

FISHING PARTY 001

BOBINE 363

Panama City 1

Panama City 2

Panama City 3

Lanzmann: Ambassador Robert Gordon Reams.

Re: You're the photographer that's coming in? You know where Mr. Reams lives?

Lanzmann: I know. I do.

Re: All right.

Lanzmann: Thank you.

FISHING PARTY Panama City 4

Lanzmann: Excuse me, Ambassador Reams -- I don't remember the road.

Re: You going to Mr. Reams'?

Lanzmann: Yes, yes. I don't remember the road. How do you do it?

Re: Oh yes. First road on your right.

Lanzmann: Yes

Re: That would be 131 Marlin Circle -- I believe it is -- or 31 Marlin Circle.

Lanzmann: Okay. Thank you very much. C'était l'endroit. Voila c'est ca. C'est la maison au toit rouge la bas. Je reconnais. Si est la entrain de nous attendre. La voila avec sa femme qui va arriver six heures. Allez Bernard. Okay sors normalement derrière la voiture.

FISHING PARTY PANAMA CITY 5

BOBINE 364 FISHING PARTY PANAMA CITY 6 MUETT

FISHING PARTY PANAMA CITY 7 CLAP MAINS

Fuis a la claquette

Sans announce

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FISHING PARTY 002

Amb: This is salt water, you know. Little -- he took my bait.  
I cast overhand. (Sound of fog horn.)

BOBINE 364

Suite de plan muet non-identifiee.

Puis un plan sonore. Sans clap ni announce.

Lanzmann: Oh la, la, la.

Amb: No, a whale.

Lanzmann: Qu'est ce c'est? It is a very good fish?

Amb: Pin him down and just let him rest on the ground. See  
they have very sharp fins on their backs and they can cut into  
your hands. Those fins that come up...

Lanzmann: It is a very good fish, no?

Amb: Good eatin'. They are eatable, but we don't eat them  
unless they are about ten times that size.

Lanzmann: How is it called?

Amb: It's a finfish.

Lanzmann: Finfish? A finfish.

Ensuite un plan avec son son resynchronise. Son Seul 294

Lanzmann: Well, I am very happy to fish with you, Mr. Reams.

Amb: Huh?

Lanzmann: I say, I am very happy to fish with you.

Amb: I'm happy. I'm I'm sorry we're not gettin' anything big.  
But you may have...

Lanzmann: But we will.

Amb: We will.

Lanzmann: I am sure we will. Mai je pense que tu vas pouvoir  
arreter Sir William round instant.

Amb: You think uh...

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FISHING PARTY 003

BOBINE 365

FISHING PARTY 8 CLUB DE FIN

Amb: Here, we must get.... See the minnows on top of the water there?

FISHING PARTY PANAMA CITY

Lanzmann: Nous allons vers six heures trente. Si on m'avait dit un jour que je pecherais avec M. Robert Gordon Reams dans les canause de Panama City sur le Golf du Mexique j'aurais ete tout a fait etenne. Mais c'est plus difficile de l'attraper lui que l'attraper un poisson. Il va falloir le serrer ca va etre tres lives dure. Toutes les chances de ne pas reussir.

Amb: I'm going to show you a big speckled trout coming along in a minute.

Lanzmann: Oui. If one of them would have tell me, my dear Ambassador, that I would be once fishing with you on the Mexican Gulf in Panama City, I would have been very, very surprised.

Amb: Yes?

Lanzmann: Everything is a va etre ca va etre quasi impossible bein. Quoi, quoi. Il n'a rien repondu a ce que j'ai dit un gros niet.

Amb: Take you up the step.

Ensuite un plan muet non identifiee.

Une ambience commence au milieu du plan.

Amb: You talk to him Dotty.

Dotty: Okay. I'll bring a little on my...

Amb: Okay. Put your bait on the catch for him there.

Clap Mains. L'Ambience

Lanzmann: C'etait un check micro sur Mr. et Mme. Reams en train de pecher puis de...

Dotty: Your bait. (After long silence.) God knows where they are. (Another silence) Ah, got him! Isn't he a nice one?

Amb: He's a whale.

Lanzmann: C'etait un second plan avec clap de fin sur Mr. et Mme. Reams en train de pecher.

Plan muet a l'interviewe plus un plan soncre Mme. Reams dans une petite voiture.

Amb: Hey! Hey! Oh oh. I think we'll have to start at three if people want...

BOBINE 366

Son pas trouve pour le lone plan. Ensuite.

Panama City 11

Amb: I sliced it a little bit.

Lanzmann: Where is it? I didn't even see it

Amb: It's down there. Now it's your turn.

