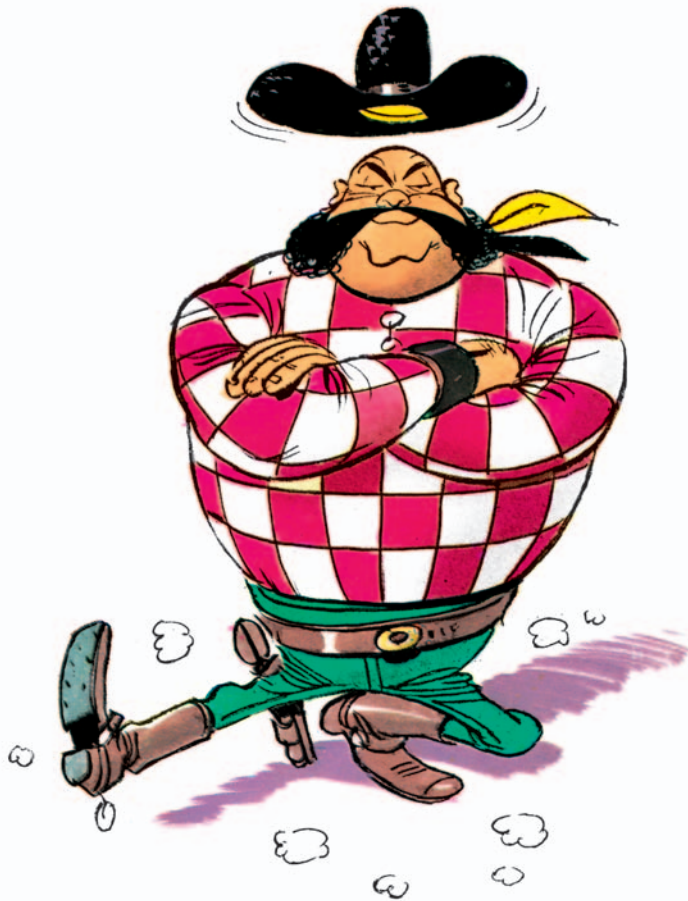


A LUCKY LUKE ADVENTURE

THE GRAND DUKE

BY MORRIS & GOSCINNY



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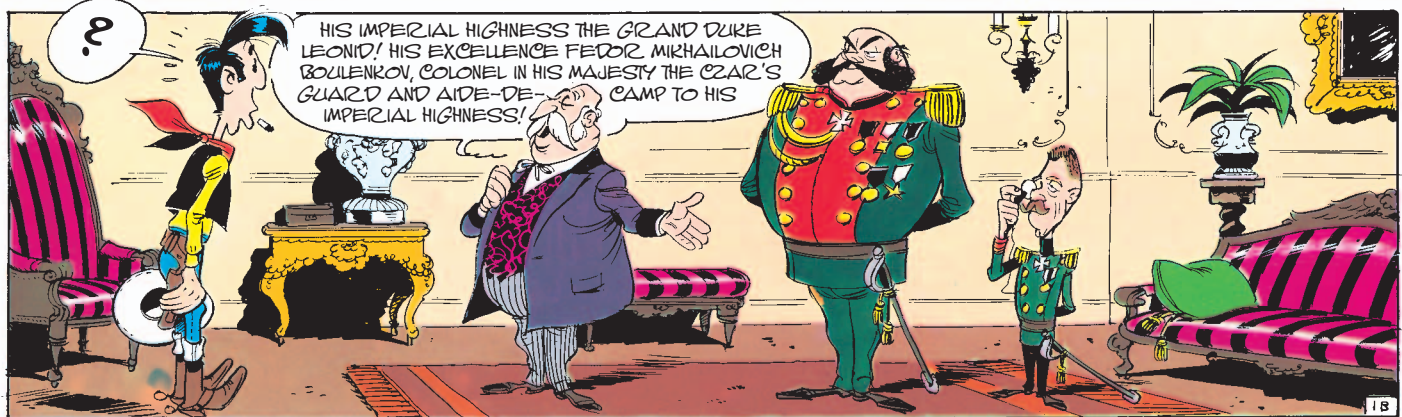
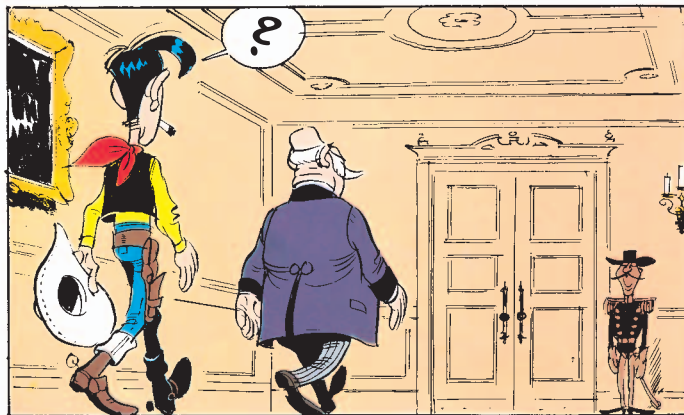
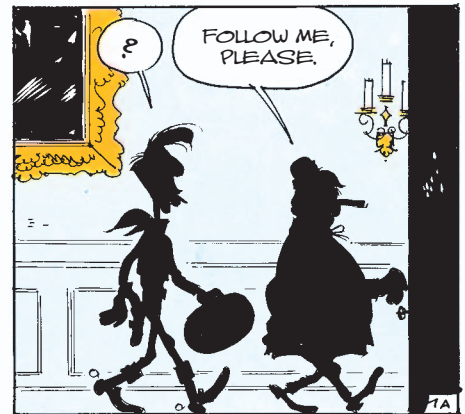
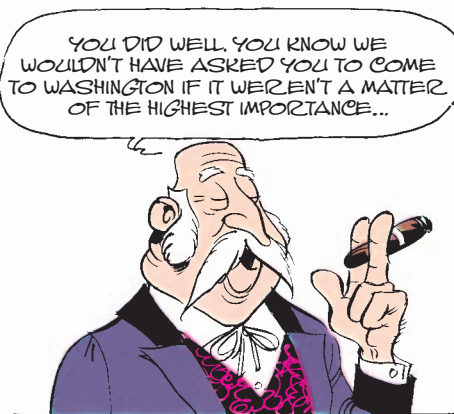
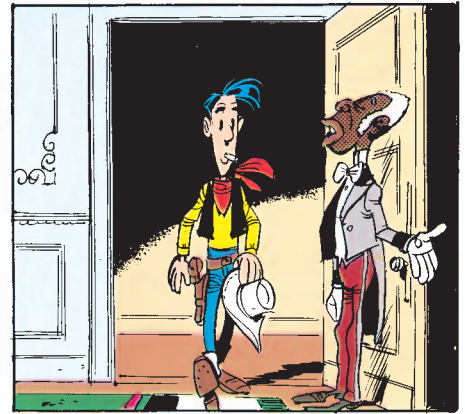
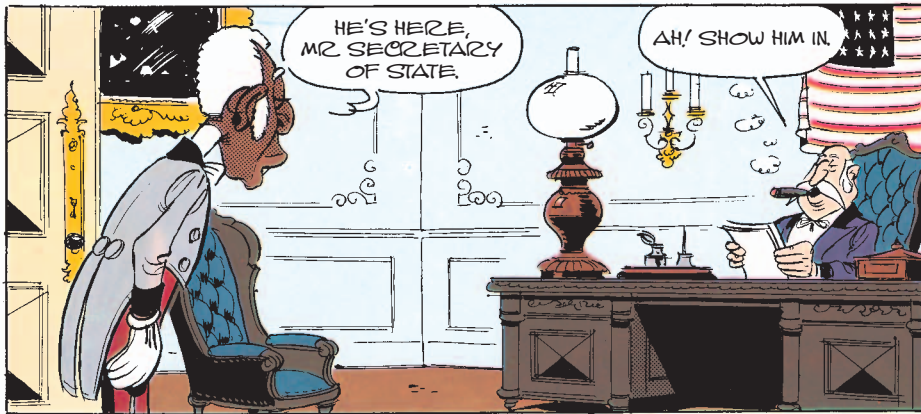
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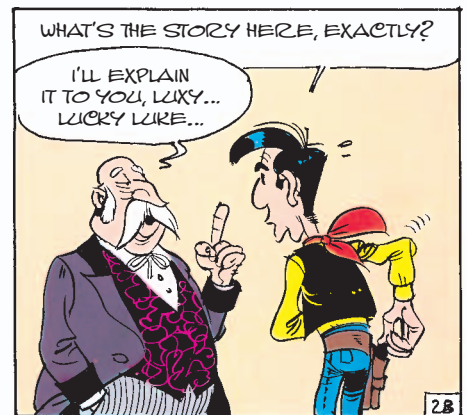
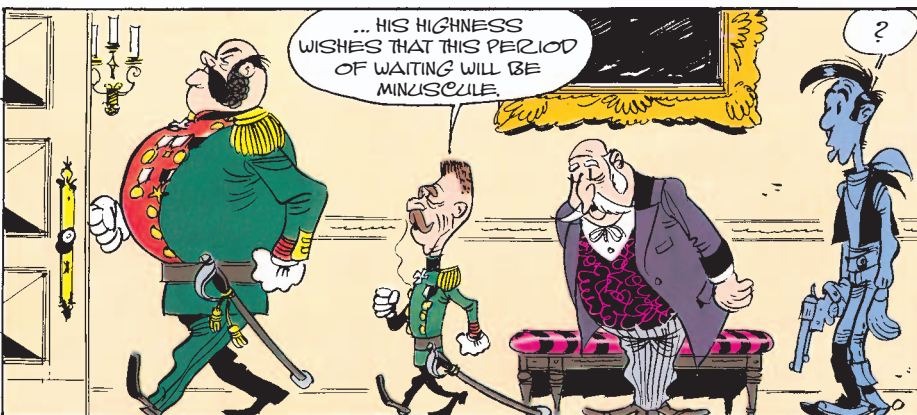
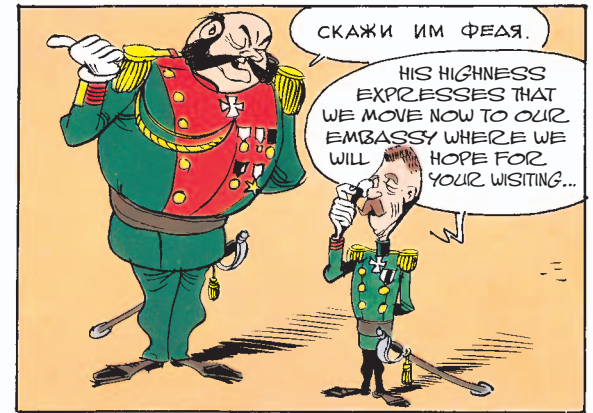
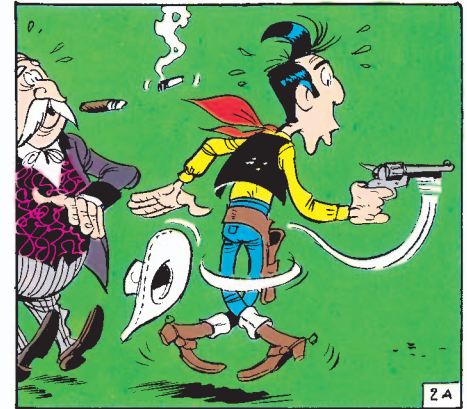
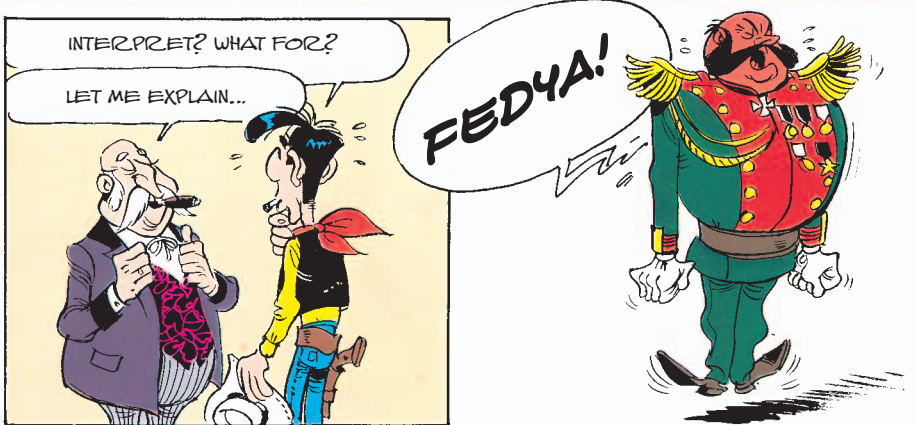
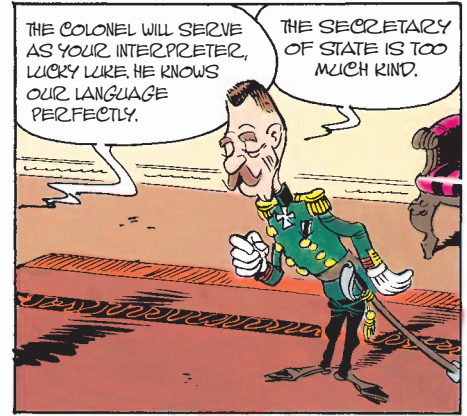
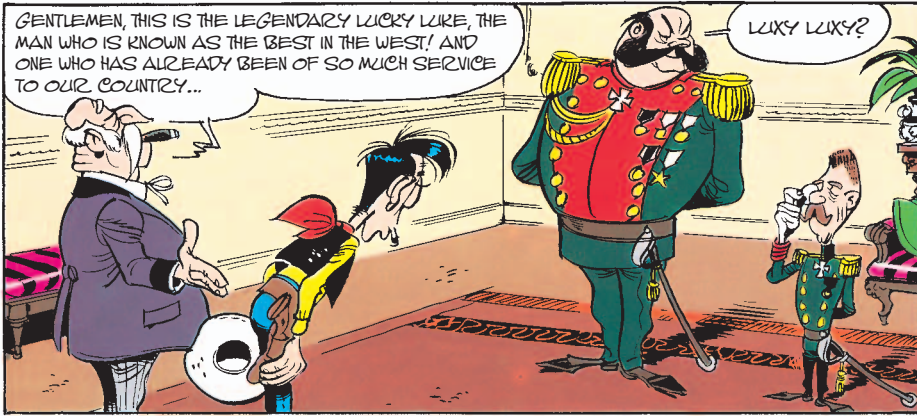
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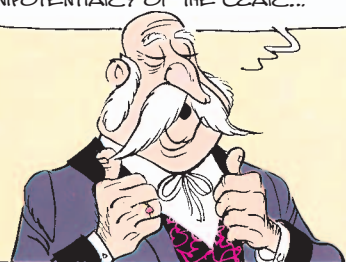
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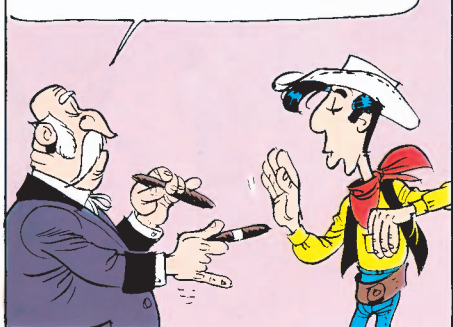




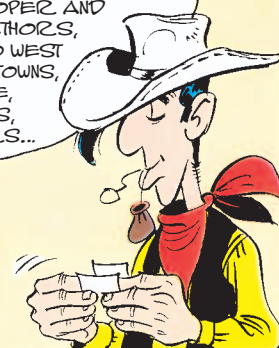
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WISHES TO SIGN A COMMERCIAL TREATY OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE WITH RUSSIA. THIS IS THE REASON FOR THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY GRAND DUKE LEONID, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE CZAR...



... BUT BEFORE HE SIGNS THIS TREATY SO VITAL TO OUR ECONOMY, THE GRAND DUKE HAS SET ONE CONDITION...

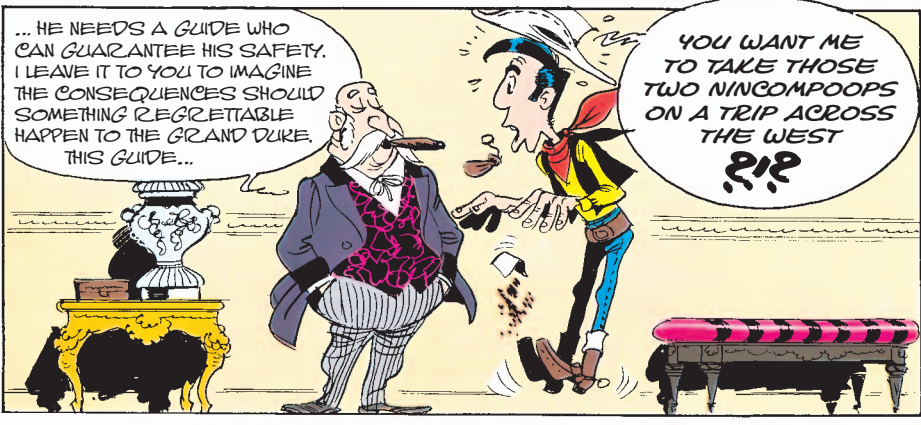


... AS AN ENTHUSIAST OF THE WILD WEST, ASSIDUOUS READER OF FENIMORE COOPER AND OTHER LIKE AUTHORS, HE WANTS TO GO WEST AND SEE IT ALL: TOWNS, CATTLE, PRAIRIE, BANDITS, INDIANS, PROSPECTORS...

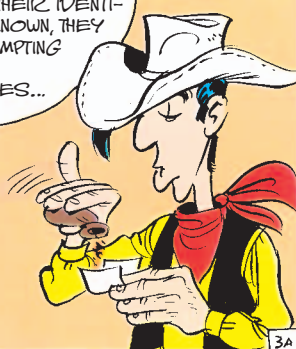


... HE NEEDS A GUIDE WHO CAN GUARANTEE HIS SAFETY. I LEAVE IT TO YOU TO IMAGINE THE CONSEQUENCES SHOULD SOMETHING REGRETTABLE HAPPEN TO THE GRAND DUKE. THIS GUIDE...

YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THOSE TWO NINCOMPOOPS ON A TRIP ACROSS THE WEST ?!?

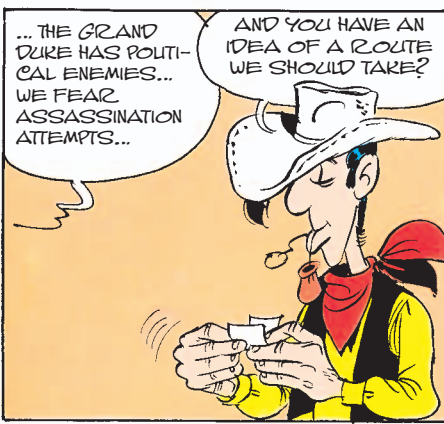


YES, BUT PLEASE NOTE THAT THEY WILL TRAVEL INCOGNITO. IF THEIR IDENTITIES WERE KNOWN, THEY WOULD BE TEMPTING PREY FOR DESPERADOES...



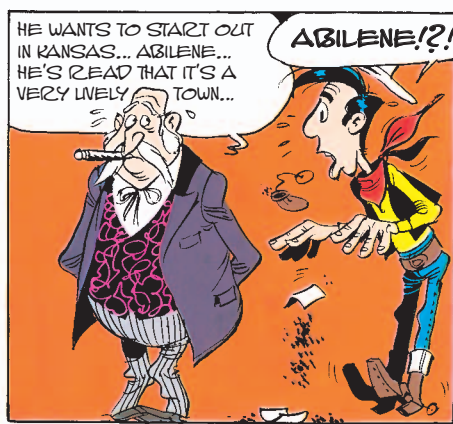
... THE GRAND DUKE HAS POLITICAL ENEMIES... WE FEAR ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS...

AND YOU HAVE AN IDEA OF A ROUTE WE SHOULD TAKE?

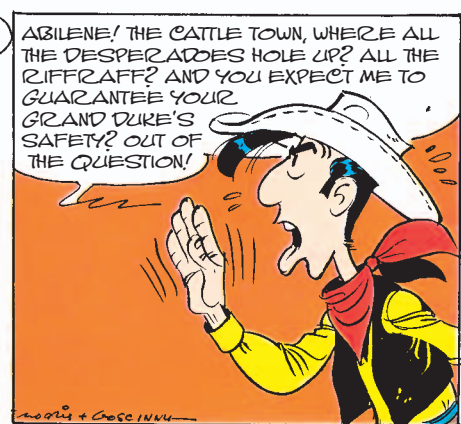


HE WANTS TO START OUT IN KANSAS... ABILENE... HE'S READ THAT IT'S A VERY LIVELY TOWN...

ABILENE!?!

