

"THE PRISONER"

"THE GENERAL"

EVERYMAN FILMS LTD.,
M-G-M Studios,
Boreham Wood,
Herts.

ELStree: 2000

STANDARD
OPENING

LINK SEQUENCE - EPISODE TWO AND THEREAFTER

EXT. VILLAGE. DAY. (LOC). (LIBRARY). U

P'S VOICE OVER

P'S VOICE
Where am I?

EXT. VILLAGE. DAY. LOC. (LIBRARY). V

ZOOM IN (OPTICAL) TO THE GREEN DOME OF NO. 2'S.

INT. LIVING SPACE. (LIBRARY) W

WHOLE AREA. THE BLACK CHAIR RISING AND TURNING.

INT. LIVING SPACE. X

CLOSE ON THE DOME OF THE BLACK CHAIR. PULL BACK TO SEE THE B.P. SCREEN BEYOND. P RUNNING IN SILHOUETTE. UNSEEN, NO. 2 SPEAKS FROM THE BLACK CHAIR.

No. 2'S VOICE
In the village.

EXT. BEACH. DAY. LOC. (LIBRARY) Y

P RUNNING AWAY FROM THE VILLAGE.

P'S VOICE
What do you want ?

INT. CONTROL ROOM. (LIBRARY). Z

THE GREEN EYE TURNING INTO CAMERA.

NO. 2'S VOICE
Information.

INT. LIVING SPACE. A1

THE B.P. SCREEN. P'S SILHOUETTE STOPS RUNNING.

P'S VOICE
Whose side are you on ?

NO. 2'S VOICE
That would be telling. We want information.

THE SILHOUETTE SHAKES A FIST.

P'S VOICE
You won't get it.

HIS SILHOUETTE RUNS AWAY. ROVER APPEARS, ALSO IN SILHOUETTE.

EXT. BEACH. DAY. LOC. (LIBRARY)

A2

P BEING HERDED BACK TO THE VILLAGE BY ROVER.

NO. 2'S VOICE

By hook or by crook . . .

INT. LIVING SPACE

A3

IN SILHOUETTE, ROVER AND P. NO. 2 IS REVEALED.

NO. 2

We will.

P AND ROVER IN COMBAT, P FALLS. ROVER FLOATS AWAY. P RISES.

P'S VOICE

Who are you ?

NO. 2'S VOICE

The new No. 2.

P'S VOICE

Who is No. 1 ?

A GENTLE LAUGHTER.

NO. 2'S VOICE

You are our No. 6.

P'S VOICE

I am not a number. I am a free man.

MOVE IN FAST BEYOND THE BLACK CHAIR TO THE SILHOUETTE HEAD OF P.

FREEZE FRAME

BRING IN OVER AN ECHOING, MOCKING LAUGHTER.

END OPENING TITLES

"THE GENERAL"

STANDARD OPENING.

FADE IN:

HIGH ESTABLISHING SHOT. DAY. (STOCK). 1

FROM HELICOPTER TO VILLAGE .

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE. DAY. 2

C.S. P LOOKING UP.

EXT. VILLAGE. DAY. (STOCK). 3

HIS P.O.V. HELICOPTER PASSING OVERHEAD.

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE. DAY. 4

C.S. P SMILES GRIMLY. HE LOOKS DOWN. PULL BACK REVEALING LOUDSPEAKER FOREGROUND. IT PLAYS "PALM COURT" MUSIC. THE CAFE FORECOURT IS SEEN BEYOND.

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE. DAY. 5

P IS ALONE TOYING WITH A COFFEE. ALL ABOUT HIM IS THE BUZZ OF HAPPY CONVERSATION. THE LAUGHTER OF RELAXED VILLAGERS. MANY OF THEM WEAR ROSETTES LIKE FOOTBALL FANS. THEY HAVE A PHOTOGRAPH CENTRE OF A MIDDLE-AGED MAN WITH A SENSITIVE FACE. BENEATH IS THE SLOGAN "UP THE PROFESSOR". P SUDDENLY HAS THE FEELING SOMEBODY IS WATCHING HIM AND LOOKS UP QUICKLY.

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE. DAY. 6

HIS P.O.V. AMONG A GROUP AT A NEARBY TABLE A GOOD-LOOKING YOUNG MAN (No.12) CATCHES P'S EYE. LOOKS QUICKLY AWAY AND CONTINUES TALKING TO HIS COMPANIONS. P'S EYES CONTINUE TO ROAM. EVERYBODY IS CHATTING AWAY.

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE. DAY. 7

P DOWNS HIS COFFEE, IS ABOUT TO ORDER ANOTHER.

P

Waiter !

THE MUSIC FROM THE LOUDSPEAKER STOPS ABRUPTLY AND IS REPLACED BY A TINKLING PEAL ON A XYLOPHONE. THERE IS IMMEDIATE HUSH IN THE CAFE.

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE. DAY. 8

THE SPEAKER FOREGROUND. TRACK PAST IT. THE VILLAGERS LISTEN - RAPT. THERE IS A SECOND PEAL THEN AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

8 CONTINUED

LOUDSPEAKER
(ANNOUNCER'S VOICE)

Attention, ladies and gentlemen,
Attention. This is an announcement
from the General's department.

ALL IS ATTENTIVE SILENCE .

Will all students taking the Three
Party History Course please return
to their dwellings immediately. The
Professor will be lecturing in
approximately thirty minutes. I
will repeat that. -

THE VILLAGERS GET UP AND BEGIN TO FILE OUT.

This is a special announcement.
from the General's department.
Repeat. From the General. Will
all students taking the Three Part
History Course return to their
dwellings immediately.

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE. DAY.

9

P. HE IS THOUGHTFUL.

LOUDSPEAKER
(ANNOUNCER'S VOICE);

The Professor will be giving his
lecture in thirty minutes.

AN ELDERLY WAITER MOVES PAST, CLEARING THE TABLES .

P

Waiter !

THE WAITER STOPS. TURNS. HE IS WEARING A ROSETTE .

WAITER

Sir ?

P

Another coffee, please.

WAITER

Sorry, sir. We're closing.

HE COLLECTS P'S CUP .

WAITER

(CONTINUING ANXIOUS)

You did hear the message, sir ?
About the Professor ?

9 CONTINUED

P
I'm not one of his students.

WAITER
One coffee. Two credit units if you please. Nobody's too old to learn, sir.

P HANDS HIM HIS CREDIT CARD. THE WAITER PUNCHES IT.

P
Who told you that ? The Professor ?

WAITER
No, sir. The General.

HE HANDS THE CARD BACK TO P.

WAITER
Best of luck with your exams, sir.

HE HURRIES OFF. P LOOKS AROUND. THE PLACE IS ALMOST EMPTY. PULL BACK REVEALING THE LOUDSPEAKER FOREGROUND. THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS REPEATED FINALLY AND MUSIC RESUMED. P RISES.

EXT. CAFE. DAY. 10

P LEAVING THE NOW DESERTED CAFE FORECOURT. STOPS ON A CORNER BY A POSTER PASTED ON THE WALL.

EXT. CAFE. DAY. 11

TWO SHOT POSTER AND P. IT READS - "OUR AIM - ONE HUNDRED PERCENT ENTRY. ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PASS" - THE GENERAL. AND UNDERNEATH, A PICTURE OF THE PROFESSOR WITH THE FOLLOWING QUOTE - "SPEEDLEARN. A THREE YEAR COURSE IN THREE MINUTES. IT CAN BE DONE. TRUST ME," - THE PROFESSOR.

VOICE OVER
You don't believe it ?

EXT. CAFE. DAY. 12

P TURNS SHARPLY AND WE INCLUDE NO.12. NOW HOLDING THREE SHOT. P, NO.12 AND THE POSTER.

NO.12
A university level degree in three minutes ?

P
It's improbable.

12 CONTINUED

No.12
But not impossible.

P
Nothing's impossible in this place.

No.12
You should enrol, No.6.. You'll find
the Professor an interesting man.

P
Really ?

NO.12
With an extraordinary range of
knowledge.

P
The only subject I'm interested in is
getting away from this place.

No.12
(MEANINGFUL)
Exactly.

P
Who are you ?

No.12
A cog in the machine.

P
Who's the General?

SUDDENLY THERE IS THE SHRILL WAIL OF A POLICE SIREN.
THEY LOOK OFF.

EXT. VILLAGE. DAY. (STOCK). 13

A SWIFT MONTAGE OF SHOTS. A) A BIG GIE TEARING FAST
THROUGH THE VILLAGE. B) A GROUP OF CYCLISTS
SIMILARLY. C) PEOPLE RUNNING. D) AN AMBULANCE
TEARING ACROSS THE BEACH. OVER CAN BE HEARD THE
SIREN INCREASING IN VOLUME AND INTENSITY.

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE. DAY. 14

C.S. P. HE LOOKS UP.

EXT. VILLAGE. DAY. (STOCK). 15

A HELICOPTER SWEEPS LOW AND FAST OVERHEAD.

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE. DAY. 16

RESUME NO.12 AND P.

16 CONTINUED

P
Who are they after ?

No.12
The Professor, I think.

P
Why ?

No.12
You know Professors. Absent-minded.

HE WINKS:

Best of luck with your exams.

HE IS GONE. FAST. P LOOKS AFTER HIM AND AT THE POSTER AGAIN. THE SIREN IS NOW AT FULL VOLUME. P TURNS.

EXT. VILLAGE. DAY. (STOCK). 17

A BUGGIE GOES BY FAST AND CLOSE. FROM IT CAN BE HEARD A CONTROL ORDER.

CONTROL
Proceeding to beach area. Zone
Three. Orange Alert. Repeat.
Proceeding to Beach Area. Zone
Three.

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE. DAY. 18

C.S. P. THOUGHTFUL. HE LOOKS DIRECTLY AT CAMERA AND MOVES FORWARD INTO LENS AND OUT OF FOCUS.

EXT. BEACH. DAY. LOC. 19

L.S. IN THE FAR DISTANCE A LONELY FIGURE BEING PURSUED BY A PACK OF VILLAGERS ON FOOT. P APPEARS LARGE FOREGROUND BACK TO CAMERA (DOUBLE).

EXT. SECTION OF ROCK FACE AND SAND. DAY. 20

M.S. P. AGAINST ROCK. HE REACTS TO THE CHASE. SCRAMBLES DOWN ON TO THE SAND AS IF TO FOLLOW, HE STOPS. LOOKS DOWN. REACTS.

EXT. SECTION OF ROCK FACE AND SAND. DAY. 21

HIS P.O.V. THE SAND PITTED WITH THE MARKS OF MANY RUNNING FEET AND ALMOST COVERED - A SMALL TRANSISTOR TAPE RECORDER. P BENDS INTO SHOT, PICKS IT UP. INSPECTS IT. SWITCHES IT ON.

21 CONTINUED

TAPE RECORDER
(PROFESSOR'S VOICE)

Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow villagers,
students. This is the Professor speaking.
I have an urgent message for you

P HEARS THE SOUND OF A BUGGIE APPROACHING. HE LOOKS OFF.

EXT. VILLAGE. DAY. (STOCK). 22

BUGGIE WITH TWO MEN ABOARD APPEARING FAST ACROSS THE SAND.

EXT. SECTION OF ROCK FACE. AND SAND. DAY. 23

RESUME P. HE SWITCHES OFF THE TAPE RECORDER. HASTILY POCKETS IT. THEN THINKING BETTER OF IT BURIES IT SWIFTLY IN THE SAND. COVERS IT. ASSUMES A NONCHALANT POSE AGAINST THE ROCK FACE. THE BUGGIE SCREECHES TO A HALT BESIDE HIM, THE TWO MEN GET OUT AND APPROACH.

1st MAN

Are you a student ?

P

Who isn't. Are you prefects ?

1st MAN

What are you doing here ?

P

I'm playing truant.

HE LOOKS OFF.

EXT. BEACH. DAY. LOC. 24

L.S. IN THE DISTANCE THE CHASE IS ALMOST OVER. THE PROFESSOR (DOUBLE) STUMBLES AND FALLS. THE VILLAGERS ARE UPON HIM.

EXT. SECTION OF ROCK FACE AND SAND. DAY. 25

MEDIUM C.S. PROFESSOR FALLING. PANTING AND TERRIFIED. MANY HANDS ENTER FRAME AND YANK HIM OUT.

EXT. SECTION OF ROCK FACE AND SAND. DAY. 26

RESUME P AND TWO MEN.

1st MAN

Come on. We'll give you a lift.

P
Where to ?

1ST MAN
Home. Hundred percent entry.
Hundred percent pass. You know
what the General said.

P
Who's the General ?

1ST MAN
Let's go. You don't want to start
the term with a black mark.

P SMILES ENIGMATICALLY AND MOVES TOWARDS THE
BUGGIE.

P
Let's go.

THE TWO MEN ENTER THE BUGGIE. P STANDS FOR A
MOMENT BESIDE IT AND LOOKS BACK.

EXT. BEACH. DAY. LOC. 27

HIS P. O. V. IN THE DISTANCE THE PROFESSOR IS BEING
MANHANDLED TOWARDS THE VILLAGE.

EXT. SECTION OF ROCK FACE AND SAND. DAY. 28

THE BUGGIE. P STANDING BESIDE IT. THE TWO MEN
WAITING IMPATIENTLY. WE HEAR THE SOUND OF A
HELICOPTER AND P LOOKS UP.

EXT. VILLAGE. DAY. (STOCK) 29

THE HELICOPTER TURNING SHARPLY BACK TOWARDS THE
VILLAGE.

EXT. SECTION OF ROCK FACE AND SAND. DAY. 30

RESUME P AND THE TWO MEN.

1ST MAN
Get in, mister.

P CLIMBS IN.

P
Do you think he'll make it ?

30 CONTINUED

1st MAN

Who's that ?

P

The Professor. He's due to lecture
in a few minutes.

1st MAN

He'll make it.

HE STARTS UP THE BUGGIE.

1st MAN

Great man the Professor. Treats
lectures as though his life depended
on it.

THE BUGGIE DRIVES OFF.

EXT. VILLAGE. DAY. (STOCK). 31

BUGGIE DRIVING FAST THROUGH VILLAGE.

EXT. DOOR SECTION OUTSIDE P'S HOUSE. DAY. 32

BUGGIE DRAWS UP WITH A SQUEAL. P GETS OUT.
WAVES IRONICALLY. GOES INTO HIS HOUSE. BUGGIE
DRIVES OFF.

INT. P'S HOUSE. DAY. 33

P ENTERING. WE HEAR A VOICE O.S. P MOVES
FORWARD. BRING CAMERA TO INCLUDE T.V. SET.

TV. SET. 34

ON SCREEN - AN ELEGANT PERIOD DESK. SEATED
BEHIND IT A SHARP, HOT-SELL ANNOUNCER.

ANNOUNCER

.... a significance far beyond the
confines of this community. To quote
our friend, the Professor, Speedlearn
is nothing less than a revolution in
Educational Technique.

INT. P'S HOUSE. DAY. 35

P SMILES. MOVES TO KITCHEN AWAY FROM TV SET.
THE ANNOUNCER'S VOICE CONTINUES OVER.

35. CONTINUED

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE O.S.

The latest figure shows a 72.4 percent Enrolment on the Three Years in Three Minutes History Course. Many thanks and congratulations.

THERE IS A TRUMPET FANFARE. P POURS HIMSELF A TOMATO JUICE.

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE O.S.

And I think we can promise the General that we will improve even on that figure. And here now is someone who needs no introduction.

TRUMPET FANFARE. P MOVES BACK TO THE TV SET.

TV SET.

36

ON SCREEN THE ANNOUNCER HAS BEEN JOINED BY AN ELEGANT ATTRACTIVE WOMAN OF ABOUT 35.

WIFE

Hello. Nice to be seeing you all again. My husband, the Professor, has asked me personally to convey his apologies for detaining you for a few moments. As you know the huge success of this Course has put an added strain upon him and he is just now completing the notes for the second lecture, and should be with us shortly. Meanwhile - poor substitute though I am for my husband - to bring you up to date on our future programme - the extra Curricular Seminar for Post Graduate and Advanced students will be held ...

A TELEPHONE RINGS ON THE DESK IN FRONT OF THE ANNOUNCER.

ANNOUNCER

Excuse me !

HE PICKS IT UP. SMILES BROADLY, SAYS:

ANNOUNCER

Thank you.

HE REPLACES THE TELEPHONE.

Thank you, Madam Professor. Your husband is now in full readiness for the lecture.

36 CONTINUED

HE SPEAKS INTO CAMERA ON THE TV SCREEN. TRACK IN TO A CLOSE UP EXCLUDING THE WIFE.

ANNOUNCER

We take you over immediately to the Professor in his study. Best of luck with your exams.

INT. P'S HOUSE. DAY.

37

P SIPs THOUGHTFULLY AT HIS DRINK AND SITS IN A CHAIR WHERE HE CAN HAVE A GOOD VIEW OF THE SCREEN.

TV SET.

38

CAMERA CUTS TO THE PROFESSOR'S STUDY. BEHIND A DESK THE PROFESSOR. HE READS FROM A CLIPBOARD OF NOTES. HE IS GENTLE FACED AND BENIGN.

PROFESSOR

My apologies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to say a brief word about Speedlearn. It is quite simply the most important, most far reaching, most beneficial development in mass education since the beginning of time. A marriage of Science and Mass Communication which results in the abolition of years of tedious and wasteful schooling.

INT. P'S HOUSE. DAY.

39

P IS LISTENING INTENTLY.

TV SET.

40

THE PROFESSOR CONTINUING.

PROFESSOR

A three years course indelibly impressed on the mind in three minutes ! Impossible ! That's what I said until I was introduced to the General. And then I realised that not only was it possible but that Education was ready to take a giant leap forward from the Dark Ages into the Twentieth and Twenty First Centuries. Ladies and Gentlemen, I have been a teacher for thirty years. Speedlearn has made me as obsolete as the Dodo.

HE SMILES GENTLY.

PROFESSOR
(CONTINUING)

And frankly, I'm very, very glad.

40 CONTINUED

HE WAVES.

PROFESSOR (cont'd)

Best of luck with your exams.

TRUMPET FANFARE AND A PEAL OF BELLS. CUT BACK TO THE ANNOUNCER.

ANNOUNCER

Thank you, Professor. If you're happy so are we and we're going to prove it.

TRUMPET FANFARE.

ANNOUNCER

The subject of tonight's lecture is 'EUROPE SINCE NAPOLEON'. A hard, complicated, six months study. Ladies and Gentlemen, relax, watch the screen. We'll cover it in fifteen seconds flat.

INT. P'S HOUSE. DAY.

41

P WATCHING THE SCREEN INTENTLY. THE SCREEN GOES BLANK. THE TRUMPET FANFARE IS REPEATED. THE CHIMING BELLS.

TV SET.

42

A BRIGHT DOT APPEARS CENTRE SCREEN TRAVELLING FAST TOWARDS CAMERA AND EXPLODES INTO A CLOSE-UP OF THE PROFESSOR'S FACE. (A STILL PHOTO). THE FANFARE AND THE CHIMES SUBSIDE TO A GENTLE BACKGROUND. CAMERA MOVES SLOWLY IN TO THE PROFESSOR'S FACE. THEN HIS EYES. THEN ONE EYE. THEN MOVES BACK FAST. THE STILL PHOTOGRAPH MOVES FAST AWAY ALSO BACK TO THE EXPLOSION OF THE BRIGHT DOT, LARGE AT FIRST, THEN DIMINISHING TO A PIN POINT. FINALLY LEAVING THE SCREEN BLANK.

INT. P'S ROOM. DAY.

43

P SITS AS THOUGH HYPNOTISED FOR A SECOND OR TWO. HE LOOKS DOWN. THE GLASS HAS DROPPED FROM HIS FINGERS SPILLING LIQUID ON THE CARPET. WE HEAR THE ANNOUNCER'S VOICE. P LOOKS UP AGAIN.

TV SET.

44

THE ANNOUNCER.

44 CONTINUED

ANNOUNCER

Fifteen seconds flat. Students wishing supplementary information please address their queries to the General at Speedlearn, the Town Hall. I will repeat that. Address your queries to the General, Speedlearn, the Town Hall. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, and congratulations.

THE SET GOES BLANK.

INT. P'S HOUSE. DAY.

45

NORMAL BACKGROUND MUSIC PERVADES THE HOUSE. P BENDS DOWN. TAKES OUT HIS HANDKERCHIEF. STARTS TO MOP UP THE SPILLED LIQUID.

VOICE O.S.

Mopping up operations, No. 6 ?

P LOOKS UP. SEES NO.2 AND ANOTHER MAN STANDING IN THE OPEN DOORWAY. THE MAN CARRIES AN INSTRUMENT WHICH LOOKS LIKE A PORTABLE DETECTOR. NO.2 NODS TO THE DETECTOR MAN WHO CROSSES TO P AND SWIFTLY RUNS THE DETECTOR OVER HIM. P LOOKS AT HIM, QUITE COMPOSED.

P

Lost something ?

DETECTOR MAN FINDS NOTHING. BEGINS SYSTEMATICALLY TO GO OVER THE HOUSE WITH HIS APPARATUS.

No.2

Not me. The Professor. I believe you took a stroll on the beach.

P

(INNOCENTLY)

What beach? Professor. I believe you took a stroll on the beach.

No.2

Poor old Professor. Losing his recorder with all his notes on it. You didn't see it, of course ?

P

You don't mean a thing about so big ?

HE MEASURES WITH HIS HANDS.

No.2

The Professor's rather worried about it.

P

You don't mean the one in my other suit ?

45 CONTINUED

NO.2 NODS TO THE DETECTOR MAN WHO OPENS THE WARDROBE AND RUNS HIS MACHINE OVER THE POCKETS. NO.2 AND P WATCH HIM. NO.2 KEEPS HIS TEMPER.

NO.2

Very funny. Tell me, are you still as keen to leave us as ever ?

P

Any more questions ?