Lanzmann: Ah, moi. Ha, ha. Interstant, moi... c'est vraiment pas la...

Amb: Put your feet a little bit apart.

Lanzmann: Yes.

Amb: And just hit it.

Lanzmann: Oh pardon. C'est vraiment du beau travail. Tiens une ligne que je n'y touche. Je vous j'une que je ne l'aurais pas fait.

Amb: No, you have to swing way back. Do that again.

Lanzmann: I have to do it again?

Amb: Uh huh, you have to hit it farther than that. This is... you, you take the club back...

Lanzmann: You are, you are very good.

Amb: I used to be, not anymore.

Lanzmann: When did you used to be?

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Amb: Many years ago.

Lanzmann: When did you start to play?

Amb: When I was about fifteen.

Lanzmann: In Washington, did you play?

Amb: Uh-huh. (Sound of ball being hit)

Lanzmann: Well, you got it up there. We'll let you use an iron the next time.

Lanzmann: Okay.

Amb: Dotty, Let's roll.

Un plan. Clap Mains.

Dotty: (Sound of ball being hit) Ah.

Lanzmann: Well, well you are playing like a king.

Dotty: It's very very ... you hit another one.

Amb: Come on, loosen up.

Dotty: Okay. Now this one is going to go far. I promise you. (Sound of ball being hit) Not very far.

Amb: No, you came up on it.

Lanzmann: But you must teach me. Attendez. Wait. Wait.

Amb: You want me to wait for a while?

Lanzmann: Yes.

Amb: Tell me when.

Lanzmann: Est ce que tu es prêt?

Amb: Stand with the club a little bit over here.

Lanzmann: This was a rather good drive.

Amb: No, it wasn't. Tell me when.

Lanzmann: Okay. (Sound of ball being hit)

Lanzmann: Oh la la la.

Amb: That was poor. That was poor.

Lanzmann: Why do, why do you say it is poor?

Amb: Because I hit it into the ground and it didn't go anywhere. (Sound of players walking.)

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FISHING PARTY 006

Lanzmann: But you were -- you are the best in golf and you were the best in bridge too.

Amb: I'm I'm afraid I hit your ball in the sandtrap.

Lanzmann: Nevermind, I will... (Sound of them walking and pulling golf carts.)

CUT

On vient de faire un quatre huit et douze maintenant on continue.

Lanzmann: You do it now. (Sound of ball being hit.)

Amb: Now can we get it to roll

Lanzmann: Not bad.

Amb: Not good. Well, now Dotty's coming. (Sound of ball being hit.)

Amb: You're lazy Dotty.

Dotty: There's a lot of hard short grass here.

Amb: These greens are in bad shape.

C'est identifie par un trirze ala camera.

FISHING PARTY 13

Lanzmann: We start?

Amb: Yes, we start. I'll hit first.

Lanzmann: On this you are suppose to do it in how much -- how many?

Amb: Three. Lanzmann: In three?

Amb: Uh huh. Lanzmann: In three?

Amb: Yes.

Lanzmann: Oh, superb. You can make it in one!

Amb: No, but I should be able to make it in three. Now, you hit the ball with this.

Lanzmann: Tell me what I do. You are my master.

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Amb: Well, in the first place you should have your left hand on top and your right hand there.

Lanzmann: My left hand on top -- I cannot.

Amb: Why not?

Lanzmann: No, I can't.

Amb: And then you... Dotty: Move more to the...

Lanzmann: Okay, tell me what to do.

Amb: Hit the ball. Look at it. (Sound of ball being hit.)

Lanzmann: I did.

Amb: We have to play this one out and then go over and come in there because there are golfers coming up and we can't hold them up.

Lanzmann: Uh huh. I take it over.

Amb: No! You hit it. Hit it -- go on walk up and hit it again with that club. (Sound of ball being hit.)

Amb: Now, you're hitting with your right hand.

CUT

En suite un plan muet puis un plan sonore

Lanzmann: Anytime?

Amb: Yes. (Sound of ball being hit.)

Lanz: Oh lalla la la.

Amb: Now it's your turn. Now you have a tee.

Lanzmann: I'll give you a tee which I have stolen. With this one?

Amb: That one. Don't...

Lanzmann: Il n'est pas question que tu te fiches de moi.

(Dotty talking in background not comprehensible.)

Dotty: You've got the wrong hand on top.

Amb: Left hand on top and hit through with the left arm.

Here, now use this one. Here's your tee.

Lanzmann: Thank you for the tee.

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FISHING PARTY 009

BOBINE 367

LA MUET

FISHING PARTY 20 CLUB DE FIN

Dotty: Order up here.

Lanzmann: Ordre National de la Cote d'Ivoire -- President

Humphet de Boigny

Amb: I was made grand officer -- the first non-Ivorian to get the Grand Officer and the French ambassador got it later.

Lanzmann: You were the first non-Ivorian to be...

Amb: No, the Grand Officer.

Dotty: There were lots of Ivorians.

Lanzmann: You were made Grand Officer by Humphet de Boigny.

This was when you were Ambassador in the Ivory Coast?

Amb: That's right.

Lanzmann: Cote d'Ivoire. Was there awards.

Amb: Well, those are all credentials as ambassador to the Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Niger and Dahomey.

Lanzmann: Dahomey?

Amb: Which is now Benin.

Lanzmann: Benin. Yes.

Amb: They keep changing their names so fast I don't even...

Dotty: If you don't know where they are...

Lanzmann: It's difficult, yes.

Amb: They change names and presidents.

Lanzmann: One forgets completely its geographical map of the giant globe. On this can they lead Eisenhower, Kennedy...

Amb: I have four from each one of them, but I don't have them all.

Lanzmann: What is the meaning of this?

Amb: Well, those are my credentials as an Ambassador.

Lanzmann: Oh, these are your credentials in every country you were...

Amb: Yeah.

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Lanzmann: Appointed?

Amb: You got it .. it's something like that. We have a trunk full of them, I think. I don't know ... I don't know where they are.

Lanzmann: And, and what is written? Can you read what is written?

Amb: I could if I were sitting where you are -- without glasses I can't.

Lanzmann: I presume you must know them by heart?

Amb: No, I don't. I never read them through in my life.

Lanzmann: I try. John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President of the United States of America, through Robert Gordon Reams ... well, after that I cannot read anymore. What is written?

Amb: It's the usual diplomatic language.

Dotty: I cannot read it without glasses.

Lanzmann: Well, maybe you get up from you..

Dotty: Would you like me to go over?

Lanzmann: Yes.

Dotty: Well right. It says, John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America to R. Gordon Reams of Nevada. Greetings. Imposing special trust and confidence in your integrity, prudence and ability, I by, and with the advice and consent of the Senate do appoint you Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Ivory Coast. Authorizing hereby to do and perform all such matters and things as to the said place and office that pertain or as may be duly given you in charge hereafter and the said office to hold and exercise during the pleasure of the President of the United States for the time being."

Lanzmann: That is beautiful, huh?

Dotty: It's beautiful language, huh?

Lanzmann: The beautiful language...

Dotty: Diplomatic language is wonderful.

Amb: Yes, diplomatic is. That's the normal wording.

Lanzmann: And you say that you have a trunk full of these?

Amb: Not quite. But we have quite a few of one sort or another.

Dotty: You see, with every promotion you get a new commission: from Second Secretary to First Secretary to Counselor of

Embassy to...

Lanzmann: I see. It's not only for the Ambassador-Chief.

Dotty: That's right.

Lanzmann: You seem to know a lot about this.

Dotty: (Laughter) Yes, I lived with it.

Lanzmann: You lived with it with this, where? You were in the State Department even longer than your husband?

Dotty: No, I wasn't there very long. I was there about seven

years. Well, seven years and then after that, you know,

how you work -- two for the price of one.

Amb: Because the wife is also...

Lanzmann: You were, what's this, Mrs. Ambassador?

Dotty: Madame Ambassador.

Lanzmann: Madame Ambassador?

Dotty: No. Yes. No, but Madame Ambassador is the Ambassador.

L'Ambassadrice in French is the wife of the Ambassador.

Otherwise,

Lanzmann: Absoluement. What is the martini spoken here -- what does it mean?

Amb: I don't really know. Somebody thought I drank a martini occasionally, I guess.

Lanzmann: Yes?

Amb: And I do.

Lanzmann: And the guns?

Amb: Well, the guns ... Dotty bought at an auction in Switzerland. The curious part, the one at the top is a Spencer Carbine, which was developed in America during the Civil War and used later to pacify Indians. And since 45 war, it pacified Indians fairly completely. But what it was doing in Switzerland, I don't

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know and it is in good condition.

Lanzmann: Yes, it is a very nice gun.

Dotty: There's something here Caroline...do you have pierced ears? Here's an earring for pierced ears.

Lanzmann: Yes?

Dotty: An Indian pierced ear. Can you imagine having a hole like that? That's the Naga Tribe. That would interest ... here and I think this is part of a tooth which is a pendant also from India.

Lanz: Yes? Well, you see I was very fair. We didn't make any kind of interview. I didn't ask you questions.

Amb: I will tell you Claude. I told you last night that I was extremely fond of you. I meant it.

Lanz: Yes, I am too. But we didn't talk about what I wanted to talk about.

Amb: I know.

Lanz: The policy of the United States, of the State Department of the Bermuda Conference - we didn't talk about this.

Amb: None. We're not going to either.

Lanzmann: I know. But you ~~just~~ should tell me why not.

Amb: No, no, no. You know ~~why~~ I did not want to do it and if I told why not, I'd be talking to you.

Lanzmann: No, it's..

Amb: Yes, I would. Now, you know why I don't want to do it and that's enough.

Lanzmann: If you don't want to do it, I cannot press you.

Amb: Pardon?

Lanzmann: I say if you don't want to do it I would not press you. There is no ... I would not do this. But just one thing I have to ask ... but I can say that I regret very much.

Amb: And you what?

Lanzmann: That I regret it very much.

Amb: Oh, I regret it too because you...

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Lanz: You do regret it?

Amb: I would have liked to have done it, but for reasons of my own, which I have already explained, I feel I shouldn't.

Lanzmann: Yes, but when ... I mean your reasons as far as what you told me yesterday are inner reasons.

Amb: To me they are very real and that's...

Lanzmann: Yes. I don't say that inner reasons can't be...

Amb: No.

Lanzmann: Inner reasons can be very real. This is the reason why they have to be respected. But nevertheless I can express my deepest regrets.

Amb: Well, I told you I regret it too.

Lanzmann: Because, as I told you yesterday, you are an historical figure ... not only because...

Amb: Not me.

Lanzmann: Of what you took part in but because you are the only survivor.

Amb: The only thing I am is a moderately good golfer.

Lanzmann: Well, you are an extremely good golfer.

Doty: And he makes a good martini.

Lanzmann: Yes, that you are also the king of martini dry.

I heard that you were a bridge killer, that you killed everybody at the bridge.

Amb: I used to be.

Lanzmann: And that in every contest drinking contest, you came out as winner too.

Amb: True.

Lanzmann: Yes. At least you should tell me the one anecdote you told me yesterday.

Amb: No, not about...no, that would be unfair to him.

Lanzmann: It's, it's so beautiful.

Amb: That would be unfair to him.

Lanzmann: Oh, I see. You - he would not like it very much?

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FISHING PARTY 013

Amb: I doubt it.

Lanzmann: Why?

Amb: He didn't like it at the time. No, that would be totally unfair.

Lanzmann: You think so?

Amb: Yeah. And I, because I like the man.

Lanzmann: Me too. And he took part in this film. But when I go to see him, I will ask him.

Amb: You ask him about it, he'll remember.

Lanzmann: I thought that maybe he would not want to talk about it. It's on low. We're not going to talk about...

PLAN COUPE

BOBINE 368

Egalement plan de coupe

FISHING PARTY 23

Dotty: But we, we...

Lanzmann: Is it -- but then I thought a man like Houphet is perfect.

Amb: Yes, Houphet basically. And most of the top people everyone in French West Africa -- very ordinary workers -- spoke French, but it wasn't pure French.

Lanzmann: Oh, yes. But in Syria you...

Amb: The French. You got along with French.

Dotty: French was the language.

Lanzmann: You were in Syria? You were Ambassador in Syria?

Amb: I was a Minister Consul General. Actually, I was the Ambassador, but it was at the time when, theoretically, Syria and Egypt were united as one country. But I was entirely independent. I was a Minister there but because theoretically it was one country I couldn't be called Ambassador, but I was the Minister.

Lanzmann: It was when '52, No?

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Amb: Dotty? It was '57, something like that. Your buzzer is buzzing, Love.

Dotty: That's all right. I'll just make a note of the time. I have to turn it off in another hour anyway.

Lanzmann: Qu'est ce que c'est que ce bruit?

Amb: We found Syria very interesting. What's going on?

Dotty: The buzzer is from the kitchen.

Lanzmann: You found Syria very interesting?

Amb: Interesting but oddly enough it's the only country in which we have ever served where we really did not make close and permanent friends.

Lanzmann: Yes? Why?

Amb: I don't really know. It wasn't because we didn't want to. I don't -- I can't quite tell you.

Lanzmann: Yes, but there other -- it was right with Americans at this time?

Amb: They, I guess...As the Russian minister said to me one night at a cocktail party, he said, "today they love you tomorrow they'll love me."

Lanzmann: Well, this was not false, as a matter of fact.

Amb: It's very curious.

Lanzmann: Yes.

Amb: But Damascus is a very interesting city.

Lanzmann: I was never there. I don't know at all Damascus.

Amb: Mrs. Hershmann visited us there.

Lanzmann: I tell her.

Amb: Huh?

Lanzmann: She came to...

Amb: Damascus and stayed with us.

Lanzmann: What did you do there?

Amb: Nothing, really.

Dotty: What did he do there?

Lanzmann: HE was working for Bloomingdale?

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Amb: No, he'd left Bloomingdale's by that time, I think.

Lanzmann: Yes. Yes. He did.

Dotty: That's investigating the situation in the Middle East, I guess. He had always a deep interest in what was going on.

Lanzmann: Yes. And he was always thinking a "command de mission." He was a self-appointed man.

Amb: Yes, that's true. The world is full of self-appointed men.

Lanzmann: Oh yes. Sometimes a self-appointed man becomes a self-made man. This happens, yes. And what was... Long was -- Breckinridge Long was Assistant Secretary of State?

Amb: Yes.

Lanzmann: But I -- it was always difficult to understand there were three people: Gordon Heard, Sumner Wells

Amb: Who?

Lanzmann: Gordon Heard Dotty: Gordon Hall

Lanzmann: He was the Secretary of State.

Amb: And Sumner Wells was Under Secretary.

Lanzmann: Under secretary and then there was assistant?

Amb: They had assistant secretaries for the four geographic areas and then Long was -- he was sort of a special assistant secretary. He had Congressional Relations, didn't he, Dotty? And the special problems -- visas, you know the sort of things that didn't fit in with...

Lanzmann: Special problem with visas?

Amb: No, he didn't have the geopolitical...

Dotty: Special projects, you could call it.

Amb: Special projects.

Lanzmann: He was in charge of the visa division?

Amb: Yes.

Dotty: For instance, he was in charge of international transportation and...

Amb: Fisheries...

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Lanzmann: What? Fisheries?

Amb: Fisheries. All sorts of -- anything that didn't fit into the geopolitical.

Lanzmann: But I have heard that he was in charge of seventeen divisions inside of the State Department.

Amb: I wouldn't doubt it at all. I don't remember in that detail.

Dotty: Ah, it could be.

Amb: I'm sure it is possible, very probable, but I wouldn't remember what they were.

Lanzmann: Well, how did you call him? What was his surname?

Dotty: Long -- Mr. Long?

Lanzmann: But when you talk about him, you said Beckey, no?

Amb and Dotty: Breckenridge.

Amb: Breckenridge. Dotty: But Bob said Breck.

Lanzmann: Breck?

Amb: Breck, we called him.

Dotty: I didn't call him Breck.

Lanzmann: He was, he was a pleasant man?

Dotty: Well, I was a young girl and I didn't call an old man by his first name.

Lanzmann: No, no. What I asked you if he was a pleasant man?

Amb & Dotty: Oh, yes.

Lanzmann: He was a nice man?

Amb: Very nice man.

Dotty: Very quiet man.

Lanzmann: Yes? Intelligent?

Dotty: In my estimation, he was.

Lanzmann: Yes?

Amb: Not an intellectual, but intelligent.

Lanzmann: But when one reads his personal diaries that he published later on, one has the feeling that at a moment he felt extremely persecuted.

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Amb: I've never read the diaries.

Dotty: Extremely what?

Amb: Persecuted. I've never read the diaries.

Lanzmann: Apparently, there was a "caball" against him.

Amb: Well any Department of State -- French, English -- there are divisions within it. You have groups. And during this particular period you had a lot of unusual and sort of opinionated people. You had Nelson Rockefeller in there and Breck Long and Summer Wells and I can't remember all of them.

Dotty: Dean Acheson was one.

Amb: Dean Acheson was around. And they were quite brilliant -- all of them. But they had... Honey, the buzzer is going off again. They were quite brilliant but they all had their own ideas.

Lanzmann: Yes?

Amb: And what happened was that...

Lanzmann: Yes, yes.

Amb: Was that it's my recollection that Summer Wells and Breck Long, although they were from the same background.

Lanzmann: Yes?

Amb: They didn't always agree on everything.

Lanzmann: Is it true that Summer Wells had a Jewish wife?

Amb: No, Cordell Hall had a Jewish wife.

Lanzmann: Cordell Hall?

Amb: Yes. Lanzmann: Cordell Hall?

Amb: Yes. He had. I don't even ... I never, I'm sure I never met Summer Wells' wife. As a matter of fact, I rarely saw Summer Wells. I can't pretend to really know Summer Wells. Very few people could pretend to know Summer...

La Pasacade de cette cassette est bein terminee a la fin de  
la bobine 363

BOBINE 369

Lanzmann: Well, uh, why do you say that you have a great respect  
for Brackenridge Long as a man?

Amb: Well, I did because I felt that he was as honest as any  
politician can be and I felt that I could trust him absolutely  
if he told me something I believed it and he was a gentle person  
too.

Lanzmann: Yes.

Amb: And there is a lot in being, I suppose, what a man is.  
He was a gentleman -- a gentle man, which basically means  
gentle man, and he was.

Lanzmann: He was a man from the South, no? He was a Southerner?

Amb: Yes, I think Kentucky. Although he lived in Maryland at  
the time, didn't he Dotty?

Lanzmann: He has a real estate -- he was raising horses.

Amb: Yes.

Dotty: Yes. With his interest in horses, I think, I think  
Kentucky enters into it somewhere. Maybe it was his wife who was  
from Kentucky.

Amb: I don't know.

Lanzmann: Yes?

Dotty: Was it his wife?

Lanzmann: Yes, absolutely. You are quite right.

Amb: Yes, this was a long time ago...

Lanzmann: I don't remember the name of the real estate. But  
what I was saying was that in his diary that one has the  
feeling that he feels himself -- how do you sat prosecuted or  
persecuted? No. Yes, persecuted.

Amb: Well, I couldn't, I couldn't...

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Lanzmann: He seemed to have a -- the end -- a kind of paranoia, you know, because he saw enemies everywhere. When he writes about the Jewish factions who are fighting against him and who were wanting to get rid of him...

Amb: I can't comment on that because I didn't even know the diary had been published. Dotty knew he kept the diary but I didn't know it had been published.

Lanzmann: Was this because you were his personal secretary?

Dotty: I knew he kept a diary. I did not know what went into the diary -- somebody else did. He had a personal secretary for many, many years.

Amb: And Dotty was one of his sec...working secretaries.

Lanzmann: Working secretary? He had a personal secretary at the same time?

Dotty: He had three secretaries.

Lanzmann: You know but I tell you because I have read the...

Dotty: And I knew that he was keeping a diary which he wrote out every day.

Lanzmann: Yes? And he was very bitter as...

Dotty: I must say, I never read any of it.

Amb: I must get hold of it. I don't know. I know that he had problems within the Department of State and I know that he felt that he was unjustly treated in some ways but I have no idea of the bitterness. That never showed up in anything he ever said to me. See, I never worked for him. I was in the European Division and loaned to him for the Bermuda Conference.

Lanzmann: You were? What does it mean to be in the European Division? What were you, your tasks, especially?

Amb: Well, I had quite a few. I dealt with the affairs of Greenland, Denmark, the Union of South Africa -- where I'd been. And then I was sort of a special assistant to the head of the European Division -- Doc. Matthews. I read his material and made sure that he saw everything he should see and didn't

have to read anything he shouldn't have to read. I had a whole assortment of duties there. But and how I got into the relationship with Breck Long, I don't quite know. He wanted me at one time to come on his staff, but I didn't. I told him I would not leave the European Division because that was my thing.

Lanzmann: But it must have been fascinating to lead the European Division when Europe was at war and...

Amb: It was fascinating but what happened? I stayed on in the European Division instead of going into Breck Long's office and then when Jimmy Burns came in, I was almost immediately transferred to his office.

Lanzmann: And this was after the war?

Amb: No. It was after the War -- that's right. Yeah. But I, I, I'd served quite a long time in the Department at that time.

Lanzmann: No, but I mean -- when you were in the European Division -- this was during the war?

Amb: Yeah. And as I say, I had Greenland affairs, Danish affairs, South African affairs. I don't even remember what I had.

Lanzmann: Yes.

Amb: A lot of things. It was so long ago and I didn't keep notes. And then the refugee thing we simply added on -- it was an added job.

Lanzmann: When you were in the European Division?

Amb: Yeah. Yes.

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Lanzmann: What do you mean? You were still subject to what kind of pressure?

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Amb: Congress wanted one thing, the White House wanted another thing and after all, he dealt with Congress. He dealt -- he dealt with the White House directly, as you know. And special groups wanted certain things. And, he was always having to respond to pressures here, here, and here.

Lanzmann: Yes, it is what I mean when I am talking about a paranoid because his diary after -- at the end of '43-'44 when the war refugee war took place, he has the feeling he is the victim of a club...

Amb: The, I really can't talk about -- because I haven't read the diary.

Lanzmann: No, but I tell you.

Amb: Yeah. He, I, I had an evening with him when he was leaving and there was never anything like that in what he said to me that evening. It was just -- we'd become friends and thank you and that was it. But no recrimination -- no, no, nothing of the sort.

Lanzmann: But was it for you? I get back to you. Was it something well come to have. It was frightening to have the refugee problem added to your tasks, which were already considerable.

Amb: You know, you can't really get around me. It was a job that nobody else wanted. And all my career, I took jobs that people didn't want.

Lanzmann: Why didn't they want it?

Amb: Because it was difficult and it could be too difficult, see?

Lanzmann: I don't know -- I don't get on...

Amb: I have relished jobs that other people didn't want.

Lanzmann: Why did you take them?

Amb: It was my duty.

Lanzmann: Yes, but it was the duty of others, too.

Amb: I have a curious idea of patriotism. I was an appointed official.

Lanzmann: Yes?

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Amb: Of the Government. I was appointed. I was representing people -- basically the President -- who were elected and they were elected by the people of the United States. It was my duty to do what I was told to do -- up to the point where my consciences would no longer permit me to do it. Then I would not fight it. I would quit.

Lanzmann: Yes?

Amb: It was that simple.

Lanzmann: But you told me yesterday that you, you, ah, patriotism is something very great -- something very important for you.

Amb: It is important to me.

Lanzmann: How did you you experiment it? How did you feel it?

Amb: I felt it by doing the best job I could possibly do on any job I was given. And I didn't always do the best job, which somebody else might have been able to do but I did the best job I could do.

Lanzmann: Yes? But politically how would you locate it? How would you situate it at the time?

Amb: How would I what?

Lanzmann: I mean, would it be right to say that you were then isolationist or not?

Amb: I was a?

Lanzmann: Isolationist or not?

Dotty: Idealist?

Lanzmann: No. No. No. Excuse me, my accent is very bad.

How do you say this isolationist?

Dotty: Oh, isolationist.

Lanzmann: Isolationist. Would it be right to say this or not?

I don't know now, but at the time?

Amb: No. No, I'm not an isolationist.

Lanzmann: You were never?

Amb: Never.

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Amb: I didn't say they refused it. I said no one wanted it. That means they were sane and I wasn't. No, I took it as a duty.

Lanzmann: Yes?

Amb: I took it as a duty. Incidentally, of the two of us Dotty is much wiser than I am.

Lanzmann: Yes?

Amb: She hasn't lived the life of controversy and moderate sin that I have. But she is much wiser.

Dotty: I read, ah, I watched a TV pro -- interview today between Archbishop Sheen and Hugh Downs and this brought to my mind -- you are always saying that I am wiser than you...

Amb: You are.

Dotty: I'm trying to fit the definition -- because Hugh because Archbishop Sheen says that you acquire wisdom through suffering.

Amb: Oh, I made you suffer.

Dotty: And I don't how we're going to fit that now.

Amb: No, I'll tell you.

Lanzmann: But you suffered probably. There is no doubt about this. You don't know it, but you do.

Dotty: And the Archbishop said if you want wise advice go to a saint or someone who has suffered. Now, see.

Lanzmann: By definition, a saint has always suffered. Can you, can you at least elaborate on this and I will then ask you more. You said yesterday -- between you and me when we were talking -- and you are not obliged to answer -- that you felt that you have faults.

Amb: That I have what!

Lanzmann: That you have faults, as everybody have.

Amb: Enemies, you mean?

Lanzmann: No, faults.

Dotty: Faults?

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Lanzmann: Yes, faults.

Amb: Oh, everyone has faults.

Lanzmann: Yes. You said yesterday that you felt that you had faults.

Amb: ~~Everyone~~ has faults.

Lanzmann: Yes. Oh yes, a few. There is no doubt about this.

Dotty: Speak for yourself -- speak for yourself.

Amb: I tend to slice on the golf course and I shouldn't. That's a fault.

Lanzmann: No, but that's inevitable. No.

Amb: Everyone has faults.

Lanzmann: What did you mean yesterday when you -- when you said this? ~~Here~~ you...

Amb: Actually, I didn't mean anything in particular, I simply meant that there's never been a man or even a woman without faults of some kind -- without everyone makes mistakes. Everyone in the world. I try to limit mine. Which and oddly enough, if you asked me now what mistakes I've made in my life, except on a very personal level, I couldn't tell you. But if I sat down and talked long enough I might be able to.

Lanzmann: Yes? Is it..

Amb: And I am sure there are things that I could have done better than I did do.

Lanzmann: Which one for instance?

Amb: Oh, the only one I can think of off hand is purely a personal thing and I will not tell you.

Lanzmann: Purely personal matter?

Amb: Yes. Purely personal.

Lanzmann: Okay. To go on with a last -- let's say inter-physical question. You were in charge of the problem of the refugees during the War...

Amb: That isn't quite true. I was made Secretary of the

Intergovernmental Committee, which had to...

Lanzmann: That's the ICGA?

Amb: Yeah. Which had two members -- Miran Taylor and myself.

And at that time the thing didn't even exist.

Lanzmann: And this committee was created after the Evan

Conference.

Amb: It didn't exist. But I was theoretically Secretary.

And as such, since it didn't exist, I had no power to do anything.

I had really no function. I had a title.

Lanzmann: Well, well what did it mean?

Amb: Nothing, nothing. It meant nothing.

Lanzmann: Why did they keep this function or this title?

Amb: That I haven't any idea. After all, in those -- you

know a lot of people believe that I never was young, but once

I was young.

Lanzmann: Yes.

Amb: And when you're young you tend to accept or reject, and I accepted.

Lanzmann: There was one thing which I was asking to myself and which I have no answer to this. When I was in Washington, in Geneva -- all this quiet peaceful, political cities -- centers of decisions and power -- and I was trying to figure Washington in 1942 or 1943 and to be in charge of important problems -- important questions. How did one experience this? What was the meaning of outfits, ah, Washington? Did it exist in Washington?

Amb: Well, you see, there as I told you -- I didn't get back to Washington until oh after the middle of '42.

Lanzmann: Yes

Amb: Because the first half of '42, I was basking in German war rations or field rations -- supposedly interned. I was interned in Germany. And not very happy about it and not very happy about the Germans. And I spent the first half of '42

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and I don't really remember when even knew anything --  
Auschwitz and the ... I can't give you a date. And when I heard  
the first rumors, I actually didn't believe them because it was  
so incredible it was beyond belief.

Lanzmann: You, you don't remember when you heard these rumors?

Amb: No, I don't. This is a long time ago.

Lanzmann: Yes.

Amb: Which we're talking -- well, we're talking about a long  
time ago.

Lanzmann: I know. I know. I know.

Amb: And, uh, but the first fall of '42 I was a guest of the  
German Government.

Lanzmann: Why? Because you were caught in Copenhagen? No?

Amb: I was Charge d'affaires of the American Litigation in  
Copenhagen and I was taken with my staff. I was given the  
choice of internment in Denmark in the castle of a Danish count  
-- a friend of mine -- or going to Germany to participate in the  
exchange of diplomats later and I picked internment because  
I couldn't face the thought of being locked up away from what  
was going on in the castle in Denmark -- as pleasant as it  
probably would have been.

Lanzmann: But when you were sent as a representative of the  
United States in Bermuda for the famous Bermuda Conference uh,  
this was the 19th of April when it opened.

Amb: Yeah. '43.

Lanzmann: Yes, '43. Did you know that at the time it was a  
very advising of the Warsaw Ghetto? Did, did, did, you hear  
about this or not?

Amb: I'm sure... I probably did. I can't remember that. I,  
after all, because after all after all this is over I became  
Chairman of the Cabinet for Jimmy Burns. Then I had to cover the whole  
world everything that was going on in the world for Jimmy  
Burns who all the time was Secretary of State and when

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you ... I know the human mind is supposedly capable of absorbing untold information and I am sure it is. And I am sure locked back in here all sorts of things that I have totally forgotten and something would have to trigger it. What you just said didn't trigger it. It triggered nothing. I don't know.

Lanzmann: Well, at the time ... did you forget or you didn't remember?

Amb: I don't know. I don't know.

Lanzmann: You don't know if you knew?

Amb: No, I don't know. You go back that far and can you tell me what you knew and what you didn't know?

Lanzmann: At the time. Oh, I think I can well remember. I remember very well the year 1943 -- oh, so well. But anyhow this was not my question. My question was to you. What is the meaning of how swiftly one lives peacefully in Washington that's all. That is my only question.

Amb: I simply can't answer.

Lanzmann: Yes. It is difficult.

Amb: Because I don't know. The world is so full of so many horrible things all the time and...

Lanzmann: Yes.

Amb: And the only thing that scares everything out of me is that possibility or probability of an atomic war sometime in the future when civilization as we know it will disappear and the human race may or may not be given another chance to see whether they have more sense than they did before.

Lanzmann: And you are really afraid of this?

Amb: I'm terribly afraid of it. Because I like people and basically I believe in humanity. Sometimes it is difficult. Basically, I do and I'm afraid we may be insane enough to destroy ourselves. I hope we're not. You really got into metaphysics there now on out.

Lanzmann: Well, I don't know. I am

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