

1

00:00:00,503 --> 00:00:07,509

This series presents information based in part on theory and conjecture.

2

00:00:07,509 --> 00:00:17,518

The producer's purpose is to suggest some possible explanations but not necessarily the only ones to the mysteries we will examine.

3

00:00:30,529 --> 00:00:38,536

Vienna, December 21st 1975.

4

00:00:38,536 --> 00:00:48,545

The organization of oil exporting countries, OPEC, is meeting to once again raise the price of oil.

5

00:00:48,545 --> 00:00:53,550

Recreated here is one of history's boldest terrorist operations.

6

00:00:53,550 --> 00:01:01,557

Ilitch Ramirez Sanchez, alias Carlos, with his gang quietly enter OPEC headquarters.

7

00:01:06,561 --> 00:01:17,571

Their plan? Hold the powerful oil minister's hostage and kill the two most important members, the oil minister of Iran and of Saudi Arabia.

8

00:01:18,572 --> 00:01:29,581

Who is Carlos? How did he dare dictate terms to OPEC and become the most wanted man in the world?

9

00:01:38,589 --> 00:01:46,596

Four days before Christmas 1975, Vienna was quiet. It is Sunday.

10

00:01:47,597 --> 00:01:49,599

Good morning, OPEC.

11

00:01:49,599 --> 00:01:54,603

Even so, members of OPEC are in conference at their headquarters.

12

00:01:54,603 --> 00:01:58,607

A receptionist is on duty outside the conference room.

13

00:01:58,607 --> 00:02:06,614

Security? Only two aging Austrian policemen. After all, who would attack OPEC?

14

00:02:06,614 --> 00:02:10,618

Ah, Kenny, how many men is in the hellish dump here?

15

00:02:10,618 --> 00:02:17,624

Less than a mile away, a squad of Einsatzkommando, Austrian anti-terrorist police is on duty.

16

00:02:17,624 --> 00:02:24,630

This unit has been in existence since the Munich Olympic murders of 1973.

17

00:02:25,631 --> 00:02:36,640

Christmas carols take the place of crime reports on the radio. The only conflict, Black Night takes Queen's Roof.

18

00:02:36,640 --> 00:02:43,647

Carlos' attack on OPEC headquarters is recreated.

19

00:02:43,647 --> 00:02:44,648

Hey, see!

20

00:02:49,652 --> 00:02:51,654

Where's the conference room?

21

00:02:55,657 --> 00:02:58,660

Are you a policeman?

22

00:02:58,660 --> 00:02:59,661

Yes.

23

00:03:02,663 --> 00:03:05,666

Hello, it's going to be a police attack.

24

00:03:05,666 --> 00:03:07,668

The receptionist tries to call police.

25

00:03:18,677 --> 00:03:23,682

Carlos was trained by Soviet KGB agents in Havana and Moscow.

26

00:03:23,682 --> 00:03:28,686

He taught his followers that intimidation is a powerful terrorist tool.

27

00:03:53,708 --> 00:04:00,714

One of the oil minister's bodyguards tries to disarm a female gang member.

28

00:04:11,724 --> 00:04:15,728

Mischance keeps making the operation bloodier.

29

00:04:16,729 --> 00:04:23,735

At the OPEC official known how to work the firing mechanism of Carlos' machine gun, Carlos might now be dead.

30

00:04:30,741 --> 00:04:33,744

A conference room, now a prison.

31

00:04:33,744 --> 00:04:37,747

A police officer, Carlos, is now a police officer.

32

00:04:37,747 --> 00:04:40,750

Carlos is now a police officer.

33

00:04:41,751 --> 00:04:48,757

A conference room, now a prison for the hostages, is mined with plastic explosives.

34

00:04:48,757 --> 00:04:55,763

To further intimidate his captives, Carlos has ordered some charges be real, some be fake.

35

00:04:55,763 --> 00:05:00,767

But which terrified prisoner will risk his life to find out?

36

00:05:00,767 --> 00:05:04,771

Down! Get down! Everybody down!

37

00:05:11,777 --> 00:05:20,785

In an isolated office, a security guard finds a telephone still connected and calls police.

38

00:05:22,787 --> 00:05:28,792

OPEC, over fire! They are firing with machine guns!

39

00:05:33,796 --> 00:05:36,799

Dispatchers alert the Einsatzkommando.

40

00:05:40,803 --> 00:05:43,805

The OPEC is now a police officer.

41

00:05:56,817 --> 00:06:01,821

By day's end, 500 armed men would surround the OPEC headquarters.

42

00:06:02,822 --> 00:06:12,831

As the commando squad races toward OPEC, Chancellor Kwiatski is summoned to Vienna from holiday to negotiate with Carlos.

43

00:06:14,833 --> 00:06:17,835

Carlos knows he's in a strong bargaining position.

44

00:06:17,835 --> 00:06:22,840

He holds 62 hostages at gunpoint in the conference room.

45

00:06:22,840 --> 00:06:26,843

But still, no one knows what Carlos wants.

46

00:06:26,843 --> 00:06:29,846

By now, the police are in the building.

47

00:06:32,848 --> 00:06:35,851

The terrorists open fire on the commandos.

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00:06:35,851 --> 00:06:38,854

A 20-minute firefight ends in stalemate.

49

00:06:38,854 --> 00:06:40,855

The police pull back.

50

00:06:44,859 --> 00:06:47,862

You. Not you, the blonde.

51

00:06:49,863 --> 00:06:54,868

Confident now, Carlos chooses the most attractive secretary among the hostages

52

00:06:54,868 --> 00:06:59,872

and dictates his demands for delivery to the Chancellor of Austria.

53

00:06:59,872 --> 00:07:07,879

He wants a bus to transport everyone to the airport, a DC-9 jet to fly them to an unknown destination,

54

00:07:07,879 --> 00:07:13,885

and a pro-Palestinian statement to be read over Austrian radio every two hours.

55

00:07:13,885 --> 00:07:15,886

Negotiations now begin.

56

00:07:16,887 --> 00:07:22,892

An Iraqi diplomat acts as go-between for Carlos and Chancellor Kwiatski.

57

00:07:23,893 --> 00:07:27,897

First, you agree to release all the hostages...

58

00:07:27,897 --> 00:07:32,901

The go-between tells Carlos that Kwiatski demands all Austrian citizens be released.

59

00:07:33,902 --> 00:07:36,905

I comment here, not Kwiatski!

60

00:07:36,905 --> 00:07:38,907

Nobody is going to be released.

61

00:07:38,907 --> 00:07:40,908

I'm not going to be released.

62

00:07:40,908 --> 00:07:45,913

I comment here, not Kwiatski! Not anybody else!

63

00:07:45,913 --> 00:07:49,916

Me, Carlos, I give the orders. I decide who goes and who stays.

64

00:07:49,916 --> 00:07:52,919

Didn't you tell him who I am? I told him.

65

00:07:52,919 --> 00:07:56,922

You are Carlos. The famous Carlos.

66

00:07:56,922 --> 00:07:59,925

Flattered, his ego boosted.

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00:07:59,925 --> 00:08:03,929

Carlos agrees to leave most of the hostages behind.

68

00:08:03,929 --> 00:08:05,930

I wasn't going to take them anyway.

69

00:08:10,935 --> 00:08:16,940

Throughout the operation, Carlos lost no opportunity to remind his hostages and the police

70

00:08:16,940 --> 00:08:22,945

that he was the same Carlos wanted throughout Europe for bombings, assassination attempts,

71

00:08:22,945 --> 00:08:25,948

and the cold-blooded killing of at least six men.

72

00:08:25,948 --> 00:08:29,952

Kwiatski then gives in to Carlos' demands.

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00:08:29,952 --> 00:08:35,957

Now, he has succeeded in bringing Austria and the mighty OPEC to their knees.

74

00:08:36,958 --> 00:08:42,963

At dawn the next day, Carlos leaves OPEC with 35 hostages.

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00:08:42,963 --> 00:08:46,967

This is actual film of that morning.

76

00:08:46,967 --> 00:08:55,974

Here Carlos plays out a bizarre scene, shaking hands and even embracing those he had terrorized hours earlier.

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00:08:55,974 --> 00:09:03,981

Psychiatrist Dr. Frederick Hacker is author of the book, Crusaders, Criminals and Crazies.

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00:09:03,981 --> 00:09:10,988

Well, we see that very often that some kind of strong emotional and effective ties develop

79

00:09:10,988 --> 00:09:17,994

between kidnapers and captured, particularly when the siege goes on for a long time.

80

00:09:17,994 --> 00:09:23,999

And it seems as if a wee group, so to speak, is forming that then turns against everybody

81

00:09:23,999 --> 00:09:30,004

who does not belong to that, namely the police, even the relatives of the victims.

82

00:09:30,004 --> 00:09:35,009

And it is this strange communion that seems to form in the face of extreme danger

83

00:09:35,009 --> 00:09:39,012

that engages our attention.

84

00:09:41,014 --> 00:09:45,018

Outside OPEC headquarters, the police stood aside.

85

00:09:52,024 --> 00:09:56,027

The bus left for the airport where the DC-9 was waiting.

86

00:10:01,032 --> 00:10:06,036

The bus left for the airport where the DC-9 was waiting.

87

00:10:16,045 --> 00:10:21,049

The worldwide press condemned Chancellor Kraski as being soft on terrorism.

88

00:10:23,051 --> 00:10:28,056

Had Kraski refused to yield, how many hostages would Carlos have killed?

89

00:10:29,056 --> 00:10:37,063

From the moment he started to deal with me, there had been already three killed people in the building

90

00:10:37,063 --> 00:10:41,067

and a lot of destruction.

91

00:10:42,068 --> 00:10:49,074

More proof for his will to kill hadn't been necessary for me.

92

00:10:50,075 --> 00:10:56,080

The Iraqi go-between in negotiations was also convinced Carlos was capable of mass murder.

93

00:10:57,081 --> 00:11:04,087

And as they described to me how they killed the people, they was laughing.

94

00:11:05,088 --> 00:11:07,090

They was very cool.

95

00:11:07,090 --> 00:11:13,095

In Algeria, Carlos was persuaded to ransom the oil ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia

96

00:11:13,095 --> 00:11:18,100

rather than kill them, the reported price \$1 million each.

97

00:11:19,100 --> 00:11:21,102

Carlos became a millionaire.

98

00:11:21,102 --> 00:11:26,107

This infuriated his terrorist friends who saw him now as a mercenary

99

00:11:26,107 --> 00:11:29,109

with few ideals that couldn't be bought.

100

00:11:30,110 --> 00:11:37,116

When he made up his mind not to kill them and to accept a compensation for that,

101

00:11:37,116 --> 00:11:40,119

he had troubles with his people.

102

00:11:42,121 --> 00:11:48,126

This film, Taken at Algiers Airport, is the clearest record of Carlos that exists.

103

00:11:48,126 --> 00:11:52,130

That's him breaking away, answering a call from the plane.

104

00:11:52,130 --> 00:11:59,136

It was Christmas Eve, 1975, the last time Carlos was photographed.

105

00:12:01,137 --> 00:12:09,145

Since that day, international police sources including Israeli intelligence say that Carlos has not retired with his money.

106

00:12:09,145 --> 00:12:17,152

On the contrary, it is believed that he took an active role in planning the hijacking of the Air France airliner to Entebbe Uganda.

107

00:12:17,152 --> 00:12:26,159

And that he escaped death again because he was in Libya directing operations when the Israeli commandos saved the hostages.

108

00:12:28,161 --> 00:12:33,166

Since the OPEC operation, Interpol, studying pictures and handwriting,

109

00:12:33,166 --> 00:12:37,169

has linked Carlos to years of terrorist crimes in Europe.

110

00:12:37,169 --> 00:12:44,175

They positively identify him as Hélice Ramirez Sanchez, son of a wealthy Venezuelan lawyer.

111

00:12:47,178 --> 00:12:53,183

How did Hélice become Carlos, the most wanted man in the world?

112

00:12:56,186 --> 00:13:01,190

It had been a fast and bloody rise in the underworld of international terrorism for Carlos.

113

00:13:02,191 --> 00:13:08,197

After OPEC at age 26, he was the acknowledged ringmaster of terrorism in Europe.

114

00:13:08,197 --> 00:13:13,201

Who is Carlos and how did he achieve his infamous reputation?

115

00:13:13,201 --> 00:13:17,204

Few sons have been fashioned by their fathers as completely as Carlos.

116

00:13:17,204 --> 00:13:21,208

He grew up as the pampered son of a devout communist.

117

00:13:21,208 --> 00:13:28,214

In business affairs, however, Dr. Jose Sanchez is a capitalist, having made millions in real estate.

118

00:13:29,215 --> 00:13:34,219

He is now retired to the small village of San Cristobal in the Andes.

119

00:13:36,221 --> 00:13:40,225

This rare film of Dr. Sanchez was taken over his protest.

120

00:13:49,233 --> 00:13:54,237

Later, despite his protest, the camera caught him again.

121

00:13:54,237 --> 00:13:59,241

Dr. Sanchez now describes his son as the general of world terrorism,

122

00:13:59,241 --> 00:14:03,245

and the father completely supports his son's methods.

123

00:14:06,248 --> 00:14:12,253

In 1966, Carlos moved to London and lived with his mother, who had now separated from the father.

124

00:14:12,253 --> 00:14:18,258

It was swinging London then, and on father's money, life was good.

125

00:14:18,258 --> 00:14:21,261

Shopping in Carnegie Street for flashy clothes.

126

00:14:21,261 --> 00:14:26,265

Carlos was fascinated by James Bond films and loved the music of the Beatles.

127

00:14:30,269 --> 00:14:37,275

Seen here with his mother and a girlfriend, he became a popular young bachelor on the diplomatic cocktail circuit.

128

00:14:37,275 --> 00:14:43,280

He acquired a taste for the best Napoleon brandy and lost heavily in poker.

129

00:14:43,280 --> 00:14:48,285

Swinging London life stopped abruptly when father reasserted his influence.

130

00:14:48,285 --> 00:14:52,288

Carlos was sent to Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow.

131

00:14:52,288 --> 00:14:55,291

He studied terrorism for two years.

132

00:14:55,291 --> 00:15:01,296

Then, the playboy habits Carlos learned in London appeared to annoy his Russian hosts.

133

00:15:01,296 --> 00:15:03,298

He was expelled.

134

00:15:07,301 --> 00:15:14,308

From Moscow, the Carlos Trail leads to Palestinian training camps in Lebanon and Jordan.

135

00:15:15,308 --> 00:15:21,314

In camps like this one, Carlos was trained in the use of terrorist weapons.

136

00:15:21,314 --> 00:15:31,323

Sitting among his classmates from a dozen countries, it is here the alias Carlos Martinez was first used by Ilitch Ramirez Sanchez.

137

00:15:31,323 --> 00:15:39,330

The name stuck, and the transformation from Ilitch the student to Carlos the terrorist was completed.

138

00:15:39,330 --> 00:15:41,331

He went to work for the Palestinians.

139

00:15:42,332 --> 00:15:48,337

His first assignment, deliver machine guns and grenades to the fanatic Japanese Red Army,

140

00:15:48,337 --> 00:15:53,342

who had agreed to attack the passenger lounge at Laud Airport, Israel.

141

00:15:53,342 --> 00:15:58,346

The toll? 28 killed, 78 killed.

142

00:16:00,348 --> 00:16:05,352

Police investigations begin to link Carlos with his terrorist crimes.

143

00:16:05,352 --> 00:16:12,359

He is identified as the mastermind behind a rocket attack on an Israeli jetliner at Orly Airport, Paris.

144

00:16:12,359 --> 00:16:16,362

The rockets missed, the terrorists escaped.

145

00:16:18,364 --> 00:16:25,370

All Europe reacted by surrounding airports with troops and tanks, not seen here since the Second World War.

146

00:16:26,371 --> 00:16:32,376

In London, as well as other European cities, Carlos juggled affairs with almost a dozen women.

147

00:16:32,376 --> 00:16:40,383

He prided himself as a great lover, and through his extraordinary appeal, used women to provide safe havens.

148

00:16:40,383 --> 00:16:47,389

In London, one such lover is Angela Atayola, a Spanish waitress.

149

00:16:47,389 --> 00:16:52,394

Here, Carlos is a member of the Spanish military.

150

00:16:52,394 --> 00:16:56,397

Here, Angela is escorted to jail by Scotland Yard agents.

151

00:16:56,397 --> 00:17:00,401

In her apartment under the bed, they found a suitcase.

152

00:17:00,401 --> 00:17:08,408

It contained a hit list of potential assassination victims, explosives, ammunition and guns,

153

00:17:08,408 --> 00:17:14,413

one of which was used in the attempted assassination of British businessman Edward Seif.

154

00:17:14,413 --> 00:17:19,418

Carlos himself always miraculously managed to escape.

155

00:17:19,418 --> 00:17:23,421

Another girlfriend was Nydia Taban.

156

00:17:23,421 --> 00:17:28,426

She was arrested, jailed for a year and deported to South America.

157

00:17:28,426 --> 00:17:35,432

Used and discarded, women are left behind, caught in the police drag net for Carlos.

158

00:17:35,432 --> 00:17:39,435

Carlos was arrested, jailed for a year and deported to South America.

159

00:17:39,435 --> 00:17:46,441

Used and discarded, women are left behind, caught in the police drag net for Carlos.

160

00:17:47,442 --> 00:17:54,449

An hour's flight away, in Paris, a favorite girlfriend was Nancy Sanchez, a Venezuelan student.

161

00:17:54,449 --> 00:17:57,451

Carlos told Nancy he was a businessman.

162

00:17:57,451 --> 00:18:04,457

He spent long hours on her telephone and often went on business trips.

163

00:18:04,457 --> 00:18:08,461

Why would some women find a murderer like Carlos appealing?

164

00:18:08,461 --> 00:18:12,464

Well, I think that aside from probably being personally attractive,

165

00:18:12,464 --> 00:18:19,471

this kind of dangerous life has a kind of heroic attraction to a number of people.

166

00:18:19,471 --> 00:18:24,475

I understand movies and television shows are being made about such characters

167

00:18:24,475 --> 00:18:31,481

that probably use the same type of charismatic attraction that he also uses in his personal life.

168

00:18:31,481 --> 00:18:38,487

A friend of Nancy Sanchez and Carlos was Angela Armstrong, a British secretary.

169

00:18:38,487 --> 00:18:43,492

Angela remembers constant parties at Nancy's apartment at 9 Rue Touillet

170

00:18:43,492 --> 00:18:49,497

whenever Carlos returned from business trips.

171

00:18:49,497 --> 00:18:53,501

During one such party, French secret police closed in on Carlos.

172

00:18:53,501 --> 00:19:00,507

He killed two agents and a Palestinian terrorist friend whom Carlos suspected of betraying.

173

00:19:00,507 --> 00:19:07,513

A massive police manhunt for Carlos is launched throughout the country.

174

00:19:07,513 --> 00:19:12,517

Every transportation center is closely watched and guarded by police.

175

00:19:12,517 --> 00:19:17,522

Ironically, Carlos turns up the next day at the Paris Air Terminal

176

00:19:17,522 --> 00:19:21,525

after walking unnoticed through a cordon of police.

177

00:19:21,525 --> 00:19:26,530

In the terminal, he encounters Angela Armstrong.

178

00:19:26,530 --> 00:19:30,533

He asked me, have you heard the news?

179

00:19:30,533 --> 00:19:32,535

I hadn't heard anything.

180

00:19:32,535 --> 00:19:37,539

And then he said, well, I've killed two men.

181

00:19:37,539 --> 00:19:42,544

Dirty Arab betrayed me. I killed all those who betrayed me.

182

00:19:42,544 --> 00:19:48,549

And he went off. I was not drunk. He seemed quite sane.

183

00:19:48,549 --> 00:19:50,551

And I thought, my God, I'm going to be killed.

184

00:19:50,551 --> 00:19:57,557

I thought, I know him. So I knew that I definitely got into him. Nobody else could. And I was scared.

185

00:19:58,558 --> 00:20:04,563

Police later said Carlos escaped by coming here to the Algerian embassy in Paris.

186

00:20:04,563 --> 00:20:09,567

He was given a new passport and left France by boat for Algeria.

187

00:20:09,567 --> 00:20:13,571

Angela was arrested in question for two weeks.

188

00:20:13,571 --> 00:20:16,574

She was charged with collaborating with the enemies of France.

189

00:20:16,574 --> 00:20:22,579

Her case is still untried and she is under constant police surveillance.

190

00:20:22,579 --> 00:20:27,583

She is paying the price of throwing Carlos.

191

00:20:31,587 --> 00:20:35,590

The high cost of combating terrorism is affecting us all.

192

00:20:35,590 --> 00:20:39,594

We pay for increased security at airports.

193

00:20:39,594 --> 00:20:46,600

And highly trained specialists like these to deal with terrorists like Carlos.

194

00:20:46,600 --> 00:20:51,604

In France, for example, the group d'intervention de la gendarmerie

195

00:20:51,604 --> 00:20:58,611

train constantly for the day they might be called upon to combat Carlos or his terrorist friends.

196

00:20:58,611 --> 00:21:03,615

Anti-terrorism is a very common thing.

197

00:21:03,615 --> 00:21:08,619

They are constantly spending money to develop new weapons and tactics.

198

00:21:08,619 --> 00:21:15,626

To a man, they believe it is not a question of whether Carlos will strike again,

199

00:21:15,626 --> 00:21:20,630

but when, where and how.

200

00:21:20,630 --> 00:21:25,634

And they are constantly spending money to develop new weapons and tactics.

201

00:21:25,634 --> 00:21:30,639

To a man, they believe it is not a question of whether Carlos will strike again,

202

00:21:30,639 --> 00:21:35,643

but when, where and how.

203

00:21:42,649 --> 00:21:48,655

Coming up next, 20th century with Mike Wallace reports on the history of kidnapping in America

204

00:21:48,655 --> 00:21:51,657

from the Lindbergh baby to the case of Polly Klass.

205

00:21:51,657 --> 00:21:56,662

Then, weapons at war send you aloft to train with Air Force Top Guns.

206

00:21:56,662 --> 00:22:01,666

And later tonight, Andrew Jackson defends New Orleans and shapes the future of America

207

00:22:01,666 --> 00:22:08,672

on Frontier, the Decisive Battles at 9, here on the History Channel, where the past comes alive.