



RADIO SLOVENIJA
Uredništvo igranega programa

**THIS WONDERFUL BRAVE
WORLD OF RHYMES**
by Goran Gluvić

(Radioplay)

Translated by Henrik Ciglič

Prix Italia '92

ABOUT THE PLAY

THIS WONDERFUL BRAVE WORLD OF RHYMES, already the thirteenth radioplay by Goran Gluvić, this very prolific dramatist and writer, was awarded a prize in the competition organized by Radio Student in Ljubljana, Slovenia. This poetic farse deals with a never-ending conflict between an individual and a society exercising a repression over those who don't think alike. This often and in many different ways dealt with topic, however, is in this case presented in a very original manner: the language in the author's play is no longer just an element of a classical dialogue structure, but it is this VERY LANGUAGE AND NOTHING BUT LANGUAGE which defines, semantically as well as idiomatically, the world itself. First of all this is LANGUAGE - THE WORLD OF RHYMES dictated by the regime, while at the end of the play it becomes LANGUAGE - THE WORLD OF DIRECT SPEECH introduced by the regime. The events in the play are dictated by the adventures of two persecutors of unrhymed speech, special branch men, who as a mere tool of the regime handle the Case X, who does not live in accordance with the laws of social single-mindedness. Just before the successful end of their mission, however, a comical turnabout occurs by which a new single-mindedness as a new social system of values is introduced - the world of direct speech.

The author's original existential metaphor served the director of the play, Igor Likar, as a score which challenged him to create an auditive interpretation, composed of auditory sensations of speech, music and original sound details. And thus a very unconventional radiophonic creation was made which verges on musical.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

GORAN GLUVIĆ, born 1957, is freelance writer living and working at Grosuplje near Ljubljana. Apart from numerous articles written for various newspaper and literary magazines, he has published three poetry collections (Street Revolutions, 1984, Preface to Love Letters, 1987, Abushing Beautiful Vida, 1989) and two novels (Unusual Tale About Angry Janez, Instructive Reading About Confession by a Twentieth Century Rider). Gluvić, however writes primarily for theatre and radio, so that the following plays carrying his name have been staged: Hardcore, 1984, Borut's Summer, 1984, Tins, 1986, The Apartment, 1987, Carlos, 1990, Video Club, 1990.

He has written a number of radioplays, i.e. The Fastest Tin Opening Man, 1986, Creaking, 1986, Radio Receiver, 1987, Borut's Summer, 1987, Driver Franc K., 1988, Argentinian Tango, 1989, Mayakovsky's Death, 1990, Lunch, 1990,. Has also written the following short radioplays: Target 1990, Jubilee Man, 1990, Flight to Paradise, 1991.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

IGOR LIKAR, born in 1953 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, works as dramaturgist, director, poet, writer and journalist in the spheres of radio, film and theatre. After his studies at the Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television, he directed several theatrical works by Beckett, Strindberg, Montherlant, Yerofeyev, Ghelderod, J.M. Barrie, and others.

As dramaturgist he participated in various theatres, dance theatres and Slovene films.

Since 1979 he has been working as director of radioplays within the framework of Radio Slovenia where he has directed some eight plays, documentary dramas and sound experimental plays. With his work which he has either directed or written, has taken part at numerous domestic and international festivals and won a number of awards.

As author he is known for the following works:

POETRY: Inaudible Events (1982), Unexpressed Land (1989), Travelling Over Moses's Memory (1990), Swallows and the Military Boot (1991).

NOVELS: Stranger and Island (1991).

RADIOPLAYS: Mr. Alessio's Miracle (1979), If Bees Could Sing (1986), A Tale About the Axe and the White Larch (1987), The Fettered Heart (1988), Erasure of Verity (1988) - in Perrugia '89 chosen as one of the best five world texts at the EBU competition), Betrayal of the Sky (1988), Little Flying Girl (1989), Lust and Power (1989), The Monument's Finger (1990), The Glass Tower (1990), I'm Flyinh Away to the Land of Dark Apparitions (1991), War Weekend (1991), Colombina and the Black Clown (1991).

SOUND WORKS: Sound Burlesques (1988 - as representative of the JRT enters PRIX MONACO 1989), Ecophonia Maris (1989 - as representative of the JRT and the winner of FEDOR 1990 enters PRIX ITALIA 1990 and AUDIOBOX 90 in Matera, Italy), Soundings of the Mountain (enters Macrophon 91, Wroclaw, and wins Prix Macrophon's prize).

ABOUT THE SOUND ENGINEER

MIRO MARINŠEK, born in Ljubljana, 1947. Since 1969 works as sound engineer for Radio Ljubljana (Slovenia). Records radio-plays since 1975 and has been awarded a number of prizes at the Radio Week at Ohrid as well as Takton, both for independent sound recordings and contributions to programs produced by teams.

PLAYED OR SUNG BY:

CHIEF OF POLICE ALEKSANDER VALIČ
SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 PAVEL RAVNOHRIB
SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2 GOJMIR LEŠNJAK
CASE X UROŠ MAČEK
EX SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 NIKO GORŠIČ
EX SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2 IVO GODNIČ
CLEANING WOMAN AND SINGER ANJA RUPEL
ALSO TAKING PART SEBASTIJAN and
DAMJAN CAVAZZA,
MIHA DOVŽAN

Dramaturgic adviser: PAVEL LUŽAN
Sound and editing: ANDREJ SEMOLIČ,
MIRO MARINŠEK
Sound assistant: DARKO NOVAK
Technical assistant: ROK KADAK
Assistant director: DAŠA DOVŽAN
Music and adaptations: BOJAN JURJEVČIČ
Auditory script and direction: IGOR LIKAR

Running time: 40.00 minutes

Technique: stereo

First broadcast: April 12th, 1991

(SOUND EFFECTS: ticking clock, handful of earth falling on a wooden coffin, funeral march ... pause ... alarm clock ringing, cuckoo, sipping of coffee ...)

CHIEF OF POLICE: The time is three already,
Why aren't they here already?

(MUSIC, as an accent ...)

ANNOUNCER: This wonderful brave world of rhymes ...

(MUSIC which denotes, through the entire play, the world of CASE X ... SOUND EFFECT: snarling of a dog, MUSIC ...)

**WOMAN-SINGER (singing in the background) and
CASE X (reciting the singer's song in the foreground):**

Oh, how terribly happy I am,
'Cause here those days are again,
The days of beautiful rhymes,
I simply adore them at times.
Oh, how terribly happy I am,
'Cause here those days are again,
The days of beautiful rhymes,
I simply adore them at times.

CHIEF OF POLICE: Hey,
Forward, I say!

(DIFFERENT MUSIC is played now, denoting the „repressive authorities,, coming into the foreground ... SOUND EFFECTS: opening of doors, sound of boots hitting the floor ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2:
We are here
To appear With no fear.

(MUSIC, coming closer ...)

CHIEF OF POLICE: There is a task you should do,
A top secret job is waiting for you,
Case X you must now undertake,
But please, do not make a mistake.

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2
(reciting, with music in the background):

With you, chief, so daring and keen,
We are surely going to win!
(singing) The victory will be ours, hurray!

CHIEF OF POLICE: If this won't be a great hit,
We'll find ourselves in big shit!

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2 (with music in the background):
No one shall oppose us for sure,
Destroy our principles pure!
No one shall oppose us for sure,
Destroy our principles pure!
No one shall oppose us for sure,
Destroy our principles pure!

CHIEF OF POLICE: But don't think so slow,
Back to work now you go!

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2 (singing):
With no leisure
But pleasure!
With no leisure
But pleasure!
With no leisure But pleasure!

(SOUND EFFECTS: accordion as an accent, gun shot, moving car, clock working like a rattle ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
Where shall we dart?
Where shall we start?

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:
I'm full of merry optimism,
We'll find it the sanctuary of individualism.

(SOUND EFFECTS: car passing by, clock grinding on ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
Let's move now, but swiftly,
Perhaps he's hiding there neatly!

(SOUND EFFECTS: car engine is switched on, clock grinding on, steps running along the street ... noise of a compressor, ringing of bells, church organ ... MUSIC - dynamic rock, accompanied by the two men's singing and dancing ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2 (singing and dancing):
As soon as our work is done
We'll have some beer and fun.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 (singing and dancing):
Beer of first class,
Together with a sexy lass.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:
Say „U„!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
U!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:
We are here, me and you!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
Say „E„!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:
E!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
We are here, you and me!

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2 (singing):
We are here, me and you!

(SOUND EFFECTS: gong, shovelling sounds, gong, birds singing, striking of a match, explosion, gong, heavy door opening with a creak ... MUSIC in the background ... SOUND EFFECT in the foreground: dripping water ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
Look at him, sitting in the hall,
As if not afraid of us at all.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

Sitting there at ease,
With that silly gob of his!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

But he'll be so afraid of us
That even water he won't pass,
When he falls in our hands
And gets a lesson from his friends.

(MUSIC, SOUND EFFECT: dripping water in the foreground ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

The lesson which says „bang!...
The sound loved most by every gang.

(MUSIC - gradually drawing nearer ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

Let's get nearer to him now,
And try to make him talk somehow.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

If he's not prepared to talk,
He won't be able to seat nor walk!

(MUSIC again, dynamic rock ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2 (with music in the background):

This is the world that we need,
Of discipline and order, indeed!
This is the world that we need,
Of discipline and order, indeed!
This is the world that we need -

(MUSIC stops sharply)

Of discipline and order, indeed!

(MUSIC in the background, denoting the world of CASE X ...)

SOUND EFFECT: dripping water ...)

CASE X:

Have you come to visit my personality
Or my body?

But today I shall receive nobody,

So come tomorrow morning

When the yellow sun is about to appear over
the horizon.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

In front of us there is a man who acts like a
star, Pretending not to know who we in fact
are.

(SOUND EFFECT; repeating of a gun ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

You must have heard of an order, alas,
That wasn't invented by us,
But says that the regime is in power in this
state, Which recognizes no talk without
rhymes, my dear mate.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

In my hands I hold a gun -

SOUND EFFECT repeating of a gun)

Which I won't swap for a bun -

(SOUND EFFECT: repeating of a gun)

So you better show us some will,
Or we'll send you to rhyming school!

CASE X:

„Will - school,,
A bad rhyme,
Just an assonance
Of an unbalanced man.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

As you know, our regime views this from a

...

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

distance,

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

If at times we use ...

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
assonance!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
Well, let's not make so much fuss,
For a beer is waiting for us first class.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:
And perhaps a sexy lass.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
We shall give you questions ...

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:
three!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
That answered have to be ...

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:
by thee!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
According to the rules of the regime, this I
can ...

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:
tell!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
That's why your language rhyme should ...

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:
well!

(MUSIC and THE SINGER'S song again in the background ...)

CASE X (with music in the background):
The will in my brain of essence is
Vast,
And can't bear any violence.
So I shall be subjected to it,
And not to you, the narrow-minded people
of the world ...
The narrow-minded people of the world ...
The narrow-minded people of the world.

(MUSIC dies down ... SOUND EFFECT: dripping water ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:
Do not resist untimely,
Just answer our questions clearly!

(THIS MUSIC is outsounded by dynamic rock ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 (with music in the background):
The question number one!

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2 (singing):
Whose hand is mighty and holds a gun?

(MUSIC stops; SOUND EFFECT: dripping water and MUSIC
denoting the world of CASE X ...)

CASE X (with music in the background):
Idiot's questions Are not idiot's answers.
On the contrary ...

(MUSIC again, dynamic rock ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 (with music in the background):
Should I shudder because of this,
Or should I knock you down and hiss?
This was so very offensive of you,
That you'd deserve a razor, you'd do,
On your neck so soft and slender,

~~(Singing)~~ **Time wasn't so golden and tender!** **SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2**
That's why we proceed to the question
number two:
Who looks after you, who keeps his eyes
always on you?

(Rock dies down, MUSIC denoting the world of CASE X is heard
again ...)

CASE X:
Do not be concerned
With me,
For your enemy is the product
Of the right wing
Of your evil wings.

(SOUND EFFECT: repeating of a gun)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

Not a word about him now,
This is just ... just ... just ... just ...

CASE X (laughs):

Haw-haw!
The golden boy is looking for a rhyme
Stuck
In his own throat.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

This is just a refuse if I may avow.

CASE X:

Okay -
You may!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 (laughs):

(MUSIC, dynamic rock ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

Do not provoke us for no reason,
Or you'll quickly found yourself in ...

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

prison!

(THIS MUSIC dies down ... MUSIC denoting the world of CASE X ...)

CASE X:

In a lost tedious
Case you are looking for a rhymed essence,
My capabilities are different,
Universal common idleness,
I'm lost for your verity.

(MUSIC again in the foreground, rock ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2 (with music in the background):

There are no lost ones to us,
Nor idle nor common in this mass,
Great comfort to us is, no less,
To bring you joy and success.

CASE X:

And sinfulness.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2 (with music in the background):

Well, you are making some progress these days,
Getting less stubborn in many ways, I might even strike feindship wirt on,
And that's something I'm looking forward to.

(MUSIC - rock dies down and is superseded by MUSIC with the CASE X motif ...)

CASE X (with music in the background):

Do no be taken in by my error,
Fecundated by chance,
Turn towards the sun,
And you'll perceive the product,
A surrogate of your absurdity.

(MUSIC - rock is again heard in the background ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

What is he saying, this lout,
What is he raving about?

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

He does have the gall
To poke fun of us all,
I'm no longer for a talk,
I'll grab him like a hawk!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

Cool down, my friend, and allow me
To place the question number three.

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2 (singing):

Why rhyming is genuine and gracefull,
For the people of this world so good and useful?

(THIS MUSIC dies down ... MUSIC with the CASE X motif again in the foreground ...)

CASE X:

We are beseiged
With different questions,

And it is only you, the two blind men,
Who are taking interest in the run down
time.

(ROCK MUSIC again ... SOUND EFFECT: repeating of a rifle ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

The chances he'll answer are slim,
So let's put some pressure on him.

(Laughs)

(MUSIC dies down, SOUND EFFECTS: compressor, birds singing ... MUSICAL TRANSITION: there appear another pair of special branch men - EX SPECIAL BRANCH MEN ... MUSIC ...)

EX SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2 (with music in the background):
Piddle fiddle all around!

(SOUND EFFECTS: accentuated percussions, creaking of doors, rock music ...)

EX SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 (singing):
Piddle fiddle all around,
Unsung rhymes do not count!

EX SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2 (singing):
Rhymes that sung are not by ear,
Sound just like farts, my dear.

(SOUND EFFECTS: marching, creaking of doors, marching ...)

EX SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 (singing):
Piddle fiddle all around,
Unsung rhymes do not count!

EX SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:
Rhymes that sung are not by ear,
Sound just like farts, my dear.

EX SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2 (singing):
Piddle fiddle all around, piddle fiddle all
around!
These are radicals, for sure,
Former special branch men pure!

EX SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 (singing):

Put up your hands at once,
And surrender, or we'll pounce!

EX SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2 (singing):

Show explicitly some will,
Or we'll send you to the rhyming school!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 (from the background):

You wretched traitors, men of sin,
You worth are not a single bean!
That we surrender should, you say?
We'll rather blow your brains out straight
away!

(SOUND EFFECT: repeating of a gun)

EX SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 (running and singing):

Take cover, take cover, my friend,
For a fight hard and heavy now is at hand!

EX SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2 (running and singing):

Jesus jumping Christ I say anew,
And then start running after you!

(MUSIC, dynamic rock rising dramatically ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

You've hidden quickly, you dirty Huns,
So that you could shoot us with your guns!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

So we must do the same,
To save our skin in this game.

(MUSIC, SOUND EFFECTS: drums, shots, burst of fire ... then
NEW MUSIC, swing ...)

EX SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 (singing):

Dabba doobi doobi dah,
What hopeless shots you are!

EX SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2 (singing):

Dabba doobi doobi dare,
You can't even hit the air!

(SOUND EFFECTS, burst of fire from a machine-gun ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

You won't scoff at us no more,
When we crush you on the floor!

(MUSIC, SOUND EFFECTS: roar of laughter, screams ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

Until we still allow you,
Until we still indulge you,
Come out and say your sorrow,
If you want to live till morrow.

(SOUND EFFECTS: burst of fire from a machine-gun, laughter ...)

EX SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 (singing):

Nothing can make us blind,
No words of any kind,
Which are nice
But blind as mice!

EX SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2 (singing):

Until you sing like us while we walk,
There'll be no talk, talk, talk!

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2:

We've had enough of this squeak,
Now let the arms come out and speak!
We've had enough of this squeak,
Now let the arms come out and speak!

(SOUND EFFECTS: shooting in all directions ... whizzing of

bullets ... Transition into quieter ACOUSTICS; SOUND EFFECT: dripping water ...)

CASE X (in between):

Who's the victim and who's the loser
In this great confusion?

(SOUND EFFECT: whizzing of a bullet)

I'm untouchable but vulnerable
On my way to destruction,

And if I'm the victim or the loser
Can be answered merely by squeezes
Of the shooters' hands.
Deafening sound of fictive executioners
And winners
Is a fatal hour
With or with no hands
And then the boredom again
And ears
Hearing gets used to repetitions,

(SOUND EFFECT; whizzing of a bullet)

Before the entire body system gets used to
it
There is silence again ...

(SOUND EFFECTS: dripping water ... MUSIC as an intermezzo ...
then burst of fire, mortal scream ... MUSIC, dynamic rock denoting
the two SPECIAL BRANCH MEN ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2 (singing):

We are a model most clear
For any fighter of no fear.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

Our every shot
Finds its proper spot.
We are rid of one big trouble,
Now let's eliminate the old one at the
double!
We are rid of one big trouble,
Now let's eliminate the old one at the
double!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

Be careful, my friend,
The other is all crouched up and bent!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

Well, he is tame and quite meek,
Not inventive but just sick.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

It looks he's bleeding from his head,
So we better shoot him dead!

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2 (singing):

It looks he's bleeding from his head,
So we better shoot him dead!
Dead! Dead!

(SOUND EFFECT: burst of shots)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 (cries out, then sings):

Be damned, you bastards, but I'm saying:
It is not me but just a part of the idea that is
dying,
And the truth is, that you shall
Soon burn down there in hell ... hell ... hell.
(SOUND EFFECT - burst of fire, scream ...
MUSICAL TRANSITION dixieland, together
with roaring sound of a compressor; transi-
tion into NEW ACOUSTICS, the world of
CASE X; dripping water ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

Now let's get on to you,
'Cause we are in a hurry, too,
Have you chosen a fiery tool,
Or you'd rather go to rhyming school?

CASE X:

I hear a clock, relentlessly chased by time.

(SOUND EFFECTS: ticking of a clock, musical accentuation ...)

I see a man with an inside out turned coat on him,
He's opening the door
And walking with a new consciousness.

(SOUND EFFECTS: ticking of a clock, musical accentuation ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

Well, you prophet with a fang,
Be ready for a clang,
Which says - bang!

(SOUND EFFECTS: ticking clock, dripping water ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

Now what's all this mood,
Is it evil or good?

(SOUND EFFECT: ticking of a clock ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

The clock is flying through the air,

(SOUND EFFECT: a single drop falling)

Is it hurrying somewhere?

(SOUND EFFECTS: ticking of a clock, screams, a glass object is
shattered ... MUSIC in the background with a motif denoting the
world of CASE X and CLEANING WOMAN - SINGER)

CLEANING WOMAN (muttering the well known song „How ter-
ribly happy I am,, with music in the background ...)

Hum hum hum
Hum hum hum ...

(MUSIC and SOUND EFFECTS: sweeping of broken glass -
coming closer ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

Who's this young and cheeky cleaning lady,
Who attempts to drive us crazy?

CASE X (with MUSIC in the background):

My dove,
My only happiness in this solitude.
It appears here once a week,
Cleans up and disappears with a smile,
The secret of mine is misty.

(MUSIC transcends into dynamic rock ...)

Does this cleaning lady out of time
Know at all how to rhyme?
Does this cleaning lady out of time
Know at all how to rhyme?

(The motif „How terribly happy I am„ is again heard in the foreground ...)

CLEANING WOMAN:

Hum hum hum
Hum hum hum ...

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

This is nothing sublime
But a dadaist rhyme
Which has not been allowed to go by,
Oh, you lady so cunning and sly!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

She tried to dupe us for sure,
Shoot her - don't wait any more!

(SOUND EFFECTS: burst of fire from a machine-gun, musical accentuation, harp, dripping water ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1 (crying):

Did you say „shoot„?
But perhaps she couldn't speak, you brute!

CASE X (crying):

Nobody has touched her so far,
Not even your master fearing for his fate,
You destroyed the secret,
But let it be ... let it be.

(DYNAMIC ROCK again in the foreground)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

Perhaps she was a fairy, this one,
Dear me, what we've done!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

I didn't want to that,
I didn't want it so bad!

(Ticking of a clock, with music in the background ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

It seems that we've committed a sin,

We've ignored the instructions, were to
keen,

We should have dealt with him ages ago,
But what will the regime say, though?

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

I myself am afraid, too,
What if I lose my job because of this stew?
(MUSIC dies down ... SOUND EFFECTS:
creaking of a heavy door, then MUSIC again
...)

CHIEF OF POLICE:

Halt!

(MUSIC transcends into a MARCH ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2 (singing):

With you, chief, so daring and keen,
We are surely going to win!

(MUSIC dies down)

CHIEF OF POLICE:

I see that you haven't done your job yet.

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2:

The job of ours?
We'll do it in the next few hours!

(MUSIC with the CASE X motif coming into the foreground;
SOUND EFFECT: dripping water)

CASE X:

The man who turned out his coat,
Came as if on purpose with a note,
To tell us all with a hum
That new times about are to come.
The man who turned out his coat,
Came as if on purpose with a note,
To tell us all with a hum
That new times about are to come.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

Well, we've obviously met with success,
Exactly as we've longed for, no less!

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

Case X began to rhyme,
As wished by the regime for quite some
time.

(MUSIC again, a march)

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2 (singing):

Now we'll have some beer of first class,
Together with a nice sexy lass.
Now we'll have some beer of first class,
Together with a nice sexy lass.
Now we'll have some beer of first class,
Together with a nice sexy lass.

(The two men shout of joy, while music is played ... the latter dies
down gradually ...)

(SOUND EFFECT in the foreground: lighting up of a cigarette ...)

CHIEF OF POLICE: There is a lot of blood in this sanctuary,
boys. You've taken too much time, but not
to worry.

(Dripping water in the background ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

The chief, it seems to me,
Speaks very strangely, dear me.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

It is, very true,
That's why we must alert be me and you!

CHIEF OF POLICE: I must let you know that direct speech has
been introduced once more by our regime.
In its decree, all mistakes made in the past
were admitted. It is further stated that a
magnificent memorial shall be raised for the
victims of this error. Well, I have nothing to
do with it, as I'm nothing but a soldier of the
mentioned regime, what means that I act in

accordance with order only. And the same
will be done by you.

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2:

With this we cannot agree,
As we ...

CHIEF OF POLICE: This is an order!

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2:

With you, chief, so daring and keen,
We are surely going to win!

(MUSIC dies down)

CHIEF OF POLICE: No, no. Not like this but: With you, chief, so
keen and daring, we are surely going to win.
Go on, repeat!

SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 1 & 2

(repeat the sentence, although rather awkwardly):

With you, chief, so keen and daring, we are
surely going to win.

(They recover their breath.)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:

What a relief!

(MUSIC with the motif denoting CASE X in the background ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:

How calm and relieved I feel! It is only now
that I see why Case X is such as he is.

(SINGER begins to sing her song ...)

CASE X (with music in the background):

Oh, how terribly happy I am,
'Cause here those days are again,
The days of beautiful rhymes,
I simply adore them at times.
Oh, how terribly happy I am,
'Cause here those days are again,
The days of beautiful rhymes,

I simply adore them at times.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
What the hell is he blabbering about? He doesn't need to rhyme.

(MUSIC dies down ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
What shall we do now that the new order is in force?

CHIEF OF POLICE: I don't know. I have no instructions whatsoever. Case X will always remain Case X. But sooner or later we'll get hold of him.

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
If this is so, dear chief, let's go and have some beer.

(MUSIC, dynamic march ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 2:
And perhaps something on top of it, right?

CHIEF OF POLICE: Excellent idea.

(All three burst into laughter ...)

(SOUND EFFECT: steps ...)

SPECIAL BRANCH MAN 1:
But the thing that I liked most was still that saying: In front of us there is a man who acts like a star, pretending not to know who we in fact are.

(SOUND EFFECT: steps disappearing in the distance ...)

CHIEF OF POLICE: Yes, the good old times are over. But let's forget them, for we must follow the progress, otherwise the time shall run us down. That's what our profession is like.

(SOUND EFFECTS: a door is shut, noise of a compressor, funeral march as an accent, ticking clock, musical accent, a glass object is broken, again noise of a compressor ... MUSIC continues ...SILENCE.)