

THE EVENT - PRESIDENT MARTINEZ

TIGHT ON A RED FOLDER

-- marked "TOP SECRET: INOSTRANKA", as it lands heavily on a coffee table.

WIDE to REVEAL President Martinez, visibly angry, pacing behind the Resolute desk. Sterling stands in the middle of the room.

PRESIDENT MARTINEZ

Did it just slip your mind? For god's sake, Blake, when were you planning to tell me about this?

Sterling stares, doesn't answer, but his silence says it all.

PRESIDENT MARTINEZ (CONT'D)

(fuming)

You were just gonna keep running this without my knowledge?

STERLING

Plausible deniability, sir.

PRESIDENT MARTINEZ

That's your excuse?!

STERLING

Information regarding the Mount Inostranka Facility has always been on a need-to-know basis.

PRESIDENT MARTINEZ

I'm the President of the United States. I need to know.

STERLING

I determined The Facility to be an unnecessary distraction that would pull you away from more pressing issues.

PRESIDENT MARTINEZ

Oh, just... Blake, just cut the crap, all right?

(beat)

Did the previous administration know about this?

STERLING
Only the Vice President.

PRESIDENT MARTINEZ
Of course. It figures.
(then)
So it's true? It's all true?

Sterling nods silently. A slew of emotions hits Martinez.

PRESIDENT MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
This is... unbelievable.
(grabs the file)
How many of them are there? How many
prisoners?

STERLING
Detainees.

PRESIDENT MARTINEZ
(reading the file)
Whatever. "Detainees." Who get
tortured. How many?

STERLING
Ninety-seven.

PRESIDENT MARTINEZ
(reading off the file)
And eighteen fugitives...

STERLING
... Seventeen.

Martinez stares, waiting for an explanation that Sterling would rather not give. But he clearly has no choice...

STERLING (CONT'D)
We recaptured one of them last week,
but she tried to escape again,
assaulted one of our agents... The
agent acted in self-defense...

We assume he is referring to Kathryn and something that led to her demise after her return to the base. Martinez shakes his head... and lets out a TENSE SIGH, puts on his glasses and starts flipping through the pages of the thick file.

STERLING (CONT'D)
May I ask how you obtained this file?

PRESIDENT MARTINEZ
No, you may not.
(then, stern, bewildered)
(MORE)

PRESIDENT MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
This is... I mean, I don't even know
how to feel.

STERLING
The CIA has overseen this program for
many years and I can assure you that
everything is under control. There's
no need for you to--

PRESIDENT MARTINEZ
I want to go there. I want to meet
them. And this guy...

Martinez pulls a PHOTOGRAPH OF NEIL out of the folder.

PRESIDENT MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
Neil McMann. He's their leader?

STERLING
Leader, spokesperson, something like
that.

PRESIDENT MARTINEZ
I want to meet him.

OFF STERLING AS HE RELUCTANTLY ACQUIESCES...