

Call of Duty

Synopsis

Sonny Boy Cruz, President of the Philippines, calls an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss the immediate response the Philippines should take as Filipino soldiers are being held hostage by the Chinese in the Island of Waka Waka, a territory that has been claimed by different countries for centuries. The Secretary of the Department of Defense, General Mateo Guinigundo, seems to be badly disappointed as the President bases the country's action in video games, Sun Tzu's Art of War which he has not read, and the advice of Sonny Boy's pseudo-cabinet members, the video-game enthusiast IT expert and an image consultant who are both indifferent to the nation's state.

Just when everything seems to be hopeless for General Guinigundo, one official who is present in the meeting makes a stand and kills the President, declaring a rescue operation in Waka Waka.

Call of Duty

CHARACTERS:

Sonny Boy Cruz, 49 years old, President of the Philippines

General Mateo Guinigundo, 62 years old, Secretary of the
Department of Defense

Max Rosario, 48 years old, Executive Secretary

Christopher Moderno, 50 years old, Secretary of the Department
of Foreign Affairs

General Miguel Meraño IV, 45 years old, AFP Chief of Staff

Jollypitt Musngi, 32 years old, image consultant

Jonathan Nolasco, 27 years old, IT Expert

SETTING:

Inside the Yellow Room, a secret room in Malacañang in which the President meets members of his cabinet about sensitive issues. This time, they are having a meeting to make a decision about the Filipino soldiers taken hostage by the Chinese in Waka Waka Island. There's a long table at the center of the stage. The President sits in the middle, Max Rosario on his left and Jollypitt on his right, while everybody else is sitting randomly around the table except for Jonathan Nolasco who is busy on his iPad while sauntering about the room.

(They are waiting for Sonny Boy to begin the meeting. The President is holding a pen that he unconsciously puts in his mouth from time to time if he's not writing on the piece of paper facing him on the table. Max Rosario is facing his laptop, Jollypitt has his Blackberry cellphone and everyone else only got a pen and paper.)

SONNY

Okay, gentlemen. I think we should start. This is a clear and present danger and I need your full cooperation and confidence. So, before we start . . . let's see. *(Reads from the paper on his table.)*

My Executive Secretary, Max?

MAX

Present.

SONNY (*scribbles down*)

Secretary of Defense, General Guinigundo. Is gramps here? General Mateo Guinigundo?

MATEO

Sonny. (*Clears his throat.*) I'm sorry. Mr. President.

SONNY

DFA Secretary, Mr. Moderno?

CHRISTOPHER

Here.

MATEO

Mr. President, I don't think we need this. It appears that everyone we need is here for the meeting. We need to act as soon as possible.

SONNY

With all due respect, General. Are you the executive secretary?

MATEO

I'm the Defense Secretary. You've just said so.

SONNY

I know, General Guinigundo. I repeat. Are you my executive secretary? How did you know that every person in my list is here?

MATEO

We are all here and some that I don't have any idea what they are here for. (*Points at Jonathan.*)

What the hell is that boy doing here?

SONNY

Don't belittle Jonathan. I think everybody knows why each of you is here except for you, General Guinigundo.

MATEO

Of course I have to be here.

SONNY

What I mean is, except for you, everyone here knows each other's importance.

MATEO

But we are only a few. Why do you have to check our attendance?

SONNY

I'm sorry but since we need to make an important decision, we have to be careful and I need to

know that everybody, that all of you here are righteous, moral, and straight. I put you in the cabinet because I believe that all of you agree with my dream of implementing a straight line towards change.

MATEO

I got your point. Please proceed, Mr. President. Sorry to interrupt you.

SONNY

Well, that's disappointing. I don't like being interrupted. *(Pause.)* General Meraño. . . I'm sorry.
General Miguel Meraño IV.

MIGUEL

Sir! Present, Sir!

SONNY

That's the spirit. Very much alive. That's what we need for an immediate action. I really like saying your full name, General Meraño. I don't know if I already asked you this—of course your father is General Miguel Meraño III, am I right?

MIGUEL

Sir, yes, sir! You did ask that when you appointed me as AFP Chief.

SONNY

Of course. Wait, I just want you to know that I cannot easily forget. I just want to clarify things. Everything should be clear. How can we move forward if we keep on disregarding and forgetting the little details. General Guinigundo, I hope this won't offend you but I hope you're not having a senior moment?

MATEO

Senior moment?

MAX

Symptoms of Alzheimer's, General. (*Raises his voice a little.*) If you are being forgetful.

MATEO

I'm not deaf.

SONNY (*laughs*)

Alzheimer's Disease, General Guinigundo. Jonathan, can you Google it then read it to him.

MATEO

Sonny Boy . . . Mr. President, of course I know what Alzheimer's Disease is. I was just saying that I am not deaf. You don't have to raise your voice.

SONNY

That was Max. Max, he's saying that he can hear you and you don't have to raise your voice.

(Sarcastic tone.) Let's respect each other, especially the elderly. Okay. *(Pause.)* But still, I think you have to read about the disease so you won't suffer from it. I need you in my administration. *(Pause.)* Let's proceed. General Meraño . . . Jollypitt. Gentlemen, of course you know Jo and Jonathan, my Image Consultant and our IT expert, respectively. Jonathan?

JONATHAN *(while showing something on his iPad to Mateo):*

Here, Sir.

MATEO

You knew the guy is here. Why do you have to make a roll call?

SONNY

Again, General, we need to know everything. We need to be very careful. Well, let's begin.

MATEO

One moment, Sir. General Guinigundo is not yet done reading Wikipedia's article on Alzheimer's.

SONNY

Okay. Let's wait for General Guinigundo.

MATEO

No need. I'll just search for it in the encyclopedia when I get home. We can start now.

SONNY

Are you sure, General?

MATEO

I spoke with one of our soldiers in Waka Waka Island. The *Intsik* does not want our side of the bargain.

(Jonathan sits in a vacant chair.)

SONNY

What have we talked about so far?

MAX

We demand that China should withdraw their vessels in the vicinity. But when our men stepped on the island, they were caught by the Chinese and now they are making the demands.

MATEO

The *Intsik* demands that—

SONNY

Wait. Let's get this clear for the sake of an appropriate dialogue. Jonathan, take note of this and please check it out later. Chinese is English, right? I don't want our opponents to get offended. And besides, many of our nation builders had Chinese blood. Rizal was half-Chinese, my mother

was—

MATEO

Rizal was only twenty-five percent Chinese.

SONNY

My point is, General, you mentioned a while ago the word *intsik*. That's racist. That's not how we call those yellow people. Chinese. Tsino. I don't know if we refer to their women as Tsina sa Tagalog. But as much as possible, let's refrain from using the word *intsik*. I've heard somewhere that that is offensive. Jonathan, can you look it up so that we can double check? It's better to be cautious. Mr. Moderno, what do you think of this?

CHRISTOPHER

You're right, Mr. President. The *intsik* word is a bit offensive.

MATEO

Here in our country. That is cultural. The reason why it became offensive to the Chinese here is because it reminds them of the oppression by the Spaniards during the Spanish era.

CHRISTOPHER

That's why we cannot call them Intsik. We are not in the Spanish Period.

SONNY

See? How will we be able to fight fair if we are going to belittle them by calling their names wrongfully? Now, let's continue. Mr. Moderno, how was your meeting with Ambassador Uy?

CHRISTOPHER

Ambassador Uy has betrayed us, Sir.

SONNY

What? That son of a bitch! What happened?

CHRISTOPHER

He joined the Chinese forces. Since he is half-Chinese, he chose his father's bloodline.

SONNY

What is his mother's lineage?

CHRISTOPHER

Mrs. Rebecca Tan is also half-Chinese. Actually, Mrs. Tan's Filipino heritage remains questionable. In our findings, we found out that her arrival here in the Philippines was illegal. Another thing, Mr. President. Ambassador Uy has joined the protestors in burning the Philippine flag in our embassy in Beijing.

SONNY

How could they burn our flag! That is made in China.

MATEO

That's no longer necessary, Mr. President. Like what I've said a while ago, I talked to one of our soldiers through our negotiator. They are being surrounded by the "Chinese" in the island. They are defenseless. We need to ask the Chinese government to free our soldiers or else, we will have to make a rescue operation.

SONNY

Is the rescue operation going to be a defensive or an offensive one? That should be clear, General.

CHRISTOPHER

I agree with you, Mr. President. Every step we make has to be clear. In Chapter 1 of the Art of War by Sun Tzu, he talks about the planning stage. Detailed assessment and planning.

SONNY

That's it. See? We need to plan carefully. All our actions. That seems to be a great book. Who is the author again? Jonatahan, can you download me a copy on my Kindle?

JONATHAN

I have a copy here on my iPad, Sir.

SONNY

Excellent. Send as attachment to Abby so that she can tell me about it.

JONATHAN

I'll download it on your iPad.

MATEO

Why are you going to make your secretary read it for you? Sonny, I guess we don't have enough time for that. We have gathered all our intelligence. We also have the blueprint of the terrains of Waka Waka Island.

JONATHAN

Permission to speak, Sir! I've read Art of War too. I remember that decision-making is one of the most important things in war. Decisions—whether a decision leads to victory or loss—should be made as soon as possible. Of course there is a need to implement a careful analysis but if we are not doing anything yet, nothing will happen. The enemy will advance while we remain procrastinating. Do you remember the video game Dishonored?

SONNY

Well, of course. I love Dishonored!

JONATHAN

Every action, there's a reaction, there's always a consequence. When you kill one soldier, or a

civilian or even a number of villains, it would matter to the future of the kingdom.

SONNY

That's what happened to me. I thought that when I got rid of all the enemies, everything would be okay, that I already won. But no. It really matters to the world of that video game. That's it! See? Well, very well said. That's brilliant. Thank you, Jonathan. I told you so. See? I don't regret that I included Jonathan in this meeting. We need more minds like his. Full of fresh ideas.

JONATHAN

Thank you, Mr. President.

MATEO

And what do you suggest, Jonathan?

SONNY

Oh, for god's sake. He just gave the most brilliant suggestion. If I may, General, what video game do you play?

MATEO

Pardon, Mr. President?

SONNY

Let me paraphrase. Rephrase if you will. Check that out, Jonathan which is better, rephrase or

paraphrase. That would be embarrassing if I don't say it right in front of the people. Just like my speech in Mindoro the other day. That was really embarrassing, right, Jo?

JOLLYPIT

It's being made fun by the media and netizens.

SONNY

How could they do that? The press used to love me. They were the reason why I got here. What can we do with it? Where did I go wrong? Should have I faced right to left or was it the way I winked?

JOLLYPIT

In your pronunciation, Sir. Because of that, Vice President Batirol got an advantage in the latest SWS popularity survey. You're 40 percent behind him.

SONNY

And how many percent I got?

JOLLYPIT

28 percent, Sir.

SONNY

This is bad, really, really bad. That means Vice President Batirol got 68 percent, right, Jonathan?

JOLLYPIT

100 percent correct, Sir. There's no doubt that you are better in math than the Vice President.

JOLLYPIT

And in the color of your skin.

SONNY

Nevertheless, he has the advantage of popularity. What was that word again? The one that I mispronounced?

JOLLYPIT

Assets, Sir.

SONNY

Asses. A-S-S-E-T-S. It reminds me of the young lady last night from that province. I really like her ass-ets. Asses.

MAX

Assets.

SONNY

Asses.

JONATHAN

Assets. Aaaaaseeeettts.

SONNY

Asses. General Meraño?

MIGUEL

Sir. Assets, Sir!

SONNY

Mr. Moderno? A. . .

CHRISTOPHER

Assets.

SONNY

General Guinigundo, please help me with this.

MATEO

What?

SONNY

Asses.

MATEO

Assets.

SONNY

Thank you, gentlemen. I get it now. It should be assets with the t pronounced. Assets.

MAX

That's better.

SONNY

Well, good job, everyone. Let's continue. General Guinigundo?

MATEO

Assets.

SONNY

Please, General. As Defense Secretary, you need presence of mind. I was just trying to find out if you'd get distracted. It's like, if this is the target, you got lost because of that. I hope it's just a mild case of distraction or else you'll lead us to destruction. Wow, I like that. Jollypitt, remind me how and when I can use that.

JOLLYPITT

Yes, Sir. Distraction. Destruction. I'm going to post something in your Twitter account.

SONNY

All right. Thank you, Jo. Where were we? Yes, Dishonored. General Guinigundo, what video games are you into?

JOLLYPITT

Sir, we can improve that sentence. What video games are you up to? Or what video games do you play or that entertain you?

SONNY

Is entertain all right? I'm a bit confused. Because anything can be entertaining even if it's not a video game. For example, I am entertained when I don't think. My brain shuts off and at the same time, I get entertained.

JONATHAN

Sir, you said that you get relaxed when you play video games.

SONNY

Yes, that's my coping mechanism with stress.

MAX

Wait a minute. Just like we talked about, let's make it clear. In Cebuano, we have the word “libang” that does not mean entertain but to defecate.

(Everybody laughs except for Miguel and Mateo.)

SONNY

That's so funny. Well, I am entertained especially when I defecate.

JOLLYPIT

Sir, the context here is in English. Even when you give a speech, it will be taken as a word in Tagalog or in English and not Bisaya.

SONNY

Okay. I accept that word. Thank you, Max and Jo. General?

MATEO

If I may, Jollibeet—

JOLLYPITT

Jollypitt, Sir.

MATEO

If I may ask. Are you an English major?

JOLLYPITT

My undergrad course was Microbiology and my Masteral is Arts Studies. I've got six units of translation, a unit in psychology with a thesis in phrenology and behavioral psychology, and, with my background in Humanities, I know a lot of things in gestures, costume design, speech writing, media relations and almost everything an Image Consultant needs to know.

MATEO

How ostentatious!

SONNY

That's enough. General Guinigundo, I was asking you a question.

MATEO

I don't play any video games. I don't have the time and I am not interested.

SONNY

Are you serious, General? Even if it was just Super Mario back then?

MATEO

I was not aware of that, and besides, I was always in the middle of an operation. I still remember when General MacArthur—

SONNY

Sorry, General, I have to cut you there. General Meraño, you seem to be silent all this time.

MIGUEL

I am waiting for General Guinigundo's reply, Sir.

SONNY

He already answered. General Guinigundo, do you mean, you did not play anything back then?

MATEO

I only played chess and Games of the General.

SONNY

That's the problem, General. Chess? Games of the General? They do not happen in real life. You've been missing a lot. If only you can get to see the graphics of Dishonored. And even Call of Duty. That's it. Christopher, what is the name of the book you mentioned again?

CHRISTOPHER

Art of War by Sun Tzu.

SONNY

Sun Tzu. S-U-N?

CHRISTOPHER

S-U-N T-Z-U.

SONNY

Take note of that, Jonathan.

JONATHAN

Yes, Sir. I have a copy on my iPad.

SONNY

You said so a while ago.

CHRISTOPHER

Mr. President, can I mention Candy Crush Saga and Empires and Allies?

SONNY

Of course. Especially Empires and Allies. See, General Guinigundo? Even Mr. Moderno is aware of gaming.

MATEO

All right, I'll ask my grandson to teach me one. May we proceed?

SONNY

Too late.

CHRISTOPHER

You did not say you have a Facebook.

MATEO

Facebook?

JONATHAN

You need to have a Facebook account to play Empires and Allies, Sir.

MATEO

That is very complicated.

SONNY

All right, let's go back to business. This is very important, no. Our men are in danger and we are at the blink at war.

JOLLYPITT

Sir, we need to improve that.

MATEO

Not again.

SONNY

Should I raise my eyebrows?

JOLLYPITT

Grammar and syntax, Sir.

SONNY

Okay. We don't have enough time for that. Thank you for reminding me, Jo. I'll change it. Wait.

MATEO

We are on the brink of war.

SONNY

Right, General. That's it. Well, apparently my armpits are already soaking wet.

JOLLYPITT

Sir, you need to change your outfit before you face the press.

SONNY

This is such a nuisance. If it's not the forehead, it's the armpits.

JOLLYPITT

They will see it as a sign of weakness.

MATEO

In our time, we fight with our fists, covered in blood and sweat, we were soaking wet in the armpits. We were bathed in sweat and that was the sign of our bravery.

SONNY

General Meraño, do you agree with General Guinigundo?

MIGUEL

In combat and in training, Sir. It is common sense that we sweat like hell because there's no time to freshen up or even dry ourselves with towels. We need to make an immediate action.

SONNY

Yes, I see. Just like the characters in games like Modern Warfare, Dead Space 2, Condemned. Wow. Very detailed—the blood, the sweat, they sometimes spatter blood on the screen. My hands are getting itchy now. I already want to play. But see, that's in combat. I am inside an airconditioned room with the media and the whole world will be watching. We have the BBC, CNN, Bloomberg. It would be embarrassing.

JOLLYPITT

Sir, I already talked to Dra. Vicky Belo, we can have the operation for your sweat glands in your armpits anytime you want.

SONNY

We'll see about that. I hope we still have time before the presscon. Or after. But still, I hope before the presscon. It's such a shame, really, really embarrassing for the President of the Republic of the Philippines declaring something on national television and international media, defending our territorial claim of a sovereign Philippines.

(A cellphone rings. Jonathan gets his iPhone from his pocket.)

JONATHAN *(on iPhone)*

Oh, Priscilla . . . Yes . . . yes . . . We're in a meeting . . . He's the one presiding . . . All right, send me your email address. . . Thanks . . . All right, I'll tell him.

MATEO *(while Jonathan speaks on his iPhone)*

Well, I guess you've made a decision, Mr. President.

SONNY

Yes, General. They have to be eliminated.

MATEO

So, I shall prepare our men? I think the marines are more capable of—

SONNY

What, General? I did not say anything about an attack.

MATEO

You just said that we will defend our territorial claim of a sovereign Philippines in the Island of Waka Waka.

SONNY

And I was saying that the sweat glands in my armpits should be eliminated.

JONATHAN

Sorry, I didn't get that. Sir, that was Priscilla. She was asking—(*looks around the room.*) She was asking if your interview meeting tonight will push through.

SONNY

Priscilla?

JONATHAN

Wait a moment, Sir. (*Shows something from his iPad.*) Do you remember her?

SONNY

Oh, yes. Isn't she the one we met last week? The girl with a big pair of "assets"?

JONATHAN

Yes, Sir. The Resident Evil and Grand Theft Auto babe.

MAX

Was it her? So, Priscilla is her name. Does she have a Facebook, Jonathan?

(Miguel clears his throat.)

SONNY

Jonathan already added her after we played in Timezone in Eastwood. Hahaha. This guy here is really quick.

MAX

Suggest friend me to her FB, please.

CHRISTOPHER

Hey, don't forget about me. Let me take a look at her picture, Jonathan.

JONATHAN *(walks towards Christopher)*

Here, Sir. Isn't she beautiful?

MATEO

My goodness! My fucking goddamned goodness! We are in the middle of a very important meeting. You're being rude! You are messing with the sanctity of sovereignty. You are like the

“Intsik” that is being spat at and who burns our flag. Our soldiers are in danger, captured by the Chinese in fucking Waka Waka and you are talking about some fucking bitch?!

JONATHAN (*takes a sit*)

Sorry, Sir.

SONNY

General Guinigundo!

MATEO

Stop that! Stop playing games. We are at war. We are fucking at war.

SONNY

General, please. Calm down. That’s the problem with you. You are not with us. You are not cooperating. And I told you before that we should be careful with the use of *intsik* If it were not for my mother, I would not have appointed you. Did you put me in the office? No. The people elected me. They are my boss. You don't have the right to dictate what I should do. And you don't have the right to cuss here in my office. You desecrate the vote of every Filipino, this room and the presidency.

MATEO

I’m sorry, Mr. President. I just couldn’t take it anymore.

SONNY

You are so selfish, General. We will not move forward if we only think of ourselves.

MATEO

I'm so sorry, Sonny. Mr. President.

SONNY

I cannot tolerate such immorality. I don't have the guts to even hear your cuss words.

MATEO

I am sorry. I'm probably old. I guess this is not a country for old men.

SONNY

Do not compare yourself to Clint Eastwood.

MATEO

What?

SONNY

White guy, western elitism. You're such an elitist. *(Pause.)* Okay. Let's go back to business.

General Meraño, didn't we send spies to Waka Waka Island?

MIGUEL

Affirmative, Sir.

SONNY

Where are they now?

MIGUEL

We gave directives to spy on the island. That was two months ago.

SONNY

What happened to them?

MIGUEL

They are now one of the hostage takers, Sir. Ostensibly, they sympathized with China. It turned out that they are pure-blooded Chinese.

SONNY

What? Why do we have Chinese in the military?

MIGUEL

Not all of them, Sir, just some of our men in the intelligence division. In my analysis, it seems that they have planned it a long time ago. Years ago, they sent some of their men to apply in our schools. They learned English and mastered Tagalog, they resided here, forged their papers and applied in the AFP. The Armed Forces hired them because we needed men who could understand

Chinese.

SONNY

And nobody did not know their background? Didn't you notice their squinting eyes? General Guinigundo, you were in the ranks back then.

MATEO

I was not aware—

SONNY

Everybody was not aware. The last administration was notorious for being corrupt. And nobody knows anything. People are pretending to be blind. But of course, everyone got paid. It was their fault that these Chinamen became conceited, especially with that anomalous transaction. Max, can you call the DOJ later? Tell Delilah to hasten the proceedings in the Agoyo trial in the Chinchintabiru Deal.

CHRISTOPHER

Sir, kindly include the issue about the Tauwaya Island. Mrs. Agoyo pushed the Sultan of Sulu in claiming the island and they are waging war against Malaysia.

SONNY

What? I didn't know that.

MAX

President Marcos crowned the Sultanate of Sulu and declared Tauwaya as their territory but the Malaysians stayed. They paid a lease. That's included in the MAPHILINDO. In the 2010 elections, Mrs. Agoyo included the Sultan in her senatorial slate so that she could get votes from Mindanao.

SONNY

I know that. What I do not know is the issue about the Sultan's actions now.

MATEO

Don't you watch the news?

SONNY

That's not my job. Anyway, what happened there, Max?

MAX

Secretary Lamyerda took care of it.

SONNY

That's good.

(Mateo's cellphone rings.)

MATEO (*on his cellphone*)

Hello? . . . Speaking... What? . . . Okay, I'll call you back. (*Puts down his cellphone.*) Mr. President, the Chinese soldiers issued a statement. They are going to execute two of our soldiers if we don't comply with their demands.

MIGUEL (*goes frantic and stands up*)

My men!

SONNY

What are their demands? General Meraño, please stay calm.

(*Miguel takes his seat.*)

MATEO

They want us to ask the American vessels to leave the Philippine territories.

SONNY

What? There are US vessels in the Philippines?

MAX

Yes, Sir. You signed a deal with them two years ago.

SONNY

What if we ask them to leave?

CHRISTOPHER

The US will lose confidence in us. They'd say we can be easily bullied by China.

SONNY

We are not dogs. Then, we won't comply with China.

MATEO

But what will happen to our soldiers? We need to rescue them.

SONNY

There are only two that would serve as sacrificial lambs compared to millions of Filipinos that need food in their dining table. Let us first solve the bigger problems of the country.

JOLLYPITT

Sir, we need to have issues like the RH Bill again. It is better to have debates with the church, many people would gain our confidence. If our soldiers die in Waka Waka Island, the news should be replaced by another big scandal or issue.

MATEO

That's not how it works. What are we meeting here for?

SONNY

You are right, Jollypitt. We need a spectacle to distract the people. Let us make the first move to shut the critics. Now, General Meraño, how many soldiers do we have in Waka Waka Island? Are they new recruits? Can we cover this up?

MIGUEL

Around fifty privates and two generals, Sir. Most of them fought with me in Mindanao

JONATHAN

Remember the Call of Duty, Sir.

SONNY

Yes. In the video game Call of Duty, there are traitors who get away with their crimes. We have to be strong and detach ourselves and forget about our emotional baggage. We need to cover this up. We won't be able to fight China at this moment and we cannot afford to lose the confidence of the United States. We are in the middle of two opposing superpowers.

MATEO

Our duty is to serve the people of this country.

SONNY

That's why we are here, General.

MATEO

I don't get you. I don't get this. I am resigning as Defense Secretary.

MAX

Why, General? We need you, especially now, especially by our soldiers. The military would be destabilized if you resign.

SONNY

General, my family owes you a lot. Please don't do this.

(Pause. Mateo rises from his seat.)

MATEO

Your father was a great man. I admired him and I extended that admiration to your mother. I thought you'd inherit your father's wisdom.

(Mateo starts to leave the table.)

SONNY *(cries)*

Please, General. Please don't put my parents in a bad light. They loved this country. They were loved by the Philippines. That's why I'm here. That's why I became the president. But I never wanted any of this. I just wanted a normal life. Oh, Mom. If only you were still alive. I miss my Mommy. I miss her calming presence. I don't know what to do anymore.

JOLLYPITT

That's good, Sir. It would be a good thing if people would see that you've been crying. They would even think you've been working so hard.

MAX

They would also see how you care for our soldiers in Waka Waka Island.

JOLLYPITT

But I hope you'd never say those things in front of the cameras what you've said about your mom.

MAX

Please, General Guinigundo, have pity on the president.

MATEO

I don't care. This meeting is bullshit. I don't care if our soldiers die in Waka Waka. Sonny, remember this day. History will haunt you.

SONNY

General, why are you hurting me? What have I done to you? I trusted you that's why I chose you to be my Secretary of Defense. My parents loved you. We loved you.

MATEO

You are the elitist, Sonny Boy. You are one immature son of a bitch. You need to learn to love our country.

SONNY

The country loves us. We became a Yellow Republic because of us.

MATEO

No, Sonny. I hate to say this but this country became a Banana Republic when you became president. That's why we are full of monkeys.

MAX

General, please. Calm down. Have pity on the president.

SONNY

I never wanted this. Mommy! Bring my mommy back.

(Sonny continues to cry like a child. Max comforts him. Jonathan starts shooting a video.)

MAX

Look what you've done, General. Tsk. Jonathan, are you recording this? Stop that if you still love your job.

SONNY (*embraces Max*)

Mommy.

MAX

Shhh, Sonny Boy. Kuya Max is here.

(Miguel stands up and shoots the President. Everyone is shocked. Max distances away from Sonny Boy. Mateo moves closer to the unconscious Sonny Boy.)

MATEO

He's dead.

MIGUEL

That man is full of shit. Nothing would happen if he continued living.

MAX

Are you out of your mind? General, you killed the President!

MIGUEL (*remains holding his gun, aims randomly at anyone in the room*)

Really? Then install Vice Batirol as the President as the constitution states. He's a man of action.

MAX

But that's a crime.

MIGUEL

Of course. Let him rot there like a banana. Now, where are we? Oh, yes, the Waka Waka Island. We will be declaring war against Malaysia and the United States of America. Mr. Rosario, please tell the other cabinet members that the President is dead and that they can pack their bags. Mr. Moderno, tell the Chinese government that the new administration is going to be their ally and they have to set our soldiers free. Do as I say because the new President will do the same.

CHRISTOPHER

But—

MIGUEL

Oh, right, you cannot do that. We're going to arrest you. General Guinigundo, I hope you understand that this needs a cover up Vice Batirol needs to be installed as soon as possible so he can declare a war that does not need the approval of congress, and this time, we are with China. General, make a draft that states that after the war, China will surrender Waka Waka to the Philippines and we will give them Malaysia but Tauwaya will remain ours. Call the person you were talking to minutes ago, tell him there's no need to kill our men. General Merano, prepare the army and the reserves. Let's claim Tauwaya, protect the Filipino loyalists of the Sultan of Sulu and attack the US vessels in our territories. Jollypitt and Jonatahan, I never want to see your faces anymore. Any questions? *(Pause.)* What are you waiting for? Get moving! This is our call of duty.

(Miguel makes a warning shot. Lights out.)