

Cool Gray Dawn

Season Four, Episode #4: "Splinter Groups"

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Episode #4: "Splinter Groups"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. PALOMAS, CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO - DAY

INSERT: "Palomas, Chihuahua, Mexico - near the U.S.-Mexican Border"

Avenue Cinco de Mayo (also known as The International Road) is a wide boulevard sporting dozens of one- and two-story, pastel-colored roadside shops. Their signs often favor English over Spanish, and include pharmacies, clinics, restaurants, and The Pink Store - literally, a pink building displaying locally-made furniture and artisanal wares.

I/E. 1957 CHEVROLET NOMAD

A two door, two-toned (light blue with a white roof) station wagon rumbles north toward the border; its windows are rolled down. Two Men are inside, both White and in their mid-20s. RAY GRANGER drives. His passenger, ADAM PAISLEY, smokes a cigarette and tunes the radio to a station playing "conjunto tejano," a style of music developed along the Texas-Mexico border that features the accordion. Ray GROANS. Adam TAPS on the sill of his window to the music's beat.

AVENUE CINCO DE MAYO

Traffic is light. Heading north, most vehicles have New Mexico license plates.

THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER CHECKPOINT

Resembles a toll booth. Vehicles head in both directions. The Nomad slows to a crawl on a now pressed-gravel road, second in line behind a truck. A BORDER GUARD asks perfunctory questions of the truck's driver. On the roadside, pedestrians cross into either country, stopping to have their credentials checked.

BENEATH THE CHECKPOINT'S CONCRETE CANOPY

The Nomad pulls up. The Border Guard approaches Ray. Loud chatter in English and Spanish from pedestrians and border officials, plus music from the Nomad's radio and tinny small radios carried by pedestrians, create a PURL that muffles the exchange between Ray and the Border Guard.

Ray hands over his driver's license to the Border Guard. Adam does the same. After a cursory inquiry, the Border Guard returns the driver's licenses and the Nomad rolls into...

COLUMBUS, NEW MEXICO - ROUTE 11

Along this desolate, single-lane paved road, the Nomad passes decaying World War One relics of the U.S. Army's Camp Furlong, established after Pancho Villa raided the Village of Columbus.

AT THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

Hidden among creosote bushes, mesquite, cacti, and black grama is a 1963 Ford Galaxie with "STATE POLICE" on its front fenders. Taciturn STATE TROOPER CORTES is at the wheel. The Nomad speeds past. In seconds, the State Police car pulls onto the road, its RED roof light spinning and its siren BLARING.

I/E. 1957 CHEVROLET NOMAD

Ray looks worrisomely at his inside rearview mirror.

RAY

Oh, man...

Adam quickly looks back at the pursuing State Police car.

ADAM

Looks like this is it.

NEW MEXICO ROUTE 11 - ROADSIDE

Both vehicles pull off the road. Cortes alights. As he approaches the Nomad, he eyes the rear wheel wells slumped much too close to the tires. Clearly, the rear suspension cannot support the car's weight. Cortes looks through the side rear windows - nothing but two overnight bags in the back. He approaches the driver's-side door.

CORTES

License and registration, please.

Once again Ray pulls out his license. He reaches into the glove box, pulls out the registration and hands it to Cortes.

CORTES (CONT'D)

How long have you had this car?

RAY

Why?

CORTES

I'm asking the questions. Now, how long have you had this car?

RAY

About a month.. Yeah, a month.

CORTES

It was like this when you bought it?

RAY

What do you mean?

CORTES

Both of you step out of the car and walk to the rear.

ADAM

Why? What's wrong?

Ray motions for Adam to follow him and alight.

CORTES

(to Ray)

Get on the passenger side, away from the road. I wouldn't want you to get hit by a passing motorist.

The three meet at the passenger-side rear of the Nomad.

CORTES (CONT'D)

See those rear springs? They're way overloaded. The car just about sits on its rear tires.

Ray and Adam eye the sloping tail of the Nomad.

CORTES (CONT'D)

What's in the two bags in the back?

RAY

Change of clothes and stuff.

CORTES

Uh huh. Both of you, put your hands up against the side window there and spread your feet.

RAY

Why? What did we do?

CORTES

Do it!

Ray and Adam lean their hands against the glass and spread their feet. Cortes pats down each man. He steps back and puts his hand ominously on his .38 Police Special pistol.

CORTES (CONT'D)

Alright, turn around and face me.

Ray and Adam turn around.

CORTES (CONT'D)

Sit down on the ground there with your backs to the rear fender.

The Two sit on the ground, backs against the rear fender.

ADAM

The metal's kinda hot, you know.

CORTES

Then don't lean back. The key -
still in the ignition?

RAY

Yeah.

Cortes goes to the driver's side door of the Nomad. He opens it, leans in, and takes the key out of the ignition. Then he walks back to the rear of the Nomad.

CORTES

I'm gonna call for someone to pick
up your car, then I'll take you two
in for questioning.

RAY

Why?

CORTES

You remind me of my little nephew,
always asking why.

ADAM

What did we do, officer?

CORTES

At best, you're driving a vehicle
that isn't roadworthy.

ADAM

And at worst?

CORTES

I won't know that 'til I see what
you're trying to sneak into the
country.

He walks to his police car.

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

Stock footage of the National Mall and Washington Monument.

704 3RD STREET, NW - APARTMENT BUILDING

The sun glints harshly off the building's windows.

INT. KITCHENETTE

A portable radio is tuned to a local news broadcast.

On the wall a "Felix The Cat" motion clock slides its eyes and tail from side to side with each passing second; it reads 7:35. FIONA JEFFRIES, dressed smartly for work, sits at the dinette table where there are two place settings, each with a slice of toast on a plate and a glass of orange juice.

At the stove, WARREN LATHAM, in a suit sans the jacket, fries two eggs and four strips of bacon. He brings the cast-iron skillet to the table and places an egg on each slice of toast and two strips of bacon on each plate. He sets the skillet in the sink, soaks it in soapy water, then sits at the table.

Fiona starts to eat. As Latham picks up his knife and fork, the telephone RINGS. He rolls his eyes and looks at Fiona.

FIONA

I'm eating.

Latham groans. He lays down his cutlery and mugs. Fiona sticks out her tongue at him. Latham gets up and goes into...

THE LIVING ROOM

On the coffee table, the telephone's Red light does not blink. Latham is curious as he answers the phone.

LATHAM

Hello...

JONES

It's Larry. Can you meet me at the usual place in a half hour or so?

LATHAM

I was just about to eat breakfast.

JONES

It's important, Warren.

LATHAM

Yeah, okay. Just me, or...

JONES

No, no - both of you.

LATHAM

Right. See you there.

He hangs up and heads back into the...

KITCHENETTE

Fiona has just about finished her breakfast. She looks up.

LATHAM

Larry wants to see us, pronto.

FIONA

Just as well... Your egg's probably cold by now.

She grins as she grabs Latham's plate. He snatches a strip of bacon off it before Fiona scrapes the rest into the trash.

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

CIA employees trickle through Gate #1 and onto the compound.

INT. THE HOLE

The 24-hour wall clock reads 08:10. PAUL "BAZZO" BARRY and CARLA DILAURIA are at their desks divvying up a pile of file folders. The Red telephone RINGS; Bazzo answers it.

BAZZO

1-1-3-7...

COLLETTE (O.S.)

It's Collette. I have a call on Gray from a John Taylor. He's calling from a payphone.

BAZZO

The Boss isn't in yet?

COLLETTE (O.S.)

No. You wanna take it?

BAZZO

Yeah, have the Operator transfer it.

COLLETTE (O.S.)

Right.

Bazzo hangs up. DiLauria looks at him curiously.

BAZZO

The FBI.

DiLauria nods. The Gray telephone RINGS; Bazzo answers it.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

Yes?

OPERATOR (O.S.)

This is DC-COMM.

BAZZO

Paul Barry, Special Section.

OPERATOR (O.S.)

I have a call from a John Taylor, calling from a payphone.

BAZZO
Put him through, please.

DURANG (O.S.)
Hi, it's John Taylor.

BAZZO
Paul Barry here.

DURANG (O.S.)
I'm going to lunch now.

CLICK. Carl Durang hangs up, as does Bazzo.

BAZZO
Come on upstairs with me.

DILAURIA
Why, what's up?

BAZZO
Carl Durang's loaded a dead-letter drop. We need to check the list and see which one.

Bazzo opens the door for DiLauria, then he follows her out.

EXT. SAMUEL GOMPERS MEMORIAL PARK - DAY (MORNING)

LAWRENCE JONES (SMOTH), Fiona and Latham stroll by the statue of Samuel Gompers. People going to work hurry past them.

JONES
You've heard of Anguilla?

LATHAM
A Caribbean island, one of your British Overseas Territories.

JONES
Last night, Territorial Police confiscated a launch from Miami called the Alisan. Supposedly, it was waiting out bad weather.

FIONA
So we're discouraging tourism now?

JONES
The boat's captain said it belongs to a group called Lambda-66.

Latham shakes his head in disgust. Fiona turns to him.

FIONA
You know them?

LATHAM

Cuban exiles - a splinter group of Alpha-66, but even more violent.

FIONA

We heard Alpha-66 attacked a Soviet freighter at Mariel, Cuba last week.

LATHAM

Yes, the L'Gov. Idiots even called a press conference to brag about it. Kennedy denounced the raid, saying it violated U.S. and international laws.

JONES

On board the Alisan were a 20mm Lahti cannon, two dozen Browning Automatic Rifles, and thousands of rounds of ammunition. The police also captured a few of them camping on the island. Somehow, I doubt they were there on holiday.

LATHAM

No, I imagine they weren't.

FIONA

With MONGOOSE over, isn't the Miami station back under your control?

LATHAM

Yes, my station chief was supposed to rein in these damn exile groups.

FIONA

So the blame for whatever Lambda-66 is up to will land on your head.

Latham sighs, his frustration evident.

JONES

I figured as much; that's why I wanted to give you a heads-up.

LATHAM

Yeah, thanks.
(checks his watch)
I have to go. Talk to you later.

Fiona caresses Latham's arm. He pats her hand then leaves.

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE - DAY (MORNING)

The 24-hour wall clock reads 08:40. COLLETTE DOWD is at her desk reading a file. Latham enters, still distressed.

Collette sees this and smiles softly at him. Latham nods at her, then takes off his overcoat and hangs it on the coatrack.

COLLETTE

'John Taylor' called. So I had the Operator transfer him to The Hole.

LATHAM

(checks his watch)
When?

COLLETTE

Around eight. The mandarins came up to check the schedule then left.

LATHAM

Both of them, I hope.

COLLETTE

Of course, for countersurveillance.

LATHAM

Good. Ever since the missile crisis ended, the KGB have upped their surveillance here. I'd like to keep our dead-letter drops secret.

COLLETTE

From Durang's people as well. If the FBI knew about them, it'd be in tomorrow's Post.

Latham grins weakly.

LATHAM

Are they back yet?

COLLETTE

Yes. Carla's in the darkroom.

The Red telephone RINGS; Collette answers it.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)

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

Latham lays his satchel on Collette's desk.

LATHAM

Latham... Where are you?... Okay, I'll be right there.

He hangs up the Red telephone then points to his satchel.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

I'll be in the darkroom. Take care
of this for me?

Collette nods. As he leaves, she unlocks Latham's satchel.

DARKROOM

An incandescent, 40-watt lightbulb is on rather than a nearby red one. On a table two wet photographic prints lie flat on a sheet of glass. DiLauria wipes another sheet of glass dry with a squeegee. She takes a third photographic print from the rinse tray, lays it on the glass then wipes the print dry with the squeegee. There is a KNOCK on the door.

DILAURIA

Come in.

Latham enters, shutting the door. He eyes the drying prints.

DILAURIA (CONT'D)

A communiqué from the New Mexico State Police to the head of the White House Secret Service detail. There's also a cover sheet where he forwarded the message to the FBI.

Latham reads the prints aloud, paraphrasing them.

LATHAM

Asks if the Bureau has anything on a Ray Granger and an Adam Paisley... Driving a '57 Chevy Nomad... Stopped in Columbus, New Mexico just after crossing the border at Palomas, Chihuahua. State Trooper Cortes observed that the weight of the car overloaded the rear suspension. Suspecting drug smuggling, he pulled them over under the finding that the car wasn't roadworthy.

BERARD'S OFFICE

WILSON BERARD sips tea, concerned as he listens to Latham.

LATHAM

The state police found two Thompson submachine guns, a pistol, and 5,000 rounds under the backseat.

BERARD

Were they planning to rob a bank?

LATHAM

They were headed to Hyannis Port.

Berard is about to reach for his teacup when he freezes.

BERARD

The Kennedy compound is there.

LATHAM

And the president will be there this weekend.

BERARD

Hmm... I imagine those two gave up their destination under duress.

LATHAM

Not quite. In the memo the State Police mention that the two offered up the information without being prompted for it.

BERARD

Why would they do that?

LATHAM

I don't know, but that's one reason why I have doubts about this.

BERARD

Go on.

LATHAM

Well, for one thing, the problem at the border is drugs being smuggled into the U.S., not guns.

BERARD

That's true.

LATHAM

And those two giving up Hyannis Port like that makes me wonder... They're either complete idiots, or this was a deliberate act.

BERARD

You mean, an Operation?

LATHAM

Yes. The Mexican authorities don't check vehicles coming into their country. So the guns and ammunition could've been smuggled into Mexico earlier and held at a safehouse. Those two could have driven there to pick up the cache, then drove back to the states with it hidden in their car.

BERARD

With the intent of being caught?
What purpose does that serve?

LATHAM

I'm not sure... Could be to make it look like everything was smuggled in from Mexico; or that maybe a plot to kill the president originated there.

BERARD

Again, why would they do that?

LATHAM

Maybe to divert our attention away from what's really being planned.

BERARD

A road map of Massachusetts with an 'X' on Hyannis Port would look less contrived.

LATHAM

It does look like the work of a couple of amateurs.

BERARD

How'd you learn about this?

LATHAM

On a tip from Carl Durang.

BERARD

Hmm, not really a matter for the FBI. The state police and Customs, yes. But there's no federal law I know of that's been broken here.

LATHAM

Sir, the White House Secret Service detail doesn't investigate threats. They pass them onto the Bureau who follow-up on them.

The intercom BUZZES. Berard presses the TALK button.

BERARD

Yes?

BERARD'S AIDE-DE-CAMP (O.S.)

Your car is outside Gate Two, sir.

BERARD

Thank you.

(hangs up)

(MORE)

BERARD (CONT'D)

Sorry to cut this short, but I've
been summoned to an ExComm meeting.
Keep me posted on this.

LATHAM

Yes, sir.

Berard stands, as does Latham.

LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

Collette transcribes from a Dictaphone recording while Bazzo
reads through a file. Latham enters and looks at Bazzo.

LATHAM

You have something for me, or are
you just hanging around?

BAZZO

No, I have something. But first you
need to see this.

(hands the file to Latham)

D-Int stopped by while I was up
here. He's going to a meeting with
Berard and left this for you.

He hands Latham the file then follows him into...

LATHAM'S OFFICE

They sit. Latham opens the file.

INSERT TOP SHEET OF THE DOCUMENT:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SECRET

2-312

Miami, Florida
March 12, 1963

Re: Intercontinental Penetration Force
(Interpen)
Neutrality Letter

MM T-1, who has been involved in Cuban revolutionary
activities for the past four years, and who has furnished
reliable information in the past, on March 9, 1963,
advised that Terence Martino, 8750 NW 113th Terrace,
Hialeah, Florida, appears to be an American citizen who
previously has sold arms to Cuban exiles in Miami. Martino
reportedly is a friend of Frank A. Sturgis, who introduced
MM T-1 to the "Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil,"
an anti-Communist Cuban revolutionary organization.

MM T-1 explained that Sturgis is an American soldier of fortune and mercenary, is involved in Cuban revolutionary activities, and is considered untrustworthy.

The "Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil" bought 2623 weapons from Martino, then complained he overcharged for the value of these guns.

MM T-1 said that Gerald Patrick Hemming, head of the Intercontinental Penetration Force (Interpen), found out Martino works for Carlos Marcello in New Orleans, and that Martino keeps a large quantity of weapons at his home. Hemming plans to steal these guns from Martino, and is presently working out the details. Hemming made several calls to Martino's house, and was trying to arrange an appointment to meet Martino at the Trio Diner, 3632 SW 8th Street, on March 10, 1963, at 9:00 a.m. Hemming contacted Joe Garmen, Steve Wilson, Roy Hargraves, and MM T-1.

Bureau realizes that only MM T-1, Bureau informant in this matter, and aforementioned have knowledge of Hemming's plan to steal guns from Martino. Since MM T-1 is a member of Interpen, it is felt that, should Bureau want to interview any of the parties, all of them should be interviewed so as not to jeopardize informant.

