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TM
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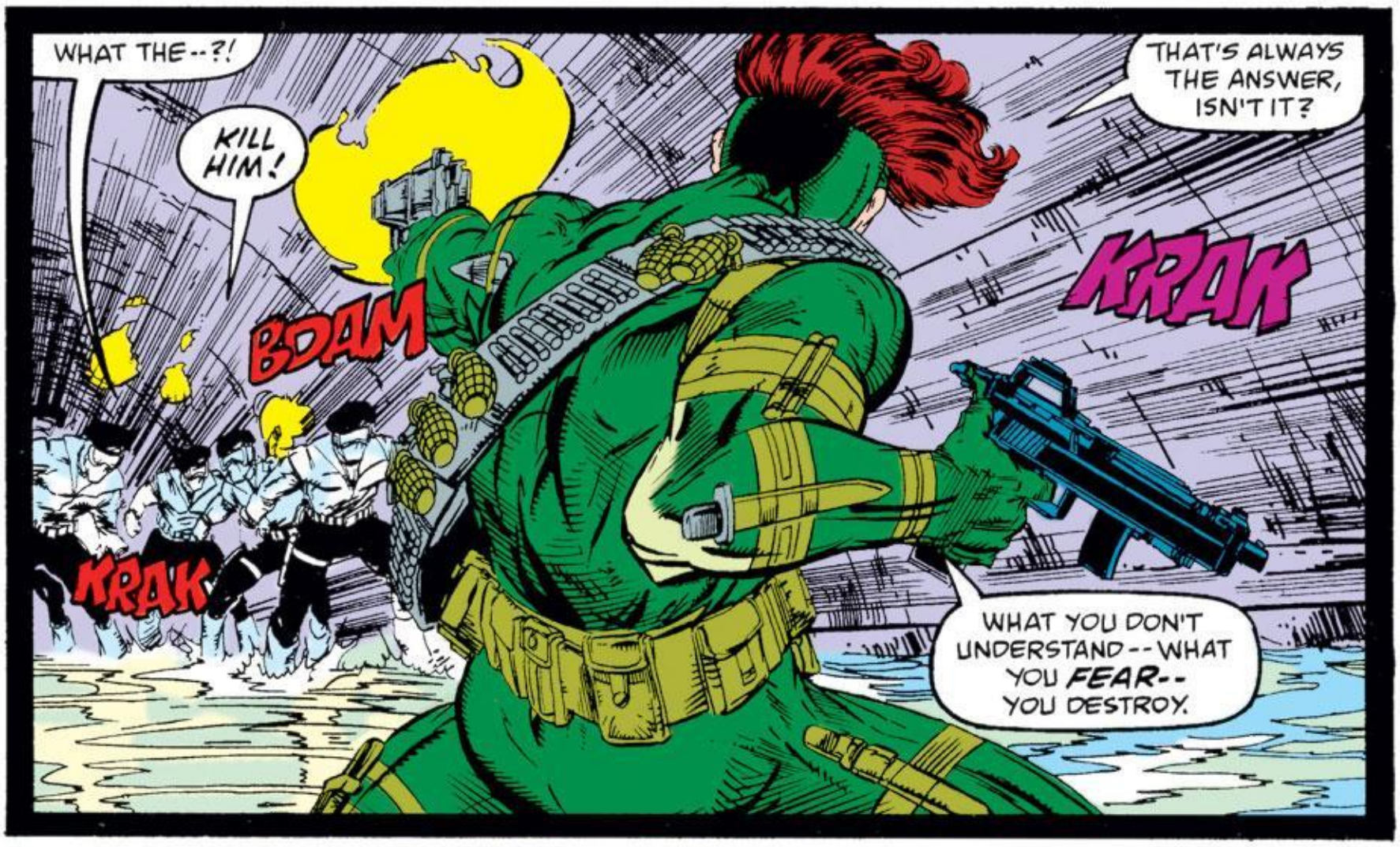
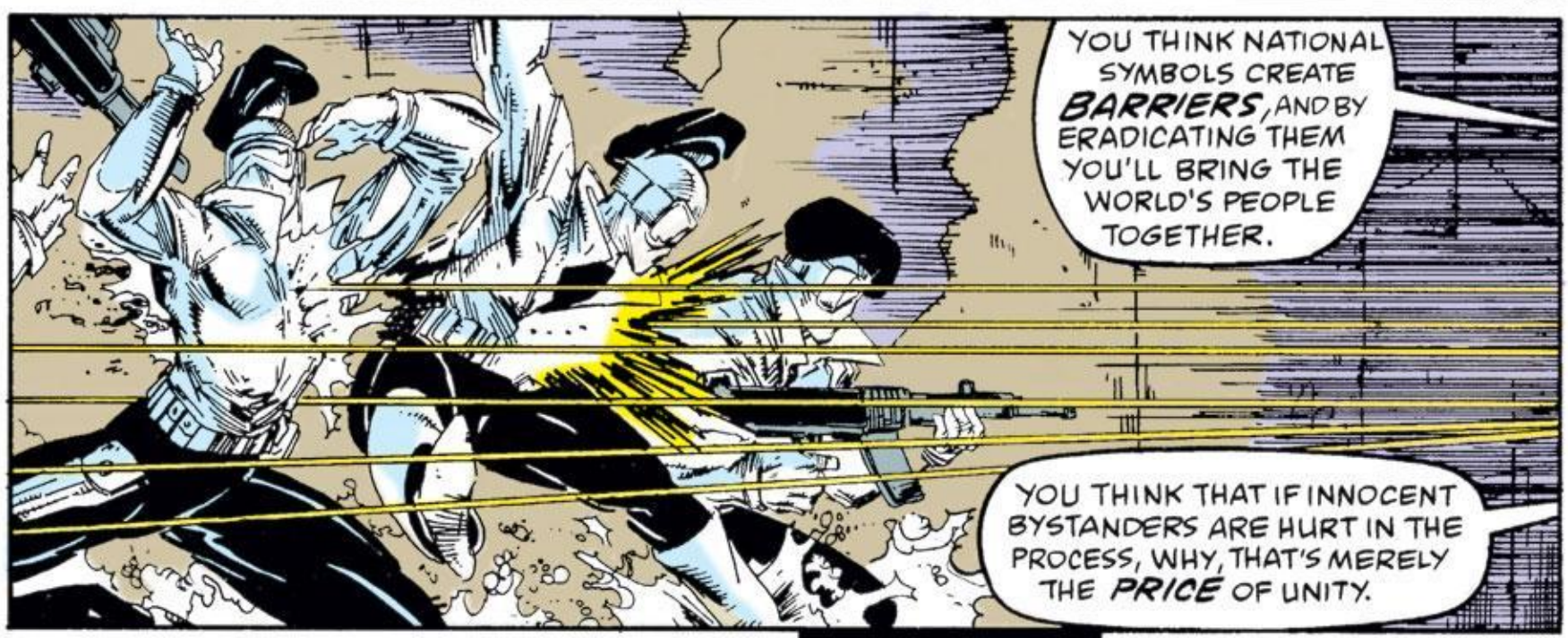
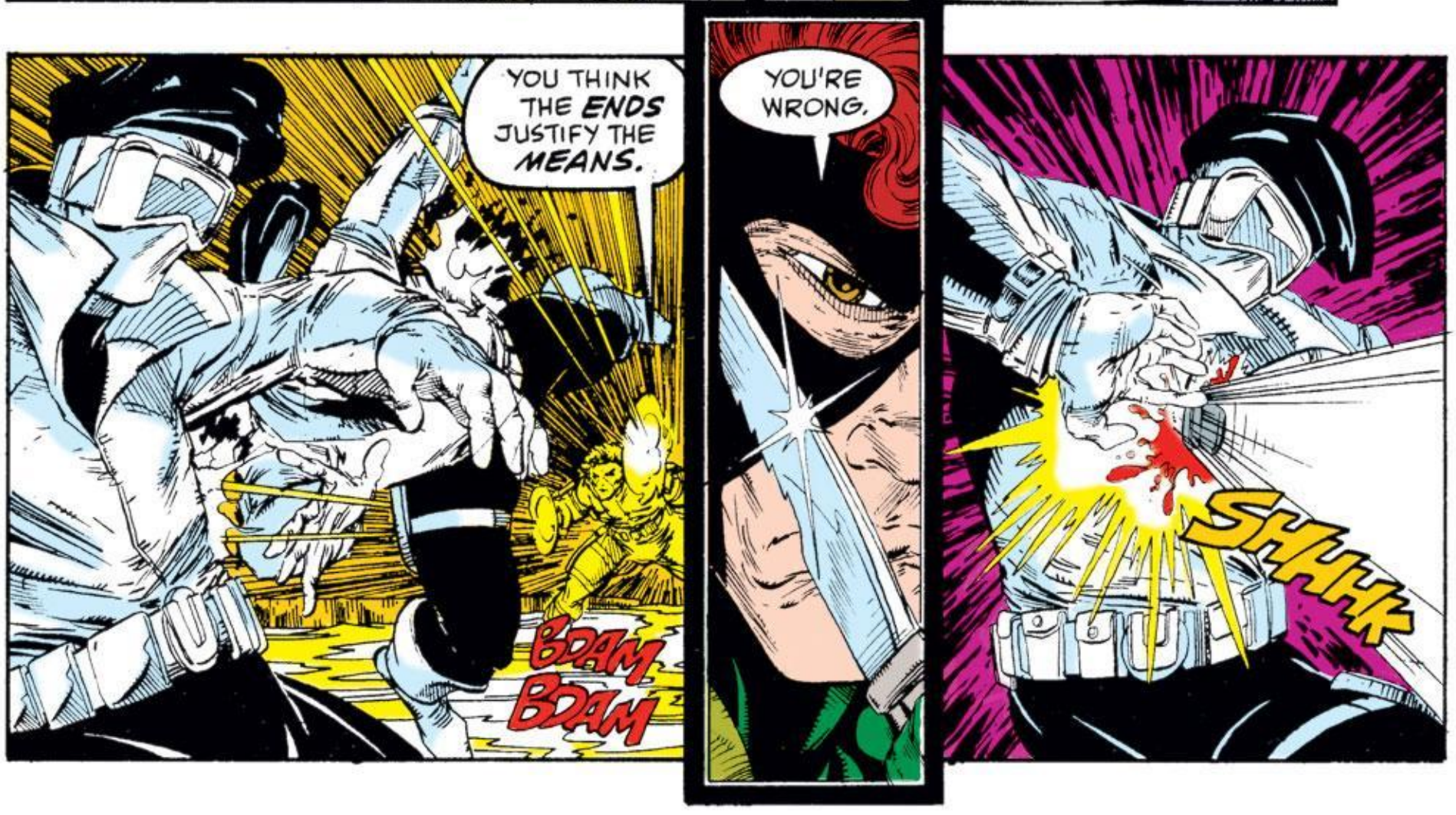
AUTHORITY
THE ASSASSIN NATION PLOT™
PART FOUR OF SIX
NOW ON SALE TWICE A MONTH!
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
MAKE WAY FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA!
McFARLANE

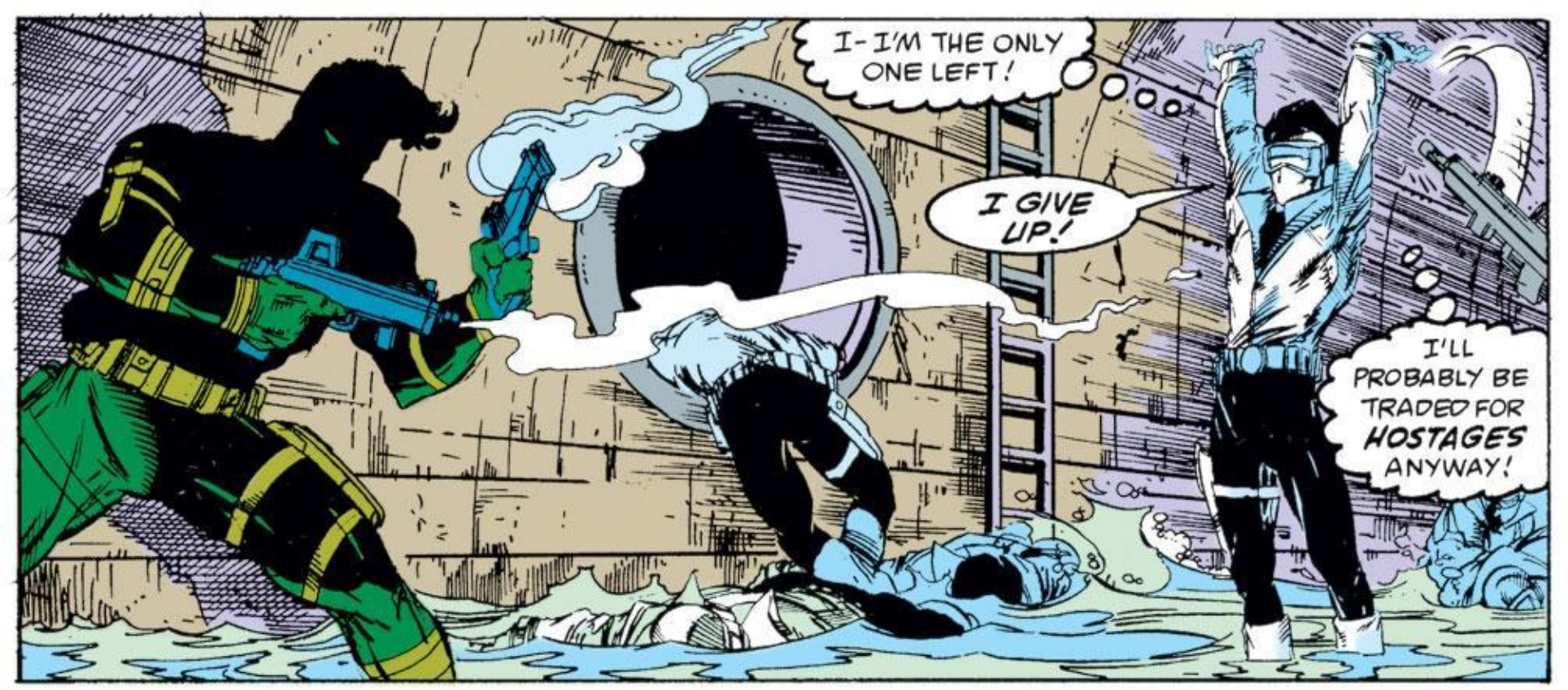
Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

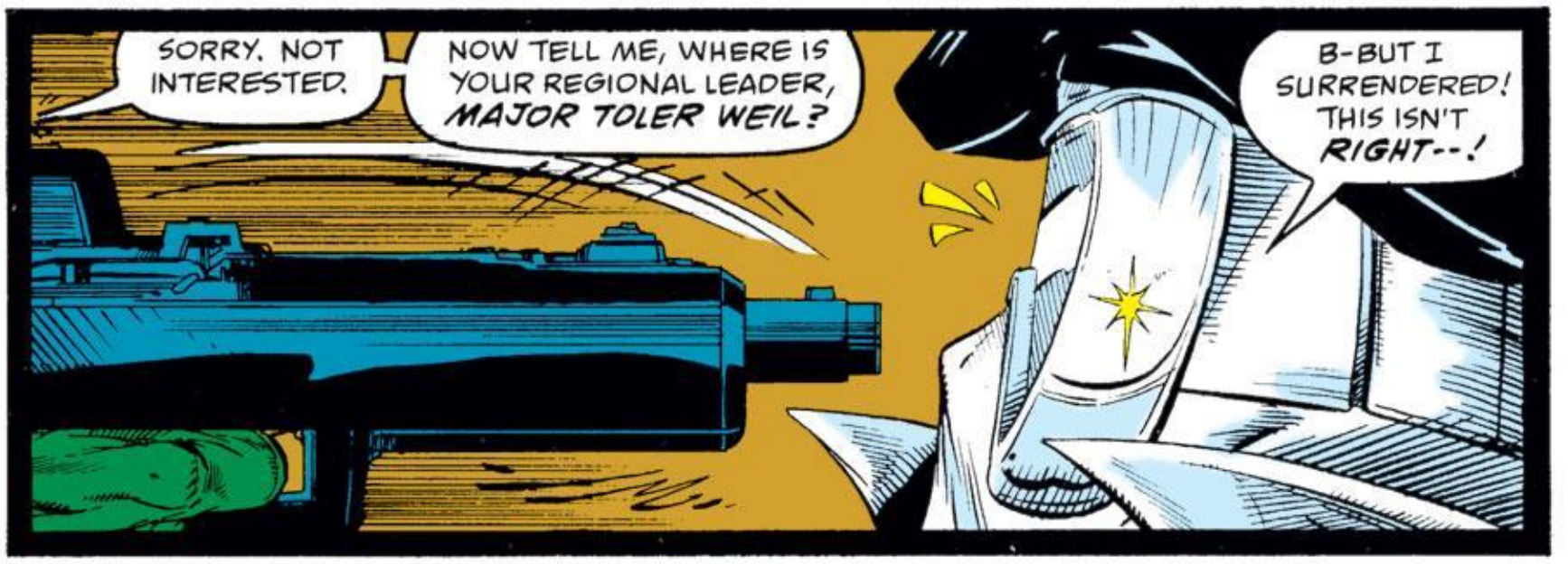
DAVID MICHELINIE	TODD McFARLANE	RICK PARKER	BOB SHAREN	JIM SALICRUP	TOM DeFALCO
WRITER	ARTIST	LETTERING	COLOR	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF


WHAT THE--?!
KILL HIM!
BDAM
KRAK
KRAK
THAT'S ALWAYS THE ANSWER, ISN'T IT?
WHAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--WHAT YOU FEAR--YOU DESTROY.


YOU THINK NATIONAL SYMBOLS CREATE BARRIERS, AND BY ERADICATING THEM YOU'LL BRING THE WORLD'S PEOPLE TOGETHER.
YOU THINK THAT IF INNOCENT BYSTANDERS ARE HURT IN THE PROCESS, WHY, THAT'S MERELY THE PRICE OF UNITY.

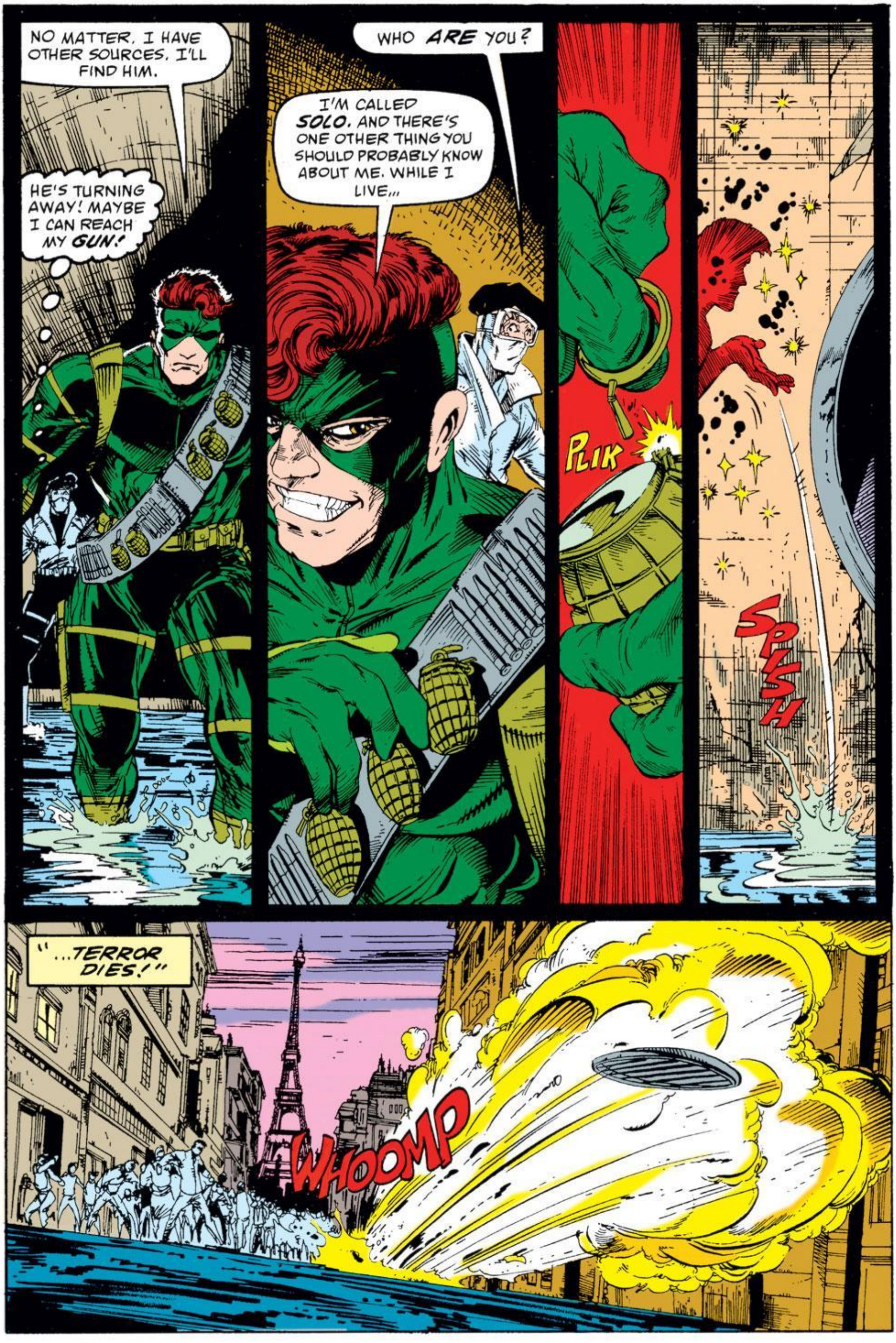

YOU THINK THE ENDS JUSTIFY THE MEANS.
BDAM BDAM
YOU'RE WRONG.
SHHHK

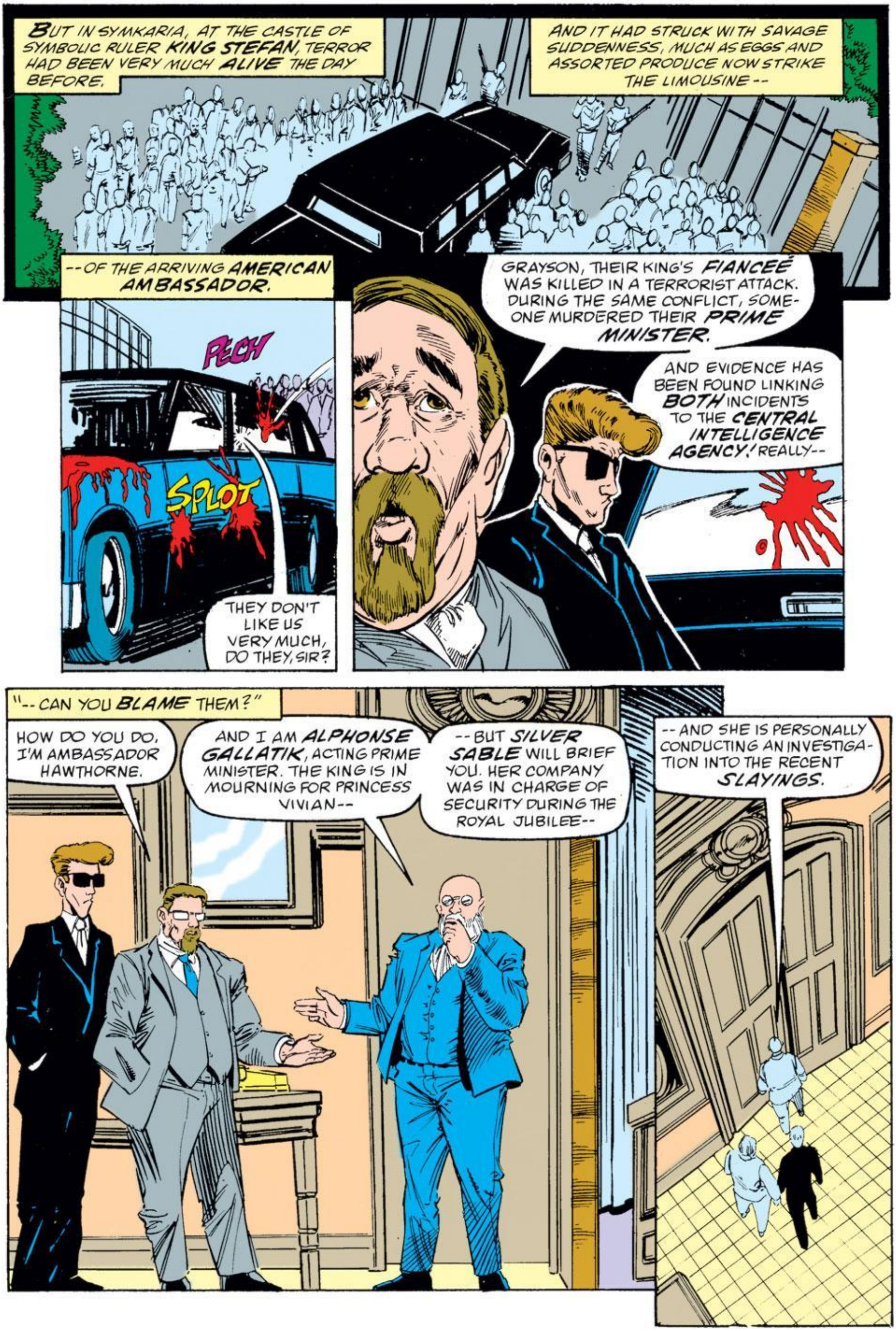

I- I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT!
I GIVE UP!
I'LL PROBABLY BE TRADED FOR HOSTAGES ANYWAY!

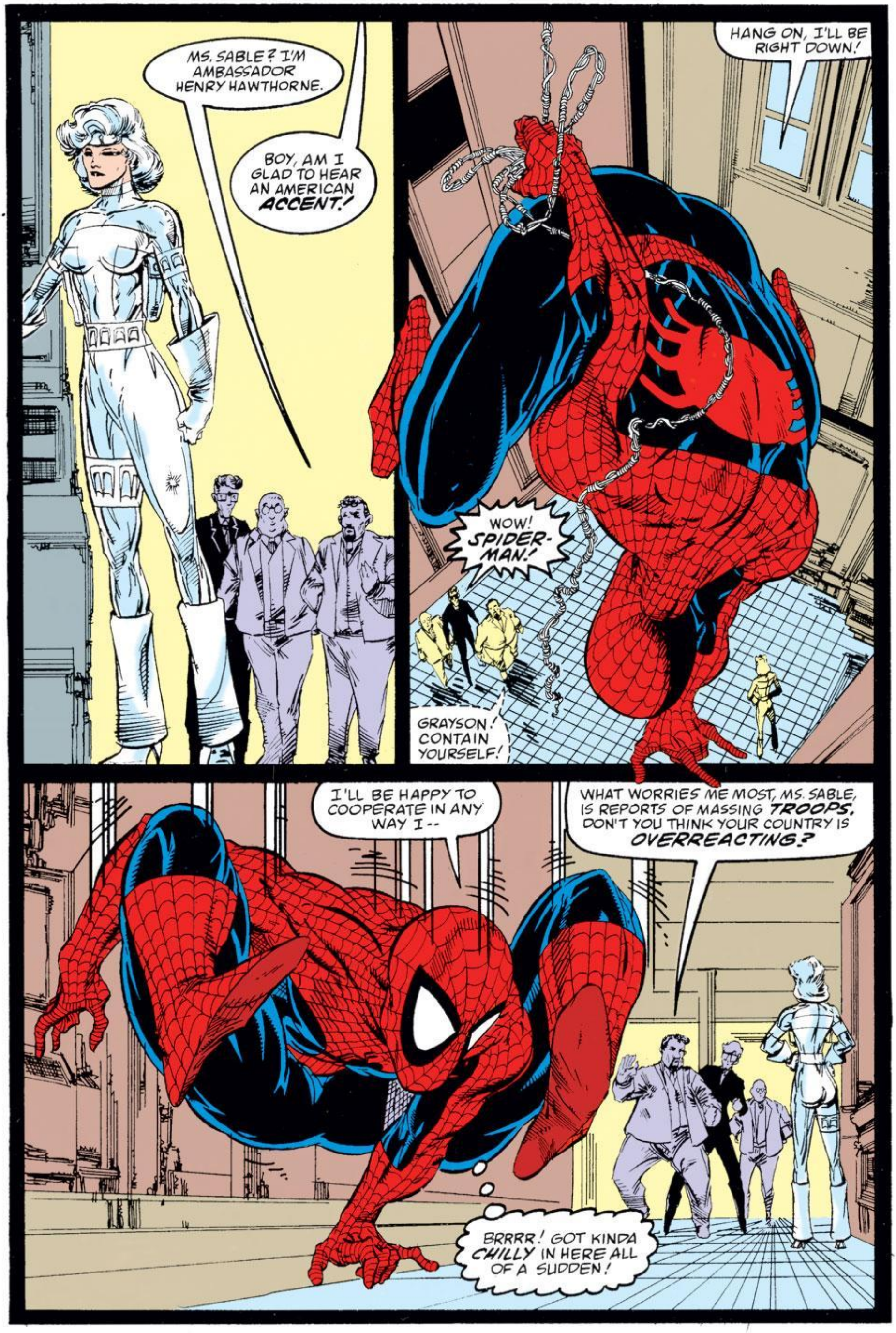

SORRY. NOT INTERESTED.
NOW TELL ME, WHERE IS YOUR REGIONAL LEADER, MAJOR TOLER WEIL?
B-BUT I SURRENDERED! THIS ISN'T RIGHT--!

YOU'RE A TERRORIST. YOU MURDER CHILDREN. DON'T TALK TO ME OF MORALITY.
I'M NO TERRORIST! I'M A FREEDOM FIGHTER!

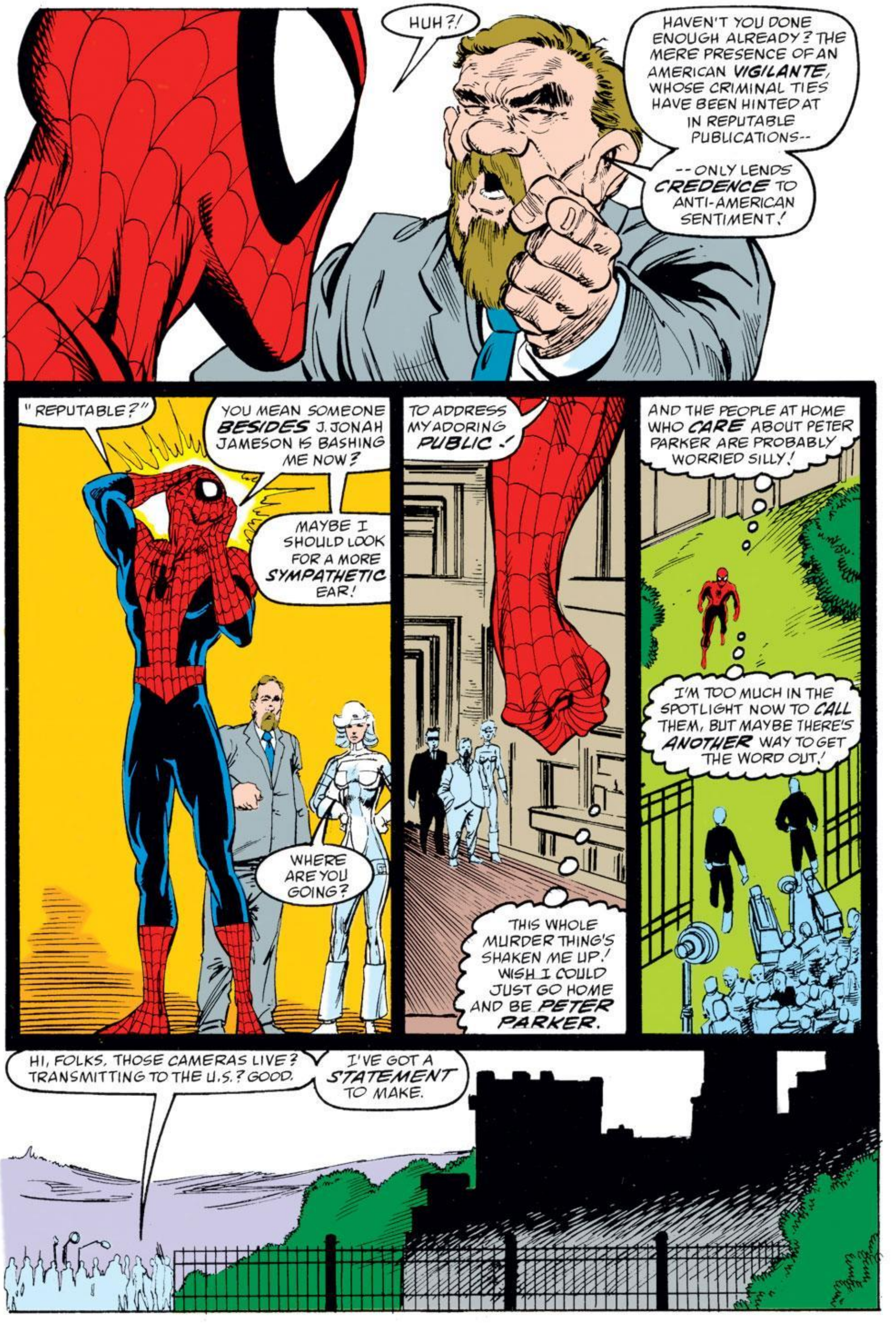
THEN YOU'LL BE A FREEDOM FIGHTER WITHOUT A FACE.
;GULP; H-HE'S SOMEWHERE ON THE SYMKARIAN-LATVERIAN BORDER! TH-THAT'S ALL I KNOW!
I SWEAR!

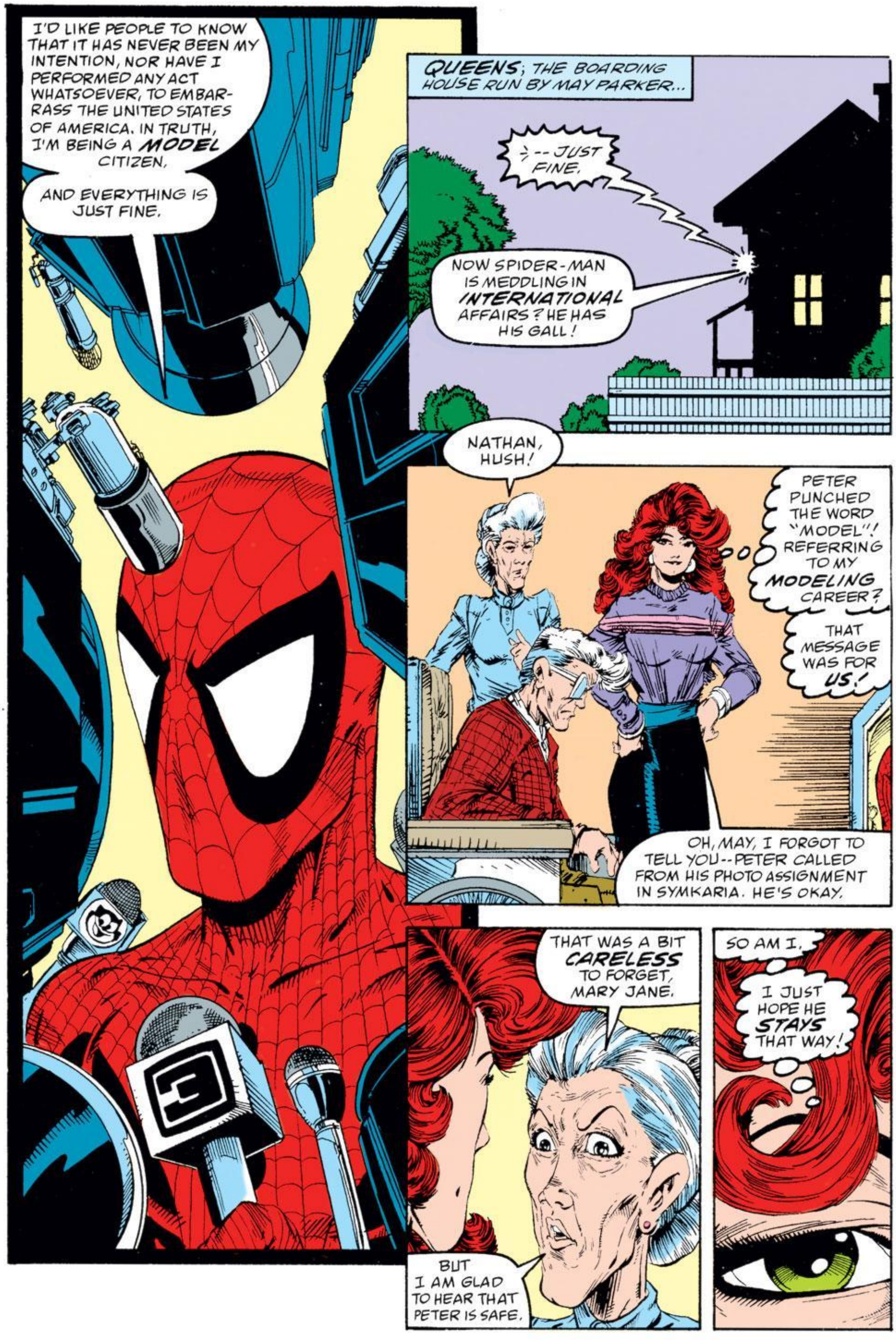

NO MATTER. I HAVE OTHER SOURCES. I'LL FIND HIM.
HE'S TURNING AWAY! MAYBE I CAN REACH MY GUN!
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M CALLED SOLO. AND THERE'S ONE OTHER THING YOU SHOULD PROBABLY KNOW ABOUT ME. WHILE I LIVE...
PLIK
SPLISH
"...TERROR DIES!"
WHOOMP

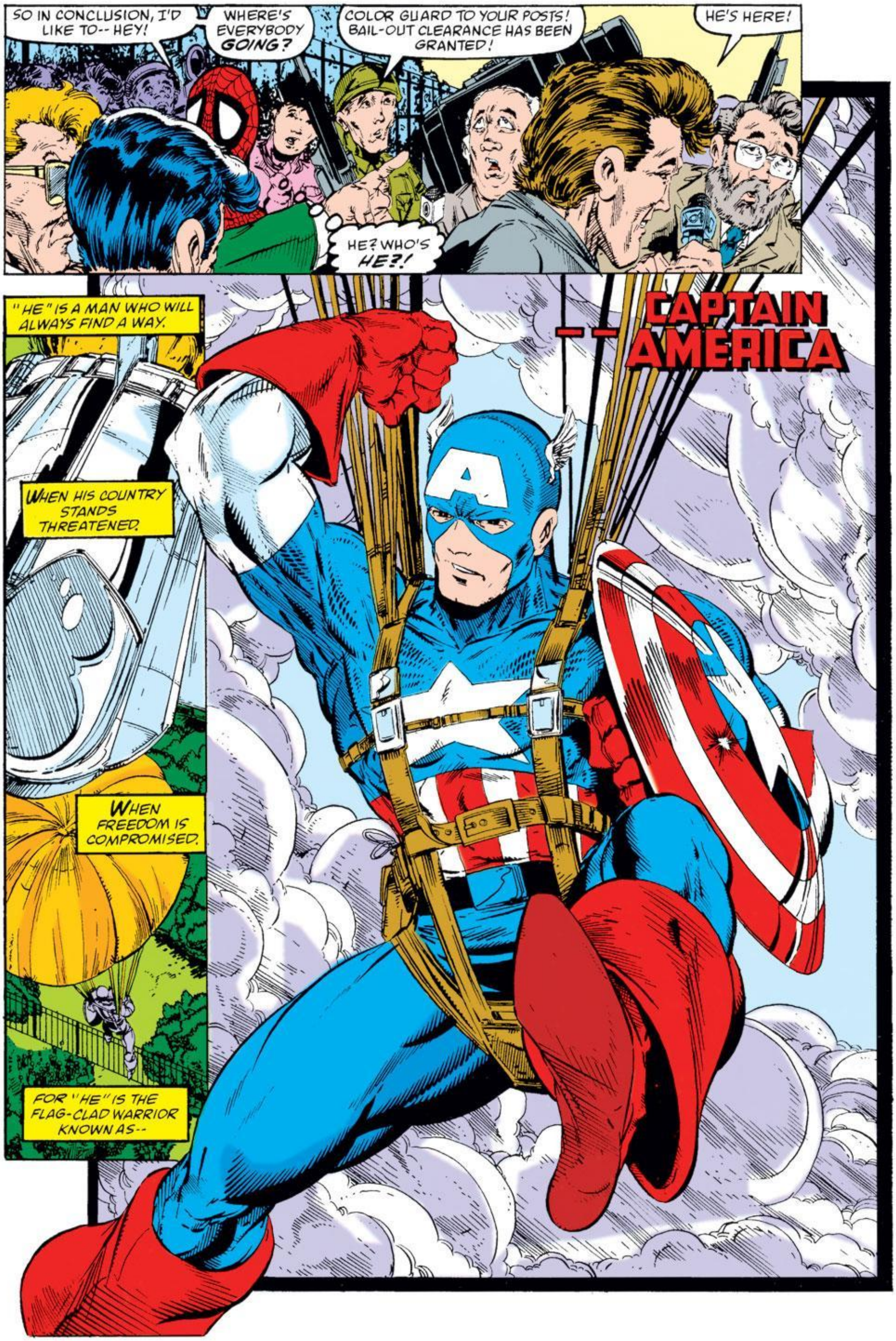

BUT IN SYMKARIA, AT THE CASTLE OF SYMBOLIC RULER KING STEFAN, TERROR HAD BEEN VERY MUCH ALIVE THE DAY BEFORE.
AND IT HAD STRUCK WITH SAVAGE SUDDENNESS, MUCH AS EGGS AND ASSORTED PRODUCE NOW STRIKE THE LIMOUSINE --
--OF THE ARRIVING AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.
PECH
SPLOT
THEY DON'T LIKE US VERY MUCH, DO THEY, SIR?
GRAYSON, THEIR KING'S FIANCEÉ WAS KILLED IN A TERRORIST ATTACK. DURING THE SAME CONFLICT, SOMEONE MURDERED THEIR PRIME MINISTER.
AND EVIDENCE HAS BEEN FOUND LINKING BOTH INCIDENTS TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY! REALLY--
"-- CAN YOU BLAME THEM?"
HOW DO YOU DO, I'M AMBASSADOR HAWTHORNE.
AND I AM ALPHONSE GALLATIK, ACTING PRIME MINISTER. THE KING IS IN MOURNING FOR PRINCESS VIVIAN--
-- BUT SILVER SABLE WILL BRIEF YOU. HER COMPANY WAS IN CHARGE OF SECURITY DURING THE ROYAL JUBILEE--
-- AND SHE IS PERSONALLY CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE RECENT SLAYINGS.

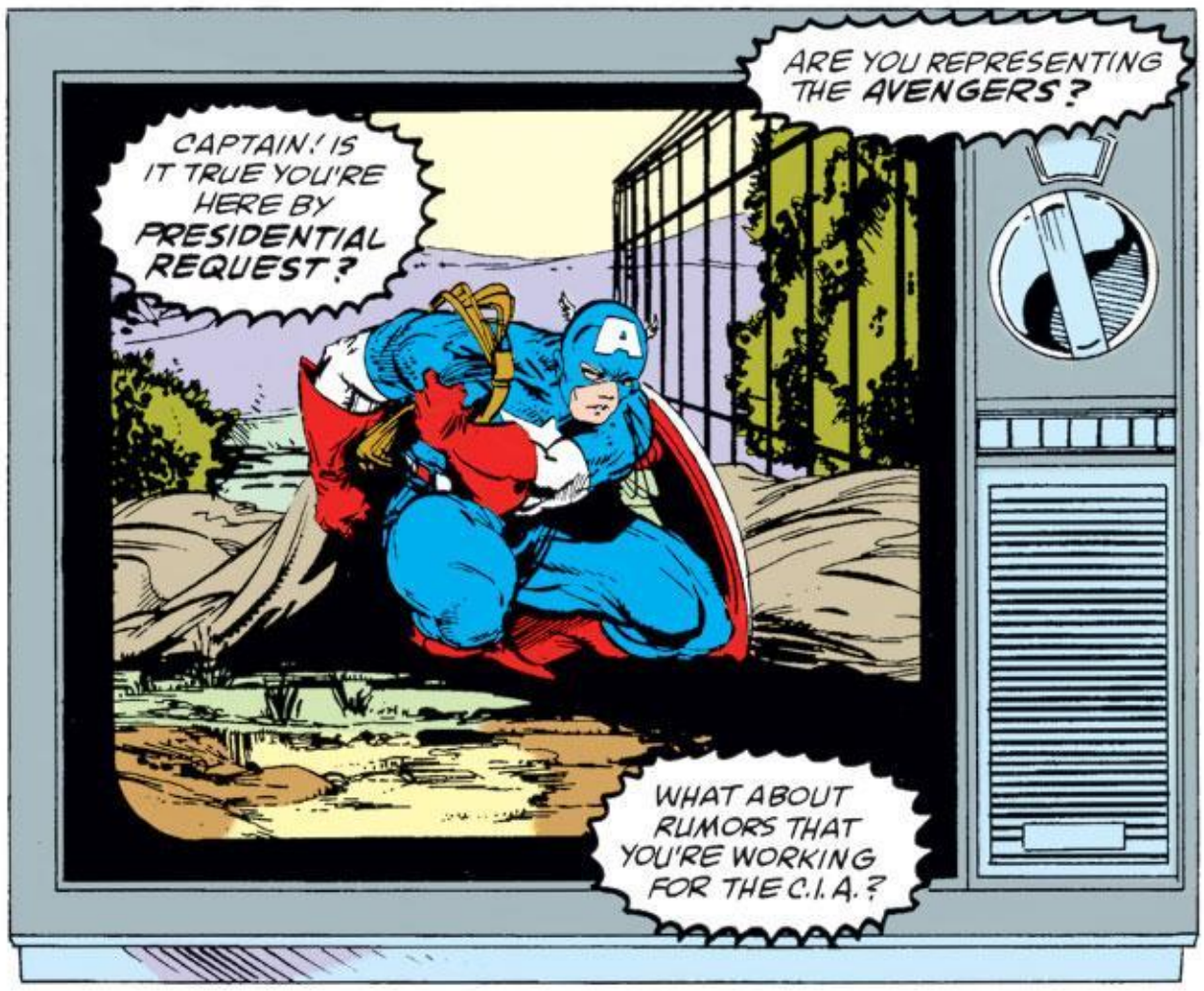

MS. SABLE? I'M AMBASSADOR HENRY HAWTHORNE.
BOY, AM I GLAD TO HEAR AN AMERICAN ACCENT!
HANG ON, I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN!
WOW! SPIDER-MAN!
GRAYSON! CONTAIN YOURSELF!
I'LL BE HAPPY TO COOPERATE IN ANY WAY I--
WHAT WORRIES ME MOST, MS. SABLE, IS REPORTS OF MASSING TROOPS. DON'T YOU THINK YOUR COUNTRY IS OVERREACTING?
BRRRR! GOT KINDA CHILLY IN HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN!

MR. AMBASSADOR, WHEN SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL UNCOVERED AN ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY AND LINKED IT TO QUESTIONABLE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE LIFE FOUNDATION--
--WE HIRED SPIDER-MAN TO HELP PROTECT THE PRESUMED TARGET, KING STEFAN.
BUT WHEN ULTIMATUM ATTACKED, PROVIDING A DIVERSION, SOMETHING RIPPED OUR PRIME MINISTER TO PIECES INSTEAD! AND NEAR THE CORPSE WE FOUND A CAPSULE OF PANADOXIN--
--A RARE POISON ISSUED TO C.I.A. FIELD AGENTS, THAT ALONE ISN'T PROOF OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT, BUT IT IS ENOUGH TO STOKE THE FIRES OF ANGER-- AND OF RETRIBUTION.
BUT MS. SABLE, AMERICA IS SYMKARIA'S FRIEND!
AND IRAN WAS YOUR ENEMY.
YOU SOLD THEM MISSILES.
HEY, GUYS, ISN'T THE IMPORTANT THING FINDING THE ASSASSIN? THEN WE CAN SHOW WHETHER OR NOT--
BUTT OUT, SPIDER-MAN!


HUH?!
HAVEN'T YOU DONE ENOUGH ALREADY? THE MERE PRESENCE OF AN AMERICAN VIGILANTE, WHOSE CRIMINAL TIES HAVE BEEN HINTED AT IN REPUTABLE PUBLICATIONS--
--ONLY LENDS CREDENCE TO ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT!
"REPUTABLE?"
YOU MEAN SOMEONE BESIDES J. JONAH JAMESON IS BASHING ME NOW?
MAYBE I SHOULD LOOK FOR A MORE SYMPATHETIC EAR!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO ADDRESS MY ADORING PUBLIC!
THIS WHOLE MURDER THING'S SHAKEN ME UP! WISH I COULD JUST GO HOME AND BE PETER PARKER.
AND THE PEOPLE AT HOME WHO CARE ABOUT PETER PARKER ARE PROBABLY WORRIED SILLY!
I'M TOO MUCH IN THE SPOTLIGHT NOW TO CALL THEM, BUT MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO GET THE WORD OUT!
HI, FOLKS. THOSE CAMERAS LIVE? TRANSMITTING TO THE U.S.? GOOD.
I'VE GOT A STATEMENT TO MAKE.


I'D LIKE PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT IT HAS NEVER BEEN MY INTENTION, NOR HAVE I PERFORMED ANY ACT WHATSOEVER, TO EMBARRASS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. IN TRUTH, I'M BEING A MODEL CITIZEN.
AND EVERYTHING IS JUST FINE.
QUEENS; THE BOARDING HOUSE RUN BY MAY PARKER...
--JUST FINE.
NOW SPIDER-MAN IS MEDDLING IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS? HE HAS HIS GALL!
NATHAN, HUSH!
PETER PUNCHED THE WORD "MODEL"! REFERRING TO MY MODELING CAREER?
THAT MESSAGE WAS FOR US!
OH, MAY, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU--PETER CALLED FROM HIS PHOTO ASSIGNMENT IN SYMKARIA. HE'S OKAY.
THAT WAS A BIT CARELESS TO FORGET, MARY JANE.
BUT I AM GLAD TO HEAR THAT PETER IS SAFE.
SO AM I.
I JUST HOPE HE STAYS THAT WAY!

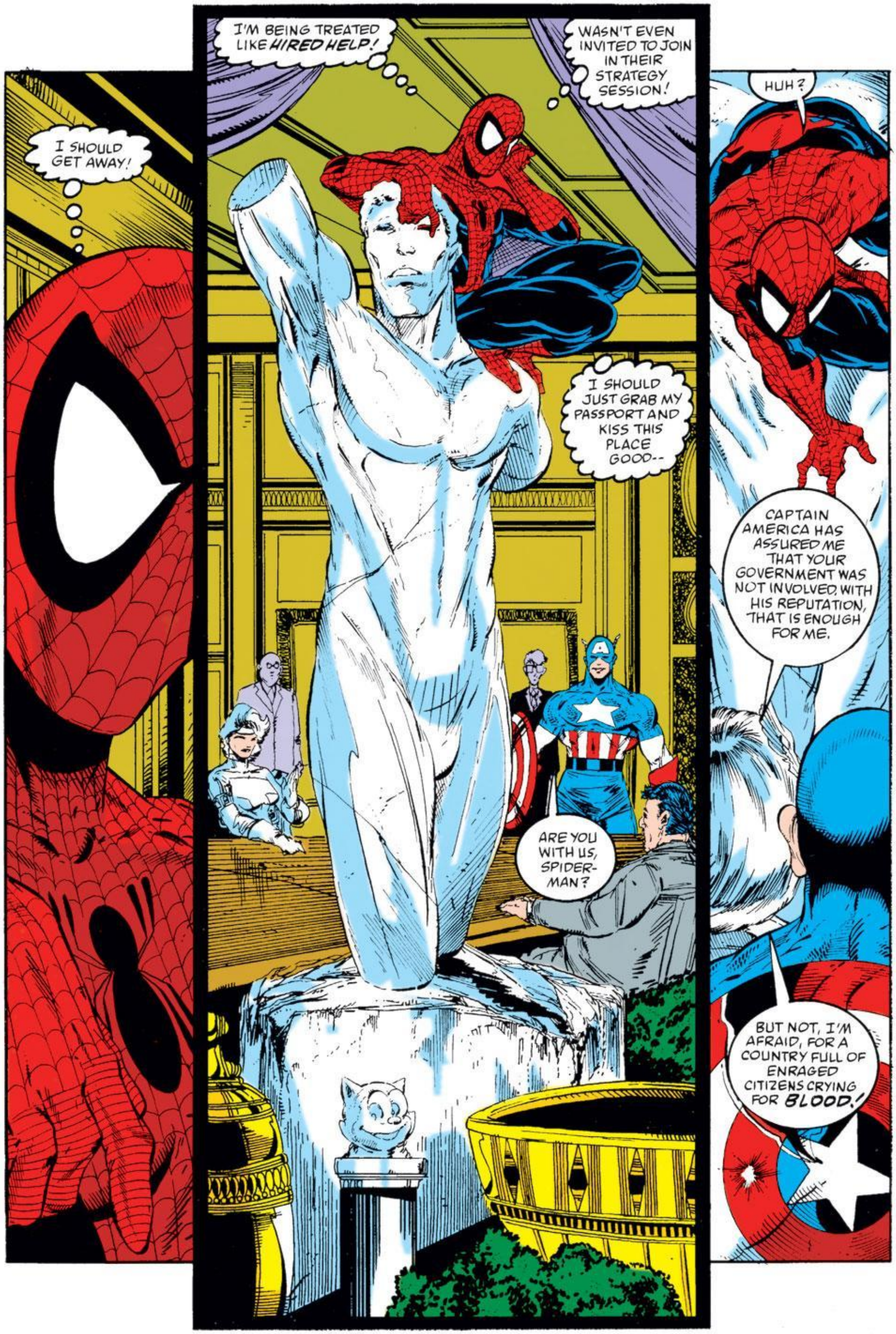

SO IN CONCLUSION, I'D LIKE TO-- HEY!
WHERE'S EVERYBODY GOING?
COLOR GUARD TO YOUR POSTS! BAIL-OUT CLEARANCE HAS BEEN GRANTED!
HE'S HERE!
HE? WHO'S HE?!
"HE" IS A MAN WHO WILL ALWAYS FIND A WAY.
WHEN HIS COUNTRY STANDS THREATENED.
WHEN FREEDOM IS COMPROMISED.
FOR "HE" IS THE FLAG-CLAD WARRIOR KNOWN AS--
CAPTAIN -- AMERICA

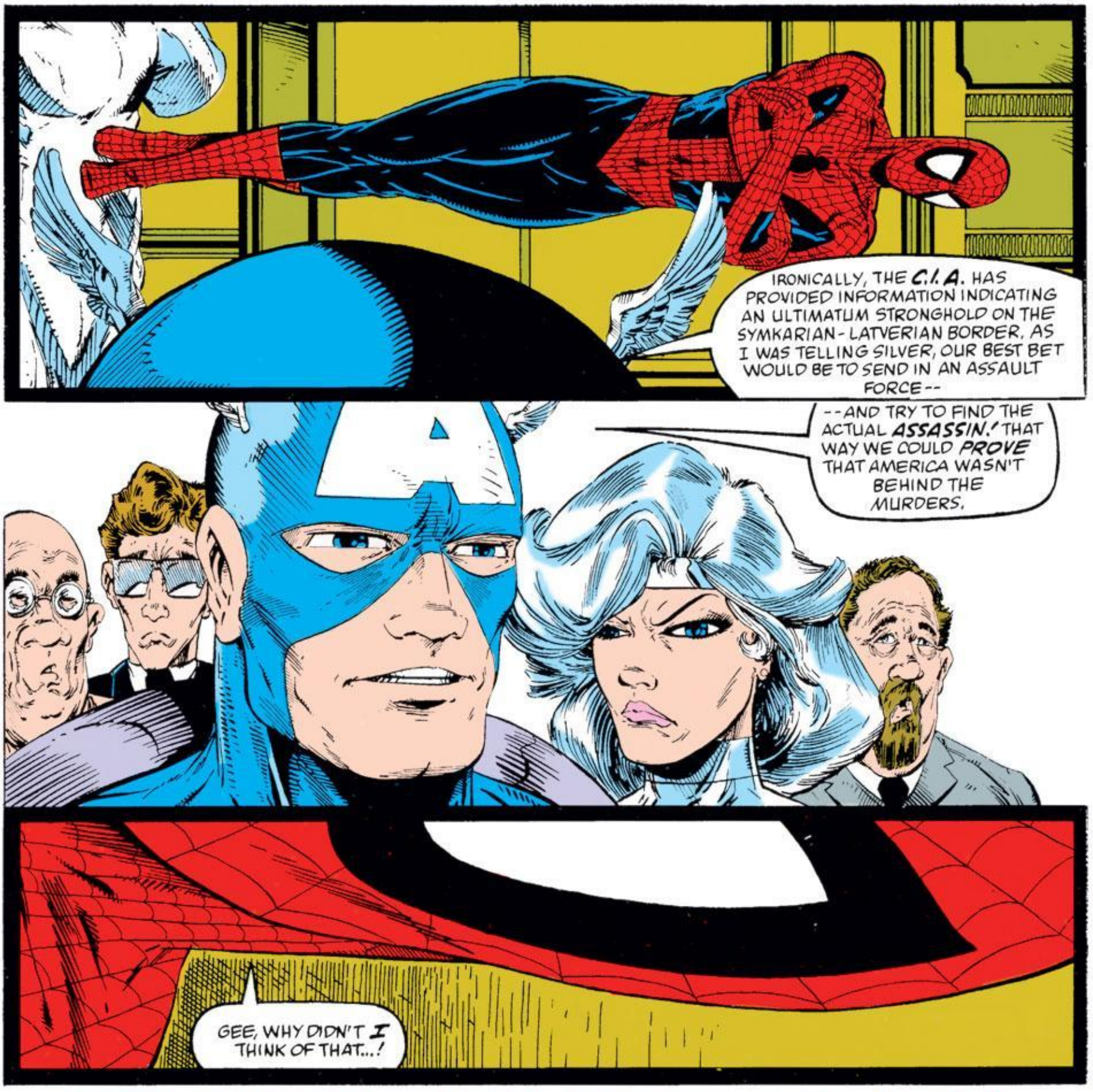

CAPTAIN! IS IT TRUE YOU'RE HERE BY PRESIDENTIAL REQUEST?
ARE YOU REPRESENTING THE AVENGERS?
WHAT ABOUT RUMORS THAT YOU'RE WORKING FOR THE C.I.A.?

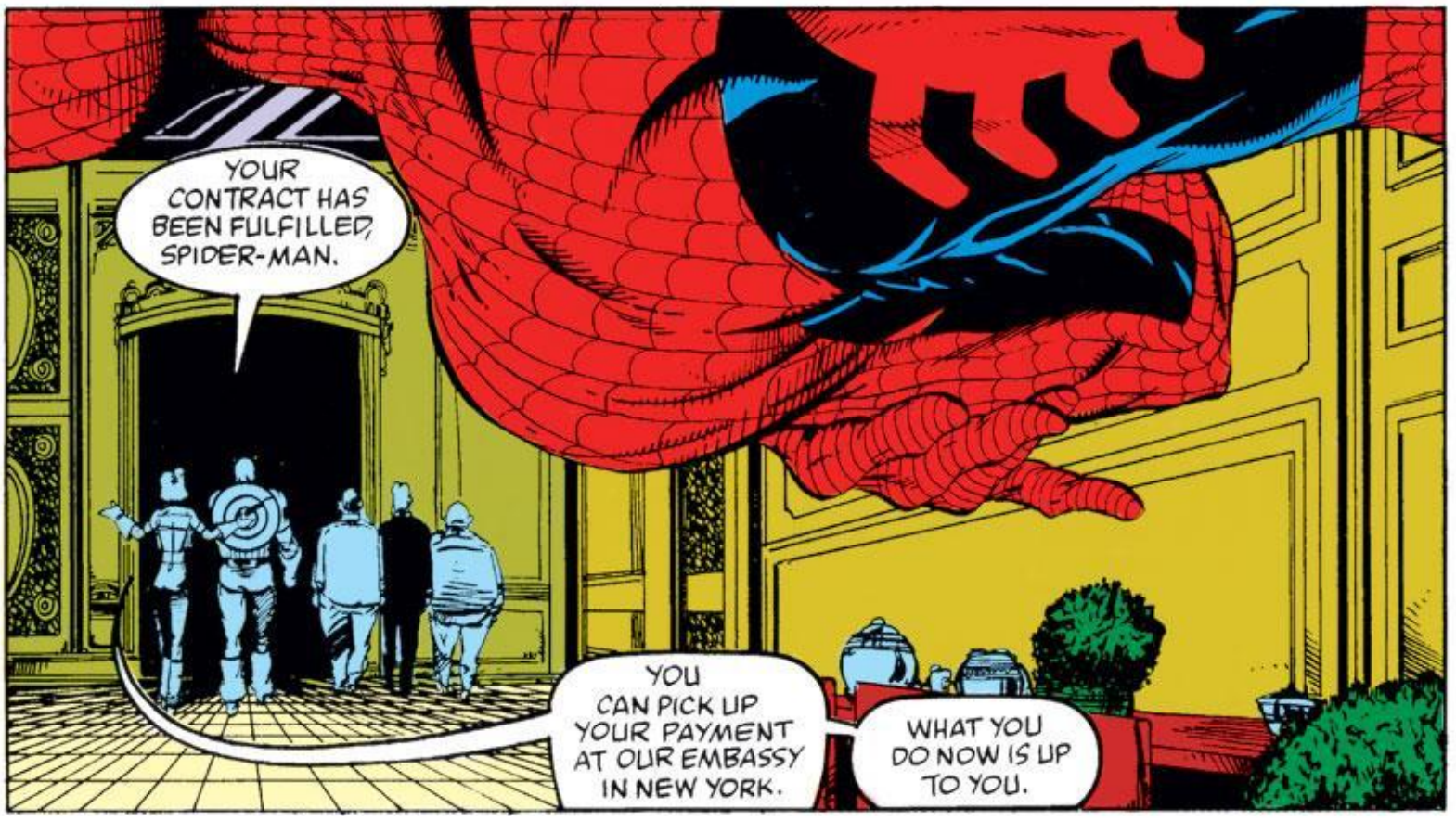
FOR NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, LET'S JUST SAY THAT I'VE COME TO SET THINGS RIGHT!

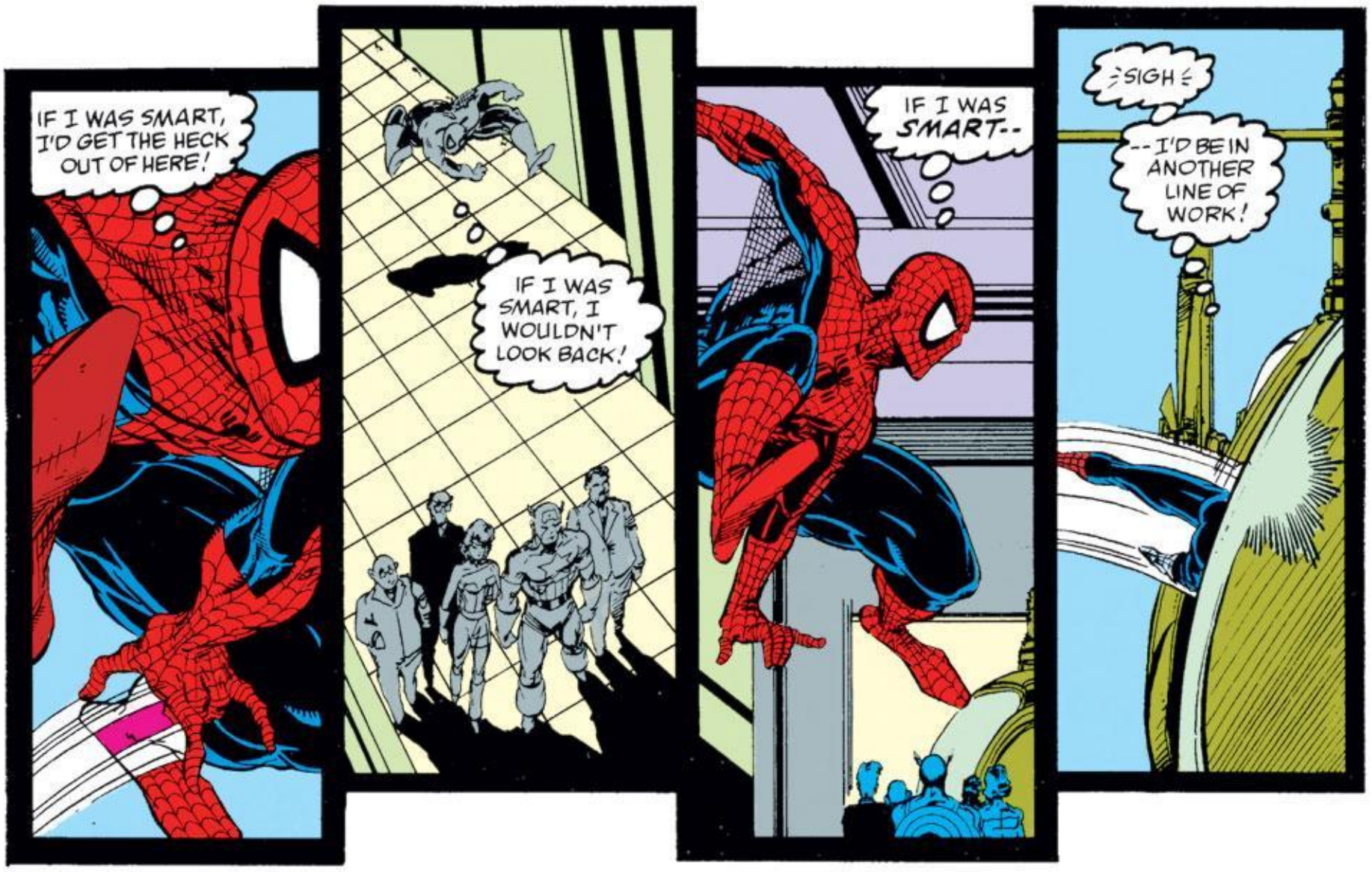
I DON'T LIKE THIS DEVELOPMENT, MAJOR WEIL.
NOR DO I. PUT PERIMETER GUARDS ON PRIORITY ALERT!
WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST!

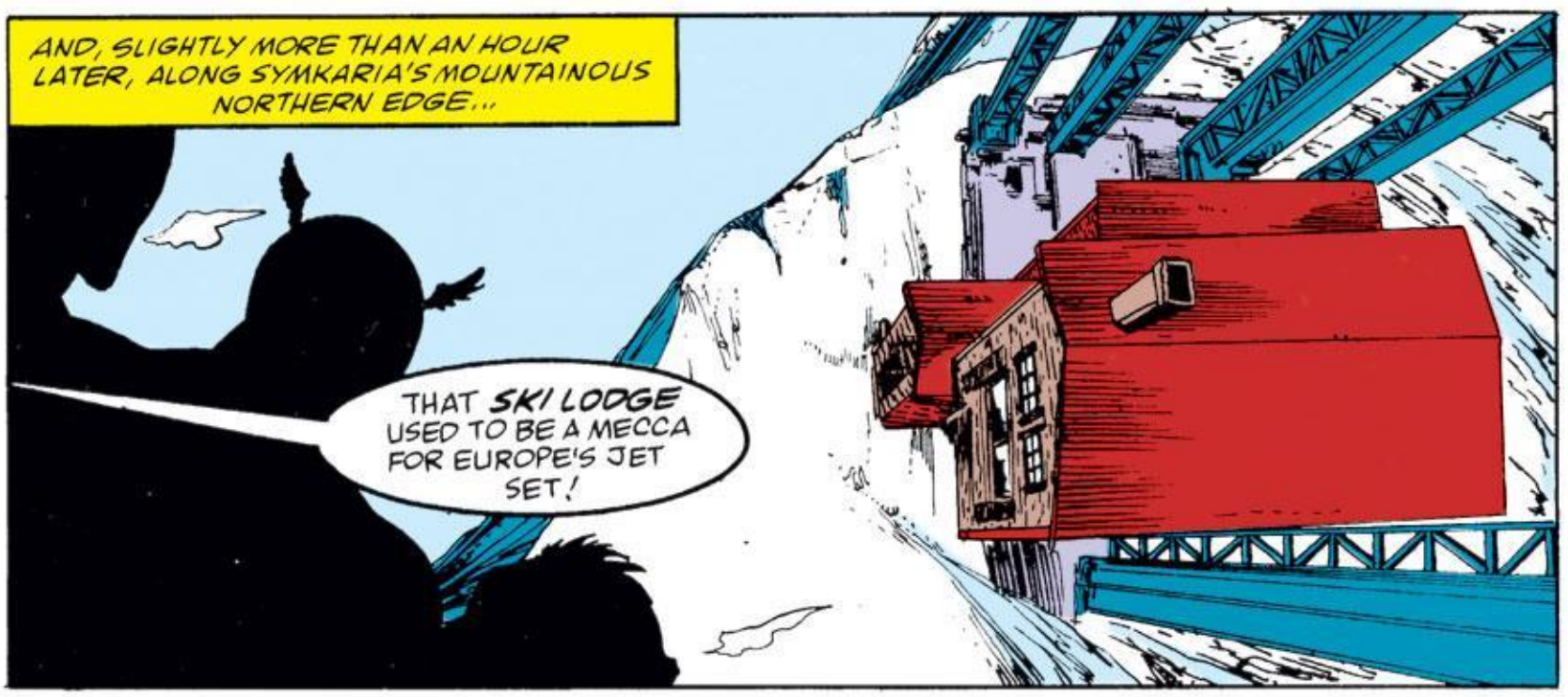
AND WHILE THEY DO THAT, I SHALL ALSO PREPARE FOR THE WORST--
--BY MAKING CERTAIN MY PERSONAL GETAWAY PLAN IS OPERATIONAL!


I SHOULD GET AWAY!
I'M BEING TREATED LIKE HIRED HELP!
WASN'T EVEN INVITED TO JOIN IN THEIR STRATEGY SESSION!
I SHOULD JUST GRAB MY PASSPORT AND KISS THIS PLACE GOOD--
ARE YOU WITH US, SPIDER-MAN?
HUH?
CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS ASSURED ME THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WAS NOT INVOLVED. WITH HIS REPUTATION, THAT IS ENOUGH FOR ME.
BUT NOT, I'M AFRAID, FOR A COUNTRY FULL OF ENRAGED CITIZENS CRYING FOR BLOOD!


IRONICALLY, THE C.I.A. HAS PROVIDED INFORMATION INDICATING AN ULTIMATUM STRONGHOLD ON THE SYMKARIAN-LATVERIAN BORDER. AS I WAS TELLING SILVER, OUR BEST BET WOULD BE TO SEND IN AN ASSAULT FORCE--
--AND TRY TO FIND THE ACTUAL ASSASSIN.' THAT WAY WE COULD PROVE THAT AMERICA WASN'T BEHIND THE MURDERS.
GEE, WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT...!


YOUR CONTRACT HAS BEEN FULFILLED, SPIDER-MAN.
YOU CAN PICK UP YOUR PAYMENT AT OUR EMBASSY IN NEW YORK.
WHAT YOU DO NOW IS UP TO YOU.

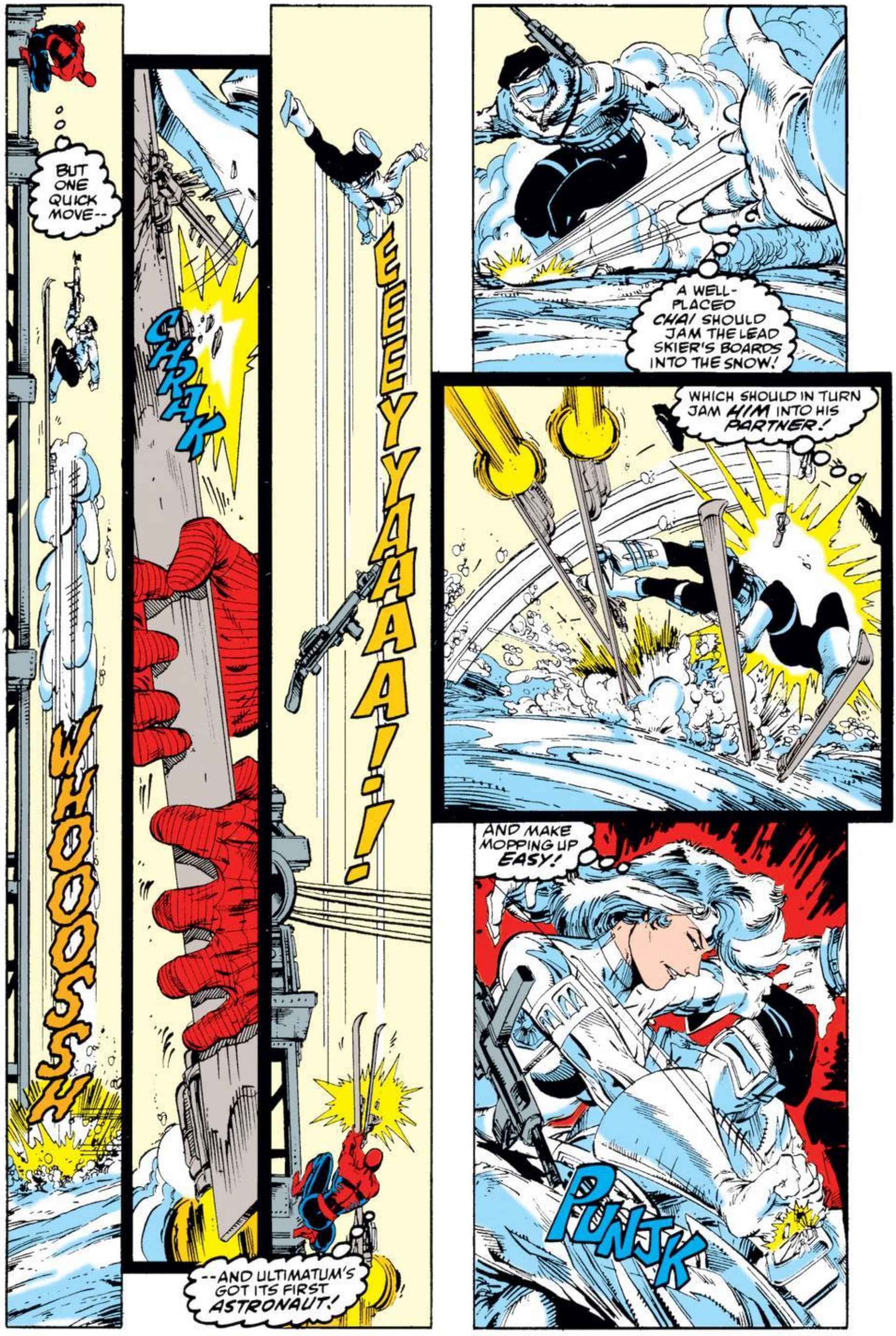

IF I WAS SMART, I'D GET THE HECK OUT OF HERE!
IF I WAS SMART, I WOULDN'T LOOK BACK!
IF I WAS SMART--
SIGH
--I'D BE IN ANOTHER LINE OF WORK!


AND, SLIGHTLY MORE THAN AN HOUR LATER, ALONG SYMKARIA'S MOUNTAINOUS NORTHERN EDGE...
THAT SKI LODGE USED TO BE A MECCA FOR EUROPE'S JET SET!

BUT IT WAS CLOSED SOME MONTHS AGO FOR... "REPAIRS."
ISOLATED. DEFENSIBLE. ULTIMATUM'S PROBABLY VERY SECURE IN THERE.
AND W-W- WARM! N-NEXT TIME, I-I GOTTA BRING MY TH-TH-THERMAL SPIDEY SUIT!

MY WILD PACK AGENTS WILL REMAIN HERE, TO STOP ANYONE TRYING TO FLEE. THE THREE OF US WILL THEN TACKLE THE MAIN BUILDING.
SEEM SOUND TO YOU, CAPTAIN?
CAP NODS, AND AS THE STALWART TRIO BEGINS THEIR CAUTIOUS DESCENT OF THE ROCKY SLOPE...
I APPRECIATE YOUR COMING ALONG, SPIDER-MAN. BUT DO YOU MIND IF I ASK WHY YOU DECIDED TO JOIN UP?
IT MIGHT SOUND CORNY-- THEN AGAIN, MAYBE NOT TO YOU-- BUT, HECK...
...AMERICA IS MY COUNTRY, TOO!
GOOD FOR YOU, SON.
MAYBE NOT SO GOOD!
SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING! WARNING OF--
--LOOK OUT!
ULTIMATUM SKI TROOPS! HIDDEN UNDER THE POWDER!

ONLY A COUPLE OF DOZEN! I EXPECTED PRIMARY DEFENSES TO BE A BIT MORE--
FZZANG
SPONK
WRIZZZZZZZ
?!?
--FORMIDABLE!
WHROK
GAINING THE HIGH GROUND SHOULD GIVE ME AN ADVANTAGE OVER-- HUH?
JET SKIS ARE REALLY JET POWERED!
THEY'RE TAKING TO THE AIR!


BUT ONE QUICK MOVE--
WHOOOSSSH
CHRAK
EEEYYYAAAA!!
--AND ULTIMATUM'S GOT ITS FIRST ASTRONAUT!
A WELL-PLACED CHA! SHOULD JAM THE LEAD SKIER'S BOARDS INTO THE SNOW!
WHICH SHOULD IN TURN JAM HIM INTO HIS PARTNER!
AND MAKE MOPPING UP EASY!
PUNJK

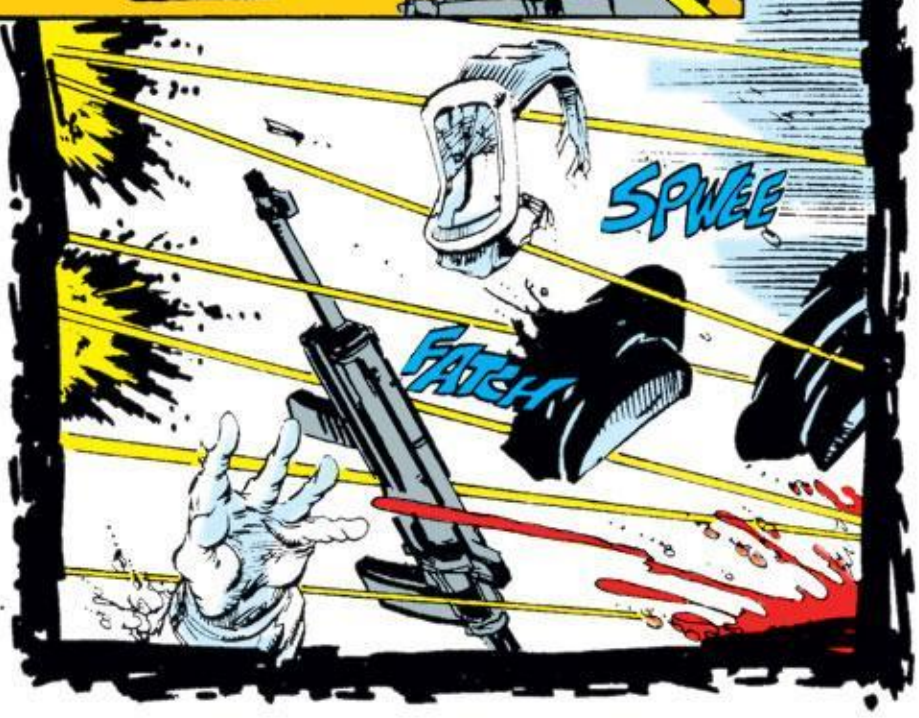
THEY'RE GETTING THROUGH TOO EASILY!
HAVE TO SLOW THEM DOWN, SET OFF THE EXPLOSIVES PLANTED ON THE MOUNTAINSIDE! OF COURSE, THAT WILL KILL THE SKI SOLDIERS AS WELL--
-- BUT THEY'LL DIE WITH HONOR!

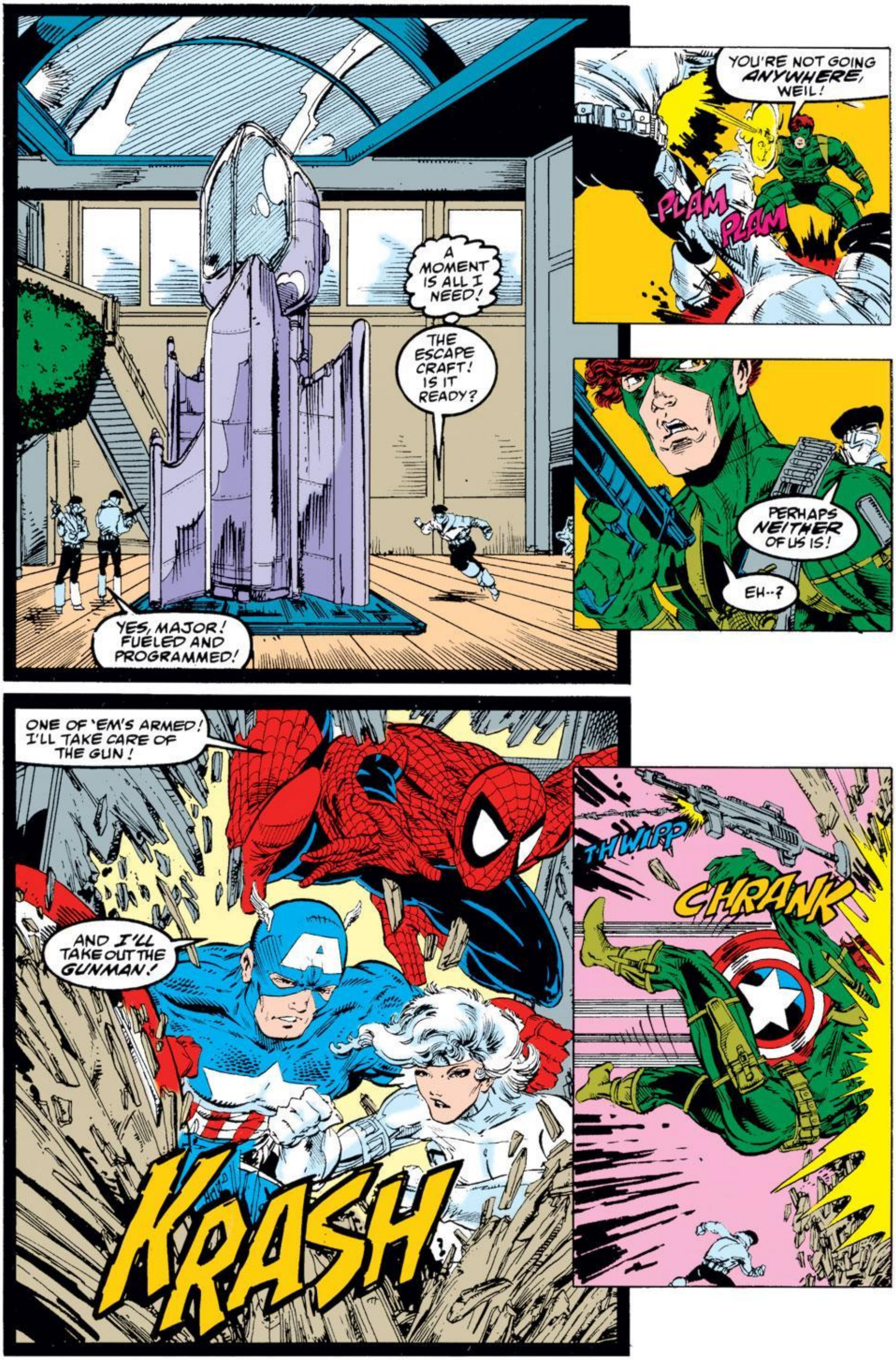
WHA--?! THAT SPARKLING LIGHT! WHO--?

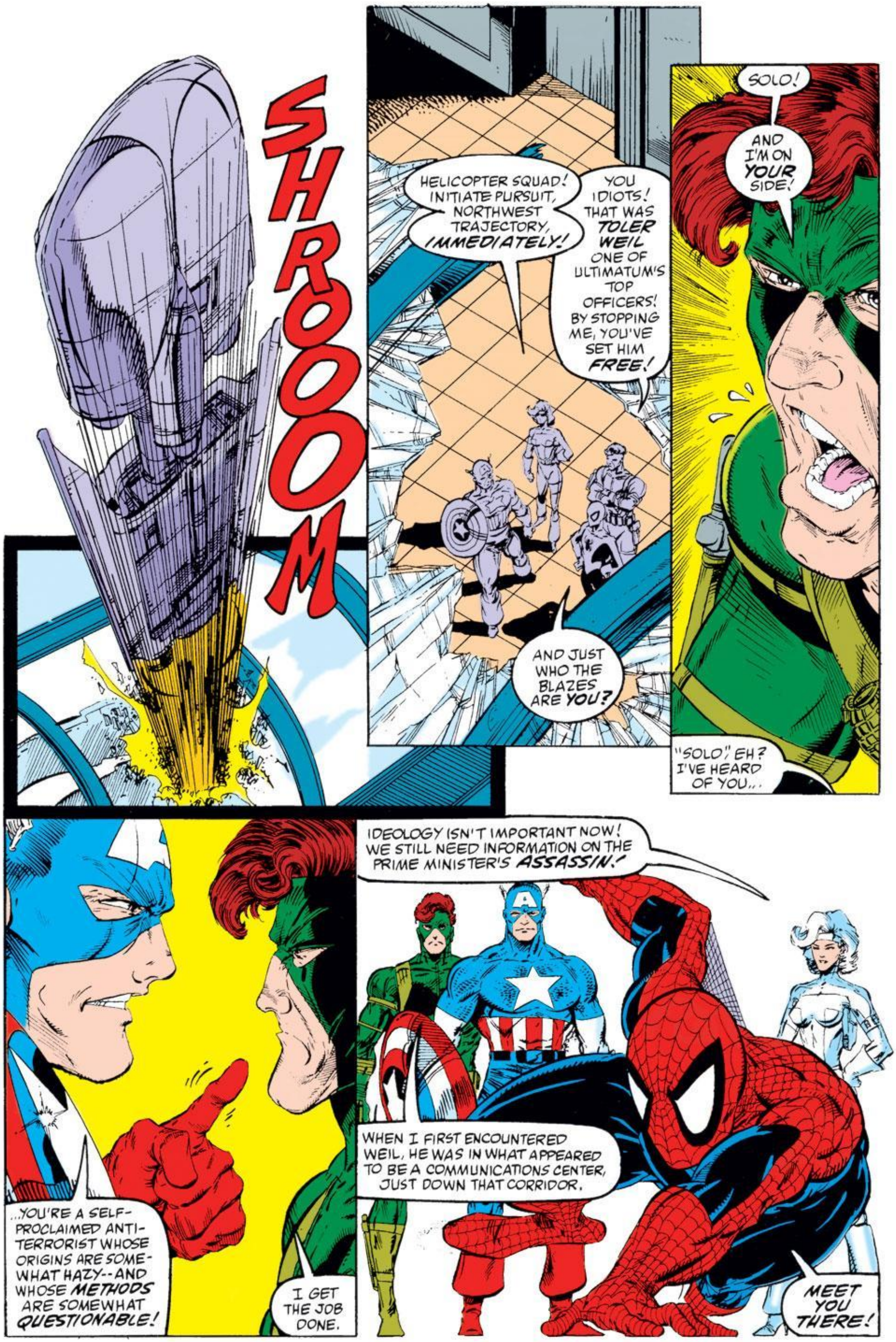
I AM SOLO.
YOUR EXECUTIONER.
G-G-G- GUARDS!

AN ANNOYANCE, WEIL.
THEY BUY YOU A MOMENT.
P.POWM
BOHAM
SHRRIP

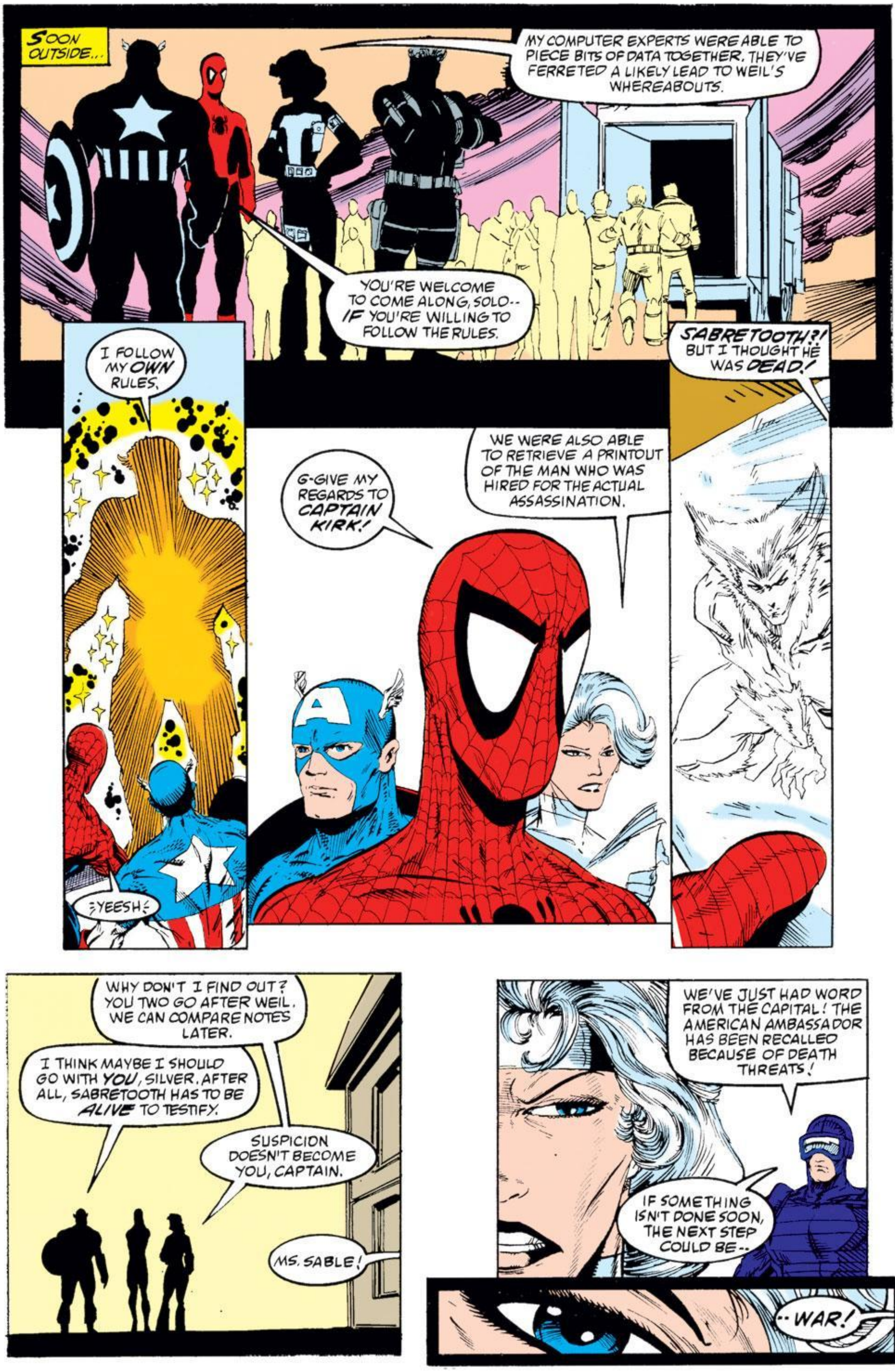
NOTHING MORE!
BRAKABRAKABRAKAKBRAK


SPWEE
FATCH


YES, MAJOR! FUELED AND PROGRAMMED!
A MOMENT IS ALL I NEED!
THE ESCAPE CRAFT! IS IT READY?
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, WEIL!
PLAM
PLAM
PERHAPS NEITHER OF US IS!
EH--?
ONE OF 'EM'S ARMED! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE GUN!
AND I'LL TAKE OUT THE GUNMAN!
KRASH
THWIPP
CHRANK


SHROOOM
HELICOPTER SQUAD! INITIATE PURSUIT, NORTHWEST TRAJECTORY, IMMEDIATELY!
YOU IDIOTS! THAT WAS TOLER WEIL ONE OF ULTIMATUM'S TOP OFFICERS! BY STOPPING ME, YOU'VE SET HIM FREE!
AND JUST WHO THE BLAZES ARE YOU?
SOLO!
AND I'M ON YOUR SIDE!
"SOLO", EH? I'VE HEARD OF YOU...
...YOU'RE A SELF-PROCLAIMED ANTI-TERRORIST WHOSE ORIGINS ARE SOMEWHAT HAZY--AND WHOSE METHODS ARE SOMEWHAT QUESTIONABLE!
I GET THE JOB DONE.
IDEOLOGY ISN'T IMPORTANT NOW! WE STILL NEED INFORMATION ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S ASSASSIN!
WHEN I FIRST ENCOUNTERED WEIL, HE WAS IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE A COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, JUST DOWN THAT CORRIDOR.
MEET YOU THERE!

AND, MOMENTS LATER...
I CAUGHT THIS GUY TRYING TO ERASE COMPUTER RECORDS! I DON'T KNOW HOW SUCCESSFUL HE WAS-- HE WON'T GIVE ME THE ACCESS CODES TO CALL UP A MENU!
HE WILL TALK.
OR HE WILL DIE!
JUST A MINUTE, MISTER!
WE DON'T WORK THAT WAY.
EASY, CAPTAIN. WHY DON'T YOU LET ME TALK TO HIM?
VERY WELL, SILVER. I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON SOLO.
YOU KNOW, A GUN WOULD HAVE BEEN QUICKER!
HNH?
A-ACCESS CODE: NINER-ZED-DELTA.
GOSH, SABLE, I'LL BET YOU AND SOLO COULD BE REAL BUDDIES!
I GET THE JOB DONE.


SOON OUTSIDE...
MY COMPUTER EXPERTS WERE ABLE TO PIECE BITS OF DATA TOGETHER. THEY'VE FERRETED A LIKELY LEAD TO WEIL'S WHEREABOUTS.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME ALONG, SOLO-- IF YOU'RE WILLING TO FOLLOW THE RULES.
I FOLLOW MY OWN RULES.
SABRETOOTH?! BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD!
WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO RETRIEVE A PRINTOUT OF THE MAN WHO WAS HIRED FOR THE ACTUAL ASSASSINATION.
G-GIVE MY REGARDS TO CAPTAIN KIRK!
YEESH!
WHY DON'T I FIND OUT? YOU TWO GO AFTER WEIL. WE CAN COMPARE NOTES LATER.
I THINK MAYBE I SHOULD GO WITH YOU, SILVER. AFTER ALL, SABRETOOTH HAS TO BE ALIVE TO TESTIFY.
SUSPICION DOESN'T BECOME YOU, CAPTAIN.
MS. SABLE!
WE'VE JUST HAD WORD FROM THE CAPITAL! THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN RECALLED BECAUSE OF DEATH THREATS!
IF SOMETHING ISN'T DONE SOON, THE NEXT STEP COULD BE--
--WAR!