



Was the resignation of the man known as No. 6 just a front? Was this a covert operation to get him snatched, so he could infiltrate The Village and fight from within? Roger Langley investigates.

Taking The Prisoner at face value – only for the purposes of this article of course – why was the resignation of the man soon to be called No. 6 so highly charged and emotional?

The Village could have abducted their prey at any previous time, without needing to wait for him to quit his high level post. However, the man's explosive actions made him suddenly of great interest to them. His captors could now seize and interrogate their quarry, to find out why he resigned and to extract a great deal of 'information' from him.

Equally, the 'prisoner' could now pursue his plan, adopting a 'double bluff' stance, demonstrably resisting attempts to force him to reveal sensitive details. As each Village attempt was made to crush No. 6's opposition, he would, in turn, get to know their systems.

No. 6's stance is an exploratory one, as seen in during his first encounter with a No. 2, in Arrival:

No. 2: It's a question of your resignation.

No. 6: Go on.

No. 2: The information in your head is priceless. I don't think you realise what a valuable property you've become. A man like you is worth a great deal on the open market.

The prisoner plays along:

No. 6: I've been checked!

Later he meets the new Village leader.

New No. 2: (Reading file) 'Subject shows great enthusiasm for his work. He is utterly devoted and loyal.' Is this a man that suddenly walks out?

No. 6: I didn't walk out. I resigned!

The man is letting them take the bait.

