

the weapon

by jonathan myerson

third draft

cast

throughout

CARLOS perfect British English, Spanish as a first language
GABRIELE halting English, German as a first language
YAMANI perfect American English, Saudi Arabic as a first language
AMOUZEGAR perfect American English, Farsi as a first language

and occasional

YUSSUF halting English, Lebanese Arabic as a first language
KHALID halting English, Lebanese Arabic as a first language

in one or two scenes

MAN at the petrol station
ATTENDANT at the petrol station
AL-MABROUK very good American English, Libyan Arabic as a first language
KLEIN halting English, German as a first language
FEDIYE very good English, Hausa as a first language
GRIZELDA British, with very good German
HINTERECKER good enough English, German as a first language
AL-AZZAWI good enough American English, Iraqi Arabic as a first language

and passing one-liners

AUSTRIAN POLICEMAN
IRAQI OIL MINISTER
VENEZUELAN OIL MINISTER
ABDESSALAM, ALGERIAN OIL MINISTER
PILOT

the play is set in December 1975 in Vienna and on board a DC9

PROLOGUE

SCENE 1. PETROL STATION FORECOURT.

THE ATTENDANT LOCKS THE NOZZLE BACK INTO ITS SLOT
AND LEANS IN THE CAR WINDOW

ATTENDANT Full to the brim. That's three pounds and ten pee, mate.

MAN What?

ATTENDANT Three ten, thanks.

MAN I said four gallons. Just four gallons.

ATTENDANT 'Sright.

MAN My tank was at least half full. Four sixties are –

ATTENDANT You don't do a lot of driving, do you?

MAN What?

ATTENDANT Went over seventy p weeks ago.

MAN It was fifty a gallon last Christmas.

THE CAR BEHIND TOOTS ITS HORN

ATTENDANT Alright, mate, alright.

MAN They can't spend it fast enough.

ATTENDANT What, mate?

MAN (AS HE FINDS THE COINS) You see them walking round
the shops, their wives all covered up like Ned Kelly. They've
got more money than they know what to do with – why do
they need more?

ATTENDANT (GIVING BACK CHANGE) Here you go.

MAN Why are they doing this to us? It's two years since all the queues and the war and everything – Why?

BRING IN:

TITLES

AND THEN INTO:

SCENE 2.VIENNA: CAFE. FRIDAY DECEMBER 21. 1100

A BUSTLING CAFÉ IN CENTRAL VIENNA

BOTH MEN ARE SPEAKING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE, BUT BOTH ARE EFFECTIVELY FLUENT.

CARLOS IS COCKY, UNTROUBLED, MASTER OF THE MOMENT; AL-MABROUK IS CAREERING BETWEEN DISTRESS AND TERROR: HE REALLY DOESN'T WANT TO BE THERE.

CARLOS They'll definitely still all be there, still talking on Sunday?

AL-MABROUK I was told – they told me you are – this is for Saturday.

CARLOS We had some trouble with the 'equipment'. Everything came covered in grease. Dripping. We need some time. Clean them up. Test fire. So Sunday.

AL-MABROUK It's unlikely they will finish talking before Sund – (HE STOPS HIMSELF) There's a man over there, he's been looking at me.

CARLOS (THROWAWAY) You're very handsome. (ON WITH THE BUSINESS:) Show me – did you bring plans?

AL-MABROUK What do you mean?

CARLOS What do I mean what?

AL-MABROUK 'Handsome'?

CARLOS I was joking.

AL-MABROUK He could be CIA.

CARLOS (TURNING) He's too good looking.

AL-MABROUK No-one – I don't want – I need your promise – nobody will be hurt?

CARLOS Only those who stand in the way of the Arm of the Arab Revolution.

AL-MABROUK (BAFFLED) Who's that?

CARLOS (ALMOST OFFENDED) That's us.

AL-MABROUK They told me People's Front.

CARLOS We are the military arm.

AL-MABROUK For Palestine, you are doing this for Palestine?

CARLOS Like you were told. To liberate the people of Palestine. This is a PFLP operation. Made possible by your Colonel Ghaddafi.

AL-MABROUK And no-one will be shot?

CARLOS (TERSE) I already answered you. Show me the plans.

AL-MABROUK (PRODUCING PAPERS) Straight up the stairs. OPEC offices are on the first floor. Do not go up to the next floor : Texaco above, Canada Embassy above them.

CARLOS (AMUSED) You drew this yourself?

AL-MABROUK You think I go in and say: 'Please give me groundplans. The People's Front for The Liberation of Palestine are coming tomorrow to take everyone hostage and they need to know the way.'

CARLOS They would think you were joking.

AL-MABROUK I do this because my government tells me to. Only for that. I don't like it. These people, at OPEC, I work with them.

CARLOS Show me.

AL-MABROUK (THE PLAN) You come in here, double doors, this wall straight in front. You go along here, on the left the elevators,

on the right the reception, switchboard. There are always Austrian policemen. Two, three, usually somewhere round there. Other secretariat staff will be –

TWO PEOPLE ARE NOW APPROACHING: JOCHEN KLEIN AND GABRIELE KRÓCHER-TIEDEMANN

CARLOS (GREETING THEM) My friends. How was the movie?

AL-MABROUK (SCARED) They said, told me just you – meet one man.

CARLOS Two more arms of the revolution – left arm and right arm. Meet Nada and Angie.

NEITHER WANTS TO BE INTRODUCED TO ANYONE:

KLEIN } Hi.

GABRIELE } Hi.

AL-MABROUK (CONFUSED) Angie?

KLEIN (NOT GOOD ENGLISH AND NOT WANTING TO TALK ANYWAY) Stones. I like Rolling Stones.

CARLOS Kaffee mit Schlagobers? I had an einspänner, don't recommend it. Sachertorte's OK. What can I get you?

GABRIELE You ask about policeman, of Canadian embassy? I see him at front yesterday?

AL-MABROUK It's alright. He doesn't work weekends.

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

'ANGIE' BY THE ROLLING STONES

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 3. OPEC: CONFERENCE ROOM. SUNDAY DECEMBER 22:
NOON

CONFERENCE IS IN SESSION, CHAIRED BY CHIEF FEDIYE (NIGERIA).
EVERYTHING IS CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH: DELEGATES HAVE VARYING
DEGREES OF FLUENCY.

YAMANI The Iraqi Delegates must bear in mind that the Western
economies are already enduring their deepest depression
since the 1920s. In just the two years since the October War,
United States GDP has dropped by six percent,
unemployment is up by nine percent. By next year, by mid-
1976, it's estimated –

IRAQI Who cares? They need oil and have nowhere else to get it. We
get to name the price.

FEDIYE Please, the Saudi Arabian delegate has the floor. Sheikh
Yamani.

YAMANI All these price increases means that they can afford to look
for oil in more and more difficult places: North Sea, Gulf of
Mexico. It pays to get it out now. We are driving them to find
their own oil.

VENEZUELA We all know that will take years.

YAMANI And if we drive their economies to the wall in the meantime,
they will be buying less. Our total take will decrease. We will
also be the losers.

IRAQI For years, they took our oil, sold it to themselves for nothing.
Treated us like fools, like slaves.

AMOUZEGAR I must repeat, the Iran delegation is seeking an increase of at
least twenty dollars a barrel. The Shah is adamant that –

HE IS INTERRUPTED BY SHOOTING, AUTOMATIC GUNFIRE, SEEMINGLY
DISTANT.

AMOUZEGAR What was – is that....?

FEDIYE Continue, please. Something in the street. A motorcycle.

AMOUZEGAR If I could move us towards a compromise. We all want a greater take from what is ours to –

BUT HE GETS NO FURTHER BECAUSE THERE IS SHOUTING – CARLOS IN BAD ARABIC – FOLLOWED BY A SCUFFLE AND SEVERAL MORE SHOTS.

AMOUZEGAR What's – I don't understand – should we – ?

NOW TWO MEN BURST INTO THE ROOM AND THEY FIRE A BURST FROM THEIR MACHINE PISTOLS INTO THE CEILING.

CARLOS Get down! Everyone get down! Down! Down!

FEDIYE What do you think you're – ?

CARLOS Down!

AND HE FIRES INTO THE CEILING AGAIN.
THIS TIME THE LIGHTS FUSE, SPARKING, HISSING.

YUSSUF The lights? What you do?

CARLOS Shit, I hit something. (THEN TO ALL) Everyone down! You too.

NOW THAT THE DOOR IS OPEN, DURING THIS, ALSO FROM ALONG THE CORRIDOR [*ITALICS FOR EVERYTHING OUTSIDE THE ROOM*]:

KLEIN Phone down! Stop!

*A SINGLE SHOT
THEN:*

KLEIN I say no phone!

HE FIRES SEVERAL TIMES INTO THE SWITCHBOARD.

GABRIELE (ENTERING) Pig. I hate pigs.

CARLOS What did you do?

GABRIELE Old man. Policeman. I must to kill him.

CARLOS Go along there, into each office, all of them, clear them all out.

GABRIELE GOES

CARLOS (TO YUSSUF) Have you found Yamani? Where is he?

YUSSUF I look. I look.

CARLOS We need Yamani. And the Iranian – Amouzegar. Find him. Come on! He must be here.

WE HEAR FROM OUTSIDE THE ROOM:

GABRIELE Open! Open door!

GABRIELE FIRES SEVERAL ROUNDS INTO AN OFFICE DOOR

GABRIELE Out! Out Now!

HINTERECKER (FROM INSIDE THE OFFICE) I'm coming, I'm coming. Don't shoot, don't shoot.

KHALID PUSHES ANOTHER A MAN AND A WOMAN INTO THE ROOM

CARLOS You two, over there, on the floor.

NOW THERE IS SUSTAINED GUNFIRE – A TWO-WAY FIREFIGHT – FROM DOWN THE CORRIDOR

CARLOS What's he doing now? What the hell is wrong with him?

AND THEN A GRENADE EXPLODES

KLEIN Out! Out or all killed! Get you out!

*MORE AUTOMATIC GUNFIRE
AND THEN IT SETTLES*

GABRIELE PUSHES HINTERECKER AND A FEMALE SECRETARY INTO THE ROOM. SHE SCREAM-WHIMPERS AND HE 'Yes. Yes. It's OK.'

GABRIELE On floor. Now!

CARLOS Anyone else?

GABRIELE I look.

CARLOS (TO YUSSUF) Have you found him yet?

GABRIELE The man you shoot, out there, he from Libya.

CARLOS Shit. Why did he – why did he – he can't be Libyan.

YUSSUF (CALLING TO CARLOS) Is this? This here?

CARLOS MARCHES OVER AND BENDS TO LOOK UNDER THE DESK

CARLOS Sheikh Ahmed Yamani. How are you? Come out, please join us.

THEY WAIT AS YAMANI STANDS.

CARLOS BRUSHES DOWN HIS SUIT, GETS HIM STRAIGHT, AS:

CARLOS No need to be scared, Sheikh. You are our special guest here today.

THEN, TO THE ENTIRE ROOM:

CARLOS Right, everyone, stand up now. Get up. Nothing to be scared of. (AS HE DOES THIS TO YAMANI) Brush yourselves down. Right. All listening? We are going to divide you. Like everyone, we have friends and we have enemies and we have neutrals. (THEN:) And we have Austrians.

FEDIYE And you, please, you are Mossad, yes?

CARLOS You think – what? – I'm Jewish?

FEDIYE I don't understand. Who are – ?

CARLOS Well, I understand, this nose. I get this often.

FEDIYE If you are not Israelis?

CARLOS Right. We separate you. Friends first. You are Libya, Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait. Over there. Is anyone here Palestinian?

PALESTINIAN (AFTER HESITATION) ...I am.

CARLOS Over there. You go with them. You are a Best Friend.
(THEN:) Enemies. Saudi Arabia, Iran, Abu Dhabi, Qatar.
Over there. That end. Come on, Sheikh, you too, chop chop, I said Saudi Arabia.

AS THEY ALL SHUFFLE TO THEIR POSITIONS

CARLOS Austrians. That side. Go. (AND THEN:) Everyone else, you are neutral. Here, please, this side. Ustedes tambien, Venezuela.¹

THE INDIVIDUALS ARE SHUFFLING ACROSS THE ROOM.
KHALID IS STRAPPING – GAFFER TAPE – EXPLOSIVES TO TABLES.

CARLOS Have you got it wired up yet? (THEN IN ARABIC:) Is it wired?

KHALID (IN ARABIC:) I'm doing it. I'm doing it.

[UNDERLINING = LINES TO BE TRANSLATED]

CARLOS (JOKEY) Keep the wires separate or we'll all get blown up. For God's sake. (TO THE HOSTAGES) How can I work with these people? I have shown him so many times! Ten, twenty.

¹ You too, Venezuela.

It's impossible. (CALLING OVER:) You Austrians, stay together, over there. Schnell, schnell.

GABRIELE (PUSHING TWO MORE IN) This is the last.

CARLOS Österreicher?

HINTERECKER Ya. Yes.

CARLOS Polizei?

HINTERECKER No. No, sir. Driver.

CARLOS Over there then. Sit down. Keep still. And no-one gets hurt. No-one.

HE PROWLs AROUND THE ROOM, SAYING:

CARLOS We won't keep you long. Then you will all go free. I hope. Right, who here can type? Who's a secretary? Which of you Österreicher frauleins?

GRIZELDA (VERY TENTATIVE) I...it's...I can type.

CARLOS Don't be scared, little one. What's your name?

GRIZELDA Fraulein Carey. Miss Carey.

CARLOS We're all on first names. I'm Carlos... (PROMPTING HER)

GRIZELDAGrizelda.

CARLOS Good. Grizelda. This is very good, Grizelda. If you type well, you will be the first to go. Typewriter, paper. Come on, over here.

MIX TO:

FADE INTO THE MIDST OF:

SCENE 4. CONFERENCE ROOM. SUNDAY. 1220PM.

GRIZELDA TYPING (ON A GOLFBALL) AS CARLOS DICTATES:
IN THE BACKGROUND, THE HOSTAGES ARE SETTLING; ONE TEA LADY IS
WHIMPERING THROUGHOUT, OTHERS TRYING TO KEEP HER QUIET

CARLOS (DICTATION) We demand the lecture of our communiqué
on the Austrian radio and television network every two
hours, starting two hours from now.

GRIZELDA 'Lecture'? Do you mean – ?

CARLOS (CONTINUING) We also demand a bus, with windows
covered by curtains, to take us to the airport. That will be
outside at 7am.

HE LETS HER FINISH TYPING, THEN:

CARLOS At the airport there will be a DC9, with a crew of three, fully
tanked, waiting to fly us.

GRIZELDA (FEAR) Where?

CARLOS (ALL GENTLEMANLY COURTESY) Don't worry, you're not
coming with us.

GRIZELDA Sorry. Sorry, sir.

CARLOS 'Carlos' (BACK TO DICTATION) Any delay, provocation or
unauthorized approach under any guise will endanger the
life of –

BUT HE IS STOPPED BY KLEIN COMING IN.

CARLOS Where you been?

KLEIN Shit, shit, shit.

KLEIN MAKES STRAIGHT FOR A CHAIR AND SLUMPS INTO IT.

GABRIELE You alright?

KLEIN I think...I must to look. (HE IS LIFTING HIS SHIRT)...Yes, as I think.

GRIZELDA SCREAMS. GABRIELE GASPS.

CARLOS Is that a – ?

KLEIN A bullet, it is inside me.

CARLOS Not much blood, is there?

KLEIN I can feel it.

CARLOS Sit there. Nada, you see to him. You'll be alright. (TO GRIZELDA) Where are you?

GRIZELDA (TRYING TO COMPOSE HERSELF) "...will – will en – will endanger the life of – "

CARLOS Endanger the life of all our hostages. (A MOMENT, THEN:) Type. Come on. (AND ONCE SHE IS TYPING AGAIN:) One hostage will be executed every half hour. (SUBMERGED WHIMPER) We also require a quantity of rope and scissors and adhesive tape.

KLEIN My God, it is hot in here. Mein God.

GABRIELE Try do not –

CARLOS Is anybody here a doctor? Anyone?

FROM THE BACK:

ABDESSALAM Yes. I am a doctor.

CARLOS Take a look at him. See if he's OK.

ABDESSALAM CROSSES THE ROOM.

KLEIN (TO GABRIELE) Why you kill man?

GABRIELE Who?

KLEIN He is going. In elevator.

GABRIELE He was police.

KLEIN He was going away. You shoot. Why? Not revolutionary.

OVER THIS, IN THE FOREGROUND:

CARLOS And now put: Signed: The Arm of the Arab Revolution.

GRIZELDA Arm?

CARLOS Yes, arm. The fighting arm.

GRIZELDA Do you want 'fighting arm'?

CARLOS No, no, no, I was explaining. Let me see. (HE BENDS OVER)
There, now type a row of dots so I can sign it, and then put
'The Arm of the Arab Revolution'. Underneath.

SHE TYPES AND FINISHES. HE PULLS IT OUT OF THE TYPEWRITER.
AND AS HE SIGNS IT:

CARLOS Here. Our manifesto. To be transmitted. You can now take it
outside.

GRIZELDA Me?

CARLOS Take it downstairs. You can go. Take it. You're free. Like the
dove from Noah's Ark.

KLEIN (FLAGGING) Polizei, one in the hall, I shoot in ass, make
him to go also.

GABRIELE Shhh.

ABDESSALAM Please, keep still.

CARLOS Yes, take the polizeiman with you. Don't want him hanging round. Both of you out.

GRIZELDA This name you've signed...? Is it Arabic?

CARLOS Car – Tell them I'm from Venezuela and my name is Carlos. They'll know me.

GRIZELDA (REPEATING IT) Carlos. From Venezuela.

CARLOS Go, go, go, and take her as well, I can't stand the noise. (CALLING OUT TO THE WHIMPERING TEA LADY) You, over here, frau lady, achtung, go!

SHE CROSSES THE ROOM.

CARLOS Go, go! Schnell, schnell.

AS GRIZELDA AND THE WOMAN LEAVE, OUTSIDE:

GRIZELDA Nicht schiessen, bitte! Nicht schiessen. Bitte! Bitte!²

CARLOS (TO KLEIN) What about you?

KLEIN I'm OK.

ABDESSALAM He needs proper medical care. This is serious.

CARLOS Anybody know where there's a first aid kit?

BEHIND HIM, KLEIN KEELS OVER ONTO THE FLOOR.

CARLOS Bloody hell, pick him up, someone.

CUT TO:

² Don't shoot, please! Don't shoot. Please! Please!

SCENE 5. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE CONFERENCE ROOM. SUNDAY.
1700.

CARLOS IS HELPING KLEIN OUT, HIS ARM OVER HIS SHOULDER.

CARLOS They'll patch you up. Send you straight back. It'll be fine.

KLEIN Yes, I come here back soon.

GABRIELE (WHISPERED TO HIM, CLOSE, IN GERMAN:) Sagen Sie nichts. Kein Wort. Stark bleiben.³

AS CARLOS PASSES HIM OVER TO AN AUSTRIAN POLICEMAN

CARLOS He needs a stretcher.

AUSTRIAN At the bottom. It is waiting.

CARLOS You look after him. Well. Verstehen?

GABRIELE (TO CARLOS) What about the bus? Who drive the bus now?

CARLOS We'll sort it.

CARLOS WALKS BACK TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM DOORWAY.

TWO TERRORISTS ARE FIDDLING WITH A RADIO, TRYING TO FIND THE BROADCAST. HISS, STATIC, GERMAN.

CARLOS Is it on?

YUSSUF Nothing, I think.

CARLOS I said every two hours. That was four-thirty. Already half an hour late. What are they doing? If they don't broadcast it, I have to kill someone. I HAVE TO. They know that. (THEN. PEREMPTORY:) OK, you, Yamani, over here. Yes, you.

³ Say nothing. Not a word. Stay strong.

YAMANI STANDS AND STARTS TO CROSS THE ROOM TOWARDS HIM.
AND DURING:

CARLOS (TO GABRIELE) Why do they want us to start shooting
 people? It's barbaric. (TO YAMANI) Come on, Sheikh. This
 way.

HE WALKS WITH HIM AND SHOWS HIM INTO ANOTHER OFFICE:

CARLOS In here. Sit down.

WE GO WITH:

SCENE 6. OFFICE. 1705.

CARLOS SHUTS THE DOOR.

CARLOS Keep calm. I'm not going to shoot you.

YAMANI Thank you.

CARLOS I will shoot you at six. If our broadcast isn't on the radio by then. I have no choice. Alright? Is that alright?

YAMANI I'm sorry?

CARLOS You are a man of great intelligence. World famous for it. Surely you understand what we are doing and why we are doing it?

YAMANI I haven't the faintest idea what you are doing. You've killed people.

CARLOS (CHASTENED CHILD) We were defending ourselves. We had orders to seize this building and they stood in our path.

YAMANI An Iraqi, bodyguard, a Libyan economist.

CARLOS (GENUINE SURPRISE) A Libyan? He is?

YAMANI People who saw. Said you shot him on the floor. Four bullets, five bullets.

CARLOS He was Libyan?

YAMANI An economist. Very talented. And now brave.

CARLOS It's my bloody Arabic. If he only had understood me. I tried. It was my fault. That is terrible.

YAMANI Please, try to tell me what you want, maybe I can – ?

CARLOS You understand, don't you, this is not personal?

YAMANI It will be very personal if you shoot me, if you throw my body onto the street.

CARLOS Your people – you have betrayed us, your Arab Brothers.

YAMANI You're not an Arab!

CARLOS I am a Marxist. That means I am at one with the downtrodden of the entire world.

YAMANI And who are we supposed to have betrayed this time?

CARLOS The Palestinians.

YAMANI Ah. Palestine.

CARLOS You say it like they're a flea, an irritation for you to swat away.

YAMANI Hardly.

CARLOS Two million people dispossessed.

YAMANI I am quite aware.

CARLOS Why do you sell oil to America? Friend of the Zionists?

YAMANI In the war, when they supported Israel against the Arab armies, we cut off all oil.

CARLOS And five months later, you started up again! The big embargo – twenty weeks!

YAMANI Each nation was required to make a public statement that they were no longer friends of Israel. We made them all announce it.

CARLOS Noise. And you know it.

YAMANI We changed their policy.

CARLOS What about America? The Imperialists. The Zionists. You send them all the oil they want. You keep saying the price should be lower.

YAMANI Could you, sorry, could you stop waving that gun?

CARLOS (HE PUTS THE GUN DOWN ON THE TABLE BUT KEEPS RANTING) They must find out who has the power. The Arab world has the power because it has the thing they need more than anything else. And we must use our oil to protect the Palestinians. To destroy Israel.

YAMANI Since the October War, since America decided to save Israel, the oil price has increased by seven hundred percent. The Western world, their economies are in the biggest recession since the 1920s.

CARLOS You have abandoned your people. Everyone understand this. It's why you must die.

YAMANI And if they broadcast your – your words?

CARLOS We will see.

YAMANI What do you intend to do with us, with me?

CARLOS I have not decided. But if I have to shoot you, I hope there will be no bitterness?

YAMANI I'm sorry?

CARLOS No bitterness? If it comes to (HE MAKES A SHOOTING NOISE) – Yes?

YAMANI (HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND) You are going to shoot me and I should not be bitter?

CARLOS This is a war! I could be killed any time. If my enemies strike me down, I would not be bitter. A hundred, a thousand freedom fighters will rise in my place.

YAMANI So will a thousand Oil Ministers, I suppose, in my place.

CARLOS I don't think so. Capitalism is finished. The people know that. Even your kings and emirs know that. You are heading for the dustbin.

YAMANI Then why do you need to see me dead? If what I stand for will so surely be swept away?

CARLOS We are the People's Army. First we liberate Palestine. We fight whoever stands in our way. Whenever. Wherever.

YAMANI Then I am honoured to be included in that list.

CARLOS See? They told me you were brave.

CUT TO:

SCENE 7. STAIRWELL. 1810.

AN ECHOEY STAIRWELL.

CARLOS IS PUMPED. GABRIELE STANDS ALONGSIDE.

AL-AZZAWI Please you can trust me. The police, they said you would prefer if they sent an Iraqi. You would talk to me.

CARLOS So where's the broadcast? Do they think I'm not serious? We have a radio, you know.

AL-AZZAWI The Chancellor, they said he was on his way to his holiday. Skiing. He must approve the broadcast.

CARLOS So because some stupid Austrian Jew is half way up a mountain, I have to shoot someone! This is ridiculous.

AL-AZZAWI He is on his way back.

CARLOS Other people will have to do it. They ring up the radio station and they tell them to read it out. It's that simple.

AL-AZZAWI Please, in this respect, I do not think there will be a problem. Very soon.

CARLOS And these sandwiches, look at them! Look at them.

AL-AZZAWI You asked for food, didn't you?

CARLOS Ham sandwiches. Ham! How could you – this is an insult to these people.

AL-AZZAWI I had no idea. I didn't realise.

CARLOS We are fighting for Arab freedom and you allow them to send haram.

AL-AZZAWI But you...you're an Arab?

CARLOS I fight for the oppressed. We are united.

AL-AZZAWI I will see what I can do about some food. Chicken, maybe. Would that be alright?

CARLOS Fried. And some Tab. And chocolate. Lindt. (THEN:) And we will need a driver as well.

AL-AZZAWI Driver?

CARLOS For the bus. Our man, the one in their hospital, I don't want him to try driving it.

AL-AZZAWI He – your man, the doctors say he will die if he is moved.

CARLOS They're lying. We expected this.

AL-AZZAWI Please. I spoke to the doctor myself. The bullet – it was a fragment – he told me, the bullet, it broke up inside, in all his insides. He cannot be moved.

CARLOS The bus at seven tomorrow morning. With a driver.

AL-AZZAWI The police, they asked me to ask you. Maybe could you find a way to also release the –

CARLOS We have already allowed several –

AL-AZZAWI Could you also release the women, just the women?

CARLOS Why?

AL-AZZAWI They will be scared. Men can take this sort of thing, but it's different for them.

CARLOS Look at her. My comrade Nada. Does she look scared?

AL-AZZAWI She is one of your soldiers. She expects this.

CARLOS Women must learn – all women – women must fight and be as strong as men. You want to oppress half the world.

AL-AZZAWI In time it should be so. But the women here, the Austrians, the secretaries, the receptionists. It would be a gesture. The Chancellery has requested that –

CARLOS Right. (WATCH) It is now ten to six. The broadcast is eighty minutes overdue. I intend to shoot Sheikh Yamani at half past six.

AL-AZZAWI Sheikh Yamani?

CARLOS If you will not listen now, you will when his body comes out of here.

AL-AZZAWI You cannot shoot the Saudi Arabian Oil –

CARLOS (TURNING TO GO BACK INSIDE) Half past six. He will be executed. (TO GABRIELE) Come on, Nada. (BACK TO AL-AZZAWI) And food, get some decent food and drink, everyone's hungry. (TO GABRIELE) Come on. (THEN BACK TO AL-AZZAWI WHO IS GOING DOWN THE STAIRS) They know who I am, don't they?

AL-AZZAWI I don't think they –

CARLOS (EXASPERATED AT HAVING TO REPEAT IT) Tell them I'm from Venezuela and my name is Carlos. Tell them I'm the famous Carlos. They will know I mean what I say.

CUT TO:

SCENE 8. CONFERENCE ROOM. 1820.

CARLOS IS NOW VERY PUMPED, PACING ROUND THE ROOM.

TERRORISTS ARE TWIDDLING THE RADIO DIAL BETWEEN STATIONS:
FLIPPING BETWEEN NEWS (IN GERMAN) AND MUSIC (MOSTLY IN
GERMAN)

VERY LOW LEVEL SPORADIC MURMURS AMONG THE HOSTAGES.

CARLOS Anything?

YUSSUF We look. We try.

CARLOS They have ten minutes.

THEN:

CARLOS You hear that, Sheikh. Ten minutes.

YAMANI (CALM) I heard.

CARLOS Nine minutes now.

THE RADIO TWIDDLING CONTINUES.
THEY ARRIVE AT GERMAN LANGUAGE NEWS

CARLOS There! Stay on that one!

YUSSUF But maybe –

HINTERECKER Excuse me, sir.

CARLOS Yes?

HINTERECKER I was thinking. Sorry. Maybe. Sorry. I was supposed to drive
everyone to the Reception tonight – I'm the driver –

CARLOS What, you want me to let you out, so you can still go?

HINTERECKER A buffet reception.

CARLOS Sorry?

HINTERECKER With all the right food. For our guests here.

CARLOS TAKES IT IN

CARLOS You're a practical guy. I like that.

HINTERECKER I was on the submarines.

CARLOS I know. I know. Captured?

HINTERECKER That's where I learned English. Kirkpatrick. In the camp.

CARLOS We must tell them to go and get it.

HINTERECKER And some cigarettes also?

CARLOS What do you smoke?

HINTERECKER Kent.

CARLOS Good. Very good. American's the best, aren't they?

AND THEN ACROSS THIS LAST:

YUSSUF We have it! It is this! Yes?

THE ROOM FALLS SILENT TO LISTEN TO:

ANNOUNCER (IN MID-BROADCAST, IN FRENCH, READ WITH A POOR ACCENT BY AN AUSTRIAN) The denominational isolationist plot which is only one among many faces of the great Zionist reactionary-American plot....we demand no treaty with, no negotiation with and no recognition if the state of Zionist aggression....

IT CONTINUES UNDER:

HINTERECKER Is that...is that French?

CARLOS As we demanded. Yes.

HINTERECKER It sounds....it sounds like this man has not spoken French before.

CARLOS (CALLING OUT) Sheikh, you hear that?

YAMANI I do. Is that your communiqué?

CARLOS What do you think?

YAMANI I must listen more carefully.

CARLOS I mean, what do you think, now that I don't have to shoot you?

YAMANI What do you expect me to say?

CARLOS You're right. Listen to our statement. This bit, about the Egyptian President being a traitor, that's important.
(TURNING) I'm going to get us some food. Everyone'll be happier when they've had something to eat.

CUT TO:

SCENE 9. CORRIDOR. MIDNIGHT.

GABRIELE AND CARLOS SIT IN THE CORRIDOR.
THEY ARE BOTH SMOKING.

CARLOS Apparently he's got tubes and drips going in and out of him.

GABRIELE But they can't bring?

CARLOS They've got ambulances, haven't they? Stretcher him onto the plane.

GABRIELE We must to decide – for him – us.

CARLOS I agree. We have to decide for him.

GABRIELE If we ask him, he say Ich komme.

CARLOS And if he dies? They're saying he will. If he's moved.

GABRIELE If, yes, this is how he want.

CARLOS Then we're all agreed.

GABRIELE And this doctor you trust– ?

SOMEONE EMERGING FROM THE CONFERENCE ROOM, TENTATIVE:

AMOUZEGAR Is it alright? ...I need the bathroom?

CARLOS Please, you don't need to ask. You're our guests. Just go.

AMOUZEGAR CROSSES THE CORRIDOR AND GOES INTO THE TOILET.

GABRIELE You believe doctor?

CARLOS It makes no difference. If he's right and Angie doesn't survive the plane, we still take him. We just said.

GABRIELE What time?

CARLOS I want to be at the airport by seven. We leave here at six. They'll bring him from the hospital.

GABRIELE And no more shooting?

CARLOS (WHY WOULD I?) They have done everything we asked.

GABRIELE But you said, if anything – if they –

CARLOS You have to threaten these people. It's all they understand.

GABRIELE You would kill him?

CARLOS You're Red Army Faction, you do that all the time.

GABRIELE Movement of Second June.

CARLOS Come on. What choice did we have? We told them. I waited an extra two hours as it is. Anything else would look weak.

GABRIELE You can to do that? Shoot a person? In the quiet?

CARLOS We are soldiers of the –

HE IS CUT OFF BY:

AL-AZZAWI (FROM THE STAIRWELL) Halloo! Hullo?

CARLOS (STANDING) It's our Iraqi negotiator again.

GABRIELE He knows? That we kill Iraqi man?

CARLOS (WALKING AWAY) It was a bodyguard. It was his job.

GABRIELE (YOU'VE FORGOTTEN) Your gun.

CARLOS It's alright. (THROWING HER A PILL BOTTLE) Take another tablet – I don't want any of us drifting off.

WE GO WITH CARLOS WHO IS NOW AT:

SCENE 10. THE TOP OF THE STAIRWELL

CONTINUOUS:

CARLOS Mister Ambassador, you look so sad. Everything's going to be alright.

AL-AZZAWI They asked me to tell you. The plane will be ready.

CARLOS To Tripoli.

AL-AZZAWI The Chancellor has spoken to Pres –

CARLOS He's back, is he? From the piste?

AL-AZZAWI He has spoken to President Boumedienne and Algeria is willing to allow you into his country.

CARLOS And Libya? What are they saying?

AL-AZZAWI I was not told. If you want me to – ?

CARLOS That will suffice. Algiers. A very pretty city.

AL-AZZAWI But the Austrians, Herr Kreisky says, they must stay.

CARLOS (EXPLODING) I am in command here. I command the Chancellor. And everyone else. I decide who goes, who stays.

AL-AZZAWI If that's –

CARLOS We are doing this for the forgotten people of Palestine.

AL-AZZAWI I am aware –

CARLOS (ALMOST MANIC) In there, in that room there, sitting in the suits, sweating, there are the men who can change it all. They have the weapon. In three months the Palestinians could get their country back. Just turn off the oil. Turn it off and

everything would change, America, Europe, they would give the land back to the Palestinians. So the power is there, in that room. They are the men who can launch the weapon that wins the war.

A MOMENT

CARLOS (CALMING) I will release them soon. I don't like people telling who to release, who to –

AL-AZZAWI What shall I tell the Chancellor?

CARLOS Tell him, tell Kreisky I will decide when we get to the airport.

THEN:

CARLOS I want to know when the bus is here. I need to check it.

AL-AZZAWI Of course.

CARLOS And our wounded comrade, he will be taken straight to the airport.

CUT TO:

SCENE 11. CONFERENCE ROOM. 0610.

CARLOS IS STEAMING IN.
THE ROOM (ONLY SPORADIC CHAT) FALLS SILENT

CARLOS Good morning, everyone, I hope you all slept well. Sorry about the – Everyone get your coats, your stuff, time to sort things out.

NOTHING HAPPENS

CARLOS Come on! Right, Austrians. All of you into the Library. Come on, need to get things moving.

HINTERECKER What's happening?

WOMAN Sie gehen um uns zu töten. Sie gehen um uns alle zu töten.⁴

CARLOS It's alright, Fraulein, ruhe, ruhe⁵, everything's going to be alright. Eddie, here, do something.

HINTERECKER Alles gut. Ich denke wir bleiben hier. Sie gehen um uns freigegeben. Bleiben bei mir.⁶

CARLOS Everyone else, coats on. Our carriage awaits.

MUCH SHUFFLING AND STANDING

CARLOS The bus is downstairs. Look, you, neutrals, it's on your side, look, down there.

SOME PEOPLE MOVE TO THE WINDOW, PULL BACK THE BLINDS

⁴ They're going to kill us. They're going to kill us all.

⁵ calm, calm

⁶ It's all OK. I think we are staying here. They're going to release us. Stay with me.

CARLOS Our driver today is (PAPER) Herr Wilhelm Taworek. Very experienced driver. He will be taking us to the airport.

FEDIYE All of us?

CARLOS Austrians, into the library. Come on, down there, come on. Nada, Khalid, get them moving.

YUSSUF Quick, come, quick.

GABRIELE Schnell, quick.

AS THIS SLOWLY HAPPENS, TO THE OTHERS:

CARLOS Coats on, everyone. You'll need them on the bus. Till we're somewhere warmer.

HINTERECKER We're not going?

CARLOS I don't need you. I have enough. Thank you for all your help. Keep everyone in there until the police come.

FEDIYE Excuse me. You said Nigeria, Ecuador, Venezuela, you said we are not your enemy.... (= 'WHY CAN'T WE STAY AS WELL?')

CARLOS Everything will be fine, Chief. A short plane ride then I can probably let you go. If everything goes alright.

AMOUZEGAR And if it doesn't?

CARLOS Why are you Iranians always so pessimistic? The Jew Kreisky has agreed to take us all to the airport, pay for our holiday in the sun.

AMOUZEGAR They will never let you leave the country.

CARLOS (IGNORING THIS) Who wants a souvenir? A cartridge case fired by Carlos himself.

HE IS PICKING THEM UP OFF THE FLOOR.

CARLOS Here, Chief, for you. To remember this day, when you're old. (AND TO ANOTHER, IN SPANISH:) Señor, for you, to remember Carlos Martinez. (AND TO ANOTHER:) Not so glum, Mister Minister, this will be valuable one day. Fired from a Beretta Machine Pistol, the best handgun in the world.

YAMANI How will we – I don't understand, how do we get to the bus?

CARLOS We walk out the front door and across the pavement. Careful, it's snowy, we don't want anyone slipping and hurting themselves.

YAMANI Won't they...? The police?

CARLOS I've checked it out. It's six, seven metres.

YAMANI You're not worried? Police marksmen?

CARLOS After the Olympics, after Munich? I don't think so. And I will be standing there – we'll send you across, four or five at a time.

YAMANI (EXPECTING POLICE INTERCEPTION) We will see.

CARLOS (DETERMINED NOT TO LET THE MOOD DRIFT TO PANIC/ANXIETY) Right, now I have to count you all, how many have we got here? (HE STARTS A HEAD COUNT) Indonesia, you and two staff. Kuwait, four of you. Gabon, my friends, just two. Saudi, you, Sheikh, and you have five staff. You're very important. Venezuela, my best of all friends, tres caballeros.

USE THIS TO FADE OUT:

SCENE 12. DC9. IN FLIGHT.

CARLOS PLUMPS HIMSELF DOWN NEXT TO YAMANI.

CARLOS Comfortable?

YAMANI (IN A PRAYER DAZE) Sorry?

CARLOS I didn't mean to interrupt.

YAMANI It's quite alright. I was just...

CARLOS Praying?

YAMANI I was unable to find the space this morning

CARLOS No atheists in a foxhole, eh?

YAMANI It's – it's important to me, every day.

CARLOS That's good, it's good to have something centred in your life.

YAMANI Isn't it the opium of the masses?

CARLOS Do you really consider yourself one of the masses?

YAMANI I am a servant. Like you, like your friends. Your colleagues, I mean. Back there – how is he?

CARLOS Apart from not letting us all smoke? Angie's strong, he'll be fine.

YAMANI But if – if he dies? On the journey?

CARLOS We blame no-one. It is the struggle.

YAMANI No-one will be executed in reprisal?

CARLOS (AS IF!) We're not barbarians. God, we're not Aztecs, sacrificing to the Sun God, hoping blood makes everything better.

YAMANI Wasn't that the Mayans?

CARLOS See? Neither of us knows. Swallowed by history. Because they were not inevitable.

YAMANI And you are?

CARLOS My place is already written. When the Arab Peoples have won back their rightful place, days like this will be remembered. Our names, the places the battles were fought.

YAMANI And where are we going now?

CARLOS We've been invited to Algiers.

YAMANI Algeria?

CARLOS It's a revolutionary country. How could I refuse? (THEN:) I don't like to work with the Algerians but they can't do anything.

YAMANI Will we be there long?

CARLOS A couple of hours. I will release some more. Then we'll fly to Libya. Maybe Baghdad. Then Kuwait.

YAMANI Quite a tour.

CARLOS We have a lesson to teach.

YAMANI You'll need a bigger plane. For those distances.

CARLOS (A HINT OF WRONG-FOOTED) It'll be arranged. Then Kuwait. We will release a few hostages in each place. The world's newspapers will follow us. We will go to every country that should be using the oil weapon.

- YAMANI I see.
- CARLOS Until only you are left. You and your Iranian friend, Mister Amouzegar. And then we will go to Aden where, forgive me, you will both be executed.
- YAMANI I...I understand how you see me, my role. I am easy to hate. But Jamshid Amouzegar, I don't understand, why him?
- CARLOS The Shah has stood between the Arab people and -
- YAMANI He has been pushing prices higher all the time. He loathes me, loathes me for keeping prices lower. The Shah wants America to suffer.
- CARLOS He played absolutely no part in the embargo against America.
- YAMANI None of us...it was always only symbolic. Once the oil is in the tanker, how can we really control where it goes? They tell us it won't go America or to Holland or to Japan, but they can divert another tanker, coming from Russia or Alaska. It wouldn't work.
- CARLOS You should have closed the wells. It's simple. You have the weapon, you must launch it.
- YAMANI They would have invaded us. The Americans had a Rapid Deployment Force, ready and armed, to fly in and seize the wells. The Israelis have a plan to take over Abu Dhabi.
- CARLOS Then the world would have known, would see who are the true enemies.
- YAMANI My King stands firm against the Zionists.
- CARLOS Resolution 242! Why should we return to the 1967 borders? We are the Palestinians and we are living in tents outside our homeland.
- YAMANI You are a Palestinian?

- CARLOS I fought in Jordan. I fought in the streets when they pushed us out of Amman. (STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT) The Jordanians are an enemy of Palestine. Syrians are no better – they're deviationists. Everyone lets you down.
- YAMANI Is that why you are a terrorist?
- CARLOS Violence is the one language the Western Imperialists understand.
- YAMANI And you speak it very well.
- CARLOS (TAKING THIS AS PURE COMPLIMENT) Thank you. Though the deaths, in Vienna, all regrettable. Unnecessary. Messy.
- YAMANI But you will be happy to shoot me?
- CARLOS You had the chance. You Saudi could have stood side-by-side with the Palestinian People in 1948, in 1967, in 1973. But Saudi has always put oil money first. The Americans always buy you off. Ibn Saud, he could have prevented the creation of Israel. Instead he took the Americans' money.
- YAMANI The embargo taught them a lesson. Garbage on their streets. Three-day week in London. No driving on Sundays in Switzerland. 55 mph in America. And now they treat the Arab world differently.
- CARLOS Exxon and Mobil and Gulf still own the oil in your country.
- YAMANI We are negotiating with Aramco for full participation.
- CARLOS Negotiating? Participation? Take it back. The oil is all yours. Throw them out. Take it. Make them do what you want.
- YAMANI It would give them the grounds to invade.
- CARLOS If they invade, blow up the wells. They get nothing but smoke.

YAMANI You speak good violence.

CARLOS You possess a weapon greater than a thousand atomic bombs. You can lay waste the Western world.

YAMANI We would suffer with them.

CARLOS In your palaces? In your air-conditioned limousines?

YAMANI The poor would suffer. It is always the poor who pay. In those camps in Syria and Jordan and Lebanon.

CARLOS They would suffer it all to gain the greatest wealth of all: the return of their own homeland.

YAMANI And when they get it back? What would they have?

CARLOS Does your King aspire to be caliph?

YAMANI I believe he is the –

CARLOS The Dome of the Rock. He is happy to leave that to the Zionists?

YAMANI We are negotiating.

CARLOS Nixon the Zionist-Imperialist goes on a grand tour round our lands. They throw tickertape at him in Cairo!

YAMANI And killing me will bring that to an end?

CARLOS It is one battle. In a long war. It is one message sent.

YAMANI But why Amouzegar? Iran is on your side. The Shah has seized ownership of all the oil. He wants it at twenty-five dollars a barrel. Higher.

CARLOS He is doing Kissinger's work. Doesn't he see? America wants to screw the Germans and the Japanese. The Jew Kissinger

wants higher oil prices, it helps America. And he wants to sell his jet fighters to Tehran.

YAMANI

That's not how it works.

CARLOS

With Jews? They're clever.

YAMANI

As though – (APPALLED) - he is an American.

CARLOS

The Shah goes horse riding with the Queen of England. That man will never drive the Zionists out of Palestine.

PILOT

(APPROACHING TENTATIVELY) Excuse me, Mister Carlos, we are about to begin our descent into Dar al Beida.

CARLOS

Excellent. (JUMPING UP) You and me, we'll have plenty more time to talk once we've landed at Algiers. I'm enjoying this.

YAMANI

Thank you.

CARLOS

I like the chance to be entirely honest with someone. I don't have to worry about what I say, it won't go any further.

YAMANI

I see. (AS HE REALISES THIS IS BECAUSE YAMANI WILL NOT BE ALIVE TO PASS ANY OF THIS ON) I see.

CUT TO:

SCENE 13. DC9 ON THE TARMAC.

CARLOS COMES STORMING BACK ONTO THE PLANE.

CARLOS How can I work with these people.

GABRIELE What happen?

CARLOS These Algerians, they're idiots. He pretends to be helping us.
He's an imbecile.

GABRIELE Angie, is he to be alright?

CARLOS How do I know? They took him straight off to some hospital.

GABRIELE So what is wrong?

CARLOS President Boumedienne says he can't let us kill anyone.
Why's he butting in? Says Kreisky promised him everyone
would be released here. I never said that. I never said that!

GABRIELE Why do we need to kill anyone?

CARLOS What do you mean?

GABRIELE Why we need to kill – we fly to each city, we release more.
The world's newspaper listen to us.

CARLOS You want to let them escape?

GABRIELE Who?

CARLOS Yamani. And the Iranian. They are our enemies.

GABRIELE If we kill them, we will never be –

CARLOS It's what we've been paid to do.

GABRIELE What?

CARLOS Come on, Gab – Nada, if they don't die, we don't get the rest of the payment.

GABRIELE Payment?

CARLOS Jesus, you think this whole thing was set up just to fly around? Some sort of circus parade?

GABRIELE You said. Tripoli, Baghdad, Kuwait, Aden. Hostages make free every time.

CARLOS And why are we going to Aden? To dispose of them! How can you be so naïve? Who do you think paid for this?

GABRIELE PFLP. This is for Palestine.

CARLOS Yes, PFLP will receive substantial funds. And we eliminate those two. Everyone wins.

GABRIELE I don't understand. Funds? From where? Who wants this? Who is paying?

CARLOS DECIDES TO SIDE-STEP THIS ONE AND STARTS SHOUTING AT THE WHOLE PLANE:

CARLOS We have decided to be generous. You people from the Arab countries, you have to stay, sorry – everyone else, you can go. Gabon, Nigeria, Ecuador, Venezuela. Who have I forgotten? Indonesia. Sorry. No, not you, Iran. Sit down, Mister Amouzegar - you're not Arab, I know, but you're staying. You're an honorary Arab today. Come on, the rest of you, off you get. Thank the Algerians, they are so keen to have you. Come on, off at the back. Quick. They've got cars for you.

AS THEY SHUFFLE OUT AND DOWN THE GANGWAY:

CARLOS Khalid, Yussuf, see them down the steps.

FEDIYE Would you really have killed us?

CARLOS Last. Only if you had been the very last.

FEDIYE Goodbye then.

CARLOS Señor Embajador. I have a letter for you to deliver.
(SPANISH:) In Caracas. For my mother, you understand how special.

VENEZUELA Of course. Goodbye.

GABRIELE (STILL ALONGSIDE) Carlos, please explain.

CARLOS Come on, anyone want an autograph? Here. (HE SIGNS SOMETHING) Off you go.

PILOT Sorry, excuse me, is it OK now to file our flight plan back to Vienna?

CARLOS Tripoli. Time to go to Tripoli, I think.

PILOT Libya?

CARLOS Then Baghdad.

PILOT Baghdad? This plane can't go to Baghdad. We couldn't, the headwinds. This is a DC9.

CARLOS We'll start by – (TAKING THIS IN) – let me talk to Tripoli first. It's important.

GABRIELE (AT HIS ELBOW) I want to know, what do you mean? Who pay for this? You must to explain.

CARLOS Yussuf, there's food coming on board, I need you to watch it. Watch the Algerians, don't trust them. I'm going to phone Tripoli.

CUT TO:

SCENE 14. DC9 ON THE TARMAC. 1900.

IT IS RAINING.

CARLOS Rugby, that's the game I really enjoyed.

YAMANI The game of the Imperialists? Invented to make their public schoolboys into empire builders.

CARLOS It doesn't matter. It's played by men. With honesty.
(REMEMBERING THE CONNECTION) I played with Moez Almazi at Stafford House – he works with you in Riyadh, yes?

YAMANI I know the name. In our ministry?

CARLOS I must give you a note for him. Be good to be back in touch. We were in the scrum together.

PILOT (APPROACHING) Excuse me. Sir. They radioed, another half hour.

CARLOS Thank you.

PILOT MOVES BACK TO THE COCKPIT

YAMANI Are we going to Tripoli?

CARLOS ...It's complicated.

YAMANI Now I think I understand.

CARLOS What?

YAMANI I have been – Last time I was in Tripoli. We came to sign an agreement. To end the OPEC embargo. As you presumably know. Before I left Riyadh – to come here, President Sadat warned me: his intelligence people picked something up. Two things. One, there would be an attempt to seize a KLM plane and destroy it if we dropped the embargo against

Holland. Second, that some Palestinians would try to capture me at the OPEC Summit in Libya: kidnap or execute me. Hurt me, Sadat said, "planning to hurt you." How could Qaddafi allow that, I thought. It's not possible.

Then I arrive in Tripoli, I see the newspaper. The police had stopped men taking weapons onto a KLM plane. A KLM plane.

Now I am thinking, if one part of this intelligence has happened, then maybe... But would they dare, really, in Libya? Would they?

I told my pilot to stay, keep my plane ready.

And all through the talks, the Libyan Minister, he's not really listening. He should be arguing, but he keeps getting up. Going out. Coming back.

Then we start talking about postponing the decision. So now the Libyan Minister should be angry, this is an insult to his President if the decision is not made in Libya.

I excused myself, like I'm going to the bathroom. I don't. I have my car waiting at the side. Straight to the airport. Straight into the air, no flight plan until we our airborne.

CARLOS

You got spooked. I don't walk under ladders.

YAMANI

I now understand. I know what you are doing.

CARLOS

I'm sorry?

YAMANI

This is Qaddafi again, isn't it? He is paying you, yes?

CARLOS

This is for the Freedom of Palestine.

YAMANI

Then it is Qaddafi who is paying for the Freedom of Palestine. And along the way, a few useful casualties. PFLP takes the blame, Qaddafi gets what he really wants. Me, Amouzegar, who else is on his hit list? Who else will he kill before he's finished?

CARLOS

(OVER-PLAYING IT BECAUSE YAMANI HAS NAILED IT)
Colonel Qaddafi is a good friend of the Palestinian People.

YAMANI He wants to control OPEC. I stand in his way. So does Iran.
This is his strategy.

CARLOS Makes no sense - you would be replaced by another.

YAMANI And would this new man dare argue with Libya? After this?

CARLOS We've talked, Sheikh, you and me. I admire you, your
intelligence. Your calm. You're over-tired now. This is pure
fantasy.

YAMANI Maybe you should go comfort your friend.

CARLOS What?

YAMANI The girl. I think she may – I think she just vomited.

YAMANI HAS WON THIS ROUND.

CUT TO:

SCENE 15.

DC9 ON THE TARMAC. 0300.

GABRIELE IS STILL FREAKED, JUST COMING THROUGH TEARS (OF EXHAUSTION AS MUCH AS ANYTHING ELSE).

CARLOS IS TRYING TO PACIFY HER.

- CARLOS It's going to be alright. President Boumedienne, he's insisting, no-one must be killed. The Algerians are all too scared. All this and they're still running scared.
- GABRIELE They should be scared – (NO) they're not scared, they know it is wrong.
- CARLOS I don't even know if the Libyans still want me – they won't let us land there.
- GABRIELE Think! You forget? We kill one of theirs. You made shoot a Libyan in Vienna!
- CARLOS You're right. Screw them. I'm going to ask for a ransom instead. Think how many missions we can mount with this money.
- GABRIELE Palestine!? You do all this to help one Arab control all the oil. When Qaddafi has that, he won't think again ever about Palestine. Just another emperor.
- CARLOS The People's Front will still have the money. Millions. Tens of millions.
- GABRIELE How much are you getting?
- CARLOS (GIVEAWAY HESITATION) I don't – Why would I be paid anything special?
- GABRIELE Your clothes. Your women. Your cigars.
- CARLOS I work for the triumph of the revolution.

GABRIELE You make us to be mercenaries, hired killers. You're the imperialist.

CARLOS Don't you dare.

GABRIELE You take money to build Qaddafi's oil empire. You're no better than Yamani or the Shah.

CARLOS Calm down, lady.

GABRIELE I don't kill one Arab for another Arab. I refuse.

CARLOS Qaddafi is the Palestinians' best friend.

GABRIELE You stupid prick. He's everyone's best friend.

CARLOS Where do you think our guns came from?

GABRIELE Terrible. For you, I shoot policeman yesterday.

CARLOS And you enjoyed it. I saw you. He was getting in the lift. You popped him in the back of the head anyway and sent him down to the ground floor.

GABRIELE I do revolutionary duty. For poor working people. Against imperialist paymasters.

CARLOS No reason you can't enjoy your work.

GABRIELE (SHOUTED) Du drecksack. Arschloch. Ess Scheisse, Carlos. Arschloch.

CARLOS Would you mind if I went to consult our comrades?

GABRIELE You know what? I do not care anything more what you do.

CUT TO:

SCENE 16. DC9 ON TARMAC. 0400.

QUIET, CLOSE IN:

YAMANI Look at him, he's smiling. Really smiling.

AMOUZEGAR Does it even mean he's happy? He's a madman.

YAMANI Whatever the Algerians said, he didn't like it.

AMOUZEGAR Would Abdessalam – would he really let us die? We've sat in a thousand OPEC meetings with him, dinners. Isn't he our friend?

YAMANI No friends in oil.

IN THE BACKGROUND, CARLOS IS ARGUING WITH HIS COMRADES
(DIALOGUE TO FOLLOW).

AMOUZEGAR What are they arguing about?

YAMANI They don't like him. The others. He irritates them.

AMOUZEGAR Oh my God, oh my God. This is it.

YAMANI Keep calm, Jamshid, keep breathing.

AMOUZEGAR They are going to kill us. I know it. That's why he's smiling.

CARLOS IS NOW MARCHING TOWARDS THEM.
AMOUZEGAR IS COLLAPSING.

CARLOS (OF AMOUZEGAR) What's wrong with him?

YAMANI He is...

CARLOS Can give it, can't take it, eh?

YAMANI No man is...

CARLOS You two, you give me a problem. I don't know what to do with you. But I am a democrat. You don't know the meaning of democracy. But I respect the rights of the people.

YAMANI I understand.

CARLOS No, you don't – don't lecture me about democracy.

YAMANI No.

CARLOS We have decided to have a meeting now. The six of us. My comrades. And I will be back to inform you of our decision.

YAMANI Thank you.

CARLOS IS ALREADY STRIDING AWAY, SHOUTING

CARLOS Captain, you can go too. All of you. We won't be flying anywhere else. You did a perfect job. Go home to your families.

A MOMENT THEN, CLOSE:

AMOUZEGAR Why do you thank him?

YAMANI Keep him calm. What else can we do?

AMOUZEGAR I won't thank a man for killing me.

YAMANI The longer they keep talking...

AMOUZEGAR If we don't have a pilot any more – they're going to kill us here.

YAMANI Try and sleep.

AMOUZEGAR They're coming over here. The Arab one. (TRUE FEAR) He's coming over...he carrying something. (IN FARSI, THE BEGINNING OF A PRAYER)

YUSSUF

We make coffee. (OFFERING) Coffee, yes? You like? And candy.

CUT TO:

SCENE 17.

DC9 on TARMAC. 0700.

CARLOS IS HECTORING THEM, ALL BUT SCREAMING.
HE IS OUT OF CONTROL, FALLING OVER HIS WORDS AND IDEAS COMING
OUT IN A CHAOTIC JUMBLE. A MANIC EXASPERATION.

CARLOS Your two nations have the power to change the world. You control half of the world's oil reserves. If you, Saudi Arabia, if you, Iran, if you wanted to bring about the people's paradise, you have the power. Here, now. But no, you two, you two poodles, you both work for kings who are more interested in their palaces and their horses and their gold plate. You could do so much good, so much – not just Palestine, that would be a morning's work. Done in a day. You could change everything. Like that! Instead you fall in like lackeys, doing whatever America the Imperialist demands, so they can go round the world, planting their cars their Coca-Cola and their women and their televisions. That's how you use your power. That's what you think is...what you think is...

HE RUNS OUT OF STEAM.

CARLOS Right. I can tell you, we voted, the six of us voted clearly and unanimously to kill you. Our decision is final.

YAMANI (VERY QUIET) I see. Yes.

AMOUZEGAR IS WHIMPERING

CARLOS But you have friends here. In Algeria. And you have friends in your palaces. They have sent money instead. A ransom. A king's ransom. I decided this would be of more use to the cause. This ransom will pay for a thousand future operations.

A MOMENT

CARLOS And I have just been informed that the money has been received. So we are leaving now. (HE LOOKS OUT THE

WINDOW) Our cars are here. You can follow as soon as we're gone.

YAMANI (STILL QUIET, CAUTIOUS) Thank you.

CARLOS You heard me. Did you hear me? Our decision is final. The Arm of the Arab Revolution has sentenced you both to death. Maybe you escape this time, our power, our hands and our strength will stretch to wherever you are in the future, however far away.

YAMANI Yes.

CARLOS And it will come sooner than either of you think. Much more sudden, more – we will implement our decision. Do you understand?

YAMANI I do.

CARLOS Do you understand, Iran?

AMOUZEGAR (BARELY) Yes. Yes.

CARLOS Well done. Well done. (THEN, TO ALL ROUND THE CABIN) Right. We're going. Come on. Into the cars. (IN ARABIC:) Into the cars. Move it. That's it move. Move. Move.

THE SIX TERRORISTS NOW MAKE A SPEEDY EXIT FROM THE PLANE.

FOLLOWED BY SILENCE BUT FOR BREATHING.

THEN:

AMOUZEGAR Have they gone?

THEN:

AMOUZEGAR Is that it?

THEN:

AMOUZEGAR Have they gone? Really?

YAMANI For the moment, yes. For the moment.

END