Note that Hemming has expressed hatred toward President Kennedy and Attorney General Robert Kennedy, and has offered his services should any action to remove either one result. In view of unsavory background of members of Interpen, be most circumspect during these interviews.

SECRET

BACK TO SCENE

Latham is disturbed by this, particularly the last paragraph.

BAZZO

See where the informant needs to be interviewed to maintain his cover? An experienced agent would know that. Hoover must've given it a low priority and assigned it to a newbie, despite Hemming's threat.

LATHAM

Or maybe because of it.

BAZZO

Interpen... Bunch of fake Marines. Gonna rob their own people.

Latham flips back to the cover sheet.

LATHAM

Durang's not on the distribution list - only the executive A.D.'s.

BAZZO

I saw that. Leave it to D-Int to penetrate the FBI's upper echelon.

LATHAM

I don't remember our Miami Number One ever mentioning how much Hemming hated the president and his brother.

BAZZO

Probably because everyone involved with Brigade 2506 feels that way.

LATHAM

Still, Crosby should have put it in an FIR, even if it was just to cover his ass in case something happened.

Bazzo shrugs, conceding. Latham refers to the document.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

This informant, MM T-1... He's working with the DRE, the Mob, and our contract agent, Frank Sturgis.

BAZZO

The guy certainly gets around.

LATHAM

Wouldn't surprise me if this MM T-1 is getting details on some of our Latin American Ops from Sturgis and passing them on to the Bureau.

BAZZO

Wouldn't surprise me either.

LATHAM

Hmm, this also lends credence to what we heard on tape a few weeks ago.

BAZZO

Then the FBI must know there's a plot to kill Kennedy.

LATHAM

If they do, it's not from Crosby. He thinks they're only planning demonstrations intended to get Kennedy to remove Castro. But I'm wondering what this MM T-1 knows.

BAZZO

The guy's with Interpen. All those Nazis drink too much and run their mouths. If they're involved, MM T-1 would've passed that onto the FBI.

LATHAM

Hmm... I wonder what D-Int knows about MM T-1. And I want to ask Durang about those two clowns in New Mexico. But first, I've got another problem: Lambda-66.

BAZZO

Alpha-66's evil twin.

LATHAM

SMOTH told me a group of them were arrested in Anguilla with a cannon, some rifles, and thousands of rounds of ammunition on their boat.

BAZZO

Wonder what they were planning...

LATHAM

Or maybe they've done it already.

BAZZO

Geezus... Doesn't matter that Fred Crosby's supposed to be running these exile groups. Whatever they're up to, you'll end up being blamed.

Latham sighs hopelessly then presses the intercom.

COLLETTE (O.S.)

Yes?

LATHAM

Get Carl Durang for me, please.

COLLETTE (O.S.)

Right.

Latham hangs up. Bazzo gets up, about to leave.

LATHAM

You said you had something for me.

BAZZO

Oh, yeah. Remember Willie Townsend, the mortuary worker in Mississippi?

LATHAM

Yeah. What about him?

BAZZO

That place we bought for him; he re-
opened it today under his own name.

LATHAM

I wonder if he needs an assistant.

ACT TWO

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Stock footage of this familiar landmark.

INT. CABINET OFFICE

PRESIDENT KENNEDY, ROBERT KENNEDY, ROBERT MCNAMARA, DEAN RUSK, MCGEORGE BUNDY, SENATOR TYSON, CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL CARTER, GENERAL J. F. CARROLL, COLONEL H. BEACHEM, Berard, and BILL NEALY sit at the conference table. Before each of them is an open folder showing a cover sheet to a multi-page telegram. Berard and Nealy glance at relevant pages of the telegram.

INSERT COVER SHEET AND CONTENTS OF U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW TELEGRAM AND SUIT **HIGHLIGHTED** RELEVANT PASSAGES TO DIALOGUE:

INCOMING TELEGRAM DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Classification Control: 6700

Rec'd: March 27, 1963

10:18 AM

FROM: MOSCOW

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2780, MARCH 27, 3 PM (ONE OF THREE)

NIACT

Telegram From the Embassy in the Soviet Union to the
Department of State

Raids on Russian ships at Cuban ports

SECRET

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SECRET/EYES ONLY

Secretary of State, Deptel, Embtel

Moscow, March 27, 1963, 7 p.m.

From: Kohler, Foy D., Ambassador to the Soviet Union

Gromyko called me in at 4:00 p.m. Moscow time to make oral statement in response my March 16 statement to Kuznetsov. Translation of his statement contained next following tel.

Subsequent 30-minute discussion began with Gromyko asking me to transmit contents of statement to President and saying he wished to add a few words about note Embassy received today regarding attack on L'Gov (Embtel 2422).

He said MFA had received word just before our meeting about analogous provocation involving another Soviet ship in Cuban port, the Baku. MFA did not yet have details and would in due course give Embassy Soviet reaction to this new provocative act. **It appears USG underestimated gravity of such provocative actions against Cuba and Soviet ships.** If it correctly estimated gravity of such actions, it would not permit them to take place.

I said I first wished to comment on his oral statement. President's intention had been to give private reassurance to Chairman Khrushchev as result of doubts President felt Chairman had expressed regarding USG policy towards Cuba. President had also wished to express hope that SovGovt might exercise influence to alleviate situation. I said I should certainly report statement to President and assumed this remained a private exchange. Gromyko said that was correct; for the time being Soviets had no intention of giving information on exchange to press.

I said that, since I had no new instructions, I would not reply now to statement but would stand on what I had said before. With regard to L'Gov, I said I wished to call Gromyko's attention to Lincoln White's March 19 statement and to the President's March 21 statement, that exiles who conducted raid had not come from US, that we did not feel these kinds of raids served useful purposes, and that we had not supported this, and that these men did not have connection with USG. I said these statements were already on record and it was thus appropriate to cite them today.

Gromyko said SovGovt was acquainted with statements, but has to ask itself how we can make such statements and at the same time act in direct contradiction to them. SovGovt could not regard State Department statement as satisfactory.

It's understanding of State Department statement is that if raids were bigger and more successful, that would be a different thing. As for SovGovt, it categorically condemns all acts of this kind. Can USG really hope to find serious people who can believe that it is not involved, when this exile scum was sitting under US wing? **These groups only acted with the knowledge and connivance of USG.** He wished to emphasize that USG is not attributing serious significance to these acts. On other hand, SovGovt regretted position taken by US. It was high time a more sober approach was taken to such actions.

Gromyko continued, Caribbean crisis had apparently been settled, but he and I, like US and Sov representatives elsewhere, had to keep reverting to it. There was, however, one possibility for settling the matter: **USG should leave Cuba in peace. In Soviet view, this lies in the best interests of the US and the whole world.**

I said I felt I had to comment now because Gromyko's additional remarks had called into question statement of President. When we make these statements, we do so because they are true. I repeated raiders had not come from US territory. With regard to "scum," we have a different understanding from the Soviets of who are scum and who are honest people.

As to question of fulfilling terms of October 27-28 agreement, they had never been fulfilled. Provisions for inspection and verification had not been made. What did Soviets want us to do: protect Cuba from such raids? It should be clear to them we are not going to do so. **Just as Soviets expect many countries to opt for communism, we expect many countries, including Cuba, to opt for freedom.**

Perhaps solution was for USSR to leave Cuba alone. I had pointed out to Dobrynin in Washington that this problem was poisoning our relations. If USSR would only leave Cuba alone, this poison would be removed. **USG has recognized measures taken by SovGovt to reduce poison. But Oct. 27-28 agreement had never been fully realized, and that must be recognized.**

Gromyko, moderating his tone, asked again whether we expected to find people who would believe our statements that USG can do nothing at all about actions of these emigre groups. He fully recognized and appreciated that it did not please the US when he pointed out there was no way to reconcile statements of top US officials with facts of provocations.

New provocation had occurred only today. SovGovt was expressing hope that USG and President would take more sober approach to such serious provocations and would act in spirit of agreement that had been reached Oct. 27-28. **USSR had always and would always act in accordance with it,** as he was sorry to have to protest and would prefer not to do it, but circumstances compelled it.

I said, as was evident from statements I had cited, **USG was opposed to these raids and would do everything it could to discourage them.** I did, however, want to make it clear to him that USG did not intend to institute blockade of Cuba in order to stop such raids. I assumed Sovs would not like us to do so. **However, there is great deal of Soviet activity on the island. Perhaps they should stop it, since it was inflaming public opinion in US.** Way to solve problem was to remove this element which poisoned US-Soviet relations.

Gromyko said difference in our positions was that USG was threatening Cuba and Cubans were taking steps to protect their frontiers. That was why Sov specialists were in Cuba. Chairman had explained this to President and there was little he could add at this time to that explanation. However, he agreed it would be good to remove poison. As afterthought, Gromyko said he assumed that by "poison" I meant these raids.

I said by "poison" I meant everything involved in Cuban problem: Belligerent statements of Castro, presence of Sov military, and reaction this evokes in US. I agreed that if we could eliminate all this it would be good. I asked whether they intended to publish note on Baku. Gromyko said they probably would. (Subsequently, his office called Emb to specify that both Baku note and their reply to our Alaska aircraft intrusion note would probably be published.) But, for time being, they regarded exchange of oral statements as private and did not intend publish.

Kohler

SECRET/EYES ONLY

BACK TO SCENE

President Kennedy quietly seethes but his brother Robert Kennedy shows no such restraint; he is visibly agitated as Colonel Beachem, General Carroll and General Carter speak.

BEACHEM

Word is, an Alpha-66 splinter group, Lambda-66, attacked the Soviet ship Baku in the Cuban port of Caibarién.

ROBERT KENNEDY

Didn't Alpha-66 attack a Russian freighter at Mariel then go ashore to a Russian camp and wound twelve of their soldiers last week?

BEACHEM

Yes, that's correct, Mr. Kennedy.

ROBERT KENNEDY

And now you're telling us there's yet another goddamn raid?!

RUSK

Wait. Can we deny complicity?

CARROLL

No, Dean. Lambda-66 brought along a Life magazine photographer.

ROBERT KENNEDY

What?!

CARROLL

Some kid named Andrew St. George. Life also sent a reporter but he got seasick. The crew left him in Miami.

BUNDY

Then there's photos of the raid.

CARROLL

The raid, the port of Miami, the port of Caibarién, the Baku...

RUSK

So much for plausible deniability.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Go on, Colonel.

BEACHEM

Lambda-66 left Miami with two launches - a speedboat, the Phoenix, which was used to fire on the Baku; and a supply boat, the Alisan. After the attack, the Alisan headed for Anguilla in the British West Indies. They planned to stay there until a storm passed. However, the Territorial Police seized the boat and arrested several members of the group. It was subsequently learned that Anguilla is where the group had accessed a CIA arms cache which they used to conduct the raid.

Now, Bundy seethes as well.

BUNDY

What sort of arms had the CIA stored there, General Carter?

CARTER

I understand there was a 20mm Lahti cannon, several M-1 carbines, and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

ROBERT KENNEDY

The fact that the Territorial Police arrested these Lambda-66 members leads me to believe the British weren't aware that the CIA had stored arms on the island.

CARTER

No, Mr. Kennedy, they weren't.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

We finally engender some goodwill with the Soviets, only to alienate our closest ally, England. That's quite a feat, General Carter.

CARTER

We didn't authorize the raids, sir.

ROBERT KENNEDY

Well, someone did!

BERARD

(soberly)

These Cuban exile groups had been operating under MONGOOSE with your approval and under your direction.

ROBERT KENNEDY

I've since shut down that Operation.

BERARD

Mr. Kennedy, the Cuban exiles aren't a spigot you can turn off when it no longer suits your purpose.

NEALY

Our appeasement with the Soviets was a welcome end to the crisis. But it's also incentivized these violent exile groups to act in spite of it.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

So what would you have me do? Re-engage a quarantine around Cuba?

BERARD

No, sir, of course not. But I do want to make it clear how these Cuban exiles see us. In their minds nothing's changed; they still intend to remove Fidel Castro. When they hear you and the Attorney General declare that they've broken the law, they feel betrayed; the government's abandoned them. Their only real allies now are those witless mercenaries from Interpen.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

There is a larger objective here, and that's the furtherance of our accord with the Soviet Union. We have an opportunity before us that's unprecedented, and I'm not going to tolerate it being subverted by these renegade Cuban exile factions.

BERARD

Sir, I agree with your approach. I think any sane person would.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Glad to hear I'm on the side of sanity, Wilson.

There are gallows chuckles.

BERARD

But I'd hesitate using the exiles as a bargaining chip with the Soviets.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

You mean as mentioned in Ambassador Kohler's telegram?

BERARD

Yes, Mr. President.

MCNAMARA

Don't forget, Wilson, public opinion is on our side.

NEALY

It wasn't during the Missile Crisis, Bob, yet we prevailed there.

McNamara broods.

RUSK

The Soviets have filed a diplomatic protest with the U.N.

(MORE)

RUSK (CONT'D)

They've noted that we have laws prohibiting the very thing Lambda-66 is doing.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Nothing like being caught in a contradiction, is there?

Embarrassed MURMURING wafts around the conference table.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY (CONT'D)

To Wilson's point, these raids only strengthen Russia's position to remain in Cuba. While these groups must be stopped, they must also realize that the United States still seeks a democratic solution to the Cuban problem.

ROBERT KENNEDY

As far as stopping them, under federal law, the principals can be arrested and their assets seized.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Then that's where we need to start.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - WEST WING - DAY

TWO UNIFORMED MARINE CORPS GUARDS stand at attention outside the main door where black Cadillac sedans and government-gray Ford Galaxies queue. Their drivers alight and open the passenger-side rear doors. A MARINE CORPS GUARD exits the White House and holds open the main door. EXCOMM members exit and head toward their respective cars. Berard and Nealy head toward their Ford Galaxie. Carter taps Berard on the shoulder.

CARTER

Ride with me, Wilson. I'll drop you off at Navy Hill.

NEALY

I'll call you later, Wilson.

Nealy heads toward a Ford Galaxie at the end of the vehicle queue while Berard walks with Carter to one of the Cadillacs. Meanwhile, Beachem and Carroll climb into a Ford Galaxie that is just behind the last Cadillac.

INT. BEACHEM AND CARROLL'S FORD GALAXIE

The driver, a UNIFORMED ARMY SERGEANT, shuts their door. He goes around the car, opens the driver-side door and gets in. A thick, sliding plexiglass partition sits atop the front bench seat backrest, separating passengers - and their conversation - from the driver. The car pulls away.

I/E. FORD GALAXIE

The car heads east on H Street NW, then turns right onto 14th Street NW. Beachem slides shut the partition. He leans toward Carroll and speaks sotto voce.

BEACHEM

I wonder if he realizes he just signed his own death warrant.

CARROLL

No, he's probably feeling invincible. And that's good.

Beachem nods and leans back in his seat.

EXT. OLD SENATE OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Its exterior is lined with a colonnade of Doric columns and faced with white marble and limestone, toned-down to highlight the nearby, architecturally impressive, U.S. Capitol Building.

INT. LOBBY

A sign above an oversized mahogany door reads "Caucus Room." Outside the door stands the DOORKEEPER - a man in his early 40s, wearing a dark suit whose cut indicates he carries a holstered pistol. By the door sits a letter board atop a metal post. Pressed into its black felt are white letters that read "Session: Senate Judiciary Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee."

CARL DURANG waits by the sign, checking his watch. Latham arrives; both have red identification badges clipped to their suitcoat lapels. Latham looks at the sign with some disdain.

LATHAM

We couldn't meet for coffee over at Bickford's?

DURANG

I'm monitoring this for the Bureau. Besides, they're probably covering all the events of your childhood.

Latham rolls his eyes. The Doorkeeper opens the door for them. Durang and Latham enter...

THE CAUCUS ROOM

Three grand French windows, each with a large keystone crowning the window arch, let in light that illuminates the Italianate, black-veined marble floor. The ceiling features gilded rosettes and rows of acanthus leaves. Twelve Corinthian columns line the walls, supporting an architrave and the frieze.

Above the frieze are classically derived motifs of dentils, egg and dart molding. A Greek key forms a ribbon at the top of the Corinthian pilasters.

Senators and their staff, and witnesses from law enforcement, the Treasury Department, Transportation, sports shooting associations, and journalists fill half the seats. Durang and Latham sit in the back row, away from the participants.

SENATOR THOMAS DODD is flanked by staff members on either side and in the row behind him where there are also two empty chairs. (Durang and Latham speak sotto voce.)

DURANG

Dodd's got some staff, huh? See those two empty seats behind him?

Latham eyes the two empty chairs in the row behind Dodd.

LATHAM

Staffers disguised as empty seats?

DURANG

No, smartass. That's where two of his junior staffers usually sit - Ray Granger and Adam Paisley.

Latham is shocked. Just then, Granger and Paisley enter and sit in the two empty seats, prompting some back-and-forth between them and Dodd. Durang checks his watch. Dodd turns around front and finally addresses the Committee, during which Durang and Latham continue their conversation.

SEN. DODD

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency, I have become increasingly aware of the alarming increase in dangerous drugs and its effect on juveniles and young adults. The picture painted by the witnesses of juvenile drug use is startling and disturbing. It is estimated that half the total of barbiturates and amphetamines produced in the United States is funneled into the illicit market through criminal and other devious methods. One major method is through the illegal smuggling of these drugs into the U.S. from Mexico. These drugs are first legally shipped into Mexico by American drug firms. They are ordered by druggists and wholesalers in the border towns in wholesale lots.

(MORE)

SEN. DODD (CONT'D)

They are illegally sold and smuggled back into the United States by criminals and young adults. As currently constituted, our laws treat these specific drug smugglers in the same manner as a tourist sneaking an alcoholic beverage through Customs without declaring it.

LATHAM

What the hell's going on here, Carl?

DURANG

Dodd asked for my help in getting New Mexico to release them. My agents put them on a plane back to D.C. and then escorted them here.

LATHAM

They say why they were loaded for bear and heading to Hyannis Port?

DURANG

Dodd's trying to show that these mail-order firearms are primarily foreign imports, cheap but just as lethal as the ones made here. It's because they're so cheap that they're more likely to end up in the hands of juvenile delinquents.

LATHAM

Like those two idiots. But that doesn't answer my question.

DURANG

Drama.

LATHAM

They belong to a theater club?

DURANG

Look, no one gives a damn if these hoodlums use some cheap Italian guns to knock over a liquor store. But if they use them to try to kill the president, that gets the right attention.

LATHAM

Wait. So this was Dodd's idea?

DURANG

Granger's. It was all a hoax. But that's not why I brought you here.

(MORE)

DURANG (CONT'D)

Carlos Marcello has been getting a heads-up on all the proceedings.

LATHAM

The Mob has a hook on the Committee?

DURANG

And we believe it's Ray Granger.

LATHAM

Geezus... Why is the Mob so interested in this?

DURANG

For one thing, Marcello owns a piece of one of the sporting goods stores the Committee's investigating.

LATHAM

And I thought he was just a successful tomato salesman.

DURANG

He's also backing the NRA. They're trying to keep the government from enacting legislation that restricts the importation of these weapons.

LATHAM

No, this doesn't add up, Carl.

DURANG

Why not?

LATHAM

Mail-order guns may be cheap, but ordering them leaves a paper trail. If those two clowns wanted to avoid that, why didn't they just go into any sporting goods store in New Mexico, show a fake ID, and buy whatever guns they wanted? They could say later they smuggled them in from Mexico.

Durang considers this. Finally, he shrugs, exasperated.

DURANG

I don't know why they did it that way.

LATHAM

Hmm, I wonder if this was just a dry run for something later on.

MID-SHOW BREAK

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

CIA employees leave the compound through Gate #1.

INT. BERARD'S OFFICE

Berard is at his desk, looking pensive. There is a KNOCK on the door. It opens and Latham enters.

LATHAM

You wanted to see me, sir?

BERARD

Yes, Warren. Take a seat.

Latham sits.

BERARD (CONT'D)

At the ExComm meeting we discussed the Lambda-66 raid on the Baku. There's likely to be quite a public relations fallout over it.

LATHAM

As there should be. These raids damage our relations with Moscow.

Latham's comment concerns Berard.

BERARD

It's more than that. A photographer from Life magazine accompanied the exiles on this one.

Latham sighs, his disapproval evident.

BERARD (CONT'D)

He took photos of the launch while it was in Miami and the Caibarién, as well as photos of the attack on the Baku, the Soviet freighter. This puts the president in an untenable position.

LATHAM

Like with the Bay of Pigs.

BERARD

Yes. Our credibility, our standing as the leader of the free world - all shot to hell. Deputy Director Carter feels that the Miami station is partly to blame for this.

LATHAM

Meaning, I'm to blame.

BERARD

You can't be blamed for the actions of these renegade Cuban exiles.

LATHAM

Then what's the suggestion here?

BERARD

That a more direct focus on the station's management is necessary.

LATHAM

Sir, I give my station chiefs quite a bit of latitude by necessity.

BERARD

Which has you and Fred Crosby crossing swords recently.

LATHAM

And with good reason! He's involved in a plot against the president.

BERARD

I'm aware of that, and I appreciate how you've handled it. But the Deputy Director feels the station needs stricter oversight. So he wants Stewart Kensington to manage the Miami station in your stead - for the time being.

LATHAM

(spits out the words)
Stricter management...

BERARD

I did push back on this, Warren. I reminded him of your exemplary performance during the Bay of Pigs invasion.

LATHAM

Sir, whatever's being planned, it's centered there in Miami.

BERARD

I know that.

LATHAM

The Deputy Director doesn't.

BERARD

And with circumstantial evidence at best, it's hardly a topic we can broach with him.

(MORE)

BERARD (CONT'D)

He knows the raids originate from Miami; and that's enough as far as he's concerned.

LATHAM

(frustrated and angry)

So he brings in Kensington who's about as effective as limp lettuce. Crosby and his pals will ride roughshod over him.

BERARD

The decision's been made, Warren, no matter how much you or I disagree with it.

LATHAM

How does this affect my authority with my other stations?

BERARD

It doesn't; this only involves the Miami station.

Latham stands. A sardonic grin slowly curls his lips.

LATHAM

World opinion just became the least of President Kennedy's worries.

He leaves.

LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

Latham enters looking weary and curious. Collette looks up from her typing.

LATHAM

There's an escort in the hall outside.

COLLETTE

For D-Int. He's in your office.

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Nealy is seated, reading the Washington Post. Latham enters.

LATHAM

Bill...

He sits at his desk. Nealy sets down the newspaper.

NEALY

I'm supposed to be at Langley now.

Latham has a curious look about him.

NEALY (CONT'D)
Collette said you were with Wilson.
Was that about the Miami station?

LATHAM
Yes, it reports to Kensington now.

NEALY
I figured something was coming
after the way General Carter was
skewered at the meeting.

Latham shrugs.

NEALY (CONT'D)
Well, Miami's the reason I'm here.
I got a report that José Perez and
Andres Gomez, both members of
Lambda-66, left Miami this morning
for Boston with Robert Emmett
Johnson from Interpen.

As Latham jots down the information on a legal pad, the name
"Johnson" jolts recognition in him.

LATHAM
Johnson... The same one who brought
in the guns we used to get Trujillo?

NEALY
Uh huh. I figured it'd ring a bell.

LATHAM
Is he still using the same aliases -
Robert Jones or Robert Roman?

NEALY
As far as I know.

LATHAM
Why Boston?

NEALY
Manuel Artime from Alpha-66 is in
New York to raise money. The FBI
says those three are doing the same
up in Boston. Johnson's bilingual,
so he probably went along to
translate.

LATHAM
Hmm, Castro was there in '59 trying
to rally support from the students.

(MORE)

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Bastard had his people kill Carla's sister.

NEALY

I remember. You did one helluva job uncovering why he was really there.

LATHAM

I was lucky. I'll have Bazzo pass this along to the Boston Station.

NEALY

The other thing I want to bring up is that two of Interpen's leaders arrived in Dallas yesterday - Gerry Patrick Hemming and Loran Hall.

LATHAM

For what?

NEALY

Remember I told you we're keeping an eye on the false defectors?

LATHAM

Yes, Robert Webster and - who's the other one? - Lee Oswald.

NEALY

Right. Webster's gone back to work for Rand.

LATHAM

How? I thought the Air Force revoked his security clearance.

NEALY

They granted him a new one.

Latham is incredulous and shakes his head.

NEALY (CONT'D)

You know George de Mohrenschildt?

LATHAM

No, I've had no dealings with him.

NEALY

He's our man in Dallas, and Oswald's controller. He reported that Hemming and Hall met up with Oswald yesterday.

LATHAM

Why would Oswald have anything to do with Interpen?

NEALY

I don't know. I thought CI was behind it, but MOTHER denies it.

LATHAM

Didn't CI hand Oswald off to you when he returned from Moscow?

NEALY

Yes, but who knows what they're up to. CI's its own fiefdom. I'd hoped you'd have the Miami station look into it. But with Stewart in charge, I doubt there'll be much reporting from there on Interpen and Oswald.

Latham folds his hands; he is deep in thought.

LATHAM

There's this FBI informant at Interpen, MM T-1.

NEALY

I hope you haven't been digging.

LATHAM

Why, is he your man?

NEALY

No, but he reports to my man in the Bureau. And I don't want either of them exposed.

LATHAM

I'm just curious about what the Bureau's informant knows.

NEALY

Interpen, the exile groups, the Mob.

LATHAM

Really. You mean he talks to Trafficante?

NEALY

No, to an underboss. And it would be one of Carlos Marcello's men.

LATHAM

Would he know anything about the plot there to kill Kennedy?

NEALY

Possibly - but then that's hardly surprising. The Cuban exiles there all hate the president.

LATHAM

So does Carlos Marcello.

Nealy nods. Latham locks eyes with him.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

And Gerry Patrick Hemming.

This strikes a frightening chord with Nealy.

NEALY

Yes... Anything I get on this, I'll pass along to you myself.

LATHAM

Thanks.

Nealy stands, as does Latham. They shake hands.

NEALY

I just hope we can stop it.

EXT. 704 3RD STREET, NW - APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

A blue-black light flickers in many of the windows - black and white televisions sets tuned to the evening's fare.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Latham and Fiona are curled up on the couch watching "The Outer Limits" on TV. Fiona is enrapt but Latham is abstracted.

FIONA

Been waiting to see this show.
Finally, we're home early enough.

Latham doesn't respond. Fiona looks at him.

FIONA (CONT'D)

What - no interest in Peeping Toms?

LATHAM

Huh?

FIONA

O.B.I.T.

Latham is at sea. Fiona playfully TAPS her knuckles on his head. Latham smiles weakly. She sits up and caresses his hand.

FIONA (CONT'D)

What is it?

LATHAM

My Miami station - it now reports directly to Stewart Kensington.

FIONA

Is this related to what Larry told you this morning, about Lambda-66?

Latham nods, his distress evident.

FIONA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

LATHAM

It's not just that. Whatever's being planned against Kennedy is centered there in Miami. D-Int told me that two mercenaries from Interpen went to Dallas and met up with one of the false defectors he's monitoring.

FIONA

Interpen, they're that mercenary group who train the Cuban exiles.

LATHAM

Uh huh.

FIONA

Which false defector did they see, Webster or Oswald?

Latham is taken aback. Fiona shrugs.

FIONA (CONT'D)

Our Moscow embassy had eyes on them. And as I understand it, Dulles told 'C' who passed it down the ladder.

LATHAM

Oswald, the ex-Marine.

FIONA

So, the fake lefty is now meeting with right-wing mercenaries?

LATHAM

It seems so.

FIONA

Flip-flopping like that means he must be operational again.

LATHAM

Yeah, but who's running him? D-Int isn't, and CI denies it as well.

FIONA

Why did Nealy bring this to you?

LATHAM

He's worried Kensington will stop the flow of Intel to me. Plus, he knows something's up.

FIONA

The plot to kill President Kennedy.

Latham nods.

FIONA (CONT'D)

You think Interpen's involved?

LATHAM

I don't know; seems like everyone in Miami hates Kennedy. But why meet with Oswald, of all people?

FIONA

Well, from what I know, these Interpen louts aren't well-suited for any intricate planning.

LATHAM

That's what makes them perfect for those who are doing the planning.

FIONA

Hmm... What about Oswald? Is he perfect for this?

ACT THREE

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

On the National Mall the wind whips the flags about, while the sun throws sparks on the rough surface of the Reflecting Pool.

2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY

Bundled-up CIA employees enter the compound through Gate #1.

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

The 24-hour wall clock reads 08:10. Bazzo straddles the corner of Collette's desk as he reads the Daily News. Beside him, Collette scans through files, separating them into two piles. Latham enters. Collette smiles; Bazzo looks up.

COLLETTE

Good morning.

BAZZO

Boss...

Latham nods, still melancholy from the previous day. Bazzo and Collette follow him into...

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Latham lays his satchel on his desk then hangs his overcoat on the coatrack. Meanwhile, Collette brings in the two piles of files and lays them on the desk. She unlocks Latham's satchel and removes two files. She takes them with her into the Outer Office as Bazzo and Latham sit.

BAZZO

I ran into Kensington's aide. Said his boss was all giddy; took the early bird to Miami.

LATHAM

Is it on the wall in the lav?

Collette re-enters with two cups of tea. She hands one to Latham - he nods to her - and the other to Bazzo.

BAZZO

Thanks, Love.

Collette smiles at him then leaves. As they sip their tea...

BAZZO (CONT'D)

You knew word would get around.

Latham is embarrassed at his own ill-tempered manner.

LATHAM

He'll make all the right noises, but the raids will start up again. What's worse, it won't affect the timetable of those bastards out to get the president.

BAZZO

Let's hope Durang passes on enough information for us to stop them. So, did you learn anything from him about our would-be assassins, Ray Granger and Adam Paisley?

LATHAM

They're on Senator Dodd's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency.

BAZZO

So this was his doing?!

LATHAM

It was a stunt dreamed up by Granger;

(MORE)

LATHAM (CONT'D)
meant to draw attention to the
smuggling of guns in from Mexico.

BAZZO
Since when has anyone been
smuggling in guns from Mexico?

LATHAM
I know. Dodd's worried about all the
cheap, foreign-made guns available
to juveniles. Aiming them at Kennedy
was meant to emphasize the point.

BAZZO
And if they hadn't been stopped?

Latham shrugs; it's an unanswerable question.

LATHAM
I also learned Granger is Carlos
Marcello's snitch on the Committee.

BAZZO
What's Marcello's interest, besides
being a delinquent once himself?

LATHAM
He owns a gun store they're looking
into.
(gets up, meanders about)
I can't shake this feeling that
there's more to that stunt than
juvenile delinquents and cheap guns.

BAZZO
Like what?

LATHAM
Like someone wanted the FBI and the
Secret Service to focus on it. Now
that it's a hoax, they've relaxed.

Bazzo hesitates, treading carefully as he contradicts Latham.

BAZZO
This plot with Beachem and Crosby,
I wonder if it's affected your
thinking.

LATHAM
What are you talking about?

BAZZO
Granger and Paisley. Don't you
think you're looking for more than
what's there?

LATHAM

No.

BAZZO

It looks that way.

LATHAM

How?

BAZZO

We know something's up in Miami 'cause we have Crosby and the others on tape. We know the JCS and the far right hate Kennedy. And there's the three assassination attempts. But what do you have to go on here besides this feeling that those two are up to something?

LATHAM

C'mon, it's so obviously contrived!

BAZZO

What else would you expect from amateurs?

Latham HUFFS but his resolve is beginning to wane.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

Okay, say there is more to this. Granger and Paisley were caught; the plot's out in the open. If they had any accomplices they're in the wind. I know how you feel about Kennedy, but you've nothing to go on here.

Latham sighs, conceding that his position is indefensible. The intercom BUZZES; he answers it.

LATHAM

Yes?

COLLETTE (O.S.)

François Bisset is on Gray.

Latham hangs up the intercom and answers the Gray phone.

LATHAM

Latham...

INT. FRANÇOIS BISSET'S OFFICE

FRANÇOIS BISSET is at his desk, on the phone.

BISSET

Warren, it's François.

CROSSCUT LATHAM WITH BISSET

LATHAM

Hey, how are you?

BISSET

Good. Listen, there's been a change to the president's itinerary. He's staying in town this weekend rather than heading to Hyannis Port.

LATHAM

What brought that about?

BISSET

The raid on the Baku. He's going to be inundated with questions from the press, and he doesn't want to subject his family to that.

LATHAM

I can understand that.

BISSET

I wanted to let you know in case the schedule change didn't reach you before you left for the day.

LATHAM

Thanks. I guess this means Jackie and the kids are staying in town?

BISSET

Yes. The kids are disappointed, naturally; so are the grandparents. But Bobby and his brood are still going, so things should still be pretty lively at the compound.

Latham is shocked, momentarily nonplussed.

BISSET (CONT'D)

Warren? Hey, you there?

LATHAM

Huh? Oh, sorry. Um, what time is he leaving?

Bisset searches through the notes and papers on his desk.

BISSET

I have a note on it, somewhere...
Ah, 19:00.

LATHAM

Okay, thanks for the update.

BISSET

No problem. Talk to you later.

BACK TO SCENE

Latham hangs up. Bazzo is perplexed.

BAZZO

What's up?

LATHAM

The president canceled his trip to Hyannis Port. He's staying in town.

BAZZO

That's good, then.

LATHAM

But Bobby Kennedy and his family are still going up there.

Bazzo shrugs; he doesn't attach any importance to this.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

That note I gave you on those three traveling from Miami to Boston...

BAZZO

Perez and Gomez from Lambda-66, and Johnson from Interpen. I already told the station.

LATHAM

Bazzo, the exiles and the Mob aren't blaming the president for their troubles, they're blaming Bobby.

BAZZO

Hang on. How would they know brother Bobby was going to Hyannis Port? When the trip was announced, it just said the president, his wife and his kids were going.

LATHAM

Bobby's colleagues at the Justice Department would know, which means the FBI would know.

BAZZO

You saying the FBI told Lambda-66?

LATHAM

Yes, through their informant, MM T-1. It doesn't matter if it was done with intent or not.

(MORE)

LATHAM (CONT'D)

A lot of people want the end result, including Hoover - and that's to get rid of Bobby Kennedy. Get Carla. I'll meet you two in the Ops Room.

He dials the Red phone while Bazzo hurries out the office.

OPERATIONS ROOM

The 24-hour wall clock reads 09:35. There is the usual PURL of chatter, teletype machines and RINGING phones. DUTY OFFICER TOM PERCY mans the Duty Desk while DUTY OFFICER JARED STOKES and MISSION PLANNING'S REID NICHOLS brief Bazzo, DiLauria and Latham. On the wall is a box labeled in red, "Flashlights." There are open maps of Hyannis Port and the Kennedy compound on the table, along with complementary photographs.

LATHAM

How'd we get the photos?

STOKES

Life magazine interviewed the family back in '53. Joe Kennedy made sure they showed off the family spread.

(points to an aerial view)

Now, when the president arrives there by Marine Corps helicopter, you have police boats and a Coast Guard cutter just offshore. There are also fire engines and a horde of reporters at the end of the driveway here. None of this will be the case when the attorney general arrives, except for the helicopter.

DILAURIA

Wouldn't it be great if it landed on Lambda-66 and their faithful Interpen guide?

Grins abound. Latham, however, takes a keen interest in her remark. Stokes points to another photo.

STOKES

We've numbered places of interest to you. Joe and Rose stay in One, which is nearest the beach. Near them is Bobby's residence, Two.

DILAURIA

I thought that'd be the president's?

STOKES

He's at the perimeter here, number Three. Probably to keep the press away from the rest of the clan.

(MORE)

STOKES (CONT'D)

Everyone gathers here, in The Big House, number Four. The parking lot is Five. There's brush and trees there, and around the residences for privacy. It also provides concealment for an attacker. They have private security. You'll see them patrol in Jeep Wagoneers.

BAZZO

Are they armed?

STOKES

No, but they keep a gun in the car.

Nichols points to one of the photos.

NICHOLS

That lawn's huge. Security should see anyone coming up the beach.

DILAURIA

Unless they come at night.

NICHOLS

They had spotlights installed throughout the compound last year.

DILAURIA

And the ones by the residences would most likely be turned off late at night so people can sleep.

LATHAM

When's Bobby Kennedy due to arrive?

Nichols checks his notes.

NICHOLS

20:15.

BAZZO

Early enough for a family get-together at the Big House.

NICHOLS

No, they wouldn't hit him there.

DILAURIA

A professional would want to avoid collateral damage. But an amateur...

CIA officer SAM approaches the Duty Desk and hands Percy a cable. Percy reads it and turns toward the table where Stokes is giving his briefing.

PERCY

Excuse me, Mr. Latham...

Latham holds up his hand for the briefing to pause.

PERCY (CONT'D)

I think you should see this, sir.

He hands the cable to Sam who brings it to Latham then returns to his seat. Latham reads the cable and hands it to Stokes.

LATHAM

The Justice Department has seized the Phoenix, the boat Lambda-66 used to fire on the Soviet freighter, the Baku. I'd say Lambda-66 and Interpen are out for Bobby Kennedy's blood now. Go on with the briefing, Jared.

STOKES

Henderson, the station chief, will do a dummy run in his own car to identify where security's posted. Then with a rental car he'll drive you and his Number Two, Walter Monroe, to the Kennedy compound where you three will do a roll-out.

BAZZO

Three of us... We can't cover the grounds with just three people.

DILAURIA

Didn't the station ask the state and local police for help?

STOKES

They called Rick Hanson, head of the White House Secret Service detail.

BAZZO

Geezus, that prick.

STOKES

They asked Hanson why he hadn't requested their help. He told them it's because the president's trip had been canceled. So they both turned down our request for backup.

BAZZO

Great. That's just fucking great.

LATHAM

Paul...

DiLauria points to a public road that rims the compound.

DILAURIA

Why not approach from Scudder Ave.?

NICHOLS

Security has fixed posts near its access roads. Plus, the local police patrol that road.

STOKES

You'll draw arms here rather than on station - silenced sniper pistols so as not to unduly alarm the family. I felt it was better you used weapons with which you're already qualified. Now, any shots from the beach or the lot will startle security. When they shoot back you could end up caught in a crossfire. So, if possible, hit the attackers before they shoot.

NICHOLS

Hm, to hell with due process.

STOKES

Would you rather see Mr. Kennedy and the family slaughtered first?

Nichols broods.

DILAURIA

I hope no one's out for a stroll.

This strikes a chord in everyone but Latham who is abstracted. He glances at the Flashlights box on the wall then muses.

LATHAM

A helicopter landing on them...

DILAURIA

Huh?

LATHAM

No, I was just thinking back to the Berlin Airlift.

DiLauria looks at Bazzo; both find Latham's reply odd.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Carla, is there a red filter for the enlarger in the darkroom - you know, to bring up contrast?

DILAURIA

Yes.

LATHAM

Good. When we're done here, get it for me.

Everyone but Latham is further bewildered by his request.

NICHOLS

The, um, weather forecast is for high winds and temps in the upper teens tonight. So there's little chance of anyone strolling about.

STOKES

You'll be on a radio link, channel Papa at 163.8375 megacycles; that so the police and security can't listen in. Remember, the radios only have a range of 500 yards.

NICHOLS

You're booked on Eastern's flight 611 from Washington National to Boston, leaving at 12:40. Monroe will meet you at Logan.

STOKES

Take the maps and photos with you.

He and Bazzo put everything on the table into a folder.

LATHAM

Alright, draw arms from The Vault and, Carla, get the red filter. I'll meet you back here.

Bazzo picks up the folder then he and DiLauria leave. Latham again glances at the Flashlight box then turns to Stokes.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Jared, have one of your people get Maintenance down here right away. Tell him to bring some duct tape.

Stokes turns and calls to Sam.

STOKES

Sam, call Maintenance. Tell him to bring a roll of duct tape, PDQ.

SAM nods. He picks up the Red phone and dials. Stokes leans toward Latham. (They speak sotto voce.)

STOKES (CONT'D)

I'm guessing Mr. Kensington doesn't know about this.

LATHAM

No, he doesn't.

STOKES

Sir, when the travel vouchers to Boston reach his office, his aide's sure to call him in Miami. If it turns out there is no hit...

LATHAM

I'm fired. But if the mandarins don't go and I'm right, Bobby Kennedy doesn't stand a chance.

EXT. HYANNIS PORT - OCEAN AVENUE - NIGHT (EVENING)

The sun has set, leaving a moonlit, blue-black sky. Waves SLAP against the shore. A 1963 Rambler Ambassador station wagon slows as it passes a bend in the road. WALTER MONROE, 27, face blackened with soot, and wearing dark clothing and a backpack, rolls out the right passenger-side rear door into the thicket.

Farther along, the Rambler again slows past a curve. DiLauria, in similar garb and make-up, rolls out into a clump of brush near the trees while the Rambler motors on.

At the road's nearest point to the beach, the Rambler slows. Bazzo rolls out, dressed and made-up like his companions.

BAZZO

Crouches and waits in the thicket. Hearing nothing, he pulls a pocket-sized transceiver, microphone and earpiece from his backpack. He plugs the microphone into the transceiver, which he turns on and puts in his inside jacket pocket. He clips the microphone to the inside of his jacket collar, and puts in the earpiece. He pulls a 5.7mm Spitfire Russian Sniper Pistol, extra ammunition clip, and a pair of deerskin gloves from his backpack. He puts the clip in his pocket, slips on the gloves, and checks the luminous dial on his wristwatch, 19:30.

He FLICKS his middle finger off his thumb, THUMPING it twice against the microphone. After a moment, Bazzo hears TWO THUMPS in his earpiece. Seconds later, two more THUMPS.

I/E. RAMBLER AMBASSADOR STATION WAGON

PHIL HENDERSON drives, earpiece in his right ear. He keeps near the speed limit, 25 mph, as he drives about Hyannis Port.

BAZZO

Sees a Jeep Wagoneer with a SECURITY MAN behind the wheel in the parking lot. Moving among the trees, he passes the parking lot and settles into a thicket near...

THE BIG HOUSE

Several rooms are well lit. CHATTER and MUSIC can be heard. An occasional shadow of someone flits across a window or two.

BY A TREE

Bazzo waits, his sniper pistol at the ready. A faint WHOP-WHOP THRUM grows louder. Bazzo looks up and sees the silhouette of a Sikorsky VH-3D Sea King helicopter against the moonlit night sky, its landing lights on, and slowly moving toward the compound. Bazzo quickly reaches into his backpack and takes out a flashlight. Attached to its head with duct tape is a red filter used on a darkroom enlarger.

As the helicopter slowly creeps over the great lawn - but before its descent - Bazzo raises his flashlight, turns it on, and aims its steady red beam at the pilot's windows.

AT THE BIG HOUSE

People trickle outside. They look up at the helicopter and wave.

THE MARINE CORPS HELICOPTER CONTINUES TO HOVER

Rather than begin its descent, its engine ROARS, and the helicopter rises into the sky - a silhouette growing smaller.

AT THE BEACH

A MAN quickly rises from a sandbar; it is JOSÉ PEREZ. He wears fatigues and carries something low in his right hand - an M-1 Carbine rifle.

PEREZ
Madre de puta!

Pfft! Perez drops the rifle and collapses to the sand.

IN THE TREES NEAR THE PARKING LOT

DiLauria keeps the sniper pistol she's just fired aimed at the beach.

AT THE SANDBAR

ANDRES GOMEZ, M-1 Carbine in hand, runs toward Ocean Avenue.

DILAURIA

Fires again at the fleeing figure. Gomez falls, face-first onto the sand. There is a faint SNAP, sounding like a distant firecracker. Neither the Security Man in the Jeep Wagoneer at the parking lot, nor anyone on the lawn pay attention to it.

They are all too busy MURMURING, shrugging helplessly and pointing to the sky where the Marine Corps helicopter was.

BAZZO

Stows his sniper's pistol, ammunition clip, and flashlight in his backpack. While residents, staff and security amble past his location to The Big House, Bazzo slips by them, heading toward...

OCEAN AVENUE

Bazzo meets up with DiLauria at the side of the road, at the second roll-out curve.

BAZZO

Where's Monroe?

DILAURIA

I don't know. I didn't hear a signal from him.

BAZZO

Me either.

DILAURIA

Maybe he's waiting by the curve where he rolled out.

BAZZO

It would be like a newbie to forget procedure.

The Rambler Ambassador station wagon pulls up. Bazzo and DiLauria quickly climb into the backseat.

I/E. RAMBLER AMBASSADOR STATION WAGON

As the car pulls away...

HENDERSON

Where's Monroe?

BAZZO

I was just gonna ask you that. Go around to his roll-out point, see if he's there.

The Rambler turns right onto a public road.

DILAURIA

There was this faint pop, like a firecracker. Did you hear it, Paul?

BAZZO

No, it was too noisy where I was.

DILAURIA

Phil?

HENDERSON

No, I was probably too far away.

FIRST ROLL-OUT CURVE

Bazzo and DiLauria roll out the car and scurry into the thicket. Not too far from the road they see a body; it's Monroe. He has bullet hole in his head. Bazzo sighs sadly.

BAZZO

How many did you get?

DILAURIA

Two.

BAZZO

Then this is from the one who got away.

DiLauria helps lift Monroe's lifeless body across Bazzo's shoulders into a Fireman's Carry. They head toward...

OCEAN AVENUE

The Rambler station wagon pulls up. DiLauria emerges from the thicket and opens the passenger-side rear door. Bazzo rushes to the car and dumps Monroe's body onto the floor. He gets in the backseat while DiLauria gets in front. The Rambler then pulls away.

INT. ROOM - DAY

The room lights are off; the window blinds are shut and the drapes drawn over the blinds. It might as well be midnight. Once again, a slide projector on a table emits the only light as it throws an image onto a screen.

Sitting at the table is a familiar sight in silhouette: THREE MEN, two on one side of the slide projector and one on the other side operating the corded remote control. On the screen are pictures of Perez and Gomez taken at the Miami station.

MAN

On the left is José Perez; the other's his brother-in-law, Andres Gomez. Both were members of Lambda-66, killed on the beach at the Kennedy compound while attempting to assassinate Bobby Kennedy.

MAN #2

I don't remember his assassination being part of the plan.

MAN

It wasn't. Lambda-66 and that clown from Interpen, Johnson, acted beyond their brief. From I've learned, it was Warren Latham who caught onto this.

MAN #3

Does this affect our timetable?

MAN

Yes and no. The Secret Service assume their target was the president. And since the assassins didn't have current Intel, the FBI and the Secret Service presume it was hastily planned. Both of their final reports will state that security killed the two.

MAN #3

They didn't?

MAN

No, Latham's people did. That doesn't affect us - but this does.

CLICK. On screen, side by side, are file photos of three men.

MAN (CONT'D)

From left to right, that's General Edwin Walker, Robert Welch of the John Birch Society, and you know Bobby Kennedy. All original targets. For obvious reasons, I've dropped Bobby Kennedy.

MAN #2

Too bad. Just about everyone wants the little bastard dead.

MAN

If you remember, the plan was for Marcello to have Granger, his contact on the Dodd Committee, show the Kennedys how easily they could be hit; get the Justice Department to back off. But one of Marcello's lieutenants figured he'd read his boss's mind and kill Bobby Kennedy.

MAN #3

How'd you learn that?

MAN

The guy's a government witness now.

MAN #2

Why? What happened?

MAN

Marcello hates attention, and this stunt could bring plenty of it. When he learned who was behind it, he ordered the man killed. As for how this affects us, Hoover can't ignore the threat to the president now; it's public. And you know he'd love to see both Kennedys out of the way.

MAN #2

So, are we still on or what?

MAN

Oh, we're on. But given what's happened, we'll need to make tactical changes to our strategy.

MAN #2

Here it comes!

MAN

I told you early on we'd adapt to situational changes. We're going to have to lead the Justice Department and the Secret Service by the nose a little further than we'd planned. This will entail making one of our dangles a linecrosser. To make it convincing, he'll be sacrificed. That'll leave the other two dangles free for next month's action.

MAN #3

Who's gonna be our linecrosser?

MAN

Robert Emmett Johnson, the one ONI sent over from the Atlantic Fleet.

MAN #2

Isn't he also an FBI informant, the one they call MM T-1?

MAN

Yes.

MAN #2

Why'd you choose him?

MAN

All the dangles look alike to some extent. With Johnson it's less so.

(MORE)

MAN (CONT'D)

Now, losing him will limit the number of locations we planned to have the three show up using one another's ID. So we'll have to make some adjustments there also.

MAN #2

Who's handling the linecrosser?

MAN

Fred Crosby in Miami.

MAN #2

Does he know the full situation?

MAN

No. As far as Crosby's concerned, Johnson's there as an interpreter, and to help arrange demonstrations by the Cuban exile groups.

MAN #3

What do we do about Warren Latham?

MAN

We got lucky there. The CIA's Deputy Director has taken the Miami station away from him and handed it to Stewart Kensington.

MAN #2

That idiot? What caused that?

MAN

The raids on Russian ships in Cuban ports. Latham was blamed for not reining in the exiles.

MAN #3

Hm, like anyone could.

MAN #2

When do we activate our linecrosser?

MAN

During the actions on Walker and Welch. It's in the file I gave you.

Man #2 and Man #3 turn on their focused reading lamps. The shroud on the lamps narrows its beam onto the file.

MAN (CONT'D)

Oswald and Vallee will continue their surveillance of Walker and Welch. I spoke with William Robertson.

(MORE)

MAN (CONT'D)

He said Calvin Holmes had found an arms re-manufacturer, so we're set there. Holmes has also ordered the 6.5 rimless cartridges. You'll see that the timetable for the introduction of the first two mechanics was moved up. Because of this, Holmes has been instructed to begin converting the 6.5 ammunition into frangible bullets. I've also contacted Henry Jensen in Los Angeles to contact Will Schott in Rome.

MAN #2

Jensen... That's the CIA's number two man in their L.A. station.

MAN

Yes. I told him to ask Schott for two technicians for the upcoming actions, preferably Corsicans. They know how to keep their mouths shut.

MAN #3

Good. Very good.

END