

CAPTAIN

This way, Admiral, we can talk in here. Admiral von Schreiber, may I present Herr Detweiler. Max, I think you know Herr Zeller. Would you gentlemen care to sit down?

ZELLER

*(Up right center.)*

We are here on business.

VON SCHREIBER

*(Left center.)*

Captain von Trapp, a telegram was sent to you three days ago.

CAPTAIN

*(Center stage.)*

I have just received it. I've been away. I've only been home half an hour.

MAX

Captain von Trapp has just returned from his honeymoon, sir.

VON SCHREIBER

Congratulations, Captain.

CAPTAIN

Thank you, sir.

VON SCHREIBER

Your record in the war is very well remembered by us, Captain.

CAPTAIN

It's good to hear you say that, sir.

ZELLER

Let's get to the point.

VON SCHREIBER

*(To ZELLER.)*

If you don't mind.

*(To CAPTAIN.)*

In our Navy we hold you in very high regard. That explains why I am here. Having had no answer to our telegram, the High Command has sent me in person.

CAPTAIN

That's very flattering. Admiral. But I've had no time to consider—

*(MARIA enters on balcony. She is carrying two Festival programs and is in her concert costume – a native Austrian folk dress.)*

VON SCHREIBER

I am here to present you with your commission,—