



The Village leader believes everything is going according to plan and records a memo.

New No. 2: 'Subject showed shock symptoms, followed by accepted behaviour pattern. Since then has been uncooperative and distinctly aggressive. Has tried to escape. Subject proving exceptionally difficult, but in view of his importance, no extreme measures to be used, yet.'

By the time of the next (Chimes) encounter a new leader is studying his task.

No. 2: It only needs one small thing. If he will answer just one question, the rest will follow: why did he resign?

When the two men meet, No. 6 seems hardly concerned.

No. 2: I'll do a deal with you, No. 6. You tell me one thing, and I'll release you. Why did you resign?

No. 6: Release me? From The Village?

When he is in the Colonel's office at the end of the story, No. 6 may well already know of the deception, noticing the time difference but not revealing it just yet. He offers a titbit.

No. 6: The Village is a place where people turn up. People who have resigned... have defected, or have been extracted. The specialized knowledge in their heads is of great value to one side or the other.

Colonel: Why did you resign?

No. 6: It was a matter of conscience.

But before the man gives away any more information, he makes a play of discovering the time difference and ends the interrogation.

In the next episode (A. B. and C.) No. 2 tries a more conciliatory approach, but No. 6 is still unforthcoming.

No. 2: Now, all this nonsense about why you resigned. If people can't chuck up a job, things have come to a pretty pass.

No. 6: I wasn't selling out. That wasn't the reason I resigned.

After a few more stories, with no movement on either side, No. 6 manages another 'escape' (Many Happy Returns). He finds himself in a room with a different Colonel and a former associate, Thorpe.

Thorpe: You resign. You disappear. You return. You spin a yarn that Hans Christian Andersen would reject for a fairy tale.

Colonel : And we must be sure. You see, people defect. An unhappy thought, but a fact of life. They defect, from one side to the other.

Their visitor is still on the hunt himself.

No. 6: I also have a problem. I'm not sure which side runs this Village.

Frustratingly, for we the viewers, there are no more 'ordinary' questioning sessions, only attempts by The Village to probe No. 6's consciousness, although he presumably knew – and took the risk – that they would not do him any permanent harm.

By the time of A Change of Mind, drugs are employed, although even this attempt to penetrate No. 6's mind is foiled by the prisoner, who evades all questioning by No. 2.

No. 2: You resigned! Why? Why prematurely? Why – did – you – resign?

