

COVENANTS

(Series Working Title)

Pilot - *Zone of Danger*

Written by

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Based on and inspired by the 1985 unsolved murder of civil rights activist Alex Odeh.

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FADE IN:

INT. ODEH FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

A silent moment, a portrait, as ALEX ODEH, 41, balding on top, clean shaven, shirt and necktie, sips his morning coffee, California sun hitting him through the window.

CHYRON: OCTOBER 10, 1985, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

SOUND RISING on a busy morning - kids voices, radio news playing as NORMA ODEH, Alex's wife, late 30's, gives him a little rub on the shoulder.

NORMA
(in Arabic & English)
Alex, *habibi*, *yalla*, (my dear, hurry) it's getting late, you should go.

She corrects his neck tie, a quick kiss and warm embrace. Three little girls surround the breakfast table HELENA-7, SAMYA-4, AND SUSAN-3, eating, joking, getting ready for the day. Alex goes around and smooches all of them, sports jacket and briefcase in-hand, as he walks out.

THE SOUND OF A GENTLE KNOCK ON A DOOR.

EXT. APARTMENT DOOR - DAY

A drab, brown apartment door. A HAND KNOCKS again. The door opens from the inside to reveal Alex, his smile is contagious and welcoming.

ALEX
(in Arabic)
Sabah al-Kheir (Good morning)!

ABDO
(in Arabic)
Sabah al-kheir. Ahlan-wa-sahlan
(welcome, come in).

ABDO, late 40's, Yemeni-American welcomes Alex in.

ALEX (O.S.)
You worked the date trees?

INT. ABDO'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY

Close on an elegant tea set being carried into the living room where Alex sits with Abdo, as Abdo's daughter, AMAL, 19, sets the tray down gently and pours for the elders.

ALEX

(to Amal)

Shukran (Thank you).

(back to Abdo)

Hard work, eh? You know I helped organize for the date palm strikes in '73?

ABDO

You're Yemeni?

ALEX

Palestinian, but aren't we brothers? Filipinos and the Mexican-Americans and the Yemeni and us? They killed Nagi Daifallah in cold blood!

ABDO

Wa'Allah- (My god.)

ALEX

We all have to stick together right?

Amal finishes pouring.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(to Amal)

You're in school, no?

AMAL

I graduated high school in the Spring.

ALEX

And not yet in college?

ABDO

She helps the family.

ALEX

You should be in school! I have daughters myself. Education is the key.

(sensing discomfort)

I don't mean to interfere. Thank you for the tea.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

(back to Abdo)

Now, so your brother is trying to emigrate? How can we help?

ABDO

What can you do?

ALEX

Well, our organization can help with legal help and lawyers, forms, like, anything you need.

ABDO

So, what's that mean for me?

ALEX

Nothing. But join us! Join ADC, if you want, we're here to help - we are organizing to help people just like you.

(sipping tea)

Mmm, very nice.

INT./EXT. FRONT DOOR - LATER

Alex is putting back on his blazer, juggling his briefcase, leaving a flyer, handing his business card.

ALEX

(to Abdo)

You call here, speak to our office manager. Whatever we can do to help.

(catching Amal in the kitchen)

Come see me at the college, we will show you around, you should be studying.

Alex holds up his hands like a book, points to his head, to her. Amal smiles, a quiet head nod as a thank you.

EXT. SANTA ANA CALIFORNIA MONTAGE - DAY

- Alex driving.

- Stunning palm trees and green grass

- Clean roads and California traffic.

EXT./INT. SANTA ANA GROCERY - DAY

Alex enters the door to an Arab grocery. He waves and shakes hands with the owner, hands him his business card.

EXT./INT. SANTA ANA COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

Alex avoids little kids at recess. Speaks with instructors; teachers; others; hands out his business card. Alex posts an ADC flyer on a bulletin board. ON THE FLYER: *ADC - Our Time Has Come!*

EXT. SANTA ANA CALIFORNIA MONTAGE - DAY

- Alex driving again.

- The radio plays the latest news report of the recent ACHILLE LAURO hijacking.

RADIO NEWS REPORT

(radio host)

President Reagan spoke again in Chicago about the recent Achille Lauro hijacking,

(voice of Ronald Reagan)

"I really believe that the PLO, if the hijackers are in their custody, should turn them over to a sovereign state that would have jurisdiction and could prosecute them as the murderers they are."

(back to radio host)

In other news the EPA is sounding the alarm on Radon, the naturally occurring radioactive gas-

- Alex turns into a parking space.

EXT. ADC SANTA ANA OFFICES - DAY

Alex walks along the 2nd floor of a little office building to enter the offices of ADC - The Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee - A GASP OF AIR as he enters to his cozy and busy office with a few SMILING STAFFERS welcoming him in.

BLACK.

EXT. SOVIET COMPOUND - BRONX NEW YORK - NIGHT

Some traffic rolls by on the Henry Hudson Parkway in the distance.

CHYRON: WINTER 1984 - BRONX, NEW YORK

A Soviet compound sits quiet behind high fencing and gates. TWO DARK FIGURES, masked, crouch by the walls. Close on HANDS SETTING TIMERS TO SMALL BOMBS. Each LOB their bombs over the walls and take off running, moments later-

BOOM! A CLOUD OF FIRE ERUPTS within the compound.

INT. SOVIET COMPOUND - BRONX NEW YORK - CONTINUOUS

A CAR within the compound is in FLAMES.

CHYRON: SPRING 1984 - JERUSALEM

EXT. RAMALLAH BUS DEPOT- NIGHT

The last passenger boards a bus in an outdoor bus depot, the DOOR SHUTTING. The bus pulls out into the still dark early morning.

EXT. ROAD BETWEEN RAMALLAH AND JERUSALEM - NIGHT

Few cars pass at this hour, a foggy haze diminishes the light from distanced street lamps.

EXT. ROAD - ADJACENT HILL - NIGHT

Two young men, Orthodox Jews, put on their prayer shawls and recite a prayer. They finish and pull on ski masks. An M-16 AUTOMATIC RIFLE is locked and loaded by GLOVED HANDS.

EXT. ROAD BETWEEN RAMALLAH AND JERUSALEM - CONTINUOUS

The BUS rounds a corner, headlights spreading a dim path, the engine gears shifting as it slows to wind a corner.

AROUND A CORNER the bus turns.

The TWO MEN overtake their hiding position. They run down a little hill. The bus nears the same corner. HEADLIGHTS scan across their position. The bus driver just barely sees them.

BUS DRIVER
(in Arabic)
Get down!

The M-16 OPENS FIRE. BULLETS STRAFE the side of the bus.
WINDOWS SHATTER. The bus comes to a screeching halt.

INT. BUS - CONTINUOUS

Passengers are frozen in fear. Window glass shards cover everyone. AN ARAB TEEN lay on the floor of the bus, a bullet wound drenching his shirt with blood, his head falls back into the glass on the floor of the bus.

EXT. ROAD - ADJACENT HILL - NIGHT

The two perpetrators sprinting away into the early morning light.

BLACK.

CHYRON - SPRING 1984 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

JESSE JACKSON (V.O.)
What do you think-

INT. WASHINGTON D.C. HOTEL BALLROOM - NIGHT

A D.C. Event as dinner plates are dropped in front of guests at round tables, low lit, a hush and murmur around the room. JESSE JACKSON, 43, suit and tie, long mustache, running for president in '84.

JESSE JACKSON
-is the priority of Arab-American voters?

JAMES ZOGBY, 38, Lebanese-American, glasses, sharp, co-founder of ADC - Arab-American. Anti-Discrimination Committee.

ZOGBY
We're family and business minded.
We're not monolithic - but our parents are working class and they're just pushing, pushing, pushing for the next generation to be doctors, lawyers, engineers, politicians-

JESSE JACKSON

-Not unlike every other immigrant family.

ZOGBY

Exactly. But this next generation is trending progressive, we can push them that way.

JESSE JACKSON

That's the coalition we're trying to build.

ZOGBY

What about McGovern? Mondale? It's a tough road ahead.

Jackson moves a seat over, not here to eat, folks change seats to accommodate.

JESSE JACKSON

But you look at all of them, all of 'em, and they're afraid of Arab-Americans, Arab people, Arab MONEY. We aren't. Our politics align, Jim. You see?

ZOGBY

I don't know why Arab-Americans give so much money to Reagan and Bush when Reagan has been so hostile towards us here and overseas.

JESSE JACKSON

That voter needs someone to turn to. If we can show them that we care about the policies that affect them - decent wages and mobility, human rights, safety in their home countries and here, we can pull them over-

ZOGBY

-I'm with ya, just don't know about a lot of the Arab-American folks on the street-

Jackson moves another seat over.

JESSE JACKSON

Can I speak frankly? You're not Black, but we ain't too far apart-
(laughs)
(MORE)

JESSE JACKSON (CONT'D)

-so maybe we can cut the shit a little bit.

ZOGBY

Sure.

JESSE JACKSON

And don't go and turn me on me in the press and tell people some private, candid shit-

ZOGBY

Never.

JESSE JACKSON

We need y'all Jim. I never had a shot with Jewish donors, since Affirmative Action and now Israel, you see what I'm sayin'? I mean, I hope I can still get some progressive Jews, but I can't do a damned thing right. I meet with Arafat and they droppin' dead animal heads on my family's doorstep, Jim-

ZOGBY

-Jesus-

JESSE JACKSON

I pray to him. And we gotta break this stronghold the Israel Lobby has in this country.

ZOGBY

That's a tough ask-

JESSE JACKSON

-Look, you want Black leaders in this country to support Palestinian causes? Arab causes? Or go support Israel? We can build a bridge here, get the Arab-American community to support Black leaders.

ZOGBY

We're creating the network for that-

JESSE JACKSON

Man, hey, I got a campaign to run, I need money and all, but that's not all I want. I really want to help build up this Arab-American movement, same as you.

Jackson moves his chair over, gets in closer, the way charismatic people/politicians can do-

JESSE JACKSON (CONT'D)

-I don't just want your support and the support of the Arab-American people, Jim, I want you. You know how to organize, you know how to move, you know how to fundraise. Come be part of this coalition - the Rainbow Coalition.

ZOGBY

What's that look like exactly?

JESSE JACKSON

Become one of my Vice Chairman.

Zogby is torn and charmed.

ZOGBY

Not sure what Abourezk is gonna think. You know I have a full-time job with ADC?-

JAMES ABOUREZK (V.O.)

Jesse Fucking Jackson?!

INT. ADC WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICES - DAY

JAMES ABOUREZK, 52, round glasses, necktie and oxford shirt rolled up at the sleeves, cigar smoking up the room, he's the former Senator from South Dakota.

JAMES ABOUREZK

Even with his bonafides he's a long shot!

Zogby sits across.

ZOGBY

You don't honestly think McGovern has a shot still?

JAMES ABOUREZK

What do you want me to do? He and I served together for christ's sake. How's that going to look - *"Former South Dakota Senator Doesn't Back his former Senior Senator, backs Hymietown guy."*-

ZOGBY

-Jim, Mondale is returning our checks, said he won't take money from Arab-Americans. McGovern just doesn't have the name recognition-

JAMES ABOUREZK

-McGovern knows well and good that it's an outside chance, but he's pushing the agenda-

ZOGBY

-So is Jackson.

JAMES ABOUREZK

Too young, too Black. You think this party, this country is ready for a black man as President?

ZOGBY

They're ready for something different and at least Jackson gives a shit about us.

JAMES ABOUREZK

So?

Zogby stands.

ZOGBY

He's making me a Vice Chairman of his campaign?

JAMES ABOUREZK

What about ADC?

ZOGBY

I'll do both.

JAMES ABOUREZK

We're doing campaigns? I did that shit my entire career! We started this to do civil rights not elections. What about the membership for ADC?! We're not even the top Arab-American organization!

ZOGBY

I can do both!

JAMES ABOUREZK

One thing I know from my years on the Hill is how to count votes.

(MORE)

JAMES ABOUREZK (CONT'D)

And both of you are fucking terrible at countin' 'em, because Jackson doesn't have enough. And our membership is lagging, so I don't know what you think you're giving him exactly.

ZOGBY

I'm at least trying to push our people to vote for someone who'll take their money!

Zogby hustles out.

JAMES ABOUREZK

While you're out there get us some more members.

Abourezk paces.

EXT. EAST JERUSALEM NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Several masked men are walking down a street, thuggish, walking tough. One has a GASOLINE CAN in hand. A PALESTINIAN KID, 21, watches them. One of the thugs sees him and runs over to him, catches the Kid with a thundering right. The Kid is horrified as he blocks punches and kicks, finally able to get on his feet and RUN.

GASOLINE rains down on car roofs. Car windows are SMASHED OPEN. FIRES ERUPT, as the Thugs run down the street.

EXT. JERUSALEM - PHONE BOOTH - NIGHT

One of the Thugs, CRAIG LEITNER, ski mask above his head, shouts into the phone.

LEITNER

It's done.

INT. MEIR KAHANE'S JERUSALEM OFFICE - NIGHT

THROUGH A DOOR, FOLLOWING A STAFFER down a hallway bringing in a tray tea and food-

CHYRON: JULY 1984

-towards the AUTHORITATIVE, YET SOFT VOICE OF:

KAHANE

They said, "no, no, no, he can't win an election" and then look at what we built!

MEIR KAHANE, 52, bearded, thick eyebrows, the manner of a Rabbi, which he is, and used to holding court. A JOURNALIST is seated nearby, scribbling notes. Staffers, mostly Orthodox Jews wearing traditional clothing, and Kahane family members dot the office.

JOURNALIST

What do you say about the recent shooting of a bus carrying Palestinians to work and school? And violence suspected by members of TNT, the terror wing of the Kach Party?

KAHANE

My followers are good, Jewish boys. We don't control everything, the way they make it seem. But this violence, which goes both ways, mind you, is sanctified by God. We are on the front lines of war between Good and Evil over land which was promised to us BY GOD, from the Nile to the Euphrates.
(to the staffer with tea)
Are the numbers fully in?

KAHANE STAFFER

Almost.

KAHANE

One percent! That's all we need, then they can't ignore us.

JOURNALIST

How do you think Likud and Alignment parties will bring you into the government?

KAHANE

They have no choice? We built this on the backs of the Sephardim, the hard working, the Orthodox communities, the people who can't stand the sight of another Arab claiming that they were here first-

JOURNALIST

-But do you think you'll be a decisive part of the forming government?-

KAHANE

-Write this down - they can't ignore us.

Kahane's staffer turns up the television as they hear the outcome. ON THE TV: A 1980's graphic from Israeli television.

TV NEWS REPORT

(in Hebrew)

Kach Party wins a seat with 25000 votes, 95% polls reporting.

The room erupts, hugs, and cheers all around. Kahane palms on his desk, lets out a charming smile, both relief and arrogance.

EXT. JERUSALEM - OLD CITY STREETS - DAY

Kahane and tens and tens of his supporters are entering the Old City at the ZION GATE entrance.

INSIDE THE CITY WALLS - supporters lift Kahane up on their shoulders, as they march and dance and yell "RAK KACH", which means "Only Thus" in Hebrew.

They march past Arab and Jewish markets. The chants change

KACH MOB

Death to the Arabs! Death to the Arabs!

Shop owners sweep children out the way. Close their doors. Run away from the mob.

CLOSE on a window being broken.

CLOSE on an older, ARAB ELDER being pushed out of the way. HE CRASHES DOWN to the hard stone of the Old City.

CLOSE on an ORTHODOX BOY and ARAB BOY grappling. Bloodied noses. Torn shirts. Fists rising up.

Kahane, now on foot, marching furiously through the streets in the center of his supporters, chest forward, a vicious smile across his face as the sound of the mob's chants
FADE...

NEWSPAPER AND TELEVISION MONTAGE

- Newspaper headline of Mondale's campaign returning donations from Arab-Americans.
- Headline from Philadelphia Inquirer about Philadelphia Mayoral Candidate returning money from Arab-American donors.
- Footage of Jesse Jackson speaking to Arab-Americans in Detroit; Speaking in Chicago; Shaking hands with folks in other venues.
- Jim Zogby greeting folks; kisses on cheeks, shaking hands; Checks being written; Checks being handed over; checks going inside jacket pockets.
- The 1984 Democratic Convention Summer 1984.

ZOGBY (V.O.)

-We want a balanced and fair
American Middle East policy-

INT. DNC SPEAKER'S PODIUM - NIGHT

CHYRON: JULY 1984 - DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

James Zogby speaks to the voluminous crowd at the Democratic National Convention. (Intercutting with actual broadcast and archival footage.)

ZOGBY

-Reverend Jesse Jackson is the first presidential candidate to raise these issues. He is the first to build an all-inclusive rainbow for jobs, peace, and justice. That is why Arab-Americans have endorsed Jesse Jackson. Surely our time has come!

APPLAUSE as Zogby leaves the podium and Jackson takes the stage FADING TO...

KAHANE (V.O.)

They don't want us here, so we
don't want them here either!

CUT TO:

INT. CHICAGO CONGREGATION - NIGHT

Kahane is marching through a small crowd, Chicago police officers surrounding him.

INT. CHICAGO CONGREGATION - PODIUM - NIGHT

Kahane is at the podium. A crowd of 100 sits around the event center a Jewish congregation in the Chicago suburbs.

KAHANE

Look, I'm not afraid to say certain things, so you shouldn't either. Spit out your question or shut up and sit down-

QUESTIONER #1

-I was trying, YOU interrupted ME!-

KAHANE

-I'm not interrupting you now, go 'head-

QUESTIONER #1

-Do you really think your party will do anything but create more violence, more problems? Some say you're worse than the Arab terrorists-

KAHANE

(laughing mirthfully)

-Oh ho ho, we're worse than the PLO? Worse than the PFLP? Qaddafi? Hussein? Us? Fine. I don't care, if people think, or if the Israeli government thinks we're worse. Good. Because it scares people. It scares the Arabs.-

LADY IN CROWD

-What about the rights of the Palestinian people!

KAHANE

No such thing. You understand why I say-

(does air quotes with fingers)

"Arabs" and not "Palestinians"? They can go somewhere else, plenty of countries for them to run to. Or then can convert to Judaism and stay and do menial work, water our lawns. But they are not welcome in the Land of Canaan if they do not understand that we have a covenant with God and the land was promised to us.

(MORE)

KAHANE (CONT'D)

Look, look, don't waste your time
coming against me, come visit
Israel, come see what's happening,
what we're building, support-

A FLASH BULB-

INT. LOS ANGELES CONGREGATION - NIGHT

A FLASH BULB. Kahane speaking at a Los Angeles congregation.

KAHANE

-Kach Chai and our political party
and the movement that is taking
hold. I mean, you wanna live with
anti-Semitism here? Hollywood stars
changing their names, their faces,
who go to Shul on Saturday after
partying Friday night? Lavish their
fake Jewish children with Bar
Mitzvah's that are merely signs of
wealth and not real Judaism? That's
what this country is, that's what
it'll become, year in, year out.
You people are the real anti-
Semites-

QUESTIONER #2

-Where do you get the right to come
here and insult us-

KAHANE

-Trust me, it's all anti-Semitic.
Enough with this Judeo-Christian
mumbo jumbo - they will push us,
they will fight us. If it's not
White politicians, it's the Blacks
or the Latins or Koreans or
Chinamen in the streets that will
discriminate, will fight us, push
us down-

QUESTIONER #3

-You can't say "Chinamen", it's
just racist-

KAHANE

-oh, toughen up, you know what I
mean. And don't get it all twisted
up - our fight, my fight is with
the Arab now.

(MORE)

KAHANE (CONT'D)

I fought my fights here, we said
 "Never Again" when we started the
 JDL, getting beat up on the way
 home from school by the Blacks. If
 you want your Zion, your precious
 Holy Land of Israel, then you, you
 Los Angelinos, better see what the
 next fight is - the real fight -
 because otherwise they'll keep
 trying to wipe us off the map!

Some scant applause, some boos, some hisses FADES...

KAHANE (V.O.)

You get the West Coast-

INT. STRIP MALL OFFICE - DAY

California light bleeds through dusty blinds. Kahane paces.
 IRV RUBIN, WEST COAST DIRECTOR OF THE JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE,
 balding, mustache, barrel-chested through sweat-soaked shirt
 and necktie sits behind a desk watching Kahane.

IRV RUBIN

And who's in charge of the entire
 thing?-

KAHANE

Why are you so consumed with taking
 the entire thing over when you
 almost lost the entire thing?

IRV RUBIN

I lost it!?

KAHANE

You don't even have control of the
 West Coast?

IRV RUBIN

So then why are you giving it to
 me?

KAHANE

To shore up your losses, Irv. Don't
 be an idiot. This Jewish Defense
 Organization was created on your
 doorstep-

IRV RUBIN

-I kicked Levy's ass so hard he was
 in the hospital for 2 weeks. We're
 in control out here, not the JDO.

(MORE)

IRV RUBIN (CONT'D)

But you've been in Israel for 10 years or whatever and all the money goes to you and your work and what do we get?

KAHANE

Oh, it's my fault now that you've all misrun JDL? Oh ho!-

IRV RUBIN

I got the West Coast, but I should be in charge of the whole thing-

KAHANE

You sit tight and don't do a fucking thing until I tell you! You got it?

IRV RUBIN

Yeah, I got it, Meir.

KAHANE

Vancier's National Director-

IRV RUBIN

-This guy's not a leader - he's a nut-

KAHANE

-He's doing just fine. People are scared to death of him.

(softening)

Concentrate on your work here. Don't let up. I'll be in touch.

Kahane storms out. Rubin wipes sweat off his brow.

RONALD REAGAN (V.O.)

In the Middle East, it remains difficult to bring an end to historic conflicts,-

INT. RNC - DALLAS CONVENTION CENTER - NIGHT

CHYRON: AUGUST 1984

RONALD REAGAN stands at the podium giving his nominating address at the Republican National Convention.

RONALD REAGAN
but we're not discouraged. And we
shall always maintain our pledge
never to sell out one of our
closest friends, the State of
Israel.

The crowd applause FADES TO...

KAHANE (V.O.)
Do you have this under control?

INT. MANHATTAN HOTEL - NIGHT

CHYRON: NOVEMBER 1984

Kahane hurtles out of a speaking event, into the side room of
a ballroom.

By the window is VICTOR VANCIER, late 20's, waifish, grimy
parka over flannel shirt, unkempt.

VANCIER
Of course I do.

KAHANE
You reek of gasoline.

VANCIER
It's my jacket. Don't be afraid,
Meir, you won't find bomb parts in
my fingernails or nothing.

KAHANE
You're nuts. Between you and Rubin
in LA and this human excrement,
Levy, I don't know what's happening
to this organization.

VANCIER
You're legit. You're in the
Knesset. But that doesn't mean the
battles stop here. You left this
thing in tatters-

KAHANE
-Don't you lecture me. I handed you
a priceless gift and there's a bomb
trail half a mile long.

VANCIER

-Nothing leads back to us. You want to accuse me of being dirty, go 'head, but we protest, we speak out, we're still doing JDL's work. And if Russia persists in this mistreatment of Jews, then they better be ready to keep burning.

KAHANE

Well, you just make sure your work is your work and you've got control over it.

(shakes his head, softens)

You can always come to Israel if it gets hot. That offer goes around to everybody. Kach International is where I'm putting efforts.

(Looking out the window)

We'll announce to the press that I'm no longer the Executive Director of the JDL.

VANCIER

When you announce to the press give 'em my Hebrew name, Chaim.

Kahane walks out.

KAHANE (V.O.)

You don't want to hear it, you warm-hearted, kind, suburban Jews-

INT. SILVER SPRING MARYLAND CONGREGATION - NIGHT

CLOSE on a map of Israel-Palestine. MARYLAND COPS pushing A QUESTIONER back who is rushing the stage towards Kahane.

KAHANE

-You let your children marry the goy, they turn away from their culture, their birthright, the Torah, the way of life they should live. YOU'RE THE PROBLEM-

QUESTIONER #4

-We're the problem? Whose side are you on? Are you self-hating or what?

KAHANE

(the laugh)

I'm saying what you're thinking!

(MORE)

KAHANE (CONT'D)

And you think it's bad here? It's gonna be bad there, in Israel. That's why when this government forms we'll be introducing legislation to ban marrying non-Jews - no marriage, no sexual relations, no more going against Jewish law-

QUESTIONER #5

-Is Israel a Democracy or a Theocracy?-

KAHANE

-Get out of here!
(motioning to the cops)
This liberal, wacko leftist mumbo jumbo. You criticize Israel, then you're worse than the Arab terrorists who want to destroy us-

The Questioner Man rushes the stage and there is a fracas, the Police pushing back, Kahane getting in the mix, somebody grabbing his lapels, shoving, cursing, FADES TO-

KAHANE (CONT'D)

(dialed down)

I like it when they think I'm crazy-

INT. SILVER SPRING FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

THROUGH A SWINGING DOOR, Kahane sitting around a dinner table with: the local RABBI HERZEL KRANZ (who invited Kahane to town); an Orthodox teen; a local member of the congregation; a few women with children coming in and out; others. The JOURNALIST from the offices in Jerusalem is there, still asking questions.

KAHANE

It's good for us. I know I'm a decent man, a family man. I'm not always walking around with my hair on fire - you get my meaning? But when I say something crazy, when my people DO something crazy, it gets these Arabs families thinking - "maybe we should leave?"

A few folks laugh around the room.

RABBI KRANZ

What do they want? The Arabs? We know the Christians want peace, want security. They bless us, we bless them. But the Arabs, the Muslims, what do they want? Why do we have to be peaceful all the time but not them?

JOURNALIST

Does it mean more votes for the Kach party when you say more divisive, more vitriolic things?

KAHANE

Me divisive?
(said like a comic, then laughs)
I'm combating the divisiveness from their side? "We hate the Jews?" Oh really,
(punches into his palm)
then "Death to the Arabs?" You see? I'm not the one being divisive - I'm defending myself.

JOURNALIST

And what happens to the Jewish Defense League now?

KAHANE

I have a seat in the Knesset now, so we'll see. In the meantime, I have to cancel the rest of my speaking tour here and return to Israel to vote on the formation of this new government.

Kahane standing up, putting on his blazer.

JAMES ABOUREZK (V.O.)

We need a change.

INT. CHICAGO HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

CHYRON: SEPTEMBER 1984 - CHICAGO

Abourezk sits at the center of a long table. The room is filled with a dozen people - the Executive Committee of ADC. Zogby sits across from Abourezk.

ZOGBY

Just say what you want to do-

JAMES ABOUREZK
I told you before, I'll tell you
again, we have other work to do,
I'm not out looking for votes-

ZOGBY
-I'm organizing-

JAMES ABOUREZK
-for who? Jackson lost, lost bad.
Who're you organizing for?-

ZOGBY
-Then change my role! ADC needs a
new exec director, go for it, but
you're not taking the organization
we started away from me!

ADC BOARD MEMBER
(cutting in)
-We're not taking anything away-

JAMES ABOUREZK
-we have to shift back to what our
mandate is.

ZOGBY
We create the mandate!

JAMES ABOUREZK
I tell YOU what the mandate is!-

ZOGBY
-You think everybody has to defer
to you on everything Jim!-

ADC BOARD MEMBER #2
(butting in)
-Let's compromise here. If Jim
steps down in his role as Executive
Director then we can start the
search for a new one. Fair?

Zogby stares down Abourezk over intertwined knuckles.
Abourezk ashes his cigar.

Zogby bolts out of the room, SLAMMING THE DOOR behind him.

JAMES ABOUREZK
Get the interview setup with Kader.

KAHANE (V.O.)
(shouting)
We won't leave!

EXT. WEST BANK - UMM AL FAHM - DAY

CHYRON: FALL 1984

Israel Jeeps drive up to a massive group at a checkpoint. Kahane with orthodox youth and supporters are pushing up against a barrier. Counter protestors push back. Skirmishes and pushing and fights break out.

KAHANE

We won't leave. Not until the last
of the Arabs is out.

Kahane sits with his supporters as the Israeli Police try to pull them away. Tens of Journalists covering the protest sticks microphones in front of Kahane as he devours the attention.

KAHANE (CONT'D)

We won't leave! Never Again! It's
all in my book, if you, uh, you
know, need a little more context
and want more material to
understand that we're not getting
pushed around anymore! We're doing
the pushing!

The Police wrestle with the protestors, yanking their arms in a tug of war, shouts and yelling FADES...

OMAR KADER (V.O.)

Organizing is key here-

OMITTED

INT. ADC WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICES - DAY

CHYRON: WINTER 1984

Abourezk, behind the desk, but a little more dialed down, paces across from OMAR KADER, 41, Palestinian-American, mustached, well-spoken academic type.

OMAR KADER

We have to connect all of our
offices, train folks on canvassing
and knocking on doors, and get the
fundraising up.

JAMES ABOUREZK

I mean, we're scraping by, we're getting swamped by NAAA and all these other organizations. Jesus, you'd think everybody had the same idea at the same time.

OMAR KADER

Raising money is a slog, economy is slow, but we'll do it, we'll pick it up.

JAMES ABOUREZK

And what else? Zogby thought you were good, but I don't need another grandstander using this as a stepping stone-

OMAR KADER

-Look, we're gonna keep at the roots of what you guys started here. Activist work. The Media's still portraying us as bad guys, as swarthy faced terrorists. The Supreme Court is still using the term "Mohammedans", I mean, this is about the worst thing you can say to a Muslim. We're gonna fight that.

JAMES ABOUREZK

What else?

OMAR KADER

Testify in Congress, tv appearances, fight fight fight. And more folks will donate, will join.

JAMES ABOUREZK

And how are you gonna work with Alex out West?

OMAR KADER

If I'm Executive Directing and he's West Coast Director, that's great. He can speak directly to Palestinian political issues. I can do the overall. We'll make it all work.

JAMES ABOUREZK

I like it. What else?

OMAR KADER

We still push left, towards
Democratic issues, keep bringing
Arab-Americans over to this ticket.
They'll see that Reagan and Bush
and the others only care about oil,
about defense, not human rights,
not what matters to us most.

JAMES ABOUREZK

Yeah, how? What else?

OMAR KADER

(thinking)

Let's go get arrested.

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. - NW MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE - DAY

Wearing overcoats and gloves, Abourezk, Kader, and others
walk towards the South African Embassy, in Embassy Row, in NW
D.C. They're holding signs - "End Apartheid" - attached to
wooden stakes.

JAMES ABOUREZK (V.O.)

Have him come downstairs and speak
with us-

EXT. SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY - ENTRANCE - DAY

Abourezk has his foot keeping the door from slamming on him
and the demonstrators, standing behind him, backing him up.

SA EMBASSY EMPLOYEE

The Ambassador is not seeing
anybody. You're not allowed to be
on the premises, sir-

JAMES ABOUREZK

-It's not against the law to talk-

SA EMBASSY EMPLOYEE

Sir, please move your foot!-

The Employee slams the door.

EXT. SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY - DAY

They stand on the lawn of the embassy, shouting,
demonstrating. A CAR HONKS in support, as several POLICE CARS
and a PADDY WAGON show up.

CLOSE on plastic handcuffs going around wrists. All of the demonstrators are lead into the paddy wagon.

INT. PADDY WAGON - DAY

Abourezk turns to Kader.

JAMES ABOUREZK
Well, this should make the news.

OMAR KADER
Yeah, former Senator gets thrown in the clink-

The door to the paddy wagon shuts, going dark.

CHYRON - JANUARY 1985

RONALD REAGAN (V.O.)
"We strive for peace and security, heartened by the changes all around us. Since the turn of the century, the number of democracies in the world has grown fourfold.

FADE IN:

INT. ADC WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICES - DAY

A small, television is broadcasting the Second Inauguration, Ronald Reagan speaks on a frigid day in front of the Capitol.

RONALD REAGAN
Human freedom is on the march, and nowhere more so than our own hemisphere. Freedom is one of the deepest and noblest aspirations of the human spirit. People, worldwide, hunger for the right of self-determination, for those inalienable rights that make for human dignity and progress."

INT. ZOGBY VIRGINIA HOME - NIGHT

The PHONE RINGS. Zogby picks it up, holds it to his ear.

ZOGBY
Hello.

VOICE ON PHONE (O.S.)
We know where you live.

ZOGBY
Who in the hell is this?

VOICE ON PHONE (O.S.)
You Arafat Dick Sucking Arab Scum-

ZOGBY
Shut up. Stop calling-

VOICE ON PHONE (O.S.)
We're going to get you and your
family-

Zogby hangs up, waits, picks up the phone and dials.

ZOGBY
(yelling out to his
family, phone cradled in
his shoulder)
Nobody pick up the phone tonight!

FBI OPERATOR (O.S.)
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
how may I direct your call.

CUT TO:

RONALD REAGAN (O.S.)
We thank the entire Arab-American
community for their support in this
last election.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Zogby, Kader, CASEY KASEM, Lebanese-Druze-American and famous
radio host with perfect voice and hair, along with others
take candid photos with RONALD REAGAN, 40th President of the
United States, former Hollywood star, fresh off his victory.

RONALD REAGAN
I know some of you didn't support
our ticket, but we represent all of
you. We want a bipartisan approach
to helping your communities.
(to Casey)
How's showbiz Casey?

CASEY KASEM
It's a tough business, Mr.
President, as you know.
(MORE)

CASEY KASEM (CONT'D)

We couldn't all be big stars like yourself, but hanging in.

RONALD REAGAN

I sure like your voice, Casey.

(to the group)

Just let Murphy and Svahn know what you need.

Reagan's handlers swoop in, and he's swept out.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Let's talk about our goals here.

MOMENTS LATER - Assistant Secretary of State RICHARD MURPHY huddles with the group on the couches and chairs in the Oval Office.

ZOGBY (V.O.)

My new organization, Arab-American Institute, is working to build more political bridges for our people, so we're different, but same goals as many of these folks. But look, internationally, if we let Israel go unfettered into Southern Lebanon, kill Palestinians, you're going to lose support-

OMAR KADER

-and if you continue to freeze Yasser Arafat out you might your best or only option to lead the Palestinian people-

MURPHY

-Arafat has to recognize 242, Israel just isn't going to work with '67 borders-

Several around the couches groan, Murphy is flustered.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

-we have an ally in Israel. Arafat isn't legit yet. Bet you a million bucks that most of your members and constituents don't even like the guy-

OMAR KADER

-King Hussein of Jordan and Arafat are renewing the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship RIGHT NOW.
(MORE)

OMAR KADER (CONT'D)

Arafat, love him or hate him,
disagree on PLO stances or
whatever, he's the guy you have to
work with.

MURPHY

We care about Palestinian rights,
we get it. Just...give us stuff we
can work with.

CASEY KASEM

The Druze community is still a
strong supporter, we thank you for
that.

ZOGBY

We gotta rein in Israel. And Reagan
is not a pushover, don't let him
get pushed around by the Lobby.

MURPHY

What lobby?

Zogby looks around the room, stunned.

ZOGBY

The Israel Lobby, Murphy. Jesus,
what are we doing here? I know us
Arab-Americans are fledgling, but
we're up against powerful interests-

JACK SVAHN, white house advisor, jumps in.

SVAHN

We want to know the real concerns
of the Arab-American population.

OMAR KADER

We're consistently discriminated
against - campaign donations,
getting jobs, getting loans, how
we're perceived on tv.

SVAHN

We know there are things happening
thousands of miles away in other
countries, but we know your people
can feel disenfranchised.

ZOGBY

What's happening with Meese and
Baker?

SVAHN

(hushed)

Meese is likely going to be AG.
Baker's on his way to a Secretary
position. Word is Don Regan's
coming back in as Chief of Staff.

ZOGBY

We just want to know who we're
working with in this next
administration.

OMAR KADER

Surely, this won't be our one and
only chance to be here-

SVAHN

I'll be here.

ZOGBY

I think we're all trying to build
any political power we can. We're
the generation coming off
immigrants, our parents worked
their asses off to get us here, so
we have to capitalize on these
opportunities.

SVAHN

I think the President, Meese,
Baker, all these guys in the
administration wanna help.

Zogby and Kader raise their eyebrows at each other.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOTOR LODGE - RHODE ISLAND - DAY

CHYRON: FEBRUARY 1985

A RHODE ISLAND POLICE CAR pulls behind a car with two
occupants, stops it from backing out. THROUGH the rear
windshield, ANDY GREEN and ROBERT MANNING look back.

LATER. CLOSE on the open trunk of the car, officers looking
at microphones and recording equipment for eavesdropping,
papers with notes, JDL pamphlets.

ON THE CURB sit ANDY GREEN, large with reddish hair and
beard, and ROBERT MANNING, slight, unremarkable clothes. The
RHODE ISLAND POLICE OFFICER approaches them.

RHODE ISLAND POLICE OFFICER
Some pretty sophisticated equipment
huh? Why are you guys tracking
Jesse Jackson and writing it down?

ANDY GREEN
Not saying anything without a
lawyer.

RHODE ISLAND POLICE OFFICER
(to Manning)
Two passports huh? U.S. and Israel?

MANNING
I'm not saying anything without my
lawyer.

RHODE ISLAND POLICE OFFICER
Just what in the hell are you guys
doing here? You have a room here in
the hotel?

MANNING
Not saying anything without a
lawyer.

INT. ADC SANTA ANA OFFICES - DAY

A hand tweaks a CAMERA LENS. In the Diopter, Alex, comes into
focus.

CHYRON: OCTOBER 10th, 1985, 2PM

KAROLYN WALLACE (O.S.)
How's that looking?

KAROLYN WALLACE, late 20's, a sharp tv journalist for Channel
7 Eyewitness News has notebooks in hand across the desk from
Alex in his cramped office.

The CAMERAMAN nods.

KAROLYN WALLACE (CONT'D)
Are you ready Mr. Odeh? Am I saying
your name right?

ALEX
Oh sure, yes yes it's fine. I am
ready.

KAROLYN WALLACE
Let's go 'head and roll.

The cameraman records.

KAROLYN WALLACE (CONT'D)

What do you think of this recent
Achille Lauro incident?

ALEX

I think it's a tragedy.

KAROLYN WALLACE

And do you think the media
portrayal of it, of Arafat, has
hurt the Palestinian cause?

ALEX

I think the media mistakenly link
this incident with the PLO? The
media ought to give the PLO and
Arafat the recognition as a
political organization. He is a man
of peace.

KAROLYN WALLACE

Why defend the PLO? Or Arafat?

ALEX

You have to understand that this is
not all we do. But we have to stand
up to negative images of our
people.

KAROLYN WALLACE

But what if so many of the images
people have is of hijackings or
terrorists?

ALEX

Part of the job of ADC is combating
stereotypes. I understand we live
in political times, tense times,
but we are also just regular
Americans. We are college students
and farmers and grocer and shop
owners. You can't blame the
regular, Arab-American person for
the thing happening overseas.

KAROLYN WALLACE

Do you think it's right to hijack a
plane? Or a boat?

ALEX

Of course not. Innocent people must
not be hurt.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

But you have to understand that innocent people in Palestine have been hurt by Israel, by Colonialism, by Imperialism. It's not right to hurt people, but these are political tactics they use to right their wrongs.

Karolyn nods to Cameraman who stops recording, she stands and offers her hand, which Alex takes.

KAROLYN WALLACE

Thank you so much for your time. I think we'd love to just get some more shots of your office, maybe you and I walking in, that kind of thing.

ALEX

Sure. Anything you need.

A CAR HORN HONKS

EXT. DEARBORN, MICHIGAN STREET - DAY

CHYRON: SPRING 1985

Omar Kader with a group - adults, kids, all wearing purple ADC shirts, hold signs that read "Our Time Has Come" - ADC's tagline, as cars come by and honk as they stand on a Dearborn, MI (suburb of Detroit) street corner.

LATER: Omar speaks with local families; shakes hands with local shop owners, grocers, elders as he walks by.

OMAR KADER (V.O.)

How do we approach people?

INT. DEARBORN COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

Omar speaks in front of a group of volunteers and local, ADC folks.

OMAR KADER

Do we say, "hey, habibi, give me your money?"

Folks laugh.

OMAR KADER (CONT'D)

Maybe after. But we approach these real people, these families by letting them know we're all ready working for them. We're all ready doing the work. And what is the work? Stuff they don't want to do themselves, which is work we love to do - combat racism, combat stereotypes, holding politicians accountable.

An ADC Volunteer steps up, Omar moves to the side.

ADC VOLUNTEER

We have lawyers who work on immigration, on wrongful arrests, who will fight for our people. Membership isn't just a donation that you'll never see back, it's membership to an organization with all the power OF that organization. That's the ask.

EXT. DEARBORN, MICHIGAN STREETS - MONTAGE - DAY

Omar drives through the streets, an entire community of Arab-Americans, the largest concentration in the United States, with shops that could be in Jerusalem or Ramallah. Kids wave. Omar waves back.

EXT. PATERSON, NJ - RESIDENTIAL STREET - PRE-DAWN

CHYRON: AUGUST 1985 - PATERSON, N.J.

A CAR ON FIRE. A neighbor has a hose and is trying to douse the flames.

PATERSON NEIGHBOR

(yelling)

Tom! Tom! Get out here.

TOM SOOBZOKOV, 60's, opens the door to see the car fire - BOOM! AN EXPLOSION.

The man falls as fire and smoke envelop the front entrance, disrupting the quiet residential street. SIRENS WAIL.

EXT. PATERSON, NJ - RESIDENTIAL STREET - LATER

A NJ TV NEWS REPORTER stands at attention in front of a CAMERA, alongside a bank of other reporters and camera operators.

NJ TV NEWS REPORTER

This morning, on this quiet, suburban street, a bombing took the life of Tscherim "Tom" Soobzokov, a Russian emigre long been accused of being a former SS Officer and Nazi fugitive. He faced constant threats from the Jewish Defense Organization, an offshot of the Jewish Defense League, and is no stranger to controversy. An anonymous call was placed to this station stating their involvement, but so far, no group has taken responsibility.

CUT TO:

EXT. WEST ROXBURY BUILDING - BOSTON - EARLY MORNING

CHYRON: AUGUST 16, 1985

Outside a plain, two-story office building entrance, MANNY, a tenant shows up, takes out his keys to unlock the door.

INT. WEST ROXBURY BUILDING - BOSTON - CONTINUOUS

Manny sees something unusual, eyes widen, backs out.

EXT. WEST ROXBURY BUILDING - BOSTON - CONTINUOUS

Manny runs.

EXT. WEST ROXBURY BUILDING - BOSTON - CONTINUOUS

The rear doors of a BOSTON POLICE BOMB SQUAD UNIT TRUCK open. Bomb Squad Officers, LAMATTINA and BOCCUZZI, don Bomb Detonating Gear used for disposing bombs.

BOCCUZZI

Hey, where's the tub?

LAMATTINA

You think we need it?

BOCCUZZI

I mean, yeah by the looks of the thing.

(off screen)

Yo Kennedy! Get us the tub, it's back at base. We're gonna have to take this thing out to the Harbor dumb site to take it apart or just blow the damn thing-

INT. WEST ROXBURY BUILDING - BOSTON - DAY

CLOSE on a sophisticated bomb sitting on the floor in the hallway entrance of the building.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOSTON HARBOR - LONG ISLAND - MORNING

LaMattina has most of his gear on, but not his headgear, as he takes a knee down over the tub and lead netting, which blankets the bomb. His hand gently sweeps the netting. He's trying to get a closer look at the bomb-

BOCCUZZI

Hey, LaMatt - hold up a sec-

BOOM! Boccuzzi is blown back. He looks up to see LaMattina is rolling around, not dead, but holding his face, in serious condition.

CUT TO:

EXT. LONG ISLAND NEIGHBORHOOD - PRE-DAWN

CHYRON: SEPTEMBER 6TH 1985

A fire leaping up the side of a suburban home. HANDS POUNDING ON DOOR.

PASSERBY

Yo! Yo wake up! There's a friggin' fire out here.

The Passerby jiggles the door handle as he's pounding on it- BOOM! Another explosion. The passerby writhes on the ground.

A TELEPHONE RINGS.

INT. NEWSDAY OFFICES - MORNING

CHYRON: NEWSDAY NEWSPAPER OFFICES, LONG ISLAND, NY.

Close on a phone as it rings, an empty office, goes to the answering machine.

NEWSDAY RECEPTIONIST RECORDING
You've reached the offices of
Newsday, please record your message
after the beep.

BEEP.

VOICE ON PHONE (V.O.)
(breathy and muted)
Listen carefully. Jewish Defense
League. Nazi War Criminal. Bomb.
Never Again.

EXT. VIRGINIA SUBURBS - DAY

DAOUD, 11, Arab-American kid, wearing a backpack, arrives home from school. A car pulls into the driveway driven by Omar Kader. The kid approaches the mailbox. Omar Kader jumps out of the car and runs toward the kid-

OMAR KADER
No! Get away from the mailbox, get
away!

The kid has all ready opened it and is looking inside, sees his dad running towards him.

DAOUD
There's nothing in here!-

OMAR KADER
-Get away from it!

Omar grabs the kid. Looks inside the mailbox to see it empty. Wraps an arm around his shoulder and hustles inside, looking around.

ON THE FRONT DOOR OF THE HOME, as Omar looks around and closes it.

A PHONE RINGING.

EXT. ALEXANDRIA EGYPT - MORNING

A GANGPLANK-RAMP is lifted back onto a boat, The Achille Lauro.

INT. ABOUREZK DC HOME - NIGHT

Jim Abourezk picks up the phone.

VOICE ON PHONE (V.O.)

Arab scum-

Abourezk SLAMS it back down, looks out at the DC traffic from his home office.

INT. ADC WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICES - TELEVISION - NIGHT

CHYRON: OCTOBER 7TH 1985

ON THE TV: Peter Jennings on the nightly news. *Archival Footage.

PETER JENNINGS

Earlier today, a cruise ship, The Achille Lauro, leaving the coastal Egyptian city of Alexandria-

EXT. ACHILLE LAURO - MORNING

Feet running, starboard side deck. Several men holding machine guns.

INT. ADC SANTA ANA OFFICES - NIGHT

ON THE TV: DAN RATHER on the nightly news *Archival

DAN RATHER

-on route to Port Said, was hijacked by members of the Palestine Liberation Front or PLF.

INT. ADC WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICES - TELEVISION - NIGHT

CHYRON: OCTOBER 8TH 1985

ON THE TV: Tom Brokaw *Archival

TOM BROKAW
After a day of negotiations in
which the hijackers demanded the
release of 50 Palestinian prisoners-

EXT. ACHILLE LAURO - DAY

HANDS on the grips of a wheelchair. The WHEELS of the
wheelchair bumping over the uneven wood of the ship's deck.

TOM BROKAW (V.O.)
they've reportedly killed an
American tourist, Leon Klinghoffer.
He was 69 and traveling with his
wife celebrating their wedding
anniversary.

THE WAVES bumping against the side of the ship. A MACHINE GUN
RAISING. KLINGHOFFER looking out at the ocean.

BLACK.

CHYRON: OCTOBER 10TH, 1985

EXT. ADC SANTA ANA OFFICES - DAY

Alex seen through the lens of the KABC broadcast camera.

KAROLYN WALLACE (O.S.)
I think that's all we need.

Alex removes his lapel microphone and smiles.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. ODEH FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

KABC's broadcast is fuzzy, in the 80's way, now on the Odeh
family television.

EXT. ADC SANTA ANA OFFICES - NIGHT

Masked figures run along the 2nd floor landing of ADC's
building and approach the ADC office door.

INT. ODEH FAMILY HOME - KID'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Alex, Norma, the little girls all on one knee, arms crossed, saying their nightly prayers.

EXT. ADC SANTA ANA OFFICES - NIGHT

CLOSE on the door handle being picked by gloved hands. It OPENS and the figures rush in.

INT. ODEH FAMILY HOME - KID'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Alex takes a last look at the girls, cracks the door.

INT. ODEH FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Alex and Norma watch the broadcast of the KABC interview.

ON THE TV:

KAROLYN WALLACE (V.O.)
We spoke with local activist, Alex Odeh about recent event.

ALEX
I think Arafat is a man of peace
and we should recognize him as
such.

The interview ends there. Back on Alex.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I said so much more!

NORMA
Shhh, the children are sleeping.

ALEX
I talked about our work, about
everything we're doing and this is
what they take?

NORMA
It's because of this stupid
hijacking. What, they think all we
know how to do is hijack.

ALEX
(in Arabic)
Okay, enough.

Norma goes to switch off the television.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Wait, I'm on CNN as well.

INT. ADC SANTA ANA OFFICES - NIGHT

CLOSE on GLOVED HANDS setting a timer on a pipe bomb.

INT. ODEH FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

ON THE TV: A CNN NEWS ANCHOR speaks.

CNN REPORTER
Alex Odeh is another American of
Palestinian descent who opposes
terrorism but is optimistic that
the situation can improve, thank in
part to PLO leader, Yasser Arafat.
The regional director of the
American-Arab anti-discrimination
committee now believes it's up to
others to get involved.

ALEX (V.O.)
(on TV)
I think the time is right for the
American administration, as well as
the American people, to understand
the Palestinian side of the story.

Norma turns the volume down.

INT. ADC SANTA ANA OFFICES - NIGHT

The masked figure leads a wire connecting the bomb to the
inside door handle. From inside the office, the door closes.

NORMA (V.O.)
You were very good.

INT. ODEH FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Alex sitting back.

ALEX
You never know what they're going
to take or use. But Jim will be
happy - we're in the news!

NORMA

What are you doing tomorrow?

ALEX

I have the Friday prayer service at that synagogue in Fountain Valley. This Klinghoffer thing is going to make it tense, *yanni* (but/like), what can we do? We have to keep talking. At least over there I can say everything I think and they can't edit me out like tv news.

NORMA

Insha'allah (God willing).

INT. ODEH FAMILY HOME - KID'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Alex looks in on the girls one more time.

INT. ODEH FAMILY HOME - ALEX AND NORMA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex switches off the hallway light. He closes the door to the bedroom.

BLACK.

EXT. ADC SANTA ANA OFFICES - PARKING LOT - MORNING

CHYRON: OCTOBER 11th, 1985 - 9:00AM

Alex, briefcase in hand, locks his car, heads off and up to his office.

EXT. ADC SANTA ANA OFFICES - MORNING

The 2nd floor of his office building as Alex hurries into work. He takes the keys and jiggles the door handle. He enters. A GASP OF AIR.

FROM ACROSS THE STREET - THE EXPLOSION ROCKS THE OFFICE BUILDING.

DEBRIS flies everywhere.

Cars SCREECH to a halt.

FIRE ALARMS go off.

BURNT GRASS.

A piece of paper floats down, lands on the street.

BLACK SMOKE upwards into the BLUE SKY.

People come out to see what the hell happened. POLICE, FIRE,
AND AMBULANCE SIRENS in the distance.

FROM THE STREET - the building - where the door used to be is
now a hole.

END OF PILOT