NO.2

I was just thinking. A compromise could be arranged in exchange for the recorder.

P

I wonder who has it ?

NO.2

Indeed.

THE DETECTOR MAN COMES BACK INTO THE ROOM. SHAKES HIS HEAD. NO.2 INDICATES THAT HE SHOULD GO AND HE DOES. NO.2 LOOKS ROUND THE ROOM, THINKING. WHIPS ROUND TO P.

NO.2

Enjoy the lecture ?

P

What lecture ?

NO.2

It's a great experiment, No.6. You can learn a lot.

P

History's not my subject.

NO.2

Isn't it ? When was the Treaty of Adrianople ?

P

(BY ROTE)

September, 1829.

NO.2

What happened in 1830 ?

P

Greek independence was assured and guaranteed.

NO.2

By whom ?

45 CONTINUED

P

Russia. France. Britain.

NO.2

Who was Bismark's ally against the Danish Prince Christian of Glucksburg ?

P

Frederick of Austenburg. He, like the German Bundestag had never accepted the Treaty of London in 1852. Bismark wanted war, but he wanted it to be waged by Prussia and Austria in alliance, not by the whole German Bund. He saw that a successful war against the Danes in 1864 would serve the same purpose as Cavour of Italy's entrance into the Crimean War

NO.2

(TAKING OVER. TOGETHER WITH P)

Namely, it would indicate future leadership and would at the same time raise Prussia's prestige.

THEY STOP TOGETHER. P IS FRANKLY STAGGERED. NO.2 IS MILDLY AMUSED.

NO.2

Very good. Ten out of ten. Don't underestimate yourself, No.6. And don't underestimate me.

HE LAUGHS AND GOES. THE DOOR CLOSSES BEHIND HIM. NO.2'S LAUGHTER CAN BE HEARD FADING INTO THE DISTANCE.

INT. P'S HOUSE. DAY.

46

P STANDS IN SHOCK. HE RUBS A HAND ACROSS HIS EYES. LOOKS AT THE TV SET. LOOKS AT THE TELEPHONE. MOVES TO IT. PICKS IT UP. A FEMALE VOICE ANSWERS.

GIRL (FILTER)

Can I help you ?

P

When was the Treaty of Adrianople ?

GIRL (FILTER)

September, 1829.

P

What happened in 1830 ?

GIRL (FILTER)

Greek independence was guaranteed by Russia, France and Britain.

46 CONTINUED

P

Who was Frederick of Austenburg ?

GIRL (FILTER)

Bismark's ally against the Danes under Prince Christian of Glucksburg. Frederick like the Bundestag had never adopted the Treaty of London in 1852. He, like Bismark

P HANGS UP. TRACK INTO A B.C.U. OF HIS PUZZLED FACE.

INT. P'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

47

OPEN ON LOUDSPEAKER.

LOUDSPEAKER

Curfew time. Fifteen minutes.
Curfew time. Fifteen minutes.

LULLABY MUSIC TAKES OVER. PULL BACK TO REVEAL P PACING THE ROOM IN AGITATION. HE STOPS. COMES TO A DECISION. MOVES TO THE DOOR AND GOES OUT.

EXT. SECTION OF ROCK FACE AND SAND. NIGHT. 48

DESERTED. LIT BY THE MOON. PAN SLOWLY ACROSS THE SAND. TOWARDS THE ROCKS. TO A CLUMP OF BUSHES. TRACK IN. THE LEAVES PART - IN B.C.U. P'S FACE. - HE HAS BEEN RUNNING. HE LISTENS INTENTLY. NOTHING. HE MOVES FORWARD CAUTIOUSLY. DIGS IN THE SAND WHERE HE HID THE TAPE RECORDER. NOTHING. HE STOPS PUZZLED. TRIES THE ADJACENT AREA. NOTHING. HE FREEZES. A RUSTLE IN THE BUSHES.

EXT. SECTION OF ROCKFACE AND SAND. NIGHT. 49

P PRETENDING HE HASN'T NOTICED BEGINS TO MAKE HIS WAY BACK. DIVES SUDDENLY INTO THE BUSHES. LANDS HARD ON SOMEONE HIDING THERE. THERE IS A SHORT, SHARP EXCHANGE ENDING WITH P HAVING HIS MAN BY THE THROAT -- IT IS NO.12

P

Anything I can do for you ?

NO.12

You want to get out of this place,
don't you ?

P

So ?

NO.12

Here's your passport.

49 CONTINUED

HE TAKES THE TAPE RECORDER FROM HIS POCKET AND OFFERS IT TO P WHO REGARDS HIM WITH SUSPICION.

NO.12

No.2 offered you a deal, didn't he ?

HE SMILES IRONICALLY.

Don't you trust him ?

P

I don't trust No.2. I don't trust you and I don't trust your tame Professor.

NO.12

(EARNEST)

Who do you trust, No. 6 ?

P

I trust me.

NO.12

(WITH A HARD SMILE)

Welcome to the organisation.

HE BEGINS TO MOVE AWAY. HE SUDDENLY TURNS.

NO.12

What was the Treaty of Adrianople ?

P

(AUTOMATIC RESPONSE)

September, 1829.

NO.12

Wrong. I said what, not when. You need some special coaching.

HE GOES. P LOOKS AT THE RECORDER IN HIS HAND. PONDERES. SWITCHES IT ON.

TAPE RECORDER

(PROFESSOR'S VOICE)

Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow villagers, students. This is the Professor speaking. I have an urgent message for you. You are being tricked. Speedlearn is an abomination. It is slavery. If you wish to be free, there is only one way. Destroy the General ! Learn this and learn it well. The General must be destroyed.

THE MACHINE GOES INTO A CRACKLING SILENCE. P SWITCHES IT OFF. HE SITS FOR A MOMENT ON THE GRASSY KNOLL. CAMERA TRACKS IN TO HIS EYES. HE HAS MADE AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE. DAY.

50

IT IS A BRIGHT SUNNY DAY AND THE VILLAGERS STROLL AROUND HAPPILY. WEARING THEIR STUDENT ROSETTES. AN OLD MAN PASSES THE ELDERLY WAITER WHO IS CLEARING A TABLE.

OLD MAN

Morning. Nice day again.

WAITER

Be nice again tomorrow.

OLD MAN

What happened in 1878 ?

WAITER

1878 ? Eastern Rumania was declared an autonomous province of the Turkish Empire.

OLD MAN

Word perfect. Best of luck with the exams.

HE WALKS ON.

INT. BOARDROOM. DAY.

51

NO.2 IS ON THE TELEPHONE TO A "SUPERIOR". HE IS ANXIOUS AND DEFENSIVE. NO.12 IS ON ANOTHER TELEPHONE NEARBY SPEAKING SOTTO VOCE. THE BUTLER IS SERVING COFFEE.

NO.2

I assure you, sir, there is no problem. We're getting a hundred per cent co-operation from everyone. I'm anticipating a truly exciting result Who, sir ? The Professor ? Just a mild aberration. I assure you. A couple of days rest and adjustment and he'll be doing everything we need Yes I will, sir. I'll keep in closest touch. Thank you, sir.

HE HANGS UP. MOPS HIS BROW.

51 CONTINUED

NO.2
(TO NO.12)

Probably the most important human experiment we've ever had to conduct and it's treated like a military exercise.

NO.12 REPLACES HIS TELEPHONE.

NO.2
Anything on the Professor yet ?

NO.12
He is responding, sir. The doctor will be in to see you personally.

NO.2
Get over there and tell him to hurry things up.

NO.12
Yes, sir.

NO.2
No. No. I'll deal with it myself.

NO.12
Yes, sir. Frankly sir, I think we're going the wrong way about it with him.

NO.2
You mean the Professor ?

NO.12
We indulge his idiocies far too much. He's a crank and he should be treated as such.

NO.2
You think so ?

NO.12
I know he's the cornerstone of Speedlearn but

NO.2
Yes ?

NO.12
I just can't help feeling that he's a trouble maker. And he attracts trouble makers.

NO.2
(HARD)
How long have you been with us, No.12 ?

51 CONTINUED

NO.12

Me, sir ? Quite a long time, sir.

NO.2

But obviously not long enough.

NO.12

Yes, sir. Sorry, sir.

HE IS ABOUT TO GO.

NO.2

No.12 ?

HE CHECKS.

Your opinions about the Professor
should be carefully guarded.

NO.12 LOOKS AT HIM. LETTING THE POINT SINK IN.

INT. CONTROL ROOM. DAY.

52.

ON SCREEN CAN BE SEEN A HELICOPTER SURVEILLANCE
VIEW OF THE ENTIRE VILLAGE (STOCK). NO.2 ENTERS.
SPEAKS SHARPLY TO THE OPERATOR.

NO.2

Section 32. Sound and Vision.

THE OPERATOR PRESSES A SWITCH ON SEE-SAW CONTROL.
THE VIEW ON THE SCREEN FLIPS TO THE INTERIOR OF
THE PROFESSOR'S "STUDY". THE PROFESSOR IS TYPING
AWAY AT HIS DESK WITH INTENSE CONCENTRATION. HIS
DESK IS LITTERED WITH OPEN LEARNED TOMES TO WHICH
HE REFERS FROM TIME TO TIME. A DOCTOR AND NURSE
ENTER.

INT. STUDY. DAY.

53

THE PROFESSOR DOESN'T REACT TO THE ARRIVAL OF
THE DOCTOR AND THE NURSE.

DOCTOR

How's it going, Professor ?

PROFESSOR

Please, I'm busy.

HE TYPES.

DOCTOR

(BLAND)

Breaking the back of the next
lecture ?

53 CONTINUED

PROFESSOR
Please don't distract me !

THE DOCTOR IGNORES HIM. TAKES UP A COUPLE OF SHEETS. SCANS THEM SWIFTLY.

DOCTOR
Very good. Very good indeed.

PROFESSOR
I'm glad you approve.

DOCTOR
You mustn't overdo it.

TO THE SECOND NURSE.

All right, nurse.

SHE TAKES THE PROFESSOR'S ARM. HE ATTEMPTS WEAKLY TO RESIST.

PROFESSOR
I have to finish these notes ...

DOCTOR
(HELPING NURSE)
Of course you do. And after a little rest and some mild therapy you'll be able to work twice as fast.

HE LIFTS THE PROFESSOR TO HIS FEET AND WAITS AS THE NURSE LEADS HIM GENTLY AWAY. THE PROFESSOR LOOKS BACK. IS ABOUT TO MAKE A PROTEST THEN PERMITS THE NURSE TO HELP HIM OUT. THE DOCTOR PICKS UP THE REMAINING SHEETS THE PROFESSOR HAS TYPED. LOOKS AT THE ONE STILL IN THE MACHINE THEN RIPS IT OUT. HE MOVES BEHIND THE PROFESSOR'S DESK AND FEEDS THE PAPERS INTO WHAT LOOKS LIKE A HIGHLY ADVANCED DUPLICATING MACHINE. LIGHTS WINK ON AND OFF. AN ELECTRONIC BUZZ. A SMALL METALLIC SHEET IS EJECTED FROM THE MACHINE. THE DOCTOR PICKS IT UP AND REGARDS IT WITH SATISFACTION.

CUT TO:

INT. CONTROL ROOM. DAY.

54

RESUME OPERATOR AND NO.2.

OPERATOR
Track the Professor, sir ?

NO.2
No; the Seminar.

OPERATOR
Yes, sir.

54 CONTINUED

HE BANGS A COUPLE OF SWITCHES. A NEW SCENE APPEARS ON THE SCREEN. THE SEMINAR IS ON THE IMPOSING TERRACE AND GARDEN OF A HANDSOME HOUSE. A FOUNTAIN PLAYS. ON THE TERRACE IS THE PROFESSOR'S WIFE. AT ALL TIMES SHE IS ELEGANTLY DRESSED (NOT IN THE VILLAGE CLOTHES). SHE IS SEATED AT A DESK. APPEARS TO BE SKETCHING. AS THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERA PANS ROUND IT DISCOVERS VARIOUS "STUDENTS". SOME IN STUDY AT LECTERNS. SOME WALKING ABOUT. SOME SEATED IN CANVAS CHAIRS. A MAN AT A LECTERN. PUTS UP A HAND. THE PROFESSOR'S WIFE CROSSES TO HIM. CAMERA IGNORES THEM AND CONTINUES TO PAN. IT DISCOVERS A MAN WHO APPEARS TO BE FAST ASLEEP. HEAD IN ARMS. NEXT TO HIM WRITING IN A BOOK - NO.6.

OPERATOR

It's No. 6, sir.

NO.2

Really ? How very odd.

HE IS NOT SURPRISED.

MIX TO:EXT. TERRACE AND GARDEN. DAY.

55

N.B. ALTHOUGH DAY THE CURTAINS OF ALL THE WINDOWS OF THE HOUSE ARE FULLY CLOSED. P IS WORKING IN HIS NOTEBOOK. HE RAISES A HAND. THE WIFE CROSSES TO HIM.

WIFE

Can I help you ?

P

I don't know. Can you ?

WIFE

Finding things a bit strange ?

P

Worse. I'm not finding things at all.

WIFE

What exactly are you looking for ?

P

What's anyone looking for ?

WIFE

Well ? Let's see. That gentleman over there. (INDICATING) What do you think he's doing ?

(CUT TO:)

55 CONTINUED

P LOOKS. A MAN IS SERIOUSLY AND CONSCIENTIOUSLY TEARING UP PAGES FROM A BOOK.

P (O.S.)
He's tearing a book.

WIFE (O.S.)
He's creating a fresh concept.

THE WIFE TALKS TO P. SHE IS EARNEST. SCHOOL TEACHER-LIKE.

WIFE
"Construction arises from the ashes of destruction". And that woman.

P.O.V. A WOMAN. SHE IS STANDING ON HER HEAD.

P
Standing on her head ?

RESUME P AND WIFE.

WIFE
She's developing new perspective.

P LOOKS AT HER. TONGUE IN CHEEK.

P
And him ?

THE MAN BEHIND THEM IS SOUND ASLEEP.

WIFE
He's asleep. One learns only when the mind wants to. Not at set times.

P
Is that what your husband believes ?

WIFE
It's self-evident, surely ? What's your subject ?

P
What's yours ?

WIFE
Mine ? Modern art.

P
Really ? What do you think of this ?

55 CONTINUED

HE TURNS BACK THE COVER OF HIS NOTEBOOK TO DISCLOSE A COLOURED CRAYON SKETCH OF HER WEARING THE UNIFORM OF A GENERAL. SHE REACTS AND THEN RECOVERS.

WIFE

Not altogether flattering. Art's your subject too ?

P

No. Military history. You know. Generals.

WE PAN TO INCLUDE THE SLEEPING MAN. HE OPENS ONE EYE. LISTENS.

WIFE (O.S.).

I'm afraid you may be wasting your time.

WE CUT TO A TWO SHOT.

P

Oh ? I heard that the Professor was something of an authority.

WIFE

He may be. I'm not.

SHE TEARS THE SKETCH OUT. CRUMPLES IT UP.

P

(SMILE)

Creation from destruction ?

SHE LOOKS AT HIM. WALKS BACK TO HER PLACE. P WAITS. LOOKS ROUND. THEN MAKING A DECISION FOLDS HIS PAD AND STROLLS OFF. THE CAMERA HOLDS ON THE SLEEPER. HE WINDS HIS WRISTWATCH. SPEAKS QUIETLY INTO IT.

SLEEPER

Hello ? Control ? No.23 reporting ...

CUT TO:

EXT. TERRACE AND GARDEN. DAY.

56

P AT THE END OF THE GARDEN FARTHEST FROM THE HOUSE. HE PAUSES BY A BANK OF BOX HEDGES. LOOKS BACK:

HIS P.O.V.

57

THE SEMINAR. EVERYONE ABSORBED. THE HOUSE BEYOND.

RESUME P

58

HE SIDLES BEHIND A BOX HEDGE . NO ONE ABOUT . BEGINS TO EDGE CAUTIOUSLY TOWARDS THE HOUSE . KEEPING THE HEDGES BETWEEN HIM AND THE "STUDENTS" .

INT. CONTROL ROOM. DAY.

59

OPERATOR AND NO.2. SEMINAR ON SCREEN.

OPERATOR

No.6 out of vision, sir.

NO.2

Scan !

ON SCREEN THE CAMERA WHIP PANS TWICE ACROSS THE TERRACE AND GARDEN . NO SIGN OF NO.6.

OPERATOR

Shall I alert the area, sir ?

NO.2 SMILES GRIMLY.

NO.2

Not necessary. Be seeing you.

HE EXITS.

INT. WINDOW SECTION. DAY.

60

THE CURTAINS ARE CLOSED . THE LIGHTING FAINT . A WINDOW CAN BE HEARD CAUTIOUSLY BEING OPENED . THE CURTAINS MOVE GENTLY . THEY PART . CAMERA TRACKS IN TO C.U. OF P . HE LISTENS AND MOVES DIRECTLY INTO CAMERA .

CUT TO:

A DOOR HANDLE .

61

DIMLY LIT . IT TURNS . A DOOR OPENS . A HAND CLOSES IT . FOLLOW THE HAND MOVING CAUTIOUSLY TO A LIGHT SWITCH .

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP -- P .

62

HIS FACE SUDDENLY BRIGHTLY LIT OUT OF DARKNESS . HE EYES HIS SURROUNDINGS .

INT. STUDIO. DAY.

63

P'S P.O.V. CAMER A PANS ROUND A MAGNIFICENT ROOM . THE CURTAINS ARE CLOSED . TWO WALLS HUNG WITH PAINTINGS . ALL ARE OF MILITARY MEN , HORSED OR

63 CONTINUED

STANDING. ANOTHER WALL BOASTS A FINE ARRAY OF BOOKS. ONE SECTION OF THE ROOM IS CLUTTERED WITH ARTISTS' IMPEDIMENTA AND OBJECTS TROUVE. AMONG OTHER THINGS: A NUMBER OF CARVED AFRICAN WALKING STICKS AND A NUMBER OF LIFE-SIZED FIGURES COVERED WITH DUST SHEETS. P CROSSES TO A DOOR TO HIS LEFT. HE LISTENS. HE CAN HEAR THE INDISTINGUISHABLE SOUND OF MEN'S VOICES. HE MOVES SOFTLY TO THE CURTAINS. CAUTIOUSLY PARTS THEM. LOOKS OUT.

EXT. TERRACE. AND GARDEN. DAY.

64.

P'S P.O.V. THE "STUDENTS" DEEP IN CONCENTRATION. NO SIGN OF THE "WIFE".

WIFE (O.S.)

This is a private room.

INT. STUDIO. DAY.

65

P TURNS FROM THE WINDOW. SEES THE WIFE STANDING IN THE DOORWAY HE ENTERED BY.

P

Interesting view from here.

WIFE

Who are you ? A spy ?

P LOOKS AT HER STEADILY FOR A MOMENT. WALKS TO THE BOOKSHELVES. THUMBS ONE.

P

Have you been here long ?

WIFE

I don't have to answer your questions. Kindly leave.

P

The whole house is most elegant. Pictures. Books. Beautiful gardens.

WIFE

My husband and I have certain privileges.

P

As prisoners ? Or as warders ?

WIFE

We came here voluntarily. We have everything we need. We're perfectly happy.

P

Doing what ?

65 CONTINUED

WIFE

My husband is a teacher. He teaches.

P

And you're the artist.

WIFE

I'm asking you for the last time

P WHIPS OFF THE DUST COVER FROM ONE OF THE FIGURES. IT IS A WAX WORK REPLICA OF ONE OF THE VILLAGERS.

P

Studies from life ?

WIFE

Rough exercises.

P PULLS ANOTHER DUST SHEET OFF TO REVEAL A SECOND VILLAGER.

P

You've quite an unusual talent.

P PULLS A THIRD DUST COVER OFF. THEN ANOTHER.

WIFE

What are you looking for ?

P

(UNCOVERING MORE FIGURES)

With all those special privileges,
I'm hoping you have one study of

THERE IS ONE LAST FIGURE COVERED.

Let's say, the General.

HE WHIPS OFF THE COVER TO REVEAL A WAX DUMMY OF HIMSELF. FACE TO FACE WITH A WAX DUMMY OF NO. 2.

NO. 2 (O.S.)

That's really not a bad likeness,
is it ?

CUT TO:

NO. 2

66

HE STANDS IN THE DOORWAY OF THE ROOM FROM WHICH EARLIER P HEARD VOICES. WE CAN SEE THAT IT IS A BEDROOM. THE PROFESSOR LIES PRONE ON THE BED. THE DOCTOR IS GIVING HIM AN INJECTION. THEN COVERS HIM UP.

NO. 2

Are you playing truant ?

66 CONTINUED

P

Doing some homework.

HE WALKS AROUND. CASUALLY PICKS UP ONE OF THE AFRICAN WALKING STICKS.

WIFE

I didn't ask him here. I found him ...

NO.2

You don't have to explain, my dear. No.6 and I are old friends. I can recommend him as a thoroughly zealous student. (BEAT) With a tendency to overdo it.

P BRANDISHING STICK LIKE A CUDGEL.

P

How's the Professor? Co-operating?

THE DOCTOR APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY.

DOCTOR

I've given him some sedation.

P

Has he been overdoing it too?

NO.2

Probably a bit excited.

HE SPEAKS TO THE WIFE.

You know your husband, my dear. This Speedlearn. He's as enthusiastic as a child.

P CROSSES. LOOKS.

P

And now he's sleeping like a babe. Lucky man.

HE MOVES TO GO INTO THE BEDROOM! THE DOCTOR ATTEMPTS TO RESTRAIN HIM.

DOCTOR

He's not to be disturbed.

P

I wouldn't dream of it.

P SHOULDERS PAST THE DOCTOR. GOES INTO:

INT. BEDROOM. DAY.

67

P MOVES TO THE BED. THE WIFE RUNS IN, TRIES TO IMPEDE HIM.

WIFE

Get out ! (TO NO.2) Stop him !

P LOOKS AT HER VERY BRIEFLY THEN BRINGS HIS STICK DOWN HEAVILY ON THE PROFESSOR'S SKULL. SHE SCREAMS IN TERROR AS IT SHATTERS. IT IS OF COURSE A WAX EFFIGY. P PICKS UP ONE OF THE PIECES.

P

You ought to look after him, ma'am. He's gone to pieces.;

HE THROWS THE PIECE DOWN AND MAKES HIS WAY TO THE STUDIO.

INT. STUDIO. DAY.

68

NO.2

You are an odd chap ! I'm afraid you have the wrong end of the stick.

P

Not me, The doctor has.

HE THROWS THE STICK TO THE DOCTOR AS HE PASSES. THE LATTER CATCHES IT. P GOES ON TOWARDS THE DOOR.

NO.2

Just a minute !

P CHECKS. TURNS.

The offer I made you about the Professor's notes. It's cancelled.

P

Really ?

NO.2

He's changed his mind. He doesn't need them now.

P CHECKS FOR A SECOND. THEN FISHING IN HIS POCKET TAKES OUT THE TAPE RECORDER. . THROWS IT AT NO.2.

P

Nor do I. Best of luck with the exams. Why don't you open the curtains and let some light in. You've got nothing to hide, have you ?

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO. DAY.

69

NO.2 IS STILL UNRUFFLED.

DOCTOR

I'd better warn control,

NO.2 TURNS TO HIM.

NO.2

Don't warn anybody.

DOCTOR

But

NO.2

(FIRM)

You do your job. I'll do mine.

THE WIFE ENTERS WITH WAX FRAGMENTS OF THE PROFESSOR'S "HEAD".

NO.2

(GALLANTLY)

I'm afraid he's made a bit of a mess of your masterpiece, my dear.

WIFE

What does he want ?

NO.2

What all of us want ultimately.
To escape.

WIFE

He persists about the General.

NO.2

I shouldn't worry too much, my dear.
I have an obsession about him myself.

HE SMILES.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE. NIGHT.

70

CAMERA CLOSE ON A HOLLOWED OUT HALLOWEEN TYPE LANTERN. PULL BACK. THE CAFE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY TAKEN OVER BY A GROUP OF THE MORE ARDENT "STUDENTS". SOME OF THEM CARRY BANNERS. SOME CARRY STICKS WITH HANGING LANTERNS ATOP. A FAIR PROPORTION ARE LONG HAIRD AND BEARDED. ONE WEARS A SANDWICH BOARD AND BANNERS BEAR SUCH LEGENDS AS
1) "SPEEDLEARN - IT'S MORE THAN POSSIBLE - IT WORKS".
2) "NO MORE SCHOOLS - THE GENERAL".
3) "IT CAN BE DONE - TRUST ME" (PHOTO OF THE PROFESSOR).
4) "UNIVERSITY FOR ALL - IN THREE MINUTES".
ETC. ETC.

70 CONTINUED

THERE IS GREAT HILARITY. WALKING THROUGH THE GATHERING IS THE ANNOUNCER SEEN EARLIER. HE CARRIES A RADIO TRANSMITTER AND MICROPHONE.

ANNOUNCER
(INTO MIKE)

.... fantastic response - far exceeding expectations. It seems that everybody - and I mean everybody is falling over themselves to enjoy the fruits and benefits of Speedlearn. And who wouldn't ! A three-year course in three minutes !

HE MOVES ABOUT STOPPING HERE AND THERE TO ASK A QUESTION OF A VILLAGER. HE ALWAYS GETS THE CORRECT ANSWER. NO.12 SITS THOUGHTFULLY AT A TABLE. ALONE. CAMERA PULLS BACK WITH THE ANNOUNCER AS HE MOVES INTO THE FORECOURT. SUDDENLY HE LOOKS PAST CAMERA.

ANNOUNCER

Ah, No.6. What was the date of the Boer War ?

THE ANNOUNCER MOVES FORWARD TO INCLUDE P STANDING FOREGROUND. HE ANSWERS BUT HIS EYES ARE ON NO.12.

P

1899 to 1902.

ANNOUNCER

And in 1910 ?

NO.12 GIVES P A SIGNIFICANT LOOK AND MOVES AWAY FROM THE CAFE OUT OF SHOT. P'S EYES FOLLOW HIM.

P

In 1910 the two Boer Republics were incorporated into the Union of South Africa.

ANNOUNCER

Well done, No.6. Coming along nicely.

HE MOVES AWAY. P'S EYES ARE STILL IN THE DIRECTION OF NO.12'S EXIT. TRACK PAST HIM WITH THE ANNOUNCER AND IN ONTO THE SANDWICH BOARD. WE CAN HEAR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS OVER.

EXT. P'S HOUSE. (DOOR SECTION ONLY). NIGHT. 71

P APPROACHES THE DOOR CAUTIOUSLY. IT OPENS. ALL IS DARKNESS WITHIN. HE GOES THROUGH.

"THE PRISONER" Television Series.

"THE GENERAL"

30A

(Additional dialogue at the end of scene 70).

ANNOUNCER

Tsar Nicholas I
occupied the Danubian principalities ?

VILLAGER

1853.

ANNOUNCER

Absolutely right. You, sir.
When was Victor Emmanuel declared
King of Italy in Turin ?

2nd VILLAGER

1861.

ANNOUNCER

Excellent. The day Napoleon III
was deposed and the Third Republic
established ?

2nd VILLAGER

4th September 1870.

INT. P'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

72

P STANDING JUST INSIDE THE DOOR. IT CLOSES BEHIND HIM. HE LISTENS. BACKGROUND MUSIC ONLY. HE SWITCHES ON THE LIGHTS OF THE LOWER LEVEL. ALL IS NORMAL. HE MOUNTS THE STEPS TO THE UPPER LEVEL. SWITCHES ON THE CENTRE LIGHT. IMMEDIATELY THERE IS A BLINDING FLASH. ALL LIGHTS GO OUT. THE BACKGROUND MUSIC STOPS. SILENCE. DARKNESS. THE TELEPHONE RINGS. P FEELS HIS WAY TOWARDS IT. PICKS IT UP.

P

Yes ?

VOICE (FILTER)

Please stay where you are, No. 6. Do not leave. The fault on the electrical circuit will be attended to forthwith. Electricians and Administration are on their way. You will find candles for such an emergency in the upper kitchen cabinet - second right.

THE PHONE CUTS OUT.

EXT. P'S HOUSE. (DOOR SECTION ONLY). NIGHT.

73

CLOSE ON THE WHEELS OF A MINI-TRACTOR. PULL BACK. IT ARRIVES OUTSIDE P'S DOOR. IT HAS A TRAILER BEARING A SIGN - "ELECTRICS". A MECHANIC DISMOUNTS AND ENTERS THE HOUSE. HE CARRIES A TORCH.

INT. P'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

74

A CANDLE BEING LIT ON KITCHEN COUNTER BY P. PULL BACK TO INCLUDE THE MECHANIC APPROACHING.

MECHANIC

Electricians. Where is it ?

P

There. I think.

HE INDICATES THE CENTRE LIGHT. THE MECHANIC EXAMINES IT.

VOICE (O.S.)

Administration here. What's the trouble ?

P LOOKS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE VOICE. ALL HE CAN SEE IS THE BLAZE OF AN ELECTRIC TORCH AND THE SILHOUETTE OF A MAN IN THE DOORWAY. THE MECHANIC MOVES FORWARD. HE HOLDS OUT A SMALL PIECE OF METAL.

MECHANIC

This, sir. Deliberate short circuit across the contacts.

74 CONTINUED

VOICE

Sabotage. That's punishable.

MECHANIC

We'll need a 2/D replacement.

VOICE

Alright. Contact Control. Get them to switch in temporary reserve.

THE MECHANIC EXITS.

EXT. P'S HOUSE. (DOOR SECTION). NIGHT. 75

THE MECHANIC EMERGING. DOOR CLOSES BEHIND HIM. HE MOVES TO THE TRAILER. TAKES OUT A TELEPHONE DEVICE.

MECHANIC

Calling Electrics Control.

INT. P'S HOUSE. NIGHT. 76

THE CANDLE AND TWO CLOSE HEADS. P AND NO.12. THEY SPEAK IN WHISPERS.

P

Is this some of your work ?

NO.12

Some. Listen carefully. We have about fifteen seconds. The Professor's real lecture - the one you heard on the tape recorder. Would you like it to go out ?

P EYES NO.12 CAREFULLY.

P

I might.

NO.12

Take it.

HE HANDS P A BIRO-TYPE PEN.

NO.12

In the ink cylinder. Micro. Be careful.

P

How ?

NO.12

With these.

HE HANDS P TWO METAL DISCS. THEY ARE THE SIZE OF A SIXPENCE.

76 CONTINUED

NO.12
Passes.

P
When ?

NO.12
Tomorrow.

P
Where ?

THE LIGHTS GO ON. BACKGROUND MUSIC RETURNS. THE MECHANIC ENTERS. NO.12 STRAIGHTENS. HE SPEAKS LOUDLY BUT WINKS AT P.

NO.12
I'll fix it !

THE MECHANIC APPROACHES.

MECHANIC
All in order, sir,

NO.12
I'll fix it, No.6 so that you become aware that deliberate destruction of official property is a most serious offence. I must recommend the full penalty.

P
Which is ?

NO.12
It could be imprisonment. It could be a fine.

P
I'll take the fine.

NO.12
(FAINT SMILE)
Yes. I thought you might. Report to my office in Administration tomorrow morning.

TRACK IN TO C.U. OF P. ENIGMATIC.

P
Yes, sir.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM IN BIG HOUSE. DAY. 77

CAMERA OPENS ON B.C.U. OF AN EYE WITH THE EYELID ROLLED BACK. PULL BACK TO DISCLOSE THE DOCTOR EXAMINING THE PROFESSOR. WITH HIM IS HIS WIFE AND THE NURSE WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN. THE DOCTOR STRAIGHTENS. THE WIFE IS ANXIOUS.

WIFE

How is he, doctor ?

DOCTOR

Fine. Beautiful response.

WIFE

Will he be able to complete the lecture ?

DOCTOR

Able and willing.

CUT TO:EXT. VILLAGE. DAY. LOC. (STOCK). 78

VARIOUS SHOTS OF VILLAGE ACTIVITY.

EXT. STREET LEADING TO TOWN HALL. DAY. (LOC).
STOCK. 79

A BUGGIE GOES BY FAST. WE SEE THE TOWN HALL SIGN. TWO TOP-HATTED BLACK-COATED OFFICIALS GO THROUGH FOREGROUND TOWARDS THE TOWN HALL. (ALL STOCK).

INT. TOWN HALL ANTE-ROOM. DAY. 80

OPENING CLOSE ON TWO "TOP HATS". LET THEM MOVE INTO LONG SHOT TOWARDS THE CENTRE DOUBLE DOORS. THE "TOP HATS" CARRY DOCUMENT CASES. THEY NOW DON SUNGLASSES. ONE OF THEM PRESSES A SWITCH BY THE SIDE OF THE DOUBLE DOORS. THE DOORS OPEN.

INT. CORRIDOR. DAY. 81

THE OPENING DOORS REVEAL A LONG, NARROW, STARK, WINDOWLESS CORRIDOR. IT IS LIT BY HARSH LIGHTS FROM ABOVE. IT IS SIX INCHES WIDER THAN THE CAMERA DOLLY. THE TWO FRONT EDGES OF THE CORRIDOR ARE STUDDED WITH GLASS BUTTONS AT INCH INTERVALS FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. TO ONE SIDE A SPEAKER AND SMALL BLACK BOX COMPOSITE MOUNTED ON THE WALL. THE "TOP HATS" APPROACH THE SPEAKER. FIRST TOP HAT PRESSES A BUTTON ON THE SPEAKER.

SPEAKER

Your business, please.

81 CONTINUED

1st TOP HAT
Board Member. Lecture approval
Session. Education.

SPEAKER
Proceed to pass.

"FIRST TOP HAT" PLACES A METAL DISC IN A SLOT IN THE BLACK BOX. THERE IS A WHIRR. A SMALL GREEN HAND APPEARS FROM THE BOX. SLOWLY APPROACHES THE DISC. SUDDENLY SNATCHES AND DISAPPEARS. (THIS DEVICE IS BASED ON THE JAPANESE MONEY-SNATCH BOX). "SECOND TOP HAT" REPEATS THE PROCEDURE.

SPEAKER
Pass !

THEY WALK DOWN THE CORRIDOR. TRACK BEHIND THEM INTO:

INT. CORRIDOR JUNCTION. DAY.

82

A STARK CIRCULAR JUNCTION ROOM SIMILAR IN CHARACTER TO THE CORRIDOR. TWO FURTHER CORRIDORS LEAD OFF IT. THE SPEAKER AND BLACK BOX COMPOSITE IS IN EVIDENCE AT THE MOUTH OF EACH. THERE IS A DESK CENTRE. A SINGLE MICROPHONE. NO OTHER DRESSING. NO.2 IS ALREADY THERE. HE PACES IMPATIENTLY. NO.12 STANDS TO ONE SIDE. THEY ARE DRESSED SIMILARLY TO "TOP HATS". THEY ALSO WEAR SUNGLASSES.

NO.2
You have them ?

1st TOP HAT
Right here, sir. Ready processed.

THE "TOP HATS" PLACE THEIR DOCUMENT CASES ON THE DESK. NO.2 OPENS THE FIRST. IN IT A SHEAF OF NOTES. HE SCANS THEM SWIFTLY. HANDS THEM TO NO.12.

NO.2
Excellent. Summon the Board.

NO.12 LEAVES BY ONE OF THE CORRIDORS. HE FOLLOWS FULL DISC SECURITY PROCEDURE. NO.2 CAREFULLY OPENS THE OTHER DOCUMENT CASE. EXTRACTS A FLAT POLYSTYRENE BOX. OPENS THAT AND TAKES OUT A LEATHER CASE. IT MIGHT HOLD TWO CIGARS. INSTEAD - TWO TEST TUBES ! HE HOLDS ONE UP TO THE LIGHT.

NO.2
Micro-reduction Report satisfactory ?

82 CONTINUED

1st TOP HAT
First class, sir.

THE TEST TUBE CONTAINS A THIN ROD FOUR INCHES LONG AND THE THICKNESS AND APPEARANCE OF THE LEAD OF A PENCIL.

NO.2
Splendid !

HE CROSSES TO THE MICROPHONE . PRESSES A SWITCH .

NO.2
No.2 calling the General's office.
The lectures have arrived. Full
security alert.

HE SWITCHES OFF .

1st TOP HAT
Everything all right, sir ?

NO.2 BEAMS AT THE TEST TUBE .

NO.2
I don't know about the General,
but I think I can say in advance ...

HE PICKS UP THE OTHER TEST-TUBE WITH LOVING CARE . HOLDS ONE IN FRONT OF EACH SUNGLASSED EYE . TRACK IN TO B.C.U .

NO.2
... that the experiment is going to
be a one hundred per cent success.

CUT TO:

INT. TOWN HALL ANTE-ROOM. DAY.

83

A "TOP HAT" CLOSE IN CAMERA . PAN TO SHOW A LINE OF SIX AWAITING ENTRANCE TO THE CORRIDOR . TRACK TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE . THEY ARE UNDERGOING SECURITY PROCEDURE .

SPEAKER
Your business, please.

TOP HAT ONE
Board member. Lecture approval
session. Education.

SPEAKER
Proceed to pass.

DISC BUSINESS.

83 CONTINUED

SPEAKER

Pass !

THE LINE MOVES UP ONE .

SPEAKER

Your business, please.

"TOP HAT TWO" GOES INTO HIS DISC ROUTINE . CAMERA SLOWLY GOES BACK ALONG THE LINE HOLDING EACH HEAD IN C.U. THE FOURTH ALONG, TOP HATTED AND SUN-GLASSED BEARS A REMARKABLE RESEMBLANCE TO P .

CUT TO:

C.S. SPEAKER .

84

SPEAKER

Your business, please.

INT. DOOR TO PROJECTION ROOM, DAY.

85

THIS IS AT THE END OF A CORRIDOR AND IS CLEARLY MARKED "PROJECTION ROOM". NO.2 IS PRESENTING A PASS CARD TO TWO SECURITY GUARDS .

NO.2

No.2 for Sublimator .

THE GUARDS ARE YOUNG, SMART AND TOUGH . THEY ARE NEATLY ATTIRED IN ONE-PIECE OVERALL UNIFORMS . THEY WEAR WHITE BOXING BOOTS, WHITE GAUNTLET GLOVES . DEEP WHITE BELTS . GREEN VISOR CAPS AND SUNGLASSES . THEY CARRY WHITE TRUNCHEONS WITH HAND STRAPS . THEY ALLOW NO.2 TO PASS . THE DOOR OPENS . NO.2 GOES THROUGH .

INT. PROJECTION ROOM, DAY.

86

NO.2 ENTERING . THE ROOM COMPRISED OF A HUGE SCREEN . A STEEL GANTRY AND STEPS . MOUNTED ON THE GANTRY AN INSTRUMENT THAT LOOKS LIKE A GYROSCOPE . SLUNG FROM ABOVE A SORT OF SUBMARINE PERISCOPE VIEWER . A SINGLE INTENSE LIGHT ALSO FROM ABOVE ALLOWS US TO SEE LITTLE ELSE . AN OPERATOR WEARING OVERALLS, GOGGLES AND HEADPHONES TINKERS WITH THE APPARATUS . GREEN GLOBULES PULSATE ON SCREEN . WE ARE FAINTLY CONSCIOUS OF THE CHIMES ASSOCIATED WITH SPEEDLEARN .

OPERATOR

Did the Micro come through, sir ?

NO.2 HANDS HIM THE "CIGAR CASE".

NO. 2

Transmission has been scheduled.

OPERATOR

Has this been cleared with the Board ?

NO. 2

(A GRIM SMILE)

It will be. Prepare to transmit.

HE EXITS. THE OPERATOR PROCEEDS TOWARDS THE GYRO-
SCOPE.

CUT TO:INT. CORRIDOR JUNCTION ROOM. DAY.

87

A "TOP HATTED GENTLEMAN" AT THE DESK. DOCUMENT
CASE OPEN. CHECKING HIS NOTES.

SPEAKER

Education Board about to enter
Session. Hurry, please.

A SCURRY OF RUNNING FEET. A "PANTING TOP HAT"
HURRIES FROM ONE CORRIDOR ACROSS THE JUNCTION ROOM
TO THE FACING CORRIDOR. DISC ROUTINE.

PANTING TOP HAT

Lecture Approval Session. Education.
New member.

SPEAKER

Proceed to pass.

DISC BUSINESS.

SPEAKER

Pass. Boardroom straight on.
First right. First left. Straight
ahead. You were nearly late.
Ninety seconds to session time.

"PANTING TOP HAT" RUNS THROUGH.

SPEAKER

Board about to enter Session in
eighty seven seconds.

THE "TOP HATTED GENTLEMAN" BY THE DESK NOW
ENTERS A PHASE OF FURIOUS ACTIVITY. IT IS P, TOP
COAT OFF, FROCK COAT AND TROUSERS OFF - REVEALING
OVERALL IDENTICAL TO THE ONE WORN BY THE PROJECTION
OPERATOR. GOGGLES AND EARPHONES FROM THE
DOCUMENT CASE. DONS THEM. DISCARDED CLOTHES

87 CONTINUED

INTO A DRAWER OF THE DESK. HE TAKES UP THE DOCUMENT CASE AND MOVES TOWARDS THE BOARDROOM CORRIDOR ENTRANCE. THROUGHOUT THE PROCEEDING THE SPEAKER HAS CONTINUED ITS MECHANICAL, OMINOUS COUNTDOWN. IT NOW STANDS AT "FOURTEEN SECONDS". P EYES THE GLASS STUDS EITHER SIDE OF THE ENTRANCE. THROWS HIS DOCUMENT CASE BETWEEN THEM. THE STUDS FLASH JAGGED ELECTRICITY FLARES ACROSS THE CORRIDOR. THE DOCUMENT CASE IS FLUNG BACK IN HIS FACE.

SPEAKER

Do not proceed to pass without a key. Second occasion is fatal. Session time in eight.

P APPROACHES THE SPEAKER. PRESSES BUTTON.

SPEAKER

Your business, please.

P

Lecture Approval Session. Education. New member.

SPEAKER

Proceed to pass.

P INSERTS A DISC. IT IS ACCEPTED.

SPEAKER

Pass and be careful new member. Straight on. First right. First left. Straight ahead. Three seconds. Hurry.

P GOES THROUGH.

INT. CORRIDOR. DAY.

88

P MOVING FAST. COMES TO A "T" JUNCTION. SWINGS RIGHT INTO ANOTHER CORRIDOR. SEES A "T" JUNCTION AT THE END. TURNS ABOUT. HEADS BACK IN THE OTHER DIRECTION. A LEFT TURN. A RIGHT TURN.

INT. BOARDROOM. DAY.

89

THE BOARD IN SESSION. CIRCULAR GREEN TABLE. NO.2 IN THE CHAIR. NO.12 SEATED IMMEDIATELY TO HIS RIGHT.

NO.2

Thank you gentlemen for your confidence in the General. And now to show our confidence in you, I will give you a confidential breakdown of the entire operation.

APPLAUSE. TABLE THUMPING. ETC. NO.2 SMILES HIS APPROVAL. NODS TO NO.12 WHO RISES.

89 CONTINUED

NO.12

Speedlearn is the outcome of the General's prolific knowledge. Its basis is the student's confidence in a tried and trusted Professor, and the Professor's confidence in Science

INT. CORRIDOR. DAY.

90

P APPROACHING A CORRIDOR JUNCTION FAST. HEARS SOMETHING. SLOWS DOWN. PEER CAUTIOUSLY AROUND THE CORNER.

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR AND DOOR TO PROJECTION ROOM. DAY.90A

P'S P.O.V. THE TWO SECURITY GUARDS. THEY PACE THE CORRIDOR IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. THEY ARE ABOUT TO MEET IN THE CENTRE.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM. DAY.

91

THE OPERATOR IS CHECKING HIS EQUIPMENT. THE SPEEDLEARN CHIMES ARE AT HALF VOLUME.

INT. CORRIDOR AND DOOR TO PROJECTION ROOM. DAY.92

THE GUARDS MEET CENTRE CORRIDOR. DO AN ABOUT TURN. THEY SEPARATE AND PATROL IN EITHER DIRECTION. THE FIRST MOVING TOWARDS P'S CORNER. THE SECOND AWAY FROM IT.

INT. CORRIDOR. DAY.

92A

P TENSE AGAINST THE CORNER. FIRST GUARD'S FOOTSTEPS CAN BE HEARD APPROACHING.

INT. CORRIDOR AND DOOR TO PROJECTION ROOM. DAY. 92B

TRACK BACK IN FRONT OF THE SECOND GUARD. BEYOND HIM THE FIRST GUARD IS NEARLY AT THE FAR JUNCTION. PAN WITH THE SECOND GUARD TO EXCLUDE THE LENGTH OF THE CORRIDOR. HE HEARS A GRUNT. STOPS. TURNS. TAKES A PACE FORWARD. PAN BACK WITH HIM REVEALING THE CORRIDOR - EMPTY. NO SIGN OF THE FIRST GUARD. A WHITE GAUNTLETED HAND APPEARS AROUND THE CORNER AND BECKONS URGENTLY. IT DISAPPEARS. THE SECOND GUARD MOVES FAST TO THE CORNER. AS HE REACHES IT AND BEFORE HE CAN TURN IT - THE WHITE GAUNTLETED HAND PISTONS ONTO THE POINT OF HIS JAW. HE GOES DOWN AND OUT. P EMERGES. TAKES OFF THE GAUNTLET. AFTER A QUICK LOOK AROUND. HE STARTS TO DRAG ONE OF THE GUARDS INTO AN EMPTY OFFICE.

DISSOLVE:

INT. CORRIDOR AND DOOR TO OFFICE. DAY. 92C

THE OFFICE DOOR OPENS. P EXITS AND HURRIES OFF TOWARDS THE PROJECTION ROOM.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM. DAY. 93

THE OPERATOR IS INSERTING THE FIRST MICRO-ROD INTO THE "GYROSCOPE". HE HOLDS IT WITH A PAIR OF SURGICAL PINNERS. BEHIND HIM THE DOOR OPENS SILENTLY TO REVEAL P.

TANNOY

Stand by all Operatives. Transmission will begin in approximately five minutes. Check in please.

P CREEPS UP ONTO THE GANTRY AND GRABS THE OPERATOR FROM BEHIND. THEY FIGHT. THE OPERATOR USES THE PINNERS AS A WEAPON. HE RIPS P'S SLEEVE. DRAWS BLOOD. P KNOCKS HIM OVER THE GANTRY RAIL. THE OPERATOR IS DOWN AND OUT.

TANNOY

Sound ? (PAUSE) General Studio ? (PAUSE) Lecture Studio ? (PAUSE) Telecine ? (PAUSE) Cameras ? (PAUSE) Projection ?

P IS DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR THE REPLY MICROPHONE.

TANNOY

Projection ? Will you clear, please.

P FINDS THE MICROPHONE ON THE "PERISCOPE" ARM. HE SWITCHES ON.

P

All clear. Standing by.

TANNOY

All Operatives clear. Stand by, please.

P URGENTLY SETS ABOUT. TAKES NO.12'S "BIRO-PEN" FROM A POCKET. EXTRACTS THE MICRO-ROD. PROCEEDS TO REPLACE IT FOR THE ONE IN THE "GYROSCOPE".

INT. BOARDROOM. DAY. 94

NO.12 IS STILL LECTURING.

94 CONTINUED

NO.12

... thus the miniaturised course can be projected through the Sublimator at a speed thousands of times faster than the eye can record. It is imposed directly onto the cortex of the brain and is, with occasional boosts, virtually indelible. Tonight's lecture, for instance

INT. PROJECTION ROOM. DAY.

95

RESUME P. HE IS WORKING SWIFTLY WITH THE UNFAMILIAR EQUIPMENT. A STREAM OF BLOOD RUNS DOWN HIS HAND FROM THE CUT ON HIS ARM BUT HE IGNORES IT AND WIPES IT ON HIS OVERALL.

TANNOY

Transmission will start in two minutes.

INT. BOARDROOM. DAY.

96

THE LECTURE IS OVER AND THE MEMBERS APPLAUD.

NO.2

So much for the theory, gentlemen. Now for the practice ...

HE AND NO.12 PUSH BACK THEIR CHAIRS. NO.2 NODS AND NO.12 PUNCHES A BUTTON ON A CONTROL BOX ON THE TABLE IN FRONT OF HIM. AT THE FAR END OF THE ROOM CURTAINS OPEN REVEALING A SCREEN.

TANNOY.

The transmission will commence in sixty seconds. Final clearance, please. Sound ?

NO.2 PRESSES A BUTTON. A SECTION OF THE SOUND STUDIO APPEARS ON THE SCREEN. THE OPERATOR GIVES HIS SIGN.

General Studio ?

NO.2 PRESSES BUTTON. THE ANNOUNCER IS AT THE MIKE READY TO GO. HE GIVES HIS SIGN.

TANNOY (CONT'D)

Lecture Studio ?

NO.2 PRESSES BUTTON. THE PROFESSOR IS SEEN AT HIS DESK.

Cameras ?

96 CONTINUED

THE PICTURE PANS TO CAMERA COVERING THE PROFESSOR.
THE OPERATOR GIVES HIS SIGN.

TANNOY

Projection ?

NO.2 PRESSES THE BUTTON. THE PICTURE ON THE SCREEN
SHOWS P AT THE "PERISCOPE". HE BENDS INTO "MIKE"
AND GIVES THE ALL-CLEAR. AS HE DOES SO HIS BLOODED
HAND COMES INTO FRAME AND HE WIPES IT ON HIS OVERALL.
NO.2 HAS SEEN THIS AND ALERTS.

TANNOY

Telecine ?

NO.12 PRESSES THE BUTTON AND THE PICTURE CHANGES.

NO.2
(URGENT)

Hold the picture !

NO.12
(STALLING)

Picture, sir ?

NO.2
(GRABBING BOX)

Projection !

HE PRESSES BUTTON AND P IS BACK ON THE SCREEN.

NO.12

He's cut his hand.

NO.2
(STEELY)

Poor old chap.

HE GRABS PHONE.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM. DAY.

97

P SITS GLUED TO HIS MACHINE. SPEEDLEARN CHIMES
AT FULL VOLUME. TRACK IN TO THE BACK OF HIS HEAD.
HE PRESSES A BUTTON. THE "GYROSCOPE" BEGINS TO
TURN.

TANNOY

Transmission will start in five
seconds from now ! Five. Four.
Three. Two. One. In !

97 CONTINUED

ON CUE ! P RECEIVES A HEAVY BLOW ON THE BACK OF THE HEAD WHICH LAYS HIM SPARK OUT. PULL BACK TO SEE TWO OTHER SECURITY GUARDS BEHIND HIM. AS HIS BODY SLUMPS FROM THE SEAT ONE OF THEM CATCHES HIM IN HIS ARMS. FROM THE TANNOY WE HEAR THE SOUND OF THE SPEEDLEARN CHIMES.

CUT TO:

C.S. "GYROSCOPE".

98

SPINNING FAST. THE MICRO-ROD NOW GLOWS WITH INTENSE WHITE HEAT. PULL BACK.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM. NIGHT.

99

THE MECHANIC IS AT THE "PERISCOPE". HE TRAINS A PENCIL THIN BEAM OF LIGHT ONTO THE MICRO-ROD. ON-SCREEN BEYOND A PULSATING WHITE SPECK GROWING FAST TO MAXIMUM SCREEN SIZE. IT DIMINISHES AND GROWS AGAIN WITH INCREASING RAPIDITY. THE SPEED-LEARN CHIMES ARE DEAFENING. TRACK IN TOWARDS THE SCREEN UNTIL THE WHITE LIGHT MERGES INTO A SINGLE HUMAN EYE. THE CHIMES FADE OUT. THE ANNOUNCER'S VOICE CAN BE HEARD.

ANNOUNCER

And so, ladies and gentlemen ...

PULL BACK FROM THE EYE TO A C.S. OF THE ANNOUNCER.

ANNOUNCER

(CONTINUED)

... we come to the end of another successful edition of Speedlearn. Our thanks to the Professor and congratulations to the General. Goodnight to you all. Sweet dreams.

CUT TO:

C.S. P.

100

A HARSH LIGHT ACROSS HIS FACE.

MAN'S VOICE

(DISTORT)

Who were they, No. 6 ? Who let you in ? What are their names ?

PULL BACK. WE ARE IN THE BOARDROOM. P IS LIT BY A SINGLE INTERROGATION LIGHT.

100 CONTINUED

MAN'S VOICE
(LESS DISTORT)

There's an organisation isn't there ?
Dissidents. Who's the head man ?

P

Santa Clause.

INT. BOARDROOM. NIGHT.

101

P IS SEATED CENTRE OF THE ROUND GREENBAIZE TABLE. BEHIND HIM THE TWO SECURITY GUARDS OF THE CORRIDOR. P'S ARM IS IN A SLING. NO.2 SITS RELAXED TO ONE SIDE. THE QUESTIONER IS NO.12.

NO.12

Who's the head of this organisation ?
You'd be wise to tell us.

NO.2

He won't tell anything. He's a
trained conspirator. Very hard man,

P LOOKS AT HIM. SAYS NOTHING. NO.2 RISES MOVES
TOWARDS HIM. SLAMS A PAPER IN FRONT OF HIS FACE.

NO.2

That's the reactionary drivel you
were on the point of sending out to
our conscientious students. Freedom
to learn ! The liberty to make mistakes !
Old fashioned slogans. You are an odd
fellow, No.6. Full of surprises.

INT. BOARDROOM. NIGHT.

102

A TELEPHONE RINGS. NO.2 PICKS IT UP.

NO.2

2 here. (PAUSE) Ah yes, my dear.
Congratulations. The lecture went
splendidly.

INT. STUDIO. NIGHT.

103

THE 'WIFE' AT PHONE. SHE IS NERVOUS AND CONCERNED.

WIFE

You're pleased ? (PAUSE) Then;
may I see him ?

INT. BOARDROOM. NIGHT.

104

NO.2.

104 CONTINUED

NO.2

Of course. As soon as he has completed the first phase of the next lecture. He's performing so well that it seems a pity to disturb him now. (PAUSE) How long? Who can tell. Not too long, my dear. He needs you.

INT. STUDIO. NIGHT.

105

THE "WIFE".

WIFE

You'll let me know?

INT. BOARDROOM. NIGHT.

106

NO.2 SMILING.

NO.2

Naturally I'll let you know.

HE REPLACES TELEPHONE. TURNS TO P.

NO.2

Lovely woman. Warm. Sympathetic. She would talk him into anything. To keep him alive,

P

The Professor?

NO.2

Indeed. Such is the course of true love.

P

You need him?

NO.2

They are both necessary. One for the other. Even essential.

HE STARES HARD AT P. THEN AT NO.12.

NO.2

To the matter in hand?

HE PACES THE ROOM.

NO.2

I'm sure that a man of your calibre will appreciate that rebels -

HE ALMOST STOPS IN FRONT OF NO.12 WHO REACTS NOT AT ALL. NO.2 PACES AGAIN.

NO. 2

- that rebels must be kept under closest possible surveillance with a view to extinction if the rebellion is absolute.

HE STOPS BESIDE NO. 12. WITHOUT LOOKING AT HIM. P WATCHES THEM BOTH.

P

The Professor ?

NO. 2 BURSTS INTO LAUGHTER.

NO. 2

The Professor ? No problem. He has an adoring wife.

HE LOOKS HARD AT P.

NO. 2

And an even more attentive doctor.

HE LAUGHS AGAIN.

NO. 2

Lovely fellow. People love him. They'll take anything from him. It's the image, you see, that's important. The kindly image.

HE PICKS UP A HOT-LINE TELEPHONE.

NO. 2

The General's office if you please.

HE SMILES BENIGNLY UPON P AND NO. 12. SPEAKS TO NO. 12.

NO. 2

You see, my dear chap -

INDICATING P

NO. 2 (Cont)

He won't answer our questions. But the General can answer anything - given the basic facts!

HE SPEAKS INTO THE TELEPHONE.

NO. 2

Ah. (PAUSE) Yes. It all went splendidly. (PAUSE) Delighted. Absolutely delighted. - Slight problem for you. Mind if we come round ? (PAUSE) Thank you. Right away.

HE PUTS DOWN THE TELEPHONE.

106 CONTINUED

NO. 2

The General awaits us. We'll soon
know what's what.

HE SMILES. LOOKS AT P AND NO.12. TRACK IN TO C.S.
OF NO.12. ENIGMATIC.

INT. CORRIDOR. NIGHT. 107

L.S. IN THE DISTANCE APPROACHING - NO.2 FOLLOWED BY
NO.12. FOLLOWED BY P FLANKED BY THE TWO GUARDS.
IT IS ALMOST A FORMAL MARCH. SPEEDLEARN CHIMES ARE
FAINT IN THE BACKGROUND. THE FORMATION MOVES INTO
CAMERA.

INT. CORRIDOR. NIGHT. 108

THEY MOVE AWAY FROM CAMERA DOWN A LONG CORRIDOR.
THE CHIMES ARE LOUDER.

INT. CORRIDOR. NIGHT. 109

AN "L" JUNCTION. THE FORMATION MOVING THROUGH

INT. CORRIDOR. NIGHT. 110

TRACKING BEHIND THEM. A "T" JUNCTION. A LEFT TURN.
THE CHIMES ARE VERY LOUD.

INT. CORRIDOR. NIGHT. 111

TRACKING AHEAD OF THE SAME FORMATION. SLOW. STOP.
WHIP-PAN. A STEEL DOOR, IT BEARS THE LEGEND
IN WINKING LIGHTS - "THE GENERAL". THE DOOR SLIDES
OPEN. THEY ENTER:-

INT. STUDY. NIGHT. 112

A TRADITIONAL ROOM, UNTIDY. BOOKCASES. HEAVY
CURTAINS CENTRE OPPOSITE THE DOOR. A DESK, BEHIND
IT THE PROFESSOR TYPING AWAY OBLIVIOUSLY. HE
REFERS TO HIS BOOKS SCATTERED ABOUT THE DESK. MAKES
NOTES. TYPES. NO.2 MOVES FORWARD. PICKS THROUGH
THE BOOKS.

NO. 2

Plato! Aristotle! Voltaire! Rousseau!
And the rest! They're all here. All good
stuff. All available to the General.
There is no question, no question from
advanced mathematics to molecular
structure - from philosophy to crop
spraying that the General cannot answer.

112 CONTINUED

THE PROFESSOR FINISHES TYPING A SHEET. EXTRACTS IT FROM HIS TYPEWRITER. PLACES IT IN THE "DUPLICATING MACHINE" BESIDE HIS DESK. WINKING LIGHTS. AN ELECTRONIC WHIRR, A METALLIC COMPUTER CARD IS EJECTED. THE PROFESSOR TAKES IT UP, MOVES FROM BEHIND THE DESK. NO.2 SPEAKS. HE IS TENSELY EXCITED.

NO.2

This is how it's done.

THE PROFESSOR IS AT THE CURTAINS. NO.2 GESTURES TOWARDS HIM.

NO.2

Allow me to introduce the General!

THE PROFESSOR PULLS THE CURTAINS REVEALING

INT. GENERAL'S "OFFICE".

113

A VAST, BARE CLINICAL ROOM. AT THE FAR END IN MAJESTIC ISOLATION IS A MAGNIFICENT, COMPLICATED, GLEAMING COMPUTER. LIGHTS FLASHING, RELAYS CLICKING TO THE BACKGROUND OF MURMURING TRANSISTORS. THE PROFESSOR MOVES EAGERLY TOWARDS IT, NO.2 REGARDS THE "GENERAL" WITH SOMETHING AKIN TO LOVE. THE COMPUTER IS TENDED BY A SOLITARY FEMALE.

NO.2

All the Professor's own work.
He gave birth to it. He loves it with a passionate love, but probably hates it even more.

THE PROFESSOR APPROACHES THE COMPUTER. FEEDS IN THE METALLIC CARD, ADJUSTS VARIOUS DIALS.

NO.2

This mess of circuits, my dear chap is as revolutionary as nuclear fission. No more wastage in schools. No tedious rote learning. A brilliantly devised course, delivered by a leading teacher, subliminally-learned and checked and corrected by an infallible authority and what do we have ?

P

A row of cabbages.

NO.2 LAUGHS.

NO. 2

Indeed. Knowledgeable cabbages.

P

But what kind of knowledge ?

NO. 2 STARES AT HIM WITH FANATICISM.

NO. 2

For the time being past history will do. Shortly we'll be making our own.

P

Napoleon could have used the General.

NO. 2 SHOUTS AT THE PROFESSOR STILL ENGROSSED WITH HIS "BABY".

NO. 2

Professor!

THE PROFESSOR TURNS.

NO. 2

Come here. Take down a problem for the General.

THE PROFESSOR SITS AT HIS DESK. NO. 2 SPEAKS AT P AND NO. 12.

NO. 2

An illustration of infallibility.

TO THE PROFESSOR.

NO. 2

Point One: A traitor in the Village,

THE PROFESSOR TYPES.

NO. 2

Point Two: Security Pass Discs were issued to No. 6.

THE PROFESSOR TYPES.

NO. 2

Point Three: Access to these is through ...

HE LOOKS HARD AT NO. 12.

NO. 2

Through where ?

NO. 12 IS PERSPIRING.

NO. 2
Through where ?

NO. 12
Administration, sir.

P STARES AT NO. 12.

NO. 2
Exactly. Put that down, Professor.
Also that No. 12 is an official in
Administration.

THE PROFESSOR TYPES.

NO. 2
Now ask the General ...

P INTERRUPTS.

P
A question that can't be answered.

NO. 2 IS NONPLUSSED.

NO. 2
What's that ?

P
There's a question that can't be
answered.

NO. 2
Impossible.

P
Let me ask it!

NO. 2
No!

P
You're scared.

NO. 2 AND P HOLD A LOOK. NO. 2 SMILES.

NO. 2
Go ahead.

P MOVES BEHIND THE DESK.

P
Excuse me, Professor.

THE PROFESSOR RISES. MOVES AWAY, P SITS AT THE
TYPEWRITER. TAKES OUT THE SHEET OF PAPER THE
PROFESSOR WAS USING. INSERTS A BLANK ONE. HE

TYPES FOUR LETTERS. NO.2 MOVES TO LOOK OVER HIS SHOULDER. BEFORE HE CAN SEE WHAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN P WHIPS OUT THE PAPER AND FEEDS IT INTO THE "DUPLICATING MACHINE". USUAL PROCEDURE. THE METALLIC COMPUTER CARD IS EJECTED. P SMILES AT NO.2.

P

Go on. Feed it in.

NO.2 NODS TO THE PROFESSOR WHO TAKES UP THE CARD AND FEEDS IT IN TO THE COMPUTER. HE ADJUSTS VARIOUS DIALS. THE REST WATCH IN SILENCE. THE MACHINE GOES TO WORK. NORMALLY AT FIRST. THEN THE LIGHTS FLICKER OUT OF SYNCH. THE QUIET HUM RISES IN PITCH. NO. 2 IS ALARMED. HE SCREAMS AT THE PROFESSOR.

NO.2

Switch it off.

THE PROFESSOR FIGHTS WITH THE DIALS.

PROFESSOR

I can't.

A GENTLE TRICKLE OF SMOKE EMERGES FROM "THE GENERAL'S" 'HEAD'. "THE GENERAL" SHUDDERS ON ITS FOUNDATIONS. IT PLAYS A GROTESQUELY DISTORTED VERSION OF SPEEDLEARN CHIMES.

NO.2

Switch it off !

THE PROFESSOR STRUGGLES DESPERATELY. THERE IS A FLASH OF LIGHT FROM ONE OF THE DIALS. THE PROFESSOR SCREAMS. HIS HAND IS LOCKED ONTO THE DIAL. P DIVES FORWARD.

NO.2

Switch it off !

THE TWO GUARDS ARE UPON P. THEY KNOCK HIM TO THE FLOOR. HE FIGHTS THEM. NO.12 RUNS TO THE PROFESSOR. GRABS HIM. THE "GENERAL" EXPLODES IN A BLINDING FLASH. THE ROOM IS ENVELOPED IN SMOKE. SILENCE. THE SMOKE BEGINS TO CLEAR. WE SEE P STANDING LOOKING DOWN AT THE PROFESSOR AND NO.12. THEY ARE CLEARLY DEAD. THE TWO GUARDS STAGGER TO THEIR FEET. NO.2 STARES MESMERISED AT HIS "BABY". HE ASKS AS THOUGH HYPNOTISED:

NO.2

What was the question ?

P
The question is insoluble,
For Man or Machine.

NO. 2
What was it ?

P
W. H. Y. QUESTIONMARK.

NO. 2
WHY !

P
Why.

TRACK IN TO B. C. U. OF NO. 2 ALMOST PLAINTIVE.

NO. 2
Why ?

EXT. GARDEN AND TERRACE. DAY.

114

IN EXTREME LONG SHOT P WALKS ACROSS THE GARDEN
TOWARDS THE TERRACE WHERE THE PROFESSOR'S WIFE
PACES RESTLESSLY. SHE STOPS WHEN SHE SEES P. HE
MOUNTS THE STEPS TO HER. HE SAYS SOMETHING, SHE
SINKS SLOWLY INTO A CHAIR.

FADE OUT: