

THE WEST WING

"Balancing of Accounts"

by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

TITLE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 8 2:10 P.M.

CLOSE ON - a thin, strong white petal.

GIRL (V.O.)

On behalf of the Japanese-American
community of Northern Virginia, I present
these white lilies

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN -- AFTERNOON

A young Asian girl holds a bouquet of lilies. JED and ABBEY
BARTLET stand beside her, themselves flanked by a number of
officials, including JOSH and LEO.

GIRL

-- for you to give as a gift to the
Japanese people as a symbol of peace and
friendship.

BARTLET

That's quite a mouthful. What is your
name?

GIRL

Sunny.

BARTLET

Sunny, did you grow these yourself?

SUNNY

No.

BARTLET

Are you sure? I could have sworn I saw
you back stage with a watering can.

SUNNY

(giggling)

No.

ANGLE ON JOSH

who stares straight ahead, his brain melting, as Bartlet's
interview continues in the background.

JOSH

Why am I here again?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

To support the president.

JOSH

No, that's why you're here.

LEO

No, that's why you're here. I'm here to advise the president.

JOSH

How about you support the president, and if he needs any advising, have him give me a call in my office?

LEO

No.

JOSH

I don't see why the president needs to have his entire Chief of Staff office here to support him in getting inedible produce.

LEO

You volunteered.

JOSH

I thought there would be free food.

LEO

And here I thought it was because you bet CJ that you could stand a photo op.

JOSH

I'm going to win that foot massage if it's the last thing I do.

An AIDE comes up and whispers in Leo's ear. Leo begins to move offstage.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

LEO

Stay here.

JOSH

But--

ANGLE ON BARTLET AND SUNNY

SUNNY

And now my sister would like to recite a traditional Japanese poem.

In the background, Josh shifts his weight uncomfortably.

INT. TOBY'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

TOBY gets ready to leave his office, as, unbeknownst to him, SAM appears at the door.

TOBY

Ginger, has the presentation started?

SAM

It started a few minutes ago.

TOBY

You don't look like Ginger.

SAM

It's the tie, isn't it?

TOBY

At least. Is there something, or do you just feel like blocking my doorway?

Sam moves out of the way and then follows Toby out the door.

INT. CORRIDORS - CONTINUOUS

SAM

In the president's departing remarks tomorrow --

TOBY

Departing remarks are me.

SAM

That's you? You don't want any help?

TOBY

What, Sam?

SAM

What are we going to say about the August 9th anniversary?

TOBY

It's the last thing on everyone's mind.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM
Not in Nagasaki. I've been there.

TOBY
The president won't be in Nagasaki.

SAM
But if we remind the president...

TOBY
He already knows. You went to Japan?

SAM
I visited a couple years back.

TOBY
Good. Find out about Japanese customs
for the President.

SAM
Don't we have someone for that?

TOBY
Yes. You. Be happy. You're in charge.

Sam expresses his non-existent enthusiasm as Toby leaves him.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN -- AFTERNOON

CJ joins Josh on the stage as the poem drones on.

CJ
Buna ziua.

JOSH
Feeling okay?

CJ
Buna ziua. That's "Hello" in Romanian.

JOSH
Oh, no. I'm not giving up. I do not
give up.

CJ
So you're staying.

JOSH
To the end. Unless they start singing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CJ

Josh-

A chorus of young, uniformed Asian children assembles.

JOSH

Please don't tell me.

LEO

Josh, I need you.

JOSH

Oh, thank God.

Josh notices Leo's sober expression.

JOSH (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

LEO

I just talked to the Bureau. Bandits on the Mexican border broke into a ranch in Arizona, then proceeded to murder the entire family, including a six-year old boy.

JOSH

How bad is it?

LEO

A group of Arizona ranchers have declared open season on all illegal immigrants.

JOSH

That bad.

As Josh and Leo leave, the first discordant tones of what passes for an Andrew Lloyd Weber song in Japanese assault the unwary listeners. Even Bartlet must suppress a grimace.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. WHITE HOUSE CORRIDORS -- AFTERNOON

With CHARLIE bearing the overgrown lilies before him, Bartlet and ABBEY move through the White House corridors with a few Secret Service guys thrown in.

BARTLET

Could it possibly be more hot out? Next time we should get a traditional Japanese parasol as a gift.

CHARLIE

I'll see if I can arrange it, sir.

ABBEY

We'll just pick one up when we're in Japan. We will have time to do that sort of thing, right?

BARTLET

Would that be the sitting in the sun sort of thing or the shopping for gifts sort of thing?

The entourage comes to a halt as Abigail prepares to go down a separate corridor.

ABBEY

Jed, while I am all for improving trade relations --

BARTLET

And lowering unfair trade barriers.

ABBEY

Yes--

BARTLET

And thereby reducing costs,...

ABBEY

Yes--

BARTLET

Improving demand,...

ABBEY

I know--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTLET
...creating jobs for thousands of
hopeful, hard-working Americans,...

ABBEY
Jed, you did a good job.

BARTLET
I did. A very good job.

ABBEY
But I'm not about to go 7,000 miles just
to stare at the ugly mugs of trade
ministers.

BARTLET
What if I told you to set aside time to
do whatever you want, just the two of us?

LILLY MAYS (O.S.)
Mrs. Bartlet.

LILLY MAYS, Abbey's Chief of Staff, approaches the First
Lady, but slows when she sees the president.

BARTLET
Lilly, are you trying to steal my wife
away from me again?

LILLY
Good afternoon, Mr. President. Don't you
worry, you will get her all to yourself
soon enough.

BARTLET
Yes, just me, her, the leaders of the
world's eight most powerful nations, and
130 million Japanese.

ABBEY
So I can plan anything?

BARTLET
Anything you want.

The same thought crosses both of their minds.

BARTLET (CONT'D)
You should --

ABBEY
I should probably run it by our staffs
first.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Abbey sets off down a side hall.

BARTLET

I just promised the most intelligent woman I know a chance to plan anything she wanted for us. Did I just make a blunder?

CHARLIE

A wise man once said that man's only purpose is to do what our women tell us to do.

BARTLET

Who said that?

CHARLIE

You did, sir, the day I started to date your daughter.

BARTLET

Then it's hard to argue.

They arrive in the Oval Office to find a somber Leo waiting.

BARTLET (CONT'D)

Charlie, can you give us a moment?

INT. OVAL OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

The President digests the news Leo is relaying.

LEO

Mark Stein and his wife Jenna, were found dead in their kitchen. Their six-year old son was found in his bed. He was probably asleep. All of this is about two miles from the border.

BARTLET

I want to send my condolences to their families.

LEO

You can't.

BARTLET

I can't?

LEO

The one surviving relative is Jenna's sister, Miranda, and she's not talking to anyone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO(CONT'D)

As soon as she found out about her sister, she went straight to the group known as the Concerned Citizens of Cochise County.

BARTLET

Those are the ranchers who have taken to rounding up border-crossers?

LEO

She's got them convinced that illegal immigrants are responsible, and the FBI, as yet, has nothing to disprove her. They intend to continue to round up illegal crossers until a certain list of demands have been met by the government.

BARTLET

Which are?

LEO

They want an end to illegal border crossing.

BARTLET

That's quite a list.

LEO

The ranchers are well within their rights to protect their lands from trespassers by any means up to and including the threat of deadly force. They're using warning shots.

BARTLET

Have the INS concentrate the Border Patrol in that area. Can I do that?

LEO

Absolutely.

BARTLET

For how long?

LEO

Not forever.

BARTLET

I want the FBI to watch these concerned citizens. As soon as they stop being polite and use undue force, I want them out of there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

This is not going to turn into a bloodbath. I don't want to put some glue on this and hope for the best. I want these ranchers to go home, but I want Americans on the border who haven't resorted to guns to feel secure knowing everyone in this office is behind them.

CUT TO:

INT. JOSH'S BULLPEN -- MOMENTS LATER

Josh is at Donna's desk, trying a series of pens that do not seem to work.

JOSH

These pens don't work.

DONNA

Staff in 10 minutes.

JOSH

I know.

DONNA

Okay. I thought you might like a little warning.

JOSH

No, I would not like a little warning. I would like new pens.

DONNA

These are new pens.

JOSH

They're non-working new pens.

DONNA

They work if you moisten them first.

JOSH

You want me to lick my pens?

DONNA

Moisten them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

How do I know you haven't put something
on them?

DONNA

You lost the bet, didn't you?

JOSH

This has nothing to do with the bet.
This has everything to do with you giving
me pens that don't work.

DONNA

You lost the bet and now you're taking it
out on me.

JOSH

I did not lose the bet. Exactly.

CJ comes down the hall.

CJ

You lost the bet.

JOSH

I did not --

CJ

It was your evil twin who left after the
first solo?

JOSH

Leo wanted me. I claim extenuating
circumstances.

CJ

You left, I won, and now it's time to
face the Romanians.

JOSH

(to Donna)

You're coming with me.

Josh leads a protesting Donna toward CJ's office.

INT. CORRIDORS -- CONTINUOUS

DONNA

But it wasn't my bet.

JOSH

Yes it was. We're a team.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DONNA

You lose the bet and I'm the one who gets stuck with the Romanians.

JOSH

Exactly. Why are Romanian students here anyway?

CJ

In an effort to foster greater democracy and to strengthen the bonds of friendship between these two great countries.

JOSH

Isn't there an easier way? Like invading?

CJ

You know, I think the Secretary of State overlooked that idea.

JOSH

Figures.

DONNA

I have a lot of work I should be doing.

JOSH

And I don't?

DONNA

Not really.

They continue on into --

INT. CJ'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

CJ's assistant CAROL smiles and nods at ARAD, early twenties, who chatters on incessantly with a noticeable accent. Nearby stands MIMI, a young woman who listens to Arad in rapt attention. CJ, Josh, and Donna approach.

ARAD

I found the Central Park to be beautiful, but I like here as well.

JOSH

We do try to keep the White House up to par with areas open to the derelict public of New York.

CJ

Mimi, Arad, this is Josh Lyman.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARAD

As Deputy Chief of Staff, you assist Leo McGarry in assessing what information requires the president's attention and in briefing him on policy issues.

MIMI

And influence presidential strategy with regards to passing legislation through Congress.

DONNA

All that and he can't get his pens to work.

JOSH

This is my assistant, Donna. Happily, she will be your host all day.

ARAD

A pleasure to meet you, Donna.

Arad leans over to kiss Donna's hand, while Mimi pouts.

CAROL

(ominously)
He's all yours.

DONNA

Okay. This just isn't fair.

INT. LEO'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Leo has already started the staff meeting with Toby and Sam.

LEO

The president doesn't want this swept under the rug.

TOBY

We're going to have to sweep it under the rug. He's leaving in less than 15 hours.

LEO

Then you have your work cut out for you.

SAM

Do we think it's drugs?

CJ and Josh enter sheepishly.

JOSH

Sorry. Romanians.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBY

Everyone always thinks it's drugs.

LEO

That's because when it comes to the border, it usually is drugs. CJ, we're beefing up the Border Patrol until the FBI tracks down those responsible for the murder.

CJ

We're putting more men with guns into the area. Gotcha.

LEO

The Border Patrol is understaffed in that region. That's why the Concerned Citizens group was concerned in the first place.

CJ

Okay, okay. I'm just warning you. We're sending in the big guys to face down Mexicans without any indication that Mexicans were even involved in the murders. Things may get interesting.

LEO

I don't like interesting, especially with this trade treaty not yet signed and sealed.

(to Josh)

Who's our man on the trade committee?

JOSH

Senator Hodgkiss.

A collective groan can be heard from the group.

JOSH (CONT'D)

When thinking of the tried and true friends of this administration, I know the name Hodgkiss does not leap to mind.

SAM

Is he still upset about what you called him during that fiasco last year?

LEO

What did you call him?

TOBY

We dealt with it. It's over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

I've been romancing Hodgkiss all week. Not only has he agreed to table the genetically modified agriculture issue, he agreed not to introduce any amendments to the treaty.

SAM

I don't follow. Hodgkiss battled against NAFTA, now he's happy with reducing trade barriers?

JOSH

Anti-NAFTA doesn't mean anti-free trade.

SAM

What does it mean?

TOBY

It means he's anti-Mexican.

JOSH

Misery makes strange bedfellows. I've got him.

LEO

Good enough for me. Keep a tight lid on. Toby, handle anything that comes across the border. CJ, we want as many smiles as possible in Japan so focus on the treaty. The president wants it to fly. I want it to fly. Got it?

CJ

Feathers, wings, and all.

LEO

Josh.

Leo gestures for Josh to stay while the meeting breaks. We follow Toby and Sam venturing back to their offices.

INT. CORRIDORS -- CONTINUOUS

TOBY

We're going to need a recent history of incidents on the border.

SAM

I'll get records from Cochise County.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBY

If this were just about Cochise County,
we wouldn't spend a minute on it. I want
the entire border.

SAM

That's 2000 miles.

TOBY

You take California, I'll take the rest.
You're still on Japan.

SAM

Good, because I was thinking about--

TOBY

Are you going to talk to me about the
bombing of Nagasaki?

SAM

It had crossed my mind.

TOBY

Sam. California. Thank you.

INT. LEO'S OFFICE - DAY

Leo holds Josh captive after the meeting.

JOSH

It's ancient history.

LEO

How many times have I heard that moments
before it popped right back in my face?
Tell me what happened with Hodgkiss.

JOSH

Remember when the Marines mistakenly shot
a high school sophomore on the border
last January?

LEO

They believed he was involved in the drug
trade.

JOSH

But he was really only involved in the
school play. On the heels of that
stunning PR success, Hodgkiss had the
brilliant idea to name February National
Military Appreciation month.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

I know I'm going to love this.

JOSH

Off the record, I may have said something inflammatory that made its way back to Hodgkiss' office.

LEO

I can't have any more verbal explosions coming out of this office. You know it. We've been at this too long.

JOSH

It became a non-issue. We dealt with it.

LEO

The point is we shouldn't have to. Treat Hodgkiss as though you were walking on eggshells. I don't want this treaty hung out to dry because you couldn't control your mouth.

INT. CJ'S OFFICE -- LATER

CJ heads into her office, finishing off the last bit of a cream puff.

CJ

What's the date today?

CAROL

The eighth.

CJ

Oh, no. You're sure it's not the seventh? It's the eighth.

CAROL

All day. You've got messages.

Carol lingers in the doorway. CJ looks up.

CJ

This is the part when you tell me what those messages are.

CAROL

You got a message from Danny.

CJ

A message. From Danny.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAROL

Yes.

CJ

An angry message?

CAROL

No.

CJ

So he just called up and left a message.

CAROL

Yes. He's sick.

CJ

"We are confident Senator Hodgkiss supports the administration in our efforts in Japan." That's the message?

CAROL

He wanted me to write it down exactly.

CJ

I'm going to go talk to Josh.
(glancing at her computer)
No. I'm going to go talk to Toby, then to Josh.

CJ moves out of her office, Carol following.

CJ (CONT'D)

So, he's sick?

CAROL

Yes.

CJ

Did he sound mad?

CAROL

He sounded sick.

INT. TOBY'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Toby watches the television as he slowly reaches for his phone.

REPORTER (V.O.)

-- where several groups of human rights activists moved onto rancher property and Border Patrol stations to protest human rights violations by the INS --

(CONTINUED)

ACT TWO

INT. SAM'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Sam sounds out strange foreign words -- commonly known as Japanese -- as Cathy brings in another huge stack to place on his desk.

SAM
A-ree-gato gozaimosu. Go-zai-mass?
(to Cathy)
What is this?

CATHY
More Japanese cultural information, as
you requested.

Sam looks through some of it, pulls out an origami flower.

SAM
What's this?

CATHY
A flower.

SAM
I can tell.

CATHY
It's origami. I also gave you
instructions on how to make them.

SAM
Are you always this annoyingly efficient?

CATHY
Yes.

As Cathy exits, Toby appears.

SAM
That wasn't meant --

TOBY
I think you should see this.

They move out into --

INT. TOBY'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

CJ is already there, watching the latest report from the border.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WOMAN

(ON TV)

Not one of these human rights activists understands the danger we face every day on this border. We will continue to fight, with or without the Border Patrol, until someone shows that they care whether we live or die.

SAM

(re: TV)

Who's this?

TOBY

This is a disaster.

CJ

Miranda Lynn, sister of the deceased and de facto spokesperson for the Concerned Citizens of Cochise County. I hate to say it.

TOBY

Go ahead and say it.

CJ

I told you so.

TOBY

We've got armed ranchers and protesters interfering with INS agents. What is going to put this to bed?

CJ

It gets better. Calls are pouring in to anything from congressional offices to talk shows in support of Miranda Lynn and the ranchers. The protesters have been called pro-immigrant liberals who are both insensitive and uncaring.

TOBY

Insensitive and uncaring?

CJ

I can only assume there's a subtle but important distinction between the two.

SAM

I have a box of reports indicating the Border Patrol does a good impression of Fidel Castro's hit squad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM(CONT'D)

We've got illegal searches, imprisonment without representation... do I hear due process?

CJ

In 10 minutes I have the afternoon briefing. I don't think likening ourselves to Cuba is the best plan.

SAM

I'm just saying the protesters have a point.

TOBY

They have more of a point than they think they do, but CJ is right. Play up the president's trip to the press, which will be a great boon to the economy and is coincidentally, something over which we have control.

CJ

Okay. As for the protesters --

TOBY

The president is aware --

CJ

-- and we are looking into the concerns of both the ranchers and the protesters.

TOBY

Run with it.

And she almost does as CJ moves out of the office.

INT. JOSH'S BULLPEN -- AFTERNOON

Josh makes his way through the room as CJ approaches him.

CJ

Hodgkiss.

JOSH

Is a senator. Glad I could clear that up for you.

CJ

I got a tip with his name on it. I want to know Hodgkiss is behind the trade treaty the president will present in Japan before I face the press.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH
He is.

CJ
You're sure.

JOSH
Yes. We spoke earlier today.

CJ
Before or after the border crisis hit?

JOSH
After.

CJ
So there should be no surprises.

JOSH
Maybe it was before.

CJ
Josh--

JOSH
No surprises.

CJ
Remember, I know where you live.

JOSH
And don't I regret inviting you to that
barbecue.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN -- AFTERNOON

Donna endures the harmless advances of Arad while Mimi
glowers at them both.

DONNA
This is the Communications Department,
where we occasionally communicate.

ARAD
Mr. Lyman is so kind to lend you to us.

DONNA
Kind is exactly the word that comes to
mind.

Sam comes out of his office and Donna quickly pounces on him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DONNA (CONT'D)

Sam, do you have a plan to reduce unemployment?

They all move into --

INT. CORRIDORS -- CONTINUOUS

SAM

You mean right off the top of my head?

DONNA

Please say we have one. They've been inundating me with questions.

SAM

Who are they?

DONNA

They're the visiting Romanian students.

SAM

Right. The ones the Secretary of State sent to us?

DONNA

I want to know what we did to him because I really don't think he likes us very much.

SAM

We don't have an unemployment plan.

DONNA

It's either unemployment or the other question. Arad?

ARAD

What do you feel is NATO's role in the changing geopolitical climate in Europe and what are the repercussions for its expansion?

SAM

(beat)

A fair amount of unemployment is an unfortunate by-product of even the most successful market economy.

MIMI

It is fair to be unemployed when you want to work?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM
I didn't say it was fair.

DONNA
Yes, you did.

SAM
That's not what I meant.

MIMI
My father is a skilled man. He is the one who taught me to be proud of working hard. Without him, I would not be here. But he has worked for a total of two years since Ceausescu was deposed and executed.

SAM
That was--

ARAD
Eleven years ago.

SAM
I'm sorry.

MIMI
But this country -- I've never seen anything like what is happening. People risk their lives for the chance to come here and live a better life. Nobody wants to be in Romania. They want out.

Mimi glances at Arad, who smiles and gazes at Donna.

DONNA
I'm beginning to know the feeling.

CUT TO:

INT. LEO'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Margaret removes some papers from Leo's desk.

MARGARET
It's drug-related.

LEO
The FBI called?

MARGARET
They found some Mary Jane at the scene.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

I think it's called pot these days.

MARGARET

Sorry, I didn't know how up on the lingo you were. Also, the First Lady wants the president to see the world's largest wooden Buddha while in Japan.

LEO

He'll love that.

As Margaret leaves, Sam sticks his head in and hands Leo a paper.

LEO (CONT'D)

Come on in, Sam. It's not like I'm doing anything.

SAM

I've got a two-page summary, but it's not for the president. It's for you.

LEO

August 9th, 1945.

SAM

It's about Nagasaki.

LEO

I can tell.

SAM

It was the day President Truman sent the second bomb in history able to level a city in the space of a breath. 70,000 men, women, and children died almost instantaneously. I want the president to say something about it.

LEO

Fine with me. Talk to Toby.

SAM

I mean I want him to come clean.

LEO

You want him to apologize?

SAM

Apologize is perhaps too strong a word.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

You want the President of the United States to apologize for winning World War II?

SAM

No.

LEO

This wasn't some idle decision. If Japan had not surrendered, hundreds of thousands if not a million Americans absolutely would have died invading Japan.

SAM

We waited three days to drop the second bomb, but nearly a week passed before Japan surrendered. We could easily have exploded a bomb on an uninhabited island and delivered the same message.

LEO

I am not about to send him over there second-guessing a president -- and not just any president. The president who won the biggest conflict in world history.

SAM

Okay, but can I just say something?

LEO

We're done, Sam.

SAM

I'm not. After the bomb, people continued to suffer and die from its effects for weeks. The occupation forces -- we -- did nothing, not even years afterwards. I went to Japan. I saw the pictures, the old women who still have scars. It's not about numbers. It's about having the strength of character to stand up and acknowledge what you have done. And if that doesn't start in the Oval Office, it's not going to happen at all.

Sam leaves Leo with that thought as we --

CUT TO:

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - BACK STAGE -- MOMENTS LATER

Carol greets CJ with a batch of index cards.

CJ
Full house today?

CAROL
Very full.

CJ peeks in at the press corps and reacts as she sees Danny sitting in his usual spot.

CJ
Surprise surprise. I thought Danny was sick.

CAROL
He was.

Carol looks out and sees Danny as well. CJ pulls her back in.

CAROL (CONT'D)
What?

CJ
He'll see you. He'll think I want you to spy on him.
(beat)
Did he look sick?

CAROL
I don't know. I think he saw me.

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

CJ steps out onto the floor to perform her daily duty. She can't help but exchange a look with Danny.

CJ
Good afternoon. I know everyone is looking forward to Japan. We expect the G8 to sign a treaty calling for an unprecedented reduction of tariffs and NTB's in all manufactured goods. That's everything from the shirt you wear to the car you drive, folks. At nine a.m., the President will be making departing remarks, which I'm sure will be wonderful as soon as they are written. Questions about Japan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REPORTER #1

In light of the fact that tomorrow is August 9th, will the President say any words about the bombing of Nagasaki?

CJ

The conference is a meeting of the G8 member countries and the President will stick to the business at hand. Other questions? Yes.

REPORTER #2

How does the administration think the President's trade treaty will fare in Congress in light of Senator Hodgkiss' reaction to the border crisis?

CJ

Senator Hodgkiss.

REPORTER #2

We've gotten word he'll be holding a press conference tomorrow, after the President leaves for Japan.

News to CJ. She glances at Danny.

CJ

Our staff has worked closely with Senator Hodgkiss on the treaty and we are confident he supports the administration's efforts in Japan. Moving on, I know everyone has been watching the news...

A slight chuckle from the corps.

CJ (CONT'D)

About a group of armed ranchers in Arizona...

CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Bartlet is looking over papers when Charlie enters.

CHARLIE

The trade advisors meeting is in the Roosevelt Room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTLET

Didn't I just meet with them this morning?

CHARLIE

No, that's your meeting with the trade advisors.

BARTLET

There better be a dynamic difference between these two groups.

CHARLIE

I'm sure there is, Mr. President.

BARTLET

You ready for Japan, Charlie?

CHARLIE

Yes, sir. I'm looking forward to some real okonomiyaki.

BARTLET

Some who?

CHARLIE

Okonomiyaki. It's kind of like dinner pancakes with whatever you want mixed in. They cook it right in front of you.

BARTLET

Do you eat it in the kitchen?

CHARLIE

No. When my mother was still alive, my family used to go to a Japanese restaurant for special occasions. It was a lot of fun. You and Mrs. Bartlet might enjoy it.

BARTLET

Mrs. Bartlet and I are going to enjoy ourselves as much as the G8 ministers will allow. We don't get much opportunity to be just the two of us, these days.

CHARLIE

I'm sure you'll finish the negotiations in no time.

The President turns to leave, only to find Leo awaiting him. Charlie leaves the two alone on the portico.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

I just spoke with Jane Hull's office.

BARTLET

Jane Hull. That name sounds familiar.
Do I know her?

LEO

Governor Jane Dee Hull of Arizona. She's
not happy with the situation on the
border and she wants a stronger presence.

BARTLET

Meaning?

LEO

A military presence. She's calling out
the Arizona National Guard.

BARTLET

I can see Americans huddled in their
homes, while soldiers with machine guns
patrol outside their doors. I don't want
that to be the first impression of
America their children have. I don't want
this to be my first use of the military
in this country. Tell the Governor no.

LEO

There is a problem. We can't say no.

BARTLET

Last I checked, the National Guard falls
under the army.

LEO

The National Guard is a federal as well
as a state militia. As a counter-drug
force, the National Guard falls under the
auspices of the state governor. In other
words, the governor can call out the
National Guard with you or without you.

BARTLET

I need to talk to Governor Hull.

On Bartlet's grim look, we

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM -- AFTERNOON

Bartlet, with Leo standing by, concludes a meeting.

AIDE

We predict a \$15 billion increase in trade by the year 2005.

BARTLET

\$18.5 billion. Don't be afraid to include Russia in your figures.

AIDE

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

Thank you, gentlemen. It looks like we have ourselves a treaty.

Under the noise of the meeting breaking up, Bartlet and Leo move out into--

INT. CORRIDORS -- CONTINUOUS

Where Josh is waiting.

BARTLET

When is my call to Governor Hull?

LEO

She's ducking your calls.

BARTLET

Did you tell her the president was calling?

LEO

I believe that has something to do with why she's unavailable.

BARTLET

Someone I know knows her. I just don't remember who.

LEO

We're working on it.

BARTLET

Go through my personal rolodex.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

There are 3,000 names in your personal rolodex. Try to remember who.

BARTLET

Am I still going to Japan?

LEO

Yes, to see the big Buddha.

BARTLET

What do Sam and Toby have?

LEO

(to a staffer)

Where's Toby?

BARTLET

(to Josh)

What can you tell me?

JOSH

I... skipped breakfast this morning.

BARTLET

The puffs at the presentation were quite filling.

JOSH

Wait a minute --

LEO

Toby and Sam are on their way.

JOSH

I missed the food?

BARTLET

That's why they serve it at the end. So the freeloaders won't get any.

AIDE

Mr. President --

As Bartlet moves down the hall, Leo and Josh are momentarily arrested by CJ, who blows down the hall on a mission.

CJ

Josh, I'm going to kill you. No, I'm going to make you hurt a lot. Then I'm going to kill you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

Do we have a problem?

CJ

Do we have a problem.

(to Josh)

Hodgkiss.

JOSH

Didn't we just have this conversation?

CJ

You said Senator Hodgkiss was on board.

JOSH

He is. He isn't?

CJ

You want to know how I found out? A reporter told me during the briefing in the form of a question. As in, how does the administration plan to fly its program of free trade if the key senator is not on board, even though Joshua Lyman said he was?

JOSH

He didn't say that.

CJ

Josh. I told you I didn't want any more surprises.

LEO

Please tell me you covered Josh's ass.

CJ

I said that we are confident Hodgkiss supports Bartlet in Japan.

LEO

Good. Josh, make it so.

JOSH

I didn't know --

LEO

You should have. We can't afford for everything to fall through the day before the president leaves. Eggshells, Josh.

Leo and CJ move into the --

INT. OVAL OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Where Sam and Toby give Bartlet the goods on the border crisis.

BARTLET

I want the National Guard out of there.

SAM

They've been there for 10 years. They act as construction engineers, helicopter pilots, mechanics, technicians. They're funded by federal money.

TOBY

The governor isn't calling out the Guard regulars to fix a few vans.

CJ

We're going to see big men with guns herding Mexican civilians into jail cells and into the arms of poverty.

TOBY

Big men who aren't trained to respect other people's civil rights. They're trained to fight an enemy.

LEO

We don't have much choice.

TOBY

Yes we do.

BARTLET

That's not the choice I want to make.

CJ

Humour me. I missed the class on military regulations. What choice do we have?

BARTLET

I would have to declare a national emergency. Then I can federalize the Arizona National Guard.

LEO

You certainly can't declare a national emergency then go to Japan.

BARTLET

Then the National Guard stays in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBY

But, sir--

BARTLET

Sam, remind us what the National Guard usually does on the border.

SAM

They back-up the Border Patrol with surveillance, improve the border infrastructure --

BARTLET

That means they build roads.

TOBY

And walls. Big walls.

SAM

And fences. They also repair water lines and rebuild telephone poles.

BARTLET

In times of disaster, the National Guard comes in to safeguard those who have suffered losses or damage. It's time the ranchers in Arizona got the same consideration.

TOBY

Just like that?

BARTLET

Just like that if I get the governor to agree.

LEO

If anyone has a way to get the governor on the phone, now's the time to speak up. Okay, we've got work to do. Sam --

SAM

In your office.

Sam and CJ depart, but Toby lingers.

TOBY

Should I get my broom?

BARTLET

Did I miss something?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBY

Should I get my broom, because it sure looks like we're sweeping this under the rug.

LEO

Toby--

TOBY

That was an excellent idea, sir, but this isn't only a military problem. This is a civil rights problem, a human rights problem, and we're not even going to mention the Department of Justice?

LEO

Now is not the time.

TOBY

Now is the perfect time. The press is shining a huge spotlight on practices along the border. Human rights violations consistently go unreported, uninvestigated, and unpunished. There's a little thing called accountability, and we're not going to sit smug and tell China and Kosovo we're better than they are when we have this going right on our border. We're not a nation of hypocrites and racists, but that's what we're going to be if we let this one slide, if we don't end this right now.

BARTLET

Leo-

LEO

I'll bring in the Justice Department.

BARTLET

Bring in the Attorney General.

TOBY

Thank you, sir.

BARTLET

And get Governor Hull on the phone.

Leo exits into his office.

INT. LEO'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Where Sam is ready to bite the bullet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

I was thinking about Nagasaki --

SAM

You were right. I shouldn't have brought it up. If the president says anything, we'll alienate servicemen and veterans who fought and died for this country. It's a slippery slope. If we apologize for Nagasaki, then it might follow we should --

LEO

You were right.

SAM

Then there's the fact that I was right. Why do you think I'm right?

LEO

There's a little thing called accountability. We should hold ourselves accountable for everything we've done, even if it did win us a war. Perhaps especially because we won. But he's still not going to say anything tomorrow.

SAM

But I'm right.

LEO

You are. You're also right about why we can't apologize.

SAM

So he can apologize, he just can't open his mouth to do it.

LEO

Exactly.

INT. JOSH'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Josh looks through some papers.

ARAD

May I talk to you?

JOSH

There's a question that kind of answers itself.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARAD

I need your advice. I want to woo Donna.

JOSH

Did I hear you right? You want to woo Donna?

ARAD

Yes.

JOSH

As in you want to go out with her.

ARAD

I want to marry her so that I can stay in this country. She is American. She is also a very intelligent woman.

JOSH

I am not debating her intelligence, although I could bring up some salient points. You are not going to marry Donna.

ARAD

Why not?

JOSH

Because she talks too much, she's always right, and... she has poor penmanship. Besides, I don't think your friend Mimi would approve.

ARAD

What do I care? Mimi is too hotheaded for me.

They enter Josh's bullpen, as Mimi drops some pages and begins to apologize profusely.

MIMI

I am very sorry.

JOSH

She looks like a mean one all right.

DONNA

Josh--

JOSH

Donna. When is that meeting with the good senator who is jabbing a red hot poker into our foreign trade eye?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DONNA

He's waiting for you.

Donna and Josh begin to move toward the Lobby.

JOSH

He's here?

DONNA

Yes. You said right away. I pushed a little here, hedged a little there, and bingo, an opening in his schedule.

JOSH

I would have liked a little warning.

DONNA

You said you didn't want a little warning.

JOSH

When did I say that?

DONNA

This morning. I believe your words were "Donna, I don't want a little warning."

INT. WHITE HOUSE LOBBY -- AFTERNOON

SENATOR GEORGE HODGKISS approaches Josh. Think big Texan in a suit that has grown very comfortable.

HODGKISS

Josh.

JOSH

Senator. Where's Steve?

HODGKISS

You don't think I can speak for myself?

JOSH

I didn't mean to suggest...

HODGKISS

Relax. I gave him the day off to spend with his little boy at camp. Shall we?

CUT TO:

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM -- AFTERNOON

CJ finds Danny nearly passed out in one of the audience seats.

CJ

Carol told me you were out here.

Danny jumps into wakefulness, but it is clear that he is just this side of living. He speaks with a cold, making all his m's sound like b's.

DANNY

Please kill me.

CJ

As appealing as that offer is, I have to respectfully decline. I don't think they would keep a murderer on staff.

DANNY

Andrew Jackson was a murderer and they made him president.

CJ

Why don't you go home before you infect the chain of command?

DANNY

Okay, I'll go.

He tries to stand up, but is not entirely successful.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I think I will try that again in a few minutes. How's Hodgkiss?

CJ

He's in a meeting. And the next time you want to give me a heads up about, say, an unruly senator, lose the cloak and dagger routine. Leave normal messages like normal people.

DANNY

Is that your way of thanking me?

CJ

I thought you were mad at me.

DANNY

Why would I be mad at you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CJ
Because I missed your birthday.

DANNY
You sure did miss it.

CJ
I'm sorry.

DANNY
It was five months ago.

CJ
Oh.

DANNY
You must really care.

CJ
The next message I get from you will be
the name of the reporter who is covering
for you while you're on sick leave.

CJ pats him on the shoulder and moves out--

INT. CORRIDORS -- CONTINUOUS

Where she catches Carol.

CAROL
No more calls.

CJ
What's the soup of the day at that deli
down Pennsylvania?

CAROL
Chicken noodle and probably something
gross like carrot soup.

CJ
Get some chicken noodle for Danny.

CAROL
For... Danny?

CJ
In the press room.

CJ smiles to herself as she continues on her way.

CUT TO:

INT. LEO'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Leo enters his office, calling to Margaret as he goes.

LEO
Any word from the FBI?

MARGARET
They have a clue.

LEO
I'm glad someone does.

MARGARET
Lilly Mays is here to see you.

As Margaret exits, Lilly appears.

LILLY
Leo--

LEO
Lilly, I know why you're here. I know
the schedule in Japan is tight --

LILLY
But I'm actually --

LEO
I have ten things on my plate right now.
I'm keeping up with the FBI, the DoJ, and
I have Margaret calling all over town to
find out who knows Governor Hull --

LILLY
Listen to me.

Lilly bangs the table, which certainly gets Leo's attention.

LILLY (CONT'D)
Sorry. I've been trying to tell you.
Governor Hull might take the First Lady's
call.

LEO
Why?

LILLY
They went to college together.

LEO
Margaret, stop making the calls.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARGARET (O.S.)

Free at last.

LEO

When can we do this?

LILLY

Do you know what the President is going to say? Mrs. Bartlet can get the Governor on the phone, not perform a miracle.

LEO

If she can get the Governor on the phone, I'll call that a miracle.

CUT TO:

INT. MURAL ROOM

Josh and Senator Hodgkiss have a sit-down in the Roosevelt Room.

HODGKISS

I'm withdrawing unconditional support of the G8 trade treaty.

JOSH

Eggshells.

HODGKISS

Excuse me?

JOSH

Nothing. Sir, this past week I feel we came to agree on the treaty's main points. Can I ask what caused you to change your mind?

HODGKISS

I am not going to trumpet free trade when I've got criminal Mexicans in my back yard.

JOSH

You've got all of Mexico in your back yard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HODGKISS

Not if I can help it. Tomorrow I am introducing a bill to purchase all the land along the border from any rancher who wants to sell out and move. I want the administration to back it.

JOSH

How much money are we talking about?

HODGKISS

Cochise County abuts Mexico for forty miles. We figure about ten of that is state or Indian land. Low estimate, 96 million dollars.

JOSH

Low estimate.

HODGKISS

I can get you the figures if you need them.

JOSH

No, I believe you. You're not just thinking about Cochise County, though.

HODGKISS

You're already a step ahead of me. To get the entire border--

JOSH

The entire border?

HODGKISS

-- we took out of account all the cities and the mountains where no one lives.

JOSH

What's the low estimate?

HODGKISS

3.2 billion.

Josh digests this figure.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. OVAL OFFICE — AFTERNOON

Bartlet greets DAN LARSEN, the Attorney General.

LARSEN

Good afternoon, Mr. President.

BARTLET

Thanks for coming over on such short notice, Dan.

LARSEN

It's hard to pass up an invitation from the president, sir.

BARTLET

I wish the Governor of Arizona agreed. As you know we've got a little trouble on the border.

LARSEN

I believe the ranchers have gone too far. I've got the FBI keeping me constantly updated on what they're up to.

BARTLET

The protesters are saying that the problem begins with the Border Patrol, not the ranchers. I'm asking you, are we doing enough to protect the civil rights of immigrants to this country, regardless of their status?

LARSEN

We monitor the Border Patrol closely. We get reports of agent misconduct from INS Field Managers, outside agencies, and advocacy groups.

BARTLET

And individuals file complaints by mail.

LARSEN

Yes, sir. We refer any complaint involving allegations of human rights abuse to the Civil Rights Division for immediate investigation, and the INS itself can investigate again before closing the case. I'm pleased to say most claims cannot be substantiated.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTLET

Let's go back to "immediate" investigation. How long does that take?

LARSEN

The process can take several months. As you can see, we take these accusations seriously.

BARTLET

Now forgive me, but that doesn't seem right to me. In the course of several months, isn't it possible that any witnesses of the abuse have already been deported or worse?

LARSEN

It is possible, but --

BARTLET

That could be why so many claims are unsubstantiated.

LARSEN

You throw 5,000 new agents at us; we're doing the best we can.

BARTLET

Dan, I've read the INS reports. Ten percent of cases deal with abuse, twelve percent with corruption and in the end only one percent of those end in criminal prosecution. That number is low.

LARSEN

Mr. President --

BARTLET

This is what's going to happen. These investigations will happen more often, faster, and will take into account the status of the immigrant.

LARSEN

Are you going to bring in Treasury? Are you going to say the same thing to the military? Because the Border Patrol isn't the only agency on the border.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTLET

I'm starting with you. I want the message sent out loud and clear that if one agent steps out of line he will be smacked back in place by the full force of the US Government. Do you have a problem with anything I've said?

LARSEN

No, sir.

BARTLET

Good. I've yet to regret nominating you, Dan. Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to make a phone call.

CUT TO:

INT. MURAL ROOM -- AFTERNOON

Josh continues his discussion with the Senator.

JOSH

What do we use the land for, assuming we buy it?

HODGKISS

The purchase will create a five-mile buffer zone along the border. There we will build a three-tier wall and expand our patrol stations to keep illegals out.

JOSH

You want to spend 3.2 billion dollars to turn the border into the Berlin Wall.

HODGKISS

I want to spend 3.2 billion to protect our people and our borders.

JOSH

Thank you, East Germany.

HODGKISS

I was wondering when the kid gloves would come off. Go ahead. Don't hold back. I'm ready for your next shining example of political acumen. Will I be, what was it, a "blowhard with the cranial capacity of a one-eyed gnewt?" No, you tell me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

Is that what this is about? You're sore over an ill-advised comment I made months ago?

HODGKISS

This is about this country being run by a bunch of grade school kids who don't know enough to come in from the rain. So listen, and listen good. Support my bill or you won't get your treaty.

JOSH

We lower our trade barriers; Japan and the rest of the G8 lower theirs. Everyone's stronger. Everyone wins.

HODGKISS

Like with NAFTA? I don't see the Mexican economy improving. I do see American jobs flying to Mexico. I also see Mexican bandits attacking Americans in their homes. That's not what I call winning.

JOSH

The G8 is made up of the world's economic powers. Mexico it isn't. I may only be a grade school kid, but I can tell your real concern is the border crisis. Let us take a crack at it, before you toss your support of the treaty.

HODGKISS

You need me to get this treaty through Congress. Why should I throw you a bone?

JOSH

Because the treaty makes sense. You know it, I know it, and soon the American people will know it. Tomorrow the president gets on a plane to sign one of the most dynamic trade treaties in recent memory, opening up the borders of our strongest trade partners to more American goods. That's not going to fly under media radar. That will be Bartlet at his best. Do you want to be known as the Senator who blocked prosperity? A rebuff of the treaty now could hurt us, but when the president gets back, it would hurt you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Off Hodgkiss as he ponders Josh's implicit ultimatum.

CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE — AFTERNOON

Abbey, Sam, Toby, and Leo huddle around Bartlet.

ABBEY

I don't understand why I need a team of staffers to make a phone call.

BARTLET

Be glad it's nothing more complicated or we'd have half the White House in here.

LEO

Abbey, are you ready?

BARTLET

We've been ready for ten minutes.

ABBEY

Give me the number.

Abbey dials the number under Bartlet's protestations.

BARTLET

I don't need Sam and Toby to hold my hand.

LEO

They're here just in case she can't —

ABBEY

This is Abbey Bartlet. May I speak to Governor Hull?

(beat)

Thank you.

Abbey gives them the thumbs up sign.

TOBY

That's all it took?

BARTLET

When it comes to Abbey, that's all it takes. Now shoo.

ABBEY

Hi, Jane...

Sam and Toby move out into --

INT. CORRIDORS -- CONTINUOUS

SAM

We're home.

TOBY

We've still got the treaty to worry about.

SAM

We've got it locked.

TOBY

We don't know that.

SAM

The G8 finance ministers have already agreed to lower NTB's in three strategic sectors and we stood firm on the digital divide. This summit'll have coattails.

TOBY

I'm glad you feel that way. What are you doing right now?

SAM

I was researching Japanese customs, then I was discussing the border conflict, and somewhere in there people were yelling at me.

TOBY

Good. Now you can use all that and take a pass on the president's departing remarks.

The two move into -

INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

They pause beside Cathy's desk, upon which sits a perfect white origami crane.

SAM

Was the entire purpose of this conversation you angling for me to write his remarks?

TOBY

I don't need to angle.

As Toby moves off, Sam disappears into his office.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And comes right back out. He grabs the crane off of Cathy's desk.

SAM

How fast can you make these?

CATHY

How fast do you want one?

SAM

I don't want one; I want a thousand.

CUT TO:

INT. JOSH'S BULLPEN -- AFTERNOON

Donna intercepts Josh on the way back to his office. They move toward where Arad smiles and Mimi pouts.

DONNA

If they ask me about the Bretton Woods agreement one more time, I'm going to become a very disgruntled White House assistant.

JOSH

Who are we talking about?

DONNA

The Romanians. I've given them the tour. Twice. I've answered their questions, including the five times he asked me to marry him.

ARAD

(to Donna)

Can I get you something?

DONNA

I'm fine, Arad.

ARAD

Mimi? Mihaela?

Mimi turns around, feigns surprise that he should be talking to her.

ARAD (CONT'D)

Doriti ceva?

MIMI

Eu? Nu. Multumesc frumos.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Her polite refusal drips with venom.

JOSH
He seems very sweet.

DONNA
And considerate, and polite.
(pause)
He has to go.

JOSH
What did you say the fifth time?

DONNA
Josh.

JOSH
(not at all sorry)
Sorry, Donna. They're here until
tomorrow morning.

DONNA
I want you to know I am going to remember
this day for a very long time.

Sam approaches Josh.

SAM
Josh, do you have anyone that's not busy?

JOSH
This is the White House so, no, we're not
doing anything.

SAM
I need someone who is not doing anything
who would be willing to commit the rest
of his or her day to mindless activity.

ARAD
We would be happy to help.

DONNA
Thank you.

Donna gives her surprised savior a hug.

INT. OVAL OFFICE -- EVENING

Bartlet packs up his things as Charlie attends him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTLET

It's days like these that make me glad I have a wife to go home to. Especially a wife like mine who can solve the world's problems with a phone call.

CHARLIE

It goes to show you, though.

The two move out of the office.

BARTLET

What's that?

CHARLIE

Women always get the upper hand.

BARTLET

And don't you forget it.

Leo greets the president at the door.

LEO

How did the conversation with Governor Hull go?

BARTLET

The National Guard will be helping the ranchers starting tomorrow.

Josh parades down the hall.

JOSH

Leo.

LEO

Josh.

JOSH

Mr. President.

BARTLET

Josh.

JOSH

I got Hodgkiss.

LEO

You're sure this time?

BARTLET

I hear we were almost in the real estate business.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

Yeah, you want to buy a thousand miles of scrub brush? Hodgkiss can get it for you for an easy 3.2 billion.

BARTLET

Are we sure he's not a Democrat?

Bartlet comes to an abrupt halt at the entrance to -

INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - EVENING

Arad, Mimi, Cathy, and several others are busily folding paper, throwing the final product onto a growing pile of origami cranes. Arad stands up when he sees Bartlet.

BARTLET

So this is what goes on while I'm running the country. I need to get out of my office more.

LEO

I'm afraid to ask.

BARTLET

(to Arad)
Hi, I'm Jed Bartlet.

ARAD

Mr. President, it is an honor to meet you. I am Arad, from Romania, but soon I will be an American, too.

JOSH

He's trying to marry Donna.

BARTLET

That would be something to see. What's wrong with Romania?

ARAD

I do not understand.

BARTLET

Must be something wrong with Romania if you are in such a hurry to leave it.

ARAD

I love Romania. It is a beautiful country, but very poor. In America you must build walls to keep people from your riches.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTLET

Opportunity is wherever you make it.
What happens to Romania if its best and
brightest, like you, all leave?

ARAD

Nothing. Nothing would change.

BARTLET

Hm. I wonder then what would happen if
the best and brightest all stayed.

CHARLIE

Sir, Leo asked me to make sure you turned
in early this evening.

BARTLET

Oh he did, did he? I also believe I am
supposed to wait here until I can review
my departing remarks.

LEO

I'll make sure Sam gets them to you. You
have a big couple of days ahead of you.

BARTLET

That I do. Charlie, lead the way.

Charlie and Bartlet move off toward the residence.

CUT TO:

TITLE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9TH 8:25 A.M.

EXT. AIRPORT TARMAC -- MORNING

CJ and Toby wait by the terminal. A crowd of reporters wait
patiently for the guest of honor. All try not to let on that
they are really watching the carwreck that is Mimi reading
Arad the riot act.

TOBY

She really has quite a mouth on her.

CJ

Any idea what she's saying?

TOBY

Oh, I think it's pretty clear.

Sam approaches the two carrying something under his arm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CJ

Good morning. The FBI arrested two US citizens for the murder of the Stein family.

SAM

That does indeed sound like a good morning. Where's the president?

TOBY

Please tell me you're not still tweaking.

SAM

No, I gave him the remarks early this morning.

TOBY

Help. I'm almost confident that we're going to pull this off.

Carol runs up to the group.

CAROL

CJ. I've got a message for you.

TOBY

This doesn't sound good.

CAROL

(reading from message)
"Best birthday I ever had. Bobby. See, you do care."

CJ

Thank you.

Carol disappears back into the fray.

TOBY

That's it?

CJ

The senior correspondent on the trip will be Bobby.

TOBY

What was that, press code?

CJ

If you understood everything, you wouldn't need me.

INT. RESIDENCE -- MORNING

The First Lady, Lilly Mays, and several aides collect the First Lady's bags as the president hands Charlie his own.

ABBEY

Do we have what we'll need for our hike?

BARTLET

No one said anything about a hike. They have big mountains in Japan.

ABBEY

And on the top of one is the largest wooden Buddha in Japan.

BARTLET

I'm not going on a hike.

ABBEY

You said we could do whatever I wanted.

BARTLET

Anything but a hike.

ABBEY

You didn't say that.

BARTLET

It was implied by the fact that I have never wanted to go on a hike.

ABBEY

I won't need all this in Japan.

LILLY

You need evening wear, conservative wear, casual wear, and comfortable wear.

While Abigail speaks, Bartlet looks at her, watching her expressions, her energy.

ABBEY

Aren't casual and comfortable the same thing?

LILLY

There's a subtle but distinct difference.

BARTLET

Abbey?

She pauses, turning to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTLET (CONT'D)

I'm looking forward to Tokyo.

CUT TO:

EXT. TARMAC -- MORNING

Charlie, Bartlet, and several of his closest and dearest bodyguards make their way to the podium located before Air Force One.

Sam jogs up to them.

SAM

Sir--

BARTLET

Good morning, Sam.

SAM

Morning. I think I have a solution to the August 9th problem.

BARTLET

I'm not going to say anything.

SAM

Exactly. You're not going to say a thing.

Sam pulls a string of multi-colored origami cranes.

BARTLET

What's this?(MORE)

SAM

Your official gift to the Prime Minister of Japan. It's a string of multi-colored origami cranes. Cathy and I worked on it.

BARTLET

What does this have to do with the bombing of Nagasaki?

SAM

A lot. After Hiroshima, one young girl developed leukemia, and sick as she was, she determined to fold one thousand origami cranes in hopes of being granted her wish to get better.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM(CONT'D)

Hearing of her plight, soon school children from all over Japan sent in cranes to help her reach her goal.

CHARLIE

What happened to the girl?

SAM

She died, but the tradition hasn't. These origami mobiles have come to symbolize her plight and all the children who suffered because of the effects of the bomb.

BARTLET

Thank you. I'll use this.

CUT TO:

EXT. TARMAC -- LATER

The West Wing and the Romanians watch as Bartlet delivers his departing remarks.

BARTLET

I have the opportunity today to open the world's borders to American goods and services and usher in a period of global prosperity. America will always be seen as the land of opportunity, but opening the doors of opportunity abroad will create a world where no one needs to die crossing a border to find work or food. A world where the best and brightest can forge a future for themselves anywhere.

Arad reaches out to Mimi and holds her hand.

BARTLET (CONT'D)

A world where parents can raise their children without fear. History has shown us that together, we can weather any crisis that comes our way. But when we are divided against each other, the ultimate losers are our children.

As Bartlet's speech fades out, we CLOSE on the mobile of origami cranes.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW