

MAURICE, LEE, AND JFK

A TEN PART TV SERIES

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John Fitzgerald Kennedy was 'probably' killed as a result of a conspiracy according to the US House Select Committee On Assassinations, ergo this is probably a true story. The characters herein are based on real people. Maurice is a composite of real people.

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INT GEORGETOWN HOUSE NIGHT

MARY'S HOUSE. We are tight on a TV screen showing a terrible advertisement for JFK's Presidential campaign (extant). The advertisement finishes and the TV is switched off. We now see JFK standing by the TV and looking at MARY who has been watching the advertisement.

JFK

Well?

MARY

It's---well---pretty awful, Jack.
It's like something they'd use to
sell--?

JFK

(smiling)
Soap flakes?

MARY

Yes. That's it precisely. Soap
flakes.

JFK

And that's precisely what the old
man was aiming for.
(laughs)
God damn!

MARY

You don't mind?

JFK

Mind? No. I trust the old man. He
didn't make his fortune by being
stupid.

MARY

I guess-----but what about--?

JFK

Substance?

MARY

Yes , that little thing.

JFK

We're in talks with Dick Nixon's
people about a series of debates.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARY

That's more like it. Debates I like. Do you have a venue yet?

JFK

(taps TV set)

This is the venue.

MARY

(puzzled)

I don't----"

JFK

Televised debates.

MARY

Is that allowed?

JFK

Sure. I tell you, that brother of mine? Bobby? I can't turn a corner but he's waiting to ambush me with a question.

(mimics debate questioner)

Mr. Kennedy, if you were President, what would you do to create jobs?
Or, Mr. Kennedy, if you were President, how would you deal with international Communism?

(beat)

I swear by all that's Holy there isn't a question I'll be asked that I haven't already answered a hundred times.

(taps TV)

And this little box? There are techniques to be mastered if you want to come across right. I'll show you. Ask me a question.

MARY

A question? Let me see.
Mr. Kennedy, if you had been President, how would you have dealt with the U2 shoot down

JFK thinks, then, deliberately turns his head away from her before answering.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JFK

That U2 invaded Soviet airspace. If the roles were reversed I would expect an explanation and an apology from the Soviets. So I guess I would apologize for our transgression.

MARY

My, my, such candour. But you're kidding, right? You would never say that?

JFK

Why not? But did you see what I did before I answered.

MARY

(frowns)

Yes, I did. You turned away from me. Won't that make you look-- shifty?

JFK

Au contraire. I turned away from you to look at the camera. To look the American people in the eye. Because this-----.

(taps TV)

Is their eye.

MARY

Hmm. Never thought about that.

JFK

And hopefully, neither has Mr. Nixon. That and the other dozen or so tricks that have to be mastered to look good on this little thing. So we've got people coaching me on all of that.

MARY

(quietly)

You know Jack, I'm beginning to think you might just win this contest.

JFK

Oh yes? Well you might try and sound a little pleased about that.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JFK (CONT'D)

Hey. You're not a secret Republican
are you?

MARY

(same vein)

No. I'm not a secret Republican,
Jack.

EXT PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE DAY

Establish White House.

INT WHITE HOSE DAY

OVAL OFFICE. VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON ushers THE DIRECTOR
into the OVAL OFFICE and closes the door.

INT WHITE HOSE DAY

OVAL OFFICE. PRESIDENT EISENHOWER sits behind his desk while
RICHARD NIXON sits alongside THE DIRECTOR on a sofa.

EISENHOWER

Thank you for coming in MR.
Director.

THE DIRECTOR

Not at all Mr. President.

EISENHOWER

We've had some---disturbing---
reports about this fellow Lamumba
in the Congo---

THE DIRECTOR

(interjects)

As have we, Mr. President, as have
we.

NIXON

What em, what's your assessment of
the situation down there? In the
Congo I mean?

THE DIRECTOR

The place is a treasure trove of
natural resources. Why that's where
we sourced the uranium for those
bombs we dropped on Japan.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
We simply must have access to those
goodies or the Soviets will.

EISENHOWER
Is this Lamumba a Communist?

THE DIRECTOR
He says he's not. But since when
did Communists tell the truth about
anything?

NIXON chuckles at this.

EISENHOWER
I understand he wants democracy in
his country, and that's an
honourable objective, but the
peoples of Africa are just not
ready for that. They're still ruled
by their emotions.

NIXON
Barely fifty years out of the
trees.

THE DIRECTOR
I think some of them are still in
the trees.

Again NIXON chuckles.

EISENHOWER
I just wish this particular problem
could be solved----and I wouldn't
much care how.

A strange silence descends as EISENHOWER'S final words hang
in the air.

INT GEORGETOWN HOUSE DAY

THE DIRECTOR'S HOUSE. From a window THE DIRECTOR'S black
servant JAMES can look down into the garden where THE
DIRECTOR, MAURICE, and SID are seated round a garden table.
SID is taking papers from a briefcase.

EXT GEORGETOWN HOUSE DAY

GARDEN. With THE DIRECTOR, MAURICE and SID.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SID

Concerning Mr. Lamumba I've had my colleague Professor Cameron up in Canada compile a psychological profile of the gentleman.

MAURICE

Anything interesting?

SID

His teeth.

THE DIRECTOR

Whose teeth?

SID

Mr. Lamumba's.

THE DIRECTOR

Oh. What about them?

SID

Professor Cameron noted how white they were, suggesting he must brush them many times a day.

MAURICE

(puffing on pipe)

I've noticed that about most darkies. Oral hygiene does seem very important to them--which is a big plus in my book.

SID

I can easily concoct a poison toothpaste, sir. And if we can get Mr. Lamumba to brush with it---

THE DIRECTOR

(to MAURICE)

Sounds like a plan.

MAURICE, puffing, nods in agreement

EXT CAPE COD DAY

KENNEDY COMPOUND PORCH. From here we see waves lapping gently, mesmerically, upon the sandy shore, and the sun sparkle brightly upon a gentle swell. A DISTANT FIGURE dressed in WW2 USAF flying kit walks slowly towards us, as if having just emerged from the sea. He waves as he approaches. Now we see we have been sharing JFK's POV viz THE FIGURE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JFK

Joe? Is that you, Joe----

RFK (O.S.)

Jack. Hey. Wake up.

JFK is immediately awake and staring down at the beach.

RFK (CONT'D)

What is it?

JFK looks up to see his BROTHER standing over him and his FATHER approaching from the house.

JFK

Nothing. I must have dozed off.

*(indicates scattered
newspapers)*

I was going through the papers.
Have you noticed the coverage on
Patrice Lamumba?

RFK

(sitting)

How could I not. It's like he's
some kind of devilish witch doctor
casting evil spells over his
people.

JFK

It reads like it's---orchestrated.

They are joined by JOSEPH KENNEDY SENIOR.

RFK

Dad thought we should talk about
the top guys at the FBI and the
intelligence services.

JFK

What about them?

RFK

Should we keep them--or replace
them?

JFK

Too much too soon might not be a
good idea in that regard.

(smiles)

Besides, there's all that stuff Mr.
Hoover has on me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOE KENNEDY

I agree. More than that, I think we should let these people know their jobs would be safe in a Kennedy administration. We don't want them coming up against us during the campaign.

INT APARTMENT DAY

MINSK. The apartment of LEE HARVEY OSWALD. He sits listening to some jazz music and sipping vodka. He gets quickly to his feet and hurries to answer a knock on his door. He opens it to find ERIK on the threshold.

OSWALD

You're late.

ERIK

I got held up. What is the rush anyway?

OSWALD

I need you to translate something.

OSWALD grabs up a newspaper and hands it to ERIK. The paper carries a photograph of U2 Pilot GARY POWERS.

ERIK

Ah your American pilot.

OSWALD puts his hands on ERIK'S shoulders and impatiently forces him down on the sofa.

ERIK (CONT'D)

Let me look.

(reads)

He was found guilty under Article Two of Responsibility For State Crimes.

OSWALD

What does that mean?

ERIK

Spying. Espionage.

OSWALD

What's going to happen to him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK

(scans)

Mmmmm. Ah! Owww!

OSWALD

What?

ERIK

Ten years.

OSWALD

Ten---?

ERIK

Three in prison. Seven in a labour camp.

OSWALD

Labour camp? In Siberia? You mean Siberia?

ERIK

Probably.

(puzzled)

Why should you care? The fellow was guilty. There was a lot of evidence.

OSWALD

(cautious)

Sure, but, you know, a fellow American.

ERIK

Sure. Maybe I understand. But you should be careful in the things you say.

OSWALD

(forced smile)

Careful. Of course. You're right.

And so saying OSWALD'S gaze drifts up to the light.

EXT PARK WASHINGTON DC DAY

JOE KENNEDY and J. EDGAR HOOVER are walking.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOE KENNEDY

We thought you should know that,
should the great American people
see sense and vote for Jack, he
looks forward to working with you.

HOOVER

Well now that is good to know. And
what about my counterpart in
intelligence

JOE KENNEDY

Ditto. Mr. Johnson can convey that
message.

INT RESTAURANT DAY

JOE KENNEDY gets to his feet and shakes hands with SAM
GIANCANNA who arrives at his table.

HOOVER (V.O.)

I hear you had a meeting with our
friend in Chicago?

EXT PARK WASHINGTON DC DAY

With HOOVER and JOE KENNEDY.

JOE KENNEDY

You did?

HOOVER

Yes. May I ask what it was about?

JOE KENNEDY

You mean you don't already know?
Are you slipping Jedgar?

HOOVER merely smiles at this.

JOE KENNEDY (CONT'D)

Illinois could be close. Our friend
has agreed to help---get the vote
out for Jack. All legal and above
board you understand.

HOOVER

(stops)

All legal and above board. But of
course, Joe.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOOVER moves off. JOE KENNEDY watches him go, before following him.

EXT PRIVATE AIRFIELD DAY.

DAVID FERRIE, accompanied by TWO CUBANS he is learning to fly, is taking them through a safety checklist on the private CARGO PLANE he is about to pilot, when two canvas covered trucks roll up. JACK RUBY gets out of a truck and walks to join FERRIE.

FERRIE

Jack. Right on time.

RUBY

We try to please.

FERRIE

I guess this feels kinda weird for you guys?

RUBY

I'm not with you.

FERRIE

One day you're running guns to Fidel, the next your shipping stuff to his enemies.

RUBY

That's politics Dave. The people I work for don't give a fuck about politics. Just so long as a buck can be made.

(beat)

That aside how's it all going in Guatemala

FERRIE

Mucho bueno. Those Cubans are keen to learn, and we have some good people teaching them. I'm learning these two guys to fly a plane

RUBY

You want I should unload the stuff now.

FERRIE

Why not.

RUBY turns and signals to his MEN in the trucks.

INT GUATEMALA DAY

From the ground we see FERRIE'S Plane coming in to land.

INT COCKPIT DAY

FERRIE has given over control of the plane to one of the CUBANS , while the second CUBAN looks on.

FERRIE

Take it nice and easy. That's it.
And watch your air speed.

EXT GUATEMALA DAY

A SMALL AIRFIELD. FERRIE'S plane comes into land and taxis to a halt.

INT COCKPIT DAY

FERRIE congratulates the CUBAN pilot.

FERRIE

Well done. Won't be long till your
dropping bombs on that fucker
Castro.

EXT AIRFIELD DAY.

FERRIE and the CUBANS de-plane. A jeep is driven onto the runway and we see it is driven by HOWIE. There are two CUBAN'S in the back seat. All three get out of the jeep.

HOWIE

What have you got for us Dave?

FERRIE

Guns. Ammo. And fatigues. Army
surplus.

HOWIE

(jokes)

No markings I hope?

*(in perfect Spanish to
CUBANS)*

Help get the stuff from the plane.
I'm taking our friend here for a
ride.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

 HOWIE (CONT'D)
 (to FERRIE)
 Jump in Dave.

The pair get into the jeep and HOWIE drives off.

EXT GUATEMALA DAY

TRAINING AREA. We see CUBANS engaged in target practice, breaking down and assembling weapons, and crossing assault courses. When HOWIE and FERRIE arrive in the jeep, HARVE and another man named GEORGE De MOHRENSCHILDT come to meet them.

 FERRIE
 (re training)
 Impressive, Harve. Very impressive.

 HARVE
 They'll do. Dave, I'd like you to meet George De Mohrenschildt , also known as the Baron on account of his aristocratic Russian forebears.

 FERRIE
 (shakes hand)
 Pleased to meet you--Baron.

 DE MOHRENSCHILDT
 Just plain George will do, Mr. Ferrie.

 FERRIE
 OK. Then so will Dave.

 HARVE
 George has been doing some work for us down here, Dave, and he was wondering if he could hitch a lift back to the states.

 FERRIE
 Sure. Anywhere in particular, George?

 DE MOHRENSCHILDT
 I'm living in Dallas, right now.

 FERRIE
 Dallas is OK.
 (to HOWIE)
 If there's no rush I'd like to stick around and watch the guys for a while.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOWIE

Sure thing. Let's grab a coffee first.

HARVE

(to De Mohrenschildt: re
Ferrie)

He might not look much, but he's so fucking bright---and the best goddam pilot I ever saw.

INT GEORGETOWN HOUSE DAY

THE DIRECTOR'S house. He is with MAURICE. He has poured them both drinks, hands MAURICE his then sits opposite him

MAURICE

I guess I don't get to go to the Congo now?

THE DIRECTOR

How so?

MAURICE

You haven't heard? Mr. Lamumba's been deposed. He's under house arrest.

THE DIRECTOR

I've heard, of course. But it makes no difference. As long as he's alive Mr. Lamumba remains a problem, a rallying point for malefactors. He has to go.

(beat)

That aside, I'm in something of a quandary.

MAURICE

Oh?

THE DIRECTOR

I've been given two pieces of news. Number one, if Kennedy wins I get to keep my job. Number two, I'm told that Kennedy may very well win. Old Joe's spreading money around like nobody's business, and he's even got some of his old prohibition busting pals to help out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAURICE

Have you seen those terrible
Kennedy ads on TV.

THE DIRECTOR

Terrible maybe, but very effective
I'm hearing.

MAURICE

Good God.

THE DIRECTOR

Yes.

(beat)

The thing is if we don't tell him
about this Cuba thing----and he
still manages to win. It'll look
like we were favouring Nixon.

MAURICE

You intend briefing him?

THE DIRECTOR

Can't do that.

(beat)

But you could.

MAURICE

Me?

THE DIRECTOR

Get a message to your ex-wife. Tell
her you have some---valuable---
information for the candidate.

EXT WASHINGTON DC DAY

ESTABLISH SENATE. We hear a phone ringing.

INT SENATE DAY

JFK'S OFFICE. He picks up the ringing phone.

JFK

Senator Kennedy.

INT GEORGETOWN HOUSE DAY

MARY'S HOUSE. She is on the phone to JFK.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARY

I've just had a very interesting
call from my ex-husband.

INT SENATE DAY

JFK'S OFFICE. Wearing a thoughtful expression, he replaces
the receiver.

EXT LINCOLN MEMORIAL DAY

JFK stands looking up at the statue of Lincoln. He is lost in
thought and does not see MAURICE arrive.

MAURICE

Do you think you'll follow in his
footsteps Senator?

JFK turns to face MAURICE.

JFK

Well, I'm hoping sort of---yes and
no. Yes to the White House, no to
the assassin's bullet.

(beat)

Let's walk shall we

EXT LINCOLN MEMORIAL DAY

JFK and MAURICE are walking.

MAURICE

It's about Castro. We---intend
doing something about that
situation.

JFK

Oh yes?

MAURICE

Yes. We have to respect the
Neutrality Act of course, so we've
been arming and training a brigade
of Cuban exiles in Guatemala.
Around fifteen hundred men in all,
with air support from eight B26
bombers. They will invade the
island.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JFK

Invade? Fifteen hundred men? And eight World War Two planes?

MAURICE

We expect a popular uprising against Castro following the invasion.

JFK

You 'expect'? You don't know?

MAURICE

Senator, this is an ultra secret operation. There are things we have to----keep to ourselves.

JFK

I see. Well, my thanks to your boss for letting me know this much.

MAURICE

My boss? What makes you think he authorised this---chat?

EXT GEORGETOWN HOUSE NIGHT

MARY'S HOUSE. JFK is approaching the front door. He pauses and looks across the street to where MAURICE sits in a parked car.

JFK (V.O.)

Why would you do me any favours?

EXT LINCOLN MEMORIAL DAY

With JFK and MAURICE

MAURICE

Good day Senator.

JFK watches as MAURICE turns and moves off.

EXT KENNEDY COMPOUND DAY

JFK, RFK and JOE KENNEDY are on the porch. RFK paces to and from.

RFK

This is a gift.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOE KENNEDY

Oh?

RFK

Sure. Nixon can't come out and say they're about to invade Cuba.

JFK

Neither can I?

RFK

No, but you can accuse the administration of being weak on Cuba. You can say that "something must be done." Then when this thing comes off it'll look like your initiative.

JFK

(*seeing the sense in this*
:to Joe)

That's beautiful.

JOE KENNEDY

Yes it is.

INT TV STUDIO NIGHT

FLOOR MANAGERS, CAMERAMEN and TECHNICIANS are preparing the studio for the presidential debates. JFK, seated, watches as NIXON enters limping. He gets to his feet and goes to meet NIXON. They shake hands. (NB the following is a merged version of the debates. Likewise JFK'S comment on helping the Cuban exiles, this was made some days prior to the debates, but is included her for dramatic purposes

JFK

Mr. Vice President, are you OK?

NIXON

Oh, sure. Hurt my damn knee a while back and stupidly hit it on the car door on my way in here. I'll be fine , Senator.

PRODUCER

Mr. Vice President, Senator, would you care to take your positions.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT TV STUDIO NIGHT

JFK and NIXON and the MODERATOR , HOWIE K SMITH are in position. We hear an announcement from the PRODUCER

PRODUCER

On air in---two minutes from now.

JFK

(to FLOOR MANGER)

I need to go to the bathroom.

Before the FLOOR MANAGER can say anything, JFK is off. We hear THE PRODUCER.

PRODUCER

What the Hell's going on down there.

INT TV STUDIO NIGHT

TOILET. JFK enters. RFK and a MAKEUP ARTIST are waiting for him. The MAKEUP ARTIST deftly and quickly applies makeup to JFK'S face.

RFK

Well, if it's down to appearances it's no contest. Nixon looks like he's been embalmed. And hasn't he heard of razor blades.

JFK

He's injured his leg.

RFK

(checking his watch)

That's tough. You'd better get out there.

INT TV STUDIO NIGHT

THE PRODUCER is counting down to air time. People look anxious, including a pasty-faced and perspiring NIXON, as JFK is nowhere to be seen.

PRODUCER

Ten-nine-eight-seven--six--five--

At this JFK enters and takes up his position in time for the show going to air.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SMITH

(verbatim)

Good evening. The television and radio stations of the United States and their affiliated stations are proud to provide facilities for a discussion of issues in the current political campaign----

INT GEORGETOWN HOUSE NIGHT

MARY'S HOUSE. She sips a glass of wine as she watches the debate.

SMITH

And now for the first opening statement by Senator John F Kennedy.

The camera is on JFK who begins by looking at SMITH and NIXON.

JFK

Mr. Smith, Mr. Nixon.

JFK now turns to face the CAMERA causing MARY to almost choke on her wine.

JFK (CONT'D)

In the election of 1860, Abraham Lincoln said the question was whether this nation could exist half-slave or half-free.

INT HOTEL SUITE NIGHT

JOE KENNEDY sits alone watching JFK.

JFK

In the election of 1960 , the question is will the world exist half-slave or half-free. Can freedom be maintained against international communism? I think it can. But it depends upon what we do here in America. It's time America started moving again.

SMITH

And now the opening statement by Vice President Richard M. Nixon

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NIXON
(looks at SMITH)
I agree with Senator Kennedy-----

INT GEORGETOWN HOUSE NIGHT

THE DIRECTOR'S HOUSE. He and MAURICE watch NIXON on TV

NIXON
This nation cannot stand still.

MAURICE
My God, would you buy a second hand
car from that man?

THE DIRECTOR
He looks awful.

NIXON
We are in competition not only with
the men in the Kremlin, but the men
in Peking also.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT TV STUDIO NIGHT

NIXON is looking worse by the minute.

NIXON
We must have a great goal. Not just
to keep freedom for ourselves, but
to extend it to all the world,
because that is America's destiny.

INT HOTEL SUITE NIGHT

JOE KENNEDY watches JFK on TV.

JFK
Mr. Nixon speaks of extending
freedom. But I look at Cuba, ninety
miles off the American coast. Two
American Ambassadors, Republican
Ambassadors, warned us about Castro
And the communist influences around
him. But in spite of their warnings
to the American government, nothing
was done.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JFK (CONT'D)

We must firmly resist further communist encroachment in this hemisphere by encouraging those liberty-loving Cubans who are leading the resistance to Castro. We must attempt to strengthen the anti-Castro forces in exile here in the United States. Because thus far those fighters for freedom have had virtually no support from the government.

INT GEORGETOWN HOUSE NIGHT

With THE DIRECTOR and MAURICE watching the TV.

MAURICE

Jesus.

THE DIRECTOR

Indeed.

INT TV STUDIO NIGHT

A lengthy pause before NIXON can respond.

NIXON

I think that Senator Kennedy's recommendations for handling the Castro regime are probably the most dangers---dangerously irresponsible recommendations that he's made during the course of this campaign--

INT GEORGETOWN HOUSE NIGHT

THE DIRECTOR'S HOUSE. With THE DIRECTOR and MAURICE watching TV.

MAURICE

What the Hell is he saying? He can't say that.

THE DIRECTOR

Indeed.

EXT WHITE HOUSE DAY

ESTABLISH WHITE HOUSE.

INT WHITE HOUSE DAY

NIXON stands behind EISENHOWER who confronts THE DIRECTOR from across his desk.

EISENHOWER

I'm bound to say Mr. Director it sounded to me like Kennedy had some knowledge of our plans for Cuba.

NIXON

Plans that I couldn't mention. It made me look weak on Cuba.

THE DIRECTOR

I agree. But whatever Kennedy knows he did not get it from me. You have my word of honour on that, Mr. President.

(beat)

I'm reliably informed that while the Cubans may be brave, they are also a talkative race. Maybe one of their senior people spoke out of turn.

EISENHOWER

We'll have to postpone the invasion till after the election, otherwise it'll look like Kennedy forced our hand.

THE DIRECTOR

I understand that's unfortunate for the Vice President, but for us it may be a positive since we can now extend our training programme.

EISENHOWER

Thank you Mister Director.

THE DIRECTOR

(gets to his feet)

Thank you Mr. President. Mr. Vice President

THE DIRECTOR exits.

NIXON

Do you believe him? He didn't brief Kennedy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EISENHOWER

Of course. You heard him. He gave his word of honour.

EXT PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE DAY

J. EDGAR HOOVER is in the rear of a car driven by CLYDE TOLSON and waiting to enter the WHITE HOUSE grounds. As he waits, THE DIRECTOR'S car, driven by his man servant JAMES, exits. Both parties see each other. HOOVER has time to exchange looks with JAMES.

INT WHITE HOUSE DAY

As was the case with THE DIRECTOR, NIXON stands behind EISENHOWER who is reading a report while HOOVER sits opposite. An incredulous EISENHOWER finishes reading, hands the report to NIXON, then addresses HOOVER.

EISENHOWER

Mr. Director--are you saying the shooting down of the U2----

HOOVER

(interjects)

Speculating, Mr. President. I have nothing that would stand up in a court of law.

EISENHOWER

Very well--speculating---that the Paris summit was deliberately sabotaged by US intelligence personnel.

NIXON

(reading report)

Good God! If this is true-----!

HOOVER

It saddens me to bring my--speculations--to you Mr. President. It has been a far from pleasant duty.

NIXON

But why? If you're right---why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOOVER

That was precisely my own question. But on reflection the answer may be more obvious than you think. The military of this great country need ever more, and ever better weapons of war, while the defence industry, with over three million people in it's employ makes a great deal of money supplying those weapons. One bright young man at the Bureau called it the military-industrial-congressional- complex. Perhaps it was thought in some quarters that the summit might lessen tensions in the world, might reduce the need for more and better weapons.

NIXON

Congressional? You say military-industrial-congressional complex. Why congressional?

HOOVER

Many vested interests are represented and lobbied for in Congress.

(beat)

But as I said---

EISENHOWER

(interjects)

Speculation. Yes. Thank you Mr. Director.

EXT WHITE HOUSE DAY

J. EDGAR HOOVER gets into his car.

TOLSON

How did it go?

HOOVER

*(shakes his head in
puzzlement)*

They seemed to be taken aback, Clyde. Not by the possible subterfuge, but by the motives behind it. I mean---General Eisenhower? General?

INT OVAL OFFICE DAY

With NIXON and EISENHOWER. NIXON paces and glances again at the report.

NIXON
This is incredible.

EISENHOWER
Is it Dick?
(almost to himself)
If you return to this office after
November you must be----

NIXON
*(when EISENHOWER'S voice
tails off)*
I must be what, sir?

EISENHOWER
(quietly)
Careful. Vigilant.

INT TV STUDIO NIGHT

CHET HUNTLEY opens the NBC coverage of the election. (EXTANT)

INT TV STUDIOS NIGHT

DISSOLVES showing the numbers coming in with COMMENTARY and ANALYSIS. (EXTANT)

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT KENNEDY COMPOUND NIGHT

The ELECTION COUNT is ongoing. It is 3 AM. A pensive JFK sits alone on the porch looking out onto the ocean. JOE KENNEDY comes out from the house.

JOE KENNEDY
Aren't you cold?

JFK
No. How's it going?

JOE KENNEDY
Still close. But according to
commentators we still have our nose
in front.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JFK

It should have been Joe.

JOE KENNEDY

I know. But Joe died serving his country. And besides, any of my boys would make a good president.

JFK smiles at this, reaches up a hand and his father clasps it. At this RFK comes out from the house.

RFK

The TV people are switching to the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. Nixon's about to make a statement.

INT (S) THE KENNEDY HOUSE AND THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL NIGHT

We REMAIN TIGHT on JFK and cut between him and NIXON as he concedes defeat in the election. (FOOTAGE EXTANT)

JFK

*(whispers to himself
almost in disbelief of
what's happened)*

God damn. God damn.

RFK (O.S.)

I think you should start work on your acceptance speech Mr. President.

INT OSWALD'S APARTMENT DAY

Seven hours ahead of the USA. OSWALD listens to JFK'S acceptance speech on the radio. ERIK is with him.

ERIK

What will it mean?

OSWALD

I don't know. Things may get better in the US, but I doubt if relations between east and west will change much.

(beat)

Did I say I was thinking of going home?

ERIK

No. Will they take you back?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OSWALD
(almost to himself)
Sure.

INT CAR DAY

THE DIRECTOR and MAURICE are in the rear seat. JAMES is driving. THE DIRECTOR closes the window between the front and rear seats.

THE DIRECTOR
I hear the Nixon people are making accusations about electoral fraud. Texas and Illinois I believe.

MAURICE
Will it come to anything?

THE DIRECTOR
I doubt it. Hoover knows his job's safe with Kennedy in the White House. And besides there's no way in the world an investigation could be completed before the Electoral College do their thing. No one wants a constitutional crisis
(beat)
All of which has implications. You have to get the job done before the inauguration. Kennedy's sure to throw his weight behind Lamumba.

MAURICE
Point taken.

THE DIRECTOR
Have you packed your toothbrush?

MAURICE
And toothpaste.

THE DIRECTOR
Don't go getting your brands mixed up whatever you do.

EXT AIRPORT DAY

The car pulls up and MAURICE gets out. JAMES fetches MAURICE'S luggage from the boot. THE DIRECTOR speaks to MAURICE through the open car window.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE DIRECTOR

Good luck.

EXT US EMBASSY THE CONGO DAY

MAURICE gets out of an official car and carrying his luggage, enters the embassy.

INT US EMBASSY CONGO DAY

AN OFFICE. MAURICE is in conversation with an EMBASSY OFFICIAL.

EMBASSY OFFICIAL

The Ambassador mentioned your arrival but was kind of short on detail.

MAURICE

Well there's not a lot to tell.

The EMBASSY OFFICIAL takes the hint and asks no more questions.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

All I need is a bed and access to your cable facilities.

EMBASSY OFFICIAL

Consider it done. Anything else?

MAURICE

No. Well, maybe. I could be here for some time and my passion is acting. Do you know of any amateur groups locally?

EMBASSY OFFICIAL

Afraid not. I'll ask around though.

MAURICE

Thank you.

MAURICE gets to his feet and is about to leave when the EMBASSY OFFICIAL lifts a note from his desk.

EMBASSY OFFICIAL

Say, I was asked to give you these names. That also lists locations where you might find these guys

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAURICE

(reads note)

Interesting. Where did this come from.

EMBASSY OFFICIAL

Not sure. Belgian sources I think.

EXT CONGO NIGHT

ESTABLISH SEEDY BAR

EXT CONGO NIGHT

We see we have been sharing MAURICE'S POV viz the bar. He checks the AUTOMATIC he is carrying then enters the bar.

INT SEEDY BAR NIGHT

TWO MEN are seated at a table. They watch as MAURICE speaks to the BARMAN then crosses to their table.

MAURICE

Gentlemen. My name is Maurice. I believe you're expecting me.

(he sits)

But before we begin would you mind if I called you

(thinks)

Let's see now--QJ Win and---WI Rogue.

QJ WIN

(with French accent)

You can call us what you want. Just tell us what you want doing and how much you'll pay to have it done.

MAURICE

Oh come now. You gentlemen know what I want done. As for how much? I'm authorised to be very generous. Very.

WI ROGUE

And the method?

MAURICE takes out the tube of toothpaste and leaves it on the table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

QJ WIN

Toothpaste?

WI ROGUE

That place is heavily guarded by UN troops, and you give us toothpaste.

MAURICE

It may take some time, but I think we can find you gentlemen some honest work in the Prime Minister's house. Gardeners maybe? Plumbers? We can easily throw a spanner in the waterworks?

(sees they're skeptical)

Well, we'll think of something.

EXT US EMBASSY THE CONGO DAY

COURTYARD. MAURICE is having breakfast alfresco when the EMBASSY OFFICIAL approaches with an ENGLISH WOMAN named DAPHNE PARK . (NB she was a real person who later became BARONESS PARK OF MONMOUTH and boasted about her part in LAMUMBA'S fate, claiming to have 'organized it.')

EMBASSY OFFICIAL

Someone to meet you. This is Miss Daphne Park. Consul and First Secretary---

MAURICE

(interjects)

You're in Leopoldville, am I right?

PARK

That's right.

MAURICE

I remember thinking what a very English name when checking the local diplomatic list. Please, sit down. May I call you Daphne?

PARK

(sitting)

You may. And I shall call you---?

MAURICE

Oh, Maurice

EMBASSY OFFICIAL

I'll---leave you to it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PARK waits till the EMBASSY OFFICIAL departs before speaking.

PARK

I've come to talk about our mutual problem.

MAURICE

Oh yes?

PARK

Yes. Now I'll be the first to admit that this toothpaste wheeze of yours is all terribly clever, but I already have a plan in place. You see I've arranged for Mr. Lamumba to escape.

MAURICE

Escape?

PARK

Yes. Escape from the frying pan into the fire. Into the hands of his enemies. It looks so much better when these people do away with one another. Keeps us completely in the clear, don't you see?

MAURICE

How did you know about--?

PARK

The toothpaste? Those chaps you hired sold us the info. They didn't much care for the 'inside job' part of it.

MAURICE

Would you mind if I piggy-backed on your plan?

PARK

Absolutely not. You couldn't get hold of a helicopter could you?

MAURICE

I think I can manage that.

EXT PRIME MINISTER'S HOUSE CONGO NIGHT

UN SOLDIERS chat and smoke as PATRICE LAMUMBA , his WIFE, BABY SON and some TWO SUPPORTERS casually make their way to a waiting car. They get in and the car is driven off. The UN SOLDIERS watch it go.

INT CAR DAY

LAMUMBA'S CHILD is asleep. LAMUMBA speaks to his wife.

LAMUMBA

We are almost at the Sankuru river.
Once across, we are safe.

INT HELICOPTER DAY

MAURICE is in the passenger seat. Ahead and beneath them he can see the ESCAPING CAR. MAURICE picks up a radio.

MAURICE

Hullo down there.

EXT CONGO DAY

Trucks carrying TROOPS race across the countryside. An OFFICER picks up his radio.

MAURICE (V.O.)

Better get a move on or he'll get
across the river.

EXT CONGO DAY

THE LAMUMBA PARTY have arrived at the river. There is no ferry. Only a small boat moored nearby

LAMUMBA

Where is the ferry?

(to wife)

Go across and bring the ferry.

At this they hear the sound of the HELICOPTER and look to see it hovering in the distance.

WIFE

Quickly, you must go. We will wait.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LAMUMBA looks back towards the HOVERING COPTER, hugs his wife and child, then he and one of his SUPPORTERS get into the boat and start paddling across the river. They have almost reached their sanctuary when LAMUMBA looks back to see the truck loads of PURSUING TROOPS arrive and begin surrounding his WIFE and CHILD.

LAMUMBA
(to supporter)
 It's no use. I have to go back.

EXT AIRFIELD DAY

UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL NEWSCAST headed 'LAMUMBA SEIZED' (EXTANT) shows the CONGOLESE LEADER arriving with his hands bound by ropes, being cruelly man-handled and a speech he had written being pushed into his mouth. The NEWSCASTER says LAMUMBA has been promised a 'fair trial'.

INT GEORGETOWN HOUSE DAY

SID and THE DIRECTOR have watched the NEWSCAST. JAMES has operated the PROJECTOR.

THE DIRECTOR
 That'll be all James.

JAMES
 Yes sir.

SID
(when JAMES is gone)
 They didn't use the toothpaste?

THE DIRECTOR
 We can keep it for another time.

SID
 Do you think he'll get one? A fair trial.

THE DIRECTOR
 Not a chance.

INT BUILDING DAY

MAURICE, puffing on his pipe, watches as LAMUMBA is being savagely beaten by CONGOLESE SOLDIERS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE DIRECTOR (V.O.)
According to what I'm hearing,
they've beaten him half to death
already. All that remains is for
the last act---and for the curtain
to fall.

EXT CONGO DAY

An isolated spot. MAURICE watches as LAMUMBA, beaten to a pulp and barely conscious, is lead before a firing squad and shot.

EXT AIRPORT DAY

MAURICE exits and sees THE DIRECTOR'S car waiting. James gets out to take MAURICE'S bags and put them into the boot.

INT THE DIRECTOR'S CAR DAY

With THE DIRECTOR and MAURICE. THE DIRECTOR closes the window so that JAMES is not privy to the conversation.

THE DIRECTOR
So how did it all go?

MAURICE
Pretty messy. After they shot him
they stuck him in a shallow grave.
Someone said that wild animals
might dig him up.

FLASHBACK

EXT CONGO DAY

MAURICE watches as CONGOLESE SOLDIERS exhume LAMUMBA'S body.

MAURICE (V.O.)
So they---dug him up.

OUT OF FLASHBACK

INT THE DIRECTOR'S CAR DAY

With THE DIRECTOR and MAURICE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE DIRECTOR

My God. In that heat he must have stank to high heaven.

MAURICE

And then some. But I had this to mask the smell.

(MAURICE shows him his pipe)

So they buried him again. Only this time they were sure they had been seen.

THE DIRECTOR

No! Never! You're not saying---?

FLASHBACK

EXT CONGO DAY

MAURICE watches as LAMUMBA is exhumed for a second time by CONGOLESE SOLDIERS.

MAURICE (V.O.)

Yes I am. They dug him up again.

OUT OF FLASHBACK

INT THE DIRECTOR'S CAR DAY

With THE DIRECTOR and MAURICE.

MAURICE

Only this time, someone had a bright idea.

FLASHBACK

INT BUILDING DAY

MAURICE watches CONGOLESE SOLDIERS, using HACKSAWS and MACHETES to dismember LAMUMBA'S body and toss the body parts into a bath of ACID.

MAURICE (V.O.)

They cut him up into little pieces and dumped them into some kind of acid bath.

OUT OF FLASHBACK

INT THE DIRECTOR'S CAR DAY

With THE DIRECTOR and MAURICE.

THE DIRECTOR
Did that work?

MAURICE
Oh yes.

THE DIRECTOR
I guess they were really frightened
of that fellow. To do that.

MAURICE
I guess.

THE DIRECTOR
And there's no way this can be laid
at our door?

MAURICE
It turns out the British were
involved, the Belgians , the
French. Everybody had a piece of
the action. This can never be laid
at any one door.
(beat)
But messy as it was, that
Englishwoman was right. It's best
if it can be arranged so those
people eliminate one another.

THE DIRECTOR
Especially with all that digging up
and burying then digging up again,
then acid baths.

MAURICE
Absolutely.

EXT CAPE COD DAY

JFK and THE DIRECTOR are walking on the beach.

THE DIRECTOR
I dare say you'll be looking
forward to the inauguration, Mr.
President?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JFK

Yes of course. Will you make it along?

THE DIRECTOR

It'll be an honour. Mr. President.

They stop. JFK looks out to sea.

JFK

My God how I love this country.

THE DIRECTOR

We all do, sir.

JFK turns to face him.

JFK

You have your ear to the international ground, Mr. Director. Is there any news of Patrice Lamumba?

THE DIRECTOR

I have my best people working on it, sir. All we know is that he's being held to stand trial.

JFK

After the inauguration I'm going to demand his release from wherever they're holding him.

THE DIRECTOR

I'll do all I can to help in that endeavour, Sir.

EXT WASHINGTON DC DAY

JFK'S inauguration. THE DIRECTOR watches from the audience.

INT OSWALDS APARTMENT.

OSWALD listens to JFK'S inaugural address on the radio..

END EPISODE FOUR

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: