him with antidotes, then he was transferred back here. As you can imagine, he's still very angry, at the KGB and at us for not doing enough to get his family out of Russia. He says unless you help him, Warren, he'll strike a deal with the KGB to get his family over here. We can't let that happen.

BAZZO

By tomorrow, the world as we know it could be a memory. Why the hell would anyone care what Khokhlov has to say now?

NEALY

And if the world's still here, Paul? MOTHER's convinced Khokhlov can do irreparable damage to the Agency.

BAZZO

I see where this is going now... We're Murder, Incorporated here!

NEALY

If I wanted that I'd have asked Berard to give the order! I'm hoping you can come up with something, otherwise someone will kill him.

LATHAM

(checks his watch)

I have to go. Look, it's up to Paul. If he can come up with a plan, we'll run it by Kensington. No promises though.

Nealy nods. Latham gets up. He grabs his trench coat from the coat rack and leaves.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Stock footage of this familiar landmark.

INT. BASEMENT - MAP ROOM

Latham pores over the revised air strike plan. He refers to maps of Cuba where missile launch sites and nuclear storage facilities are marked. MCGEORGE BUNDY enters; he's despondent.

LATHAM

Meeting over?

BUNDY

For now. We'll, um, reconvene after lunch.

LATHAM

The Pentagon's revised plan is more insane than their original one. I assume you want a detailed analysis.

Bundy is abstracted; he doesn't appear to hear Latham.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

George?... George.

BUNDY

I just passed by McNamara's office. He was on the phone and I heard him address someone as 'Colonel.' Who else could it be but someone in the Pentagon? He tells this colonel to get four tactical squadrons ready for a possible air strike on Cuba.

LATHAM

What?!

BUNDY

Last thing I heard was 'If the president doesn't accept our recommendation, there won't be time to do it later.'

LATHAM

Geezus... I thought McNamara had the president's back.

BUNDY

So did I... The, um - the president will see you in a few minutes. I'll send someone down to get you.

LATHAM

(checks his watch)

I need to make a long-distance call.

BUNDY

Use the black phone in my office.

LATHAM

Dial nine first?

BUNDY

Huh?

LATHAM

Dial nine?

Bundy nods and leaves while Latham goes next door.

MCGEORGE BUNDY'S OFFICE

Books seemingly fight for space on the bookshelves. Latham enters. At the desk he takes Collette's note from his pocket and dials. He hears the phone RING. (Everyone speaks French.)

SCHOOL OPERATOR (O.S.)

L'école commune des garçons.

LATHAM

Voici Warren Latham. J'appelle de Washington, D.C. Une de vos enseignantes, Mademoiselle Noëlle Lavigne, a appelé mon bureau plus tôt. Puis-je parler elle, s'il vous plaît?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "This is Warren Latham. I'm calling from Washington, D.C. One of your teachers, Miss Noëlle Lavigne, called my office earlier. Can I talk to her, please?"

SCHOOL OPERATOR (O.S.)

Un instant, s'il vous plaît.

Latham taps his thumb on the desk. A moment later...

INT. COMMUNAL BOY'S SCHOOL - TEACHERS' ROOM - DAY

A small refrigerator, hot plate and coffee pot sit against the wall. At the table, NOËLLE LAVIGNE, 30s, is on the phone.

NOELLE

Ç'est Noëlle.

CROSSCUT LATHAM WITH NOËLLE

LATHAM

(speaks English)

Hi, it's Warren Latham. You mind if we speak English?

NOELLE

No, but forgive me if I make mistakes.

LATHAM

You called me about Minh De.

NOELLE

Yes, he's quite a troubled boy.

LATHAM

Why? What's wrong with him?

NOELLE

His grandfather tells him there will be war soon between the United States and Russia over Berlin. We all worry about such things, but children should not have to.

LATHAM

No, you're right; they shouldn't.

NOELLE

Minh's grandfather is often away on business, leaving the boy at home worrying about dying. Minh has mentioned this to me a couple of times. I know you care very much for him. I hoped you might talk to Minh, reassure him.

LATHAM

Yes, of course.

NOELLE

When Minh sees the other boys with their parents, you can see how sad he is. That day you were here, I saw him come alive. I also saw the resemblance.

LATHAM

Did you mention this to Minh?

NOELLE

No, but he's an intelligent boy. He knows what he sees when he looks in the mirror, and I think he sees you. I have his telephone number here...

Latham writes down the number on a notepad on Bundy's desk, tears off the sheet and puts it in his pocket.

LATHAM

Would you happen to know if Minh's grandfather is around?

NOELLE

He's away. I believe he returns tomorrow. However, Minh's nanny may answer the telephone. You'll want to tell her you're with the school.

LATHAM

Thank you, Miss Lavigne.

NOELLE
You're welcome, Mr. Latham.

CLICK. Latham hangs up.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

PRESIDENT KENNEDY is alone, grimly reading a CIA document.

INSERT DOCUMENT:

C E N T R A L I N T E L L I G E N C E A G E N C Y

20 October 1962

SUBJECT: MAJOR CONSEQUENCES OF CERTAIN US COURSES OF ACTION
ON CUBA

THE PROBLEM

To estimate the major consequences of certain US courses of action with respect to Cuba

THE ESTIMATE

STATUS OF SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP IN CUBA

1. Firm evidence indicates the presence in Cuba of four MRBM and two IRBM sites in various stages of construction and organized into at least three regiments. Of these, two regiments of eight launchers each are mobile and designed to launch MRBMs with a range of about 1,100 n.m., while one regiment of eight fixed launchers may be designed for IRBMs with a range of about 2,200 n.m.

2. The 16 launchers for 1,100 n.m. MRBMs must be considered operational. Four of the fixed launchers for the 2,200 n.m. IRBMs could be operational within the next six weeks.

The construction of at least one probable nuclear storage facility indicates the intent of the Soviets to provide nuclear warheads. It is prudent to assume that when the missiles are operational, nuclear warheads will be available. They could be brought in by air, submarine or surface ship.

3. We estimate that operational MRBM missiles can be fired in eight hours or less after a decision to launch, depending on their condition of readiness. After the IRBM sites are completed and missiles are on launchers, a state of readiness of five hours may be maintained. Both systems are believed to be provided with two missiles per launcher, providing a refire capability from each launcher after four to six additional hours for the MRBMs and six to eight hours for the IRBMs.

4. It is possible that further evidence will uncover additional launch sites which are presently undetected, but

the extent of our coverage leads us to believe that such evidence would not drastically increase the total now deployed. On the other hand, new deployments could be started at any time.

5. The inventory of other major Soviet weapons now identified in Cuba includes:

a. 22 IL-28 jet light bombers, of which one is assembled and three others have been uncrated;

b. 39 MIG-21 jet fighters, of which 35 are assembled and four are still in crates, and 62 other jet fighters of less advanced type;

c. 24 SA-2 sites, of which 16 are believed to be individually operational with some missiles on launchers;

d. 3 cruise missile sites for coastal defense, of which 2 are now operational;

e. 12 Komar cruise missile patrol boats, all probably operational or nearly so.

6. Cuban-based MRBMs and IRBMs with nuclear warheads would augment the present limited Soviet ICBM capability by virtue of their ability to strike at similar types of targets with warheads of generally similar yields. In the near future, therefore, Soviet gross capabilities for initial attack on US military and civilian targets can be increased considerably by Cuban-based missiles. However, the deployment of those missiles in Cuba will probably not, in the Soviet judgment, insure destruction of the US second-strike capability to a degree which would eliminate an unacceptably heavy retaliatory attack on the USSR. If the missile buildup in Cuba continues, the Soviet capability to blunt a retaliatory attack will be progressively enhanced.

BACK TO SCENE

There is a KNOCK on the door.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Yes, come in.

EVELYN LINCOLN, the president's personal secretary, enters.

EVELYN

The networks want to set up for tonight's address. Also, your guest is waiting in the Rose Garden.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Thank you, Mrs. Lincoln. Make sure there's a security detail in here at all times.

EVELYN

Yes, sir.

She leaves. President Kennedy puts the CIA document in his desk drawer and locks it. He winces as he stands, then leaves.

EXT. ROSE GARDEN - DAY

Latham waits among the rose bushes, feathering the petals with his fingers. President Kennedy joins him.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

I hope you understand why I couldn't invite you to lunch with the others.

LATHAM

I understand.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

I assume you've read the Pentagon's revised air strike?

LATHAM

An air strike that's actually a series of air strikes, followed by an invasion force of tens of thousands of troops? Yes, I read it. It's a damn warmonger's dream.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

It is at that. Come on, let's walk.

He and Latham stroll.

LATHAM

I imagine after tonight Khrushchev will say this is all about Cuba - but there's no defense pact between the two. And I've yet to get the sense that he intends to stop you if you did decide to invade. To me, this seems all about Khrushchev redressing the Soviets' nuclear inferiority.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

(grins)

You sound just like Wilson Berard.

LATHAM

I'll take that as a compliment.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

You should. After the Bay of Pigs fiasco, a journalist told me he was considering writing a book on it.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT KENNEDY (CONT'D)

I asked him, 'Who'd want to read a book on disasters?'

Now Latham grins, the relief of gallows humor overriding the moment's solemnity.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY (CONT'D)

Yet, despite that foreign policy misstep, we're still here and can look back on it. Now, we're again involved with Cuba, but in a far worse situation; one where the consequences could be the last war of anyone's lifetime.

They stop - it's a moment of truth, perhaps their last.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY (CONT'D)

I can't afford a misstep this time, Warren, regardless of what that might mean for me personally.

Latham is aghast.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY (CONT'D)

Yes, I know the JCS is talking up impeachment, or rather they... Well, I hope you'll watch my broadcast.

LATHAM

The whole world will be watching and listening to you.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

No pressure whatsoever.

He and Latham both flash sad grins.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY (CONT'D)

I'll have an Aide come by to lead you out. There'll be a car to take you wherever you need to go.

LATHAM

If there's anything I can do for you, sir...

President Kennedy warmly clasps Latham's hand. Latham watches him walk stiffly back toward the Oval Office.

ACT TWO

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

A few CIA personnel walk across the compound.

INT. KENSINGTON'S OFFICE

STEWART KENSINGTON reads through a file marked "SECRET" as Bazzo outlines his plan, referring to his notes.

BAZZO

Khokhlov's at Duke, studying for his PhD in psychology. He's also been working there with J.B. Rhine, the parapsychology researcher.

KENSINGTON

(smirks)

Playing around with marked cards, is he?

BAZZO

I think they use Zener cards today.

KENSINGTON

What?

BAZZO

Zener cards - five cards, each with a unique design. The only similarity to playing cards is their size.

KENSINGTON

And how did you come by this esoteric bit of information?

BAZZO

I worked with Dr. Horton a couple of years ago. He was doing experiments involving ESP, psychokinesis...

KENSINGTON

(dismissively)

Yes, yes, I remember. It's all hogwash as far as I'm concerned.

BAZZO

Well, Khokhlov's angry because he feels we haven't done enough to get his family out of a resettlement camp in Siberia. He says he'll make a deal with the KGB unless we help him. MOTHER's worried he could do irreparable damage to the Agency. So his solution is to silence Khokhlov.

KENSINGTON

No, I can't believe he'd do that.

BAZZO

Sir, he told D-Int he would.

KENSINGTON

(horrified)

No... No, I can't accept that. I can't believe this is where we are now - a bunch of common thugs like the KGB.

BAZZO

It's been five years since the KGB sent Khokhlov's family to Siberia. I propose we try to convince him that life for them would be easier if he divorced his wife. But to do that, I'll need help from Yuri Gvozdev.

KENSINGTON

Are you insane?! What in the world makes you think the KGB will help you at a time like this?

BAZZO

Sir, Khokhlov telling the world how the KGB sent his family to die in Siberia, while showing pictures of them to the cameras, depicts the communists as cruel and repressive. Given that we're about to confront them over Cuba, Khrushchev needs all the support he can get at the U.N. What he doesn't need is Khokhlov destroying Russia's image as a peace-loving nation.

KENSINGTON

(chagrined)

And if Gvozdev refuses to help you?

BAZZO

Then I guess we really are a damned Murder, Incorporated.

The Red phone RINGS; Kensington answers it.

KENSINGTON

3-8-5-3... No, Paul Barry's here. Do you want to speak to him?

(hands Bazzo the phone)

It's mandarin Two.

BAZZO

Mandarin One... Be right down.

(hangs up)

SAC is on the move.

Kensington's face is a mask of dread.

OPERATIONS ROOM

The usual PURL of chatter, teletype machines and RINGING phones. The 24-hour wall clock reads 12:35. Wall maps of Europe and Asia are still empty, but maps of Latin America, Cuba and the U.S. - especially the eastern seaboard - are heavily 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. CARLA DILAURIA is there reading teletype reports. Everyone performs their duties but with more tension. Bazzo enters and approaches DiLauria.

BAZZO

What's going on?

DILAURIA

Jared has all the facts.

She hands Bazzo the teletype she's been reading.

STOKES

At 12:00, SAC put its entire strategic bomber force on airborne alert; that's 740 B-52 heavy bombers. Sixty-six have already lifted off from SAC bases. They're taking up orbiting stations around the country with more will follow. Also, Admiral Ward, the chief of the Navy's Blockade Force, has ordered warships to predetermined positions at the quarantine line.

PERCY

But we've learned that when the fleet sailed, they had no formal operational orders.

BAZZO

What?!

DILAURIA

Wait - it gets worse.

STOKES

They were directed to rendezvous at a given latitude and longitude, but most of the ships weren't informed of the impending action. Instead, they've been told to tune into the president's broadcast this evening.

BAZZO

Geezus. So, basically the military's flying by the seat of its pants.

PERCY

(snidely)

That's not all they're doing in their pants.

BAZZO

Alright.

NICHOLS

Three Marine battalions are being sent to defend Guantanamo. And they're being supported by F8U Crusader jets and gunfire support ships.

DILAURIA

All it takes is one trigger-happy cowboy, and it's over.

BAZZO

Jared, you'd better inform Berard and Kensington.

Stokes picks up the Red phone. DiLauria sidles up to Bazzo.

DILAURIA

Down here might be the safest place in D.C. the next 24 hours.

STOKES

(into phone)

Mr. Berard, this is the Duty Officer...

EXT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - DAY

Stock footage of one of Washington's more prosaic - and monolithic - buildings.

INT. FBI HEADQUARTERS

The door bears the SEAL OF THE FBI. Seated in the rows of desks are clean-shaven, angst-ridden Agents manning phones and typing their reports.

FBI OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

On the door glass, stenciled in reverse, is the titular position of CARL DURANG, who is at his desk. Latham enters.

DURANG

Take a seat.

He puts his finger to his lips to shush Latham, who takes a seat. Durang gets up and crosses to a low cabinet against the wall adjoining his office with that of his secretary's.

There, he turns on a portable radio, turning up the volume of Frank Sinatra singing "Come Rain Or Come Shine." Durang returns to his seat as Latham eyes him worriedly. Even with this precaution, the Two speak sotto voce.

DURANG (CONT'D)

I shouldn't even be seen with you.

LATHAM

Why not? What's going on?

DURANG

What do you think?

He points to his secretary's office and flaps his fingers against his thumb, miming a blabbermouth.

LATHAM

She's seen us work on joint projects together before.

DURANG

Hm, and which one is this?

LATHAM

President Kennedy.

DURANG

Goddamnit, take a hike.

LATHAM

Come on, Carl...

DURANG

I told you before, I can't help you.

LATHAM

Will you just hear me out, please?
I'm not asking you to put yourself
or your family at risk.

DURANG

Hm, that's a new tack.

Latham ignores the slight.

LATHAM

You've got Confidential Informants
in most of these extremist groups.
All I want is to see any reports
where Kennedy's life is threatened.

DURANG

First off, those reports don't all
come to me.

(MORE)

DURANG (CONT'D)

Second, some agents are so worried they'll wind up on Hoover's shit list they don't even send them in.

LATHAM

Hoover won't find out about it.

DURANG

(scoffs)

Like you can guarantee that.

LATHAM

I can guarantee it won't come from me.

DURANG

Look, even if I agreed to do it - and I'm not saying I will - how would we pull it off? You sure as hell aren't coming here to read them.

LATHAM

I'll give you a camera. We can service a dead-letter drop.

DURANG

Oh, that's fucking great. Turn me into one of your joes.

LATHAM

Dammit, Carl, Kennedy's a marked man, more so now than he ever was.

DURANG

How the hell do you figure that?

LATHAM

You'll know why after Kennedy goes on TV tonight. All I can say now is that the right-wing has a mandate to kill him, and do it soon. But this time it'll be more organized.

DURANG

Like how you got Trujillo and Lumumba?

LATHAM

Probably. That's why it'll be less likely to fail. And the perpetrators will be less likely to get caught because each layer of the plot has no idea who's pulling their strings.

Durang agonizes, briefly dropping his head into his hands.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

I'll do whatever works best for you.

DURANG

Shut up, alright? Just shut up.

(clenches his fist)

I'll set up the dead-letter drop, then I'll call and tell you; that's also how you'll get me the camera. But I want it clear from the get-go, I'm free to pack it up at any time. And one more thing - unless it's official business, I don't wanna see you here. Go on, get outta here.

DURANG'S OUTER OFFICE

Durang's office door opens; Latham enters. The music from Durang's radio grows louder until Latham shuts the door. He nods to MABEL, Durang's secretary.

MABEL

You two must love Sinatra.

LATHAM

Is that what was playing?

He opens the door leading to the corridor and leaves.

EXT. CORNER OF E STREET AND 18TH STREET - DAY

Some people cross the street while others wait for the traffic light to change. Bazzo walks to the mailbox on the corner. He kneels, ostensibly to tie his shoe, and places three vertical chalk marks at the bottom, making the farthest chalk mark a plus (+) sign. Bazzo re-ties his shoe, gets up and leaves.

EXT. NORTH ROTARY ROAD - THE PENTAGON - DAY

Stock footage of this familiar five-sided landmark.

INT. GENERAL CARROLL'S OFFICE

Richly appointed in leather and mahogany. GENERAL J. F. CARROLL and COLONEL H. BEACHEM, both in uniform, and SENATOR TYSON are having lunch.

CARROLL

Kennedy told Lemnitzer if anyone tries to fire the Jupiters in Turkey without his orders, Lem's to destroy them, or make them inoperable.

BEACHEM

Same thing.

TYSON

Anyone tell the Turks?

CARROLL

Of course not. As long as they think they have control of them, let sleeping dogs lie.

BEACHEM

The Jupiters are a joke anyway.

TYSON

What are you talking about?

BEACHEM

They're relics, man! First off, they're immobile. They sit aboveground, making them easy targets, and they're inaccurate as hell. Plus, they use liquid fuel, which means it takes hours to get them ready.

CARROLL

Did you know the skin on a Jupiter is so goddamn thin, a bullet can puncture it and make it inoperable?

TYSON

Christ! Then what good are they?

BEACHEM

Well, for one thing, it gives the Turks prestige; makes them look like a player in NATO.

CARROLL

They're also a guarantee that we'll come to their defense against Russia. Same goes for the Italians.

TYSON

Hm, they sound useless to me.

CARROLL

Au contraire. If Khrushchev ordered a first strike, Russia would target the Jupiters with their ICBMs.

TYSON

Wait - you want that to happen?!

CARROLL

You still don't get it, do you?

Tyson is completely befuddled.

CARROLL (CONT'D)

The whole purpose of the Jupiters is to draw an attack, not deter one. The Soviets target them with their ICBMs, and we retaliate with our Thor missiles in Britain, our SAC force of B-52s armed with nuclear bombs, and our submarines.

BEACHEM

The Polaris missiles alone can wipe out all the Soviets' military bases.

TYSON

Is Kennedy aware of this?

BEACHEM

Hell no.

He and Carroll CHUCKLE as they eat their lunch.

MID-SHOW BREAK

EXT. EMBASSY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM - DAY

Through the wrought-iron fence, past the red call box, is the main building with the Union Jack flying from its roof.

INT. MI6 OFFICE

LAWRENCE JONES (SMOTH) is at his desk reading a report. There is a KNOCK on the door. It opens and Fiona enters looking grim and holding a yellow sheet torn from a teletype machine.

FIONA

IRONBARK was arrested in Moscow.

Jones is ashen-faced.

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

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

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE

Jones, Latham, Bazzo and Nealy are there.

NEALY

Along with MI6, we set up a system of telephone signals for Oleg Penkovsky. One of them was if he had Intel of an imminent attack by the Soviets on the West. He was to call us and MI6. When someone answered he was to blow three times into the mouthpiece then hang up.

JONES

Our head of station in Moscow received such a call.

NEALY

As did our station chief. But their response wasn't the same.

JONES

Our man felt certain the call was a false alarm. So, rather than jangling everyone's nerves, he decided not to send the alert up the line as protocol dictated. Instead, he sat on the information.

NEALY

Meanwhile, our man drove from his apartment right to the embassy. He sent a FLASH signal to Langley saying an early warning signal for war had been received.

BAZZO

But NORAD hasn't announced anything.

NEALY

No. So our station chief sent Dick Jacob, a station officer, to check the dead drop in case Penkovsky had provided any details. When Jacob got there, he was arrested by the KGB.

BAZZO

A trap.

NEALY

The KGB had grabbed Penkovsky earlier. He told them about the phone signal without telling them when it was to be used.

JONES

He was our best source in the Kremlin. He knew Khrushchev's thoughts on Cuba.

Nealy glances at Latham.

NEALY

What do you know about Cuba?

JONES

About as much as you do. Kennedy called MacMillan who passed the word onto Ambassador Ormsby Gore.

Nealy shrugs apologetically to Latham.

NEALY

One thing's clear, no one knows how to manage a nuclear crisis. All it takes is one communications breakdown.

LATHAM

My worry is the longer this goes on, the more mistakes will be made. Fatigue will set in. Paranoia will start to warp people's judgment. Next thing you know, someone does something stupid and we're off to annihilate each other.

There is quiet agreement - and worry. Latham checks his watch.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Sorry, guys, I need to make a call.

BAZZO

I'll be in the Ops Room; get an update from Carla.

NEALY

Mind if I tag along?

BAZZO

'Course not.

NEALY

Larry?

JONES

I'll be in the outer office here.

The Three leave. Latham goes to his desk. He pulls a slip of paper from his pocket, picks up the Gray phone and dials.

EXT. PARIS - RUE CHERNOVIZ AT RUE RAYNOUARD - NIGHT

On the corner is a balconied apartment building addressed #1.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

A tall, dried palm frond sits in a corner. A tufted sofa and two wingback chairs border an oriental rug. On a brass-and-glass coffee table sit a bowl of faux fruit and Chinoiserie pieces. On an end table is a white telephone, RINGING.

MINH (O.S.)

Je vais y répondre.

INSET TRANSLATION: "I'll answer it."

MINH DE, 11, hurries in and answers the phone.

MINH (CONT'D)

Bonjour?

CROSSCUT LATHAM WITH MINH

LATHAM

Est-ce que c'est Minh?

MINH

Oui.

LATHAM

C'est Warren Latham, l'Américain que vous avez rencontré dans votre école. Je connaissais votre grand-père et votre mère. J'ai donné ma carte à votre professeur, Mlle Lavigne, et je lui ai dit de m'appeler si vous aviez besoin de quelque chose. Rappelle toi?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "It's Warren Latham, the American you met at your school. I knew your grandfather and your mother. I gave my card to your teacher, Miss Lavigne, and told her to call me if you need anything. Remember?"

MINH

Je me souviens. Tu m'as appelé 'fils.'

INSERT TRANSLATION: "I remember. You called me 'son.'"

LATHAM

Oui. Oui, je l'ai fait. J'ai parlé à Mlle Lavigne aujourd'hui. Elle m'a dit que tu étais très inquiète.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Yes. Yes, I did. I spoke to Miss Lavigne today. She told me you're very worried."

Minh does not respond.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Craignez-vous une guerre entre la Russie et les États-Unis?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Are you worried about a war between Russia and the United States?"

MINH

Mon grand-papa dit que nous pourrions tous mourir.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "My grandpa says we could all die."

LATHAM

C'est pourquoi tu as peur, non?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "That's why you're scared, right?"

MINH

(starts sobbing)

Je ne veux pas mourir.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "I don't want to die."

LATHAM

Tu n'allez pas mourir, fils. Il n'y
aura pas de guerre. Je promets.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "You're not going to die, son. There
won't be a war. I promise."

MINH

Mon grand-papa le dit.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "My grandpa says so."

LATHAM

Il a tort. Croyez-moi, il a tort.
Tout ira bien, fils. Croyez-moi.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "He's wrong. Believe me, he's wrong.
Everything will be fine, son. Trust me."

MINH

Grand-papa dit que les Américains
veulent la guerre.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Grandpa says Americans want war."

LATHAM

Ce n'est pas vrai. Croyez-moi, je
ne vous mentirais pas.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "No, that's not true. Believe me, I
wouldn't lie to you."

MINH

Vous promettez?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "You promise?"

LATHAM

Je promets.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "I promise."

MINH

Tu reviens à Paris?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Are you coming back to Paris?"

LATHAM

Oui.

MINH

Lorsque?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "When?"

LATHAM

Très bientôt.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Very soon."

MINH

Veux-tu venir chez moi?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Will you come to my house?"

LATHAM

Oui, je serai là.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Yes, I'll be there."

MINH

Vous promettez?

LATHAM

(fights back tears)

Je promets.

MINH

Je suis content que vous reveniez.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "I'm glad you're coming back."

LATHAM

Moi aussi. Tu me manques, fils.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Me too. I miss you, son."

NANNY (O.S.)

A qui parlez-vous au téléphone?

LATHAM

C'est ta nounou?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Is that your nanny?"

MINH

Oui.

LATHAM

Dis-lui que je suis ton professeur
et que je t'aide avec tes devoirs.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Tell her I'm your teacher and I'm helping you with your homework."

MINH
(calls out to the nanny)
C'est mon professeur, m'aide avec
mes devoirs.

NANNY (O.S.)
Dépêchez-vous. Il est temps d'aller
au lit.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Hurry up. It's time to go to bed."

MINH
(to Latham)
Je dois partir.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "I have to go."

LATHAM
Nous reparlerons bientôt.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "We'll talk again soon."

MINH
Au revoir.

LATHAM
Bonne nuit, fils.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Goodnight, son."

Latham hangs up then takes a tissue from his desk drawer and wipes his eyes. He gets up and crosses to the door.

LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

Jones leans over Collette's desk, as though he were speaking to her in confidence. The door to Latham's office opens, Jones quickly backs away. As Latham enters, Jones eyes him.

JONES
Are you alright?

Latham nods. The Red phone RINGS; Collette answers it.

COLLETTE
2-3-6-2... Yes, he's right here.
(hands Latham the phone)
It's Paul.

LATHAM
Latham... I'll be right down.

He looks grim as he hangs up. Jones eyes him questioningly.

LATHAM (CONT'D)
Soviet foreign minister Andrei
Gromyko has delayed his return
flight to Moscow.

Collette looks worried.

LATHAM (CONT'D)
Come with me to the Ops Room, Larry?

Jones nods and follows Latham out the door.

OPERATIONS ROOM

Latham and Jones enter; they join Nealy, Bazzo and DiLauria
at the Duty Desk. Bazzo is on the Red phone.

DILAURIA
Gromyko was scheduled to leave New
York for Moscow but canceled his
plans at the last minute.

Bazzo hangs up.

LATHAM
Did he give a reason?

BAZZO
That was the New York Number One.
Gromyko released a short statement
saying he'll give, quote, 'an
important statement in a few hours.'

STOKES
Maybe he's preparing to make an
announcement on the missiles in
Cuba.

LATHAM
As far as I know, the Soviets
aren't aware we've discovered them.

JONES
Now's when we really miss IRONBARK.

NICHOLS
Who?

PERCY
Oleg Penkovsky.

LATHAM
Kennedy's whole strategy depends on
being the first to announce the
presence of those missiles to the
world.

NEALY

If the Kremlin's aware that we know their secret, they might try to beat the president to the punch. Gromyko could say Fidel Castro requested them to deter an invasion by the U.S.

STOKES

He could turn everyone against us, even our allies.

Despite the constant ambient PURL, the silence to Stokes's comment is stunning. Bazzo turns to Latham.

BAZZO

On Operation Red River...

LATHAM

Khokhlov?

Bazzo nods. Nealy and DiLauria listen in.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

So Kensington approved it.

BAZZO

Yes. I left a signal for Yuri Gvozdev to meet me at 21:00. Now I wonder if he'll even bother to show.

NEALY

We're getting ahead of ourselves here. The fact is we don't know what Gromyko's going to say. All our Intel to date indicates the Soviets have kept a tight lid on their deployment of missiles to Cuba. So it's possible neither the Soviet delegation to the U.N. nor their Washington embassy are aware of the true situation there.

LATHAM

Until we hear otherwise, Bill, we have to at least consider Gromyko's planning to sandbag the president.

DILAURIA

If our allies do side with the Russians, there'd be no reason for Gvozdev to work with us on Khokhlov.

Bazzo sighs, disappointed.

JONES

Given what happened to Penkovsky,
could the KGB target Paul?

LATHAM

No, Gvozdev's never violated that
rule.

NEALY

Your unwritten rule against going
after each other's officers here?

Latham nods.

DILAURIA

What if it isn't up to Gvozdev?
Moscow could have a team waiting
for him. I should back him up.

This doesn't sit well with Latham.

LATHAM

No. I have a history with Gvozdev.
Whatever happens with Gromyko, Yuri
might be more willing to work with
me just based on that.

BAZZO

Wait a minute - it's my operation.
Whatever happens, I can handle it.

NEALY

Paul, in circumstances like these,
history counts for something.

LATHAM

Get me the brief on Khokhlov. You
can back me up. We'll reconvene
upstairs at 20:00. And draw arms.

BAZZO

Yes, sir.

He storms out.

LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

Bazzo enters, fuming. Collette looks up from her typing.

BAZZO

Can you get the file on Operation
Red River from Kensington and put
it on the boss's desk for me?

COLLETTE

Sure. You're canceling it?

BAZZO

The boss is running with it.

COLLETTE

Oh. Well, he does have a history with Yuri Gvozdev.

BAZZO

You gonna stick the knife in me too?

He turns away and TAPS on Latham's office door. Collette takes a moment to let Bazzo's anger subside.

COLLETTE

Earlier, when you were in his office, Warren got a call from a Noëlle Lavigne in Paris.

Bazzo shrugs dismissively.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)

She's his son's teacher.

This leaves Bazzo nonplussed.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)

When he chased you people out of his office, he was calling her.

BAZZO

Is the kid alright?

COLLETTE

I don't know.

BAZZO

(thinks about it)

Knowing Warren, he'd fly over there right now if he could.

COLLETTE

That sounds like him. He'd do anything to keep the people he loves out of harm's way.

This strikes a nerve. Bazzo looks less self-absorbed and angry than when he came in.

BAZZO

Let him know Carla and I will be here for most of the night.

COLLETTE

I will.

Bazzo leaves.

ACT THREE

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

Most of the lights in the buildings are on.

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

The 24-hour wall clock reads 17:10. Collette types away as Latham enters. She stops and grabs her notepad.

COLLETTE

I have a message from Berard's Aide-de-camp.

(reads from her notepad)

Mr. Berard is at the White House in a meeting with the president and his advisors. He'll likely stay there through the president's address to the nation.

LATHAM

Okay. Where are the mandarins?

COLLETTE

In The Hole. They'll be here through the evening.

Latham nods.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)

I understand Gromyko's about to issue a statement.

LATHAM

He just did. He'll be leaving for Moscow on a later flight.

COLLETTE

After all the worry, that's it?

LATHAM

A little Kremlin spank goes a long way.

(checks the wall clock)

Why don't you go on home; watch the president's address with your mom.

COLLETTE

Hmm, this definitely isn't a time to be by yourself.

LATHAM

Is, um, SMOTH meeting you there?

Collette smiles shyly.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

He could use the company.

COLLETTE

That goes for you too.

Collette stows her paperwork and covers her typewriter as Latham enters his office.

EXT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT BUILDING - DAY (DUSK)

(Known today as the Harry S. Truman building.) Located at 2201 C Street, NW, this extension to the original building, known informally then as "New State," was dedicated in 1961.

INT. SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK'S OFFICE

Portraits of previous Secretaries of State hang on the walls. Swag valance and panels drape the windows. In one corner is a grandfather clock. A camelback sofa and several wingback chairs share space on an oriental rug. At the far end is a large mahogany desk; on either side is a flag of the United States and the ceremonial flag of the State Department.

Secretary of State DEAN RUSK is at his desk. There is a KNOCK on the door. It opens and Rusk's ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, a 40-ish woman, leads in the Soviet ambassador to the United States, ANATOLY DOBRYNIN.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Secretary Rusk, Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin is here.

She leaves. Rusk and Dobrynin shake hands.

DOBRYNIN

You sent for me with such urgency, Dean. Is the sky falling?

RUSK

It just might. Have a seat, Anatoly.

Dobrynin looks worried as he sits in a chair. Rusk takes a folder from his desk and sits in a chair opposite Dobrynin.

RUSK (CONT'D)

I have a personal letter from President Kennedy to be delivered by you to Chairman Khrushchev. I also have a copy of the text President Kennedy will read tonight at 7:00 p.m. That's also to be delivered by you to Chairman Khrushchev.

DOBRYNIN

What is this about?

RUSK

Please, let me finish.

Dobrynin throws up his palms resignedly.

RUSK (CONT'D)

President Kennedy's address to the American people will be carried live on radio and television; in Russia it will be carried by TASS. Copies of both these documents will be delivered directly to Chairman Khrushchev via diplomatic courier. Their contents speak for themselves.

DOBRYNIN

Don't ask me here to play games! I want to know what this is about.

RUSK

At this time, I've been instructed not to answer any questions.

DOBRYNIN

What do you think this is, some classroom where you are the headmaster telling the pupil to shut up and listen?!

RUSK

That's all I have to say right now.

Dobrynin gets up; he's seething and points his finger at Rusk.

DOBRYNIN

Well, I have something to say to such typical American hubris. Do you think the Soviet government is blind to the provocative actions your government has taken against Cuba? Your attempts to dismantle the Cuban government through sabotage and assassination? These actions cannot be justified by your government's unconvincing motives, none of which are grounded in fact. All responsibility for any grave consequences that result will lie entirely with President Kennedy's administration!

RUSK

Sit down, Anatoly.

Dobrynin defiantly glares at Rusk, who gently points to Dobrynin's wingback chair.

DOBRYNIN

To think I would sit still for this!

RUSK

Take a seat, please.

Dobrynin HUFFS as he sits.

RUSK (CONT'D)

My turn, now. In September, your foreign minister, Andrei Gromyko, went before the U.N. General Assembly and declared that the Soviet Union had no intention of giving Cuba weapons to threaten the United States. He repeated that to President Kennedy four days ago. You yourself told Attorney General Robert Kennedy that Chairman Khrushchev wanted to assure the president there'd be no ground-to-ground missiles or offensive weapons placed in Cuba.

DOBRYNIN

And I believe his word just as you believe that of President Kennedy!

RUSK

That's too bad because Gromyko lied, as did Chairman Khrushchev.

DOBRYNIN

How dare you?!

RUSK

Whether or not you knew you were lying is beside the point. For months now the Soviet Union has been constructing missile launch sites in Cuba and have delivered offensive missiles there. The sites are manned by thousands of Soviet technicians whose only job is to ready them for launch against the United States.

Dobrynin is nonplussed; his mouth, slightly agape.

RUSK (CONT'D)

Gromyko can stand before the U.N. and lie until he's blue in the face. But let me tell you this - we intend to expose him and your chairman. Make no mistake, Anatoly - you'll be the ones who face the consequences.

(MORE)

RUSK (CONT'D)

And I promise you, they'll be worse than anything you've ever imagined. Keep that in mind when you're telling your version of this conversation to Chairman Khrushchev.

He stands and hands the folder to Dobrynin and walks away.

ANTEROOM TO SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK'S OFFICE

Dobrynin leaves Rusk's office. He looks unnerved, clutching the folder with the copies of President Kennedy's speech and the letter to Chairman Khrushchev.

EXT. 704 3RD STREET NW - APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT (EVENING)

The street is empty. No one enters or leaves the building.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Fiona and Latham sit on the sofa and sip tea.

FIONA

What time is the president's broadcast, seven?

LATHAM

(checks his watch)

Yes, a few minutes. Minh's teacher called me. Seems that Minh's been pretty upset.

FIONA

Why?

LATHAM

Kao-Ly's been telling him the U.S. wants to go to war with Russia.

FIONA

Kao-Ly - that's Minh's grandfather?

LATHAM

Yes. He's away, so the teacher asked if I'd call Minh.

FIONA

Did you?

LATHAM

Yes. He was really scared. Crying.

FIONA

What did you tell him?

LATHAM

Not to worry; that his grandfather was wrong, there wouldn't be a war. I promised him everything would be alright. Then he asked if I'd come to Paris to see him. So I promised I would.

He takes a sip of tea and sighs.

FIONA

Then don't break your promise.

LATHAM

Hon, I want him to know he's part of our family.

FIONA

Warren, he barely knows you and he doesn't know me at all.

LATHAM

He should know who you are. You're my family. Will you go there with me?

She smiles and nods, then checks her watch. She gets up and turns on the television. On screen, the black and white image of President Kennedy appears in the Oval Office.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Good evening, my fellow citizens. This Government, as promised, has maintained the closest surveillance of the Soviet Military buildup on the island of Cuba. Within the past week, unmistakable evidence has established the fact that a series of offensive missile sites is now in preparation on that imprisoned island. The purpose of these bases can be none other than to provide a nuclear strike capability against the Western Hemisphere...

INT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - ROW HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Modest and unchanged since the end of the Korean War, save for a console television set. MRS. DOWD (Collette's mother) sits in a tufted armchair. Collette sits on the couch with Jones. All watch President Kennedy on television.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

The characteristics of these new missile sites indicate two distinct types of installations.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT KENNEDY (CONT'D)

Several of them include medium range ballistic missiles capable of carrying a nuclear warhead for a distance of more than 1,000 nautical miles. Each of these missiles, in short, is capable of striking Washington, D.C., the Panama Canal, Cape Canaveral, Mexico City, or any other city in the southeastern part of the United States, in Central America, or in the Caribbean area...

EXT. SIDEWALK OUTSIDE A TELEVISION STORE - NIGHT (EVENING)

People crowd before a store window to watch a console TV set showing President Kennedy address the nation. The set's volume has been turned up.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Neither the United States of America nor the world community of nations can tolerate deliberate deception and offensive threats on the part of any nation, large or small. We no longer live in a world where only the actual firing of weapons represents a sufficient challenge to a nation's security to constitute maximum peril. Nuclear weapons are so destructive and ballistic missiles are so swift, that any substantially increased possibility of their use or any sudden change in their deployment may well be regarded as a definite threat to peace...

CONVERTIBLE AUTOMOBILE PARKED BEFORE A TENEMENT HOUSE

In the car A COUPLE listen to the radio tuned to President Kennedy's address. Local residents gather around the car.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Acting, therefore, in the defense of our own security and of the entire Western Hemisphere, and under the authority entrusted to me by the Constitution as endorsed by the resolution of the Congress, I have directed that the following initial steps be taken immediately...

EXT. LONDON, ENGLAND - NIGHT

Stock footage of Westminster Abbey and Big Ben.

54 BROADWAY

Stock footage of the Broadway Buildings, home of MI6.

INT. FOYER

The elderly, mustachioed SECURITY GUARD in his rumpled, dark gray suit listens to President Kennedy over a portable radio.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

First: To halt this offensive buildup, a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated. All ships of any kind bound for Cuba from whatever nation or port will, if found to contain cargoes of offensive weapons, be turned back...

EXT. 2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY - NIGHT (EVENING)

The floodlights are on in the compound.

INT. OPERATIONS ROOM

At the Duty Desk, NIGHT DUTY OFFICERS JAMES OWENS and PETE FARRELL, and MISSION PLANNING'S WILSON BRADLEY are joined by day shift Duty Officers Stokes, Percy and Nichols. Sitting off to the side are DiLauria and Bazzo, as well as several more OFFICERS, all rapt listeners. The usual PURL of chatter, teletype machines and RINGING phones is muted against the louder radio broadcast of President Kennedy's address to the nation.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

My fellow citizens: let no one doubt that this is a difficult and dangerous effort on which we have set out. No one can see precisely what course it will take or what costs or casualties will be incurred. Many months of sacrifice and self-discipline lie ahead - months in which our patience and our will will be tested - months in which many threats and denunciations will keep us aware of our dangers. But the greatest danger of all would be to do nothing...

INT. LATHAM'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LIVING ROOM

On the sofa, Latham sits with his arm around Fiona. They watch President Kennedy wind up his address to the nation.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Our goal is not the victory of might, but the vindication of right - not peace at the expense of freedom, but both peace and freedom, here in this hemisphere, and, we hope, around the world. God willing, that goal will be achieved. Thank you and good night.

Latham gets up and shuts off the television set. He returns to the sofa where he and Fiona embrace in silent anxiety.

EXT. MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

A typical multi-level facility that relies too much on ambient light. Latham and Bazzo walk to a pedestrian entrance.

LATHAM

We'll start on the top level. I'll take the east end.

BAZZO

Okay. If all goes well, I should meet you in the stairwell on the lower level, by the pay phone.

LATHAM

Listen - if you have to shoot, don't use a silencer; keep it loud. I want to see who runs away.

Bazzo nods. They enter the parking lot.

PARKING LOT - UPPER LEVEL

This level has no roof. Bazzo emerges from the stairwell door - only a couple of cars are parked there. He sees Latham step out of the opposite stairwell. There is an extension to the roof on the west end of the lot. Bazzo climbs the stairs.

ROOF EXTENSION

A large 'H' has been encircled on the cement floor, otherwise nothing is there. Bazzo walks back to the stairs. He waves at Latham who waves back. Bazzo climbs down the stairs. He and Latham then head into their respective stairwells.

INT. LOWER LEVEL

Dark. A few bare bulbs only help to deepen the shadows. A handful of spaces have parked cars.

LATHAM

Walks along the perimeter of the lot to a central stairwell.

It has no door. He steps into the stairwell and...

STAIRWELL

Finds a pistol aimed at his face. Bazzo quickly lowers it.

LATHAM

How'd you get here so fast?

BAZZO

I'm younger than you.

Latham glances at the pay phone.

LATHAM

You check under the phone?

Bazzo hands Latham the strip of paper. It reads "HJ1-633."

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Hm, same cheap Rambler American.

BAZZO

Go on. I've got your back.

Latham nods. He walks around, eyeing the parked cars. In a far corner he spots a Rambler American with license plate number HJ1-633. Latham looks through the passenger-side window, then opens the door and gets in.

INT. RAMBLER AMERICAN

YURI GVOZDEV is behind the wheel. Latham shuts the door.

LATHAM

Thanks for coming, Yuri.

GVOZDEV

I wasn't sure if I should. Your president's speech, Penkovsky... Maybe someone wants revenge.

LATHAM

Not me.

Gvozdev reaches into his inside suit coat pocket. Latham is apprehensive. He flinches as Gvozdev pulls out an envelope.

GVOZDEV

What did you think it was, a gun?

LATHAM

I'm sorry. I'm jumping at everything tonight.

Gvozdev hands Latham the envelope and turns on the dome light.

GVOZDEV

Open it.

Latham opens the envelope and pulls out a leaflet.

INSERT LEAFLET:

U.S. armed forces will take temporary charge of your country. Cuban citizens are asked to remain at home. Everything that moves is a target.

All persons in the occupied territory will obey immediately and without question all enactments and orders of the military government. Resistance of the United States Armed Forces will be forcefully stamped out. Serious offenders will be dealt with severely.

When the aggressive Castro regime has been completely destroyed, and arrangements made to provide a democratic government responsive to the desires and needs of the people of Cuba, United States armed forces will depart, and the traditional friendship of the United States and the government of Cuba will be assured.

BACK TO SCENE

Latham is incredulous and shakes his head.

GVOZDEV (CONT'D)

That's the same leaflet your people had planned to drop over Cuba after the Bay of Pigs disaster.

LATHAM

Why waste paper, huh?

GVOZDEV

One would think this time the Pentagon would have gotten wiser and printed the leaflet in Spanish.

LATHAM

Those generals over there can barely speak English as it is.

GVOZDEV

If the situation in Cuba turns out badly, there may be no one left to read them, regardless of language.

LATHAM

That's partly what I want to talk to you about.

GVOZDEV

Oh?

LATHAM

Nikolai Khokhlov, a defector from your 13th Directorate back in 1954. You know him?

GVOZDEV

I know his name.

LATHAM

Your people forcibly resettled his family to Siberia. Since then he's been lobbying our government to get them resettled here.

GVOZDEV

Unsuccessfully, I presume.

LATHAM

I won't ask you to try to persuade your government to let them to leave. I'm not that naive. Tonight Washington threw down the gauntlet, and the Kremlin has to respond. The reasons for the missiles in Cuba don't matter now - not for us anyway. What does matter is how you come out of this. I don't want this to end like two gangs fighting over turf. No one has to die here. But for that to happen, I think there has to be some way to save face.

GVOZDEV

I'm listening...

LATHAM

Your government will need to focus all its energies on this. What it doesn't need is a former KGB officer impugning the integrity of Russia's leaders; in effect, calling them liars when they say Russia is a peace-loving nation, drawing attention to your forced resettlement camps. That's a distraction you don't need now.

GVOZDEV

What are you suggesting, Warren?

LATHAM

I need you to make it clear to Khokhlov that, should he divorce his wife, she and her son will have a much better future, perhaps in a flat in Moscow or Volgograd.

(MORE)

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Then Khokhlov will have no reason to continue his tirade against Russia.

GVOZDEV

How do you know he'll stop? What is to prevent him from continuing this tirade?

LATHAM

If Khokhlov doesn't listen to reason, I'll kill him myself.

Gvozdev is taken aback. He takes a long, slow sigh.

GVOZDEV

You can put me in touch with him?

LATHAM

Yes, I'll give you his phone number. But before that, let's talk about some possibilities.

GVOZDEV

Such as...

LATHAM

We're friends. I trust you more than some of my people. But your masters can't always be trusted.

GVOZDEV

Neither can yours.

LATHAM

I agree. Let's say some bright boy in Dzerzhinsky Square decides to act on his own and send a wet squad after Khokhlov. My masters would retaliate. One by one, your people here, rezident and rezidentura, would have their obituaries in the paper the next morning. And you'd get to read them.

GVOZDEV

(measured)

If that were to happen, my friend, that bright boy would have no future. However, despite his impulsive and foolish act, my masters would also retaliate. Your officers around the globe would come to the attention of the 13th Directorate - much to my dismay, and to their detriment.

LATHAM

Well, knowing how well you guard your information, and how you value our friendship, I believe that's a circle of retribution we can avoid.

GVOZDEV

I feel the same way.

INT. LOWER LEVEL - STAIRWELL

From the shadows Bazzo sees the dome light in the Rambler American go off. Latham gets out of the car and walks toward Bazzo.

STAIRWELL

Bazzo meets Latham at the pay phone.

BAZZO

Well?

LATHAM

As long as Khokhlov's paid his phone bill, everything should work out fine. Let's get out of here.

The Two climb the stairs.

EXT. MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Latham and Bazzo leave the lot. They walk along a poorly lit street. In the distance, the pale lights of Foggy Bottom reflect against the clouds. Bazzo is really troubled.

BAZZO

Doesn't seem real, none of this. I can't accept that this might be the last time I see the city like this.

LATHAM

We're all scared, Bazzo. You going home?

BAZZO

No, I'm heading back to work.

LATHAM

Why?

BAZZO

Why... Listen to you.

LATHAM

What?

BAZZO

Three years ago you practically lived in your office.

LATHAM

No, I didn't.

BAZZO

Come on... Who you bullshittin'?

LATHAM

Alright, that was then.

BAZZO

Yeah, and now you have a reason to go home. There's no one waiting for me.

The resignation in Bazzo's voice leaves Latham bereft.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

If Khrushchev has a hair across his ass over the quarantine, those missiles could be here in a few hours. If I'm in the Ops Room, at least I have a chance of making it.

LATHAM

If this is our last night, wouldn't you rather spend it with friends?

Bazzo is genuinely touched by this and looks at Latham.

BAZZO

Come on over. We'll have a drink.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

Of what - Diet Rite Cola? You nuts?

LATHAM

We have water.

BAZZO

Oh, please!

LATHAM

We have some wine too. Come on.

BAZZO

I don't want to bother you two.

LATHAM

Stop it. I'll call Fiona. We'll grab Carla then stop by Joe and Nemo's; bring home some soggy hamburgers.

BAZZO

They're open now?

LATHAM

You think they care what's going on? The way they figure it, if roaches can survive an atomic blast, so can their place.

BAZZO

(grins)

Thanks, man.

Latham nods and they continue on their way.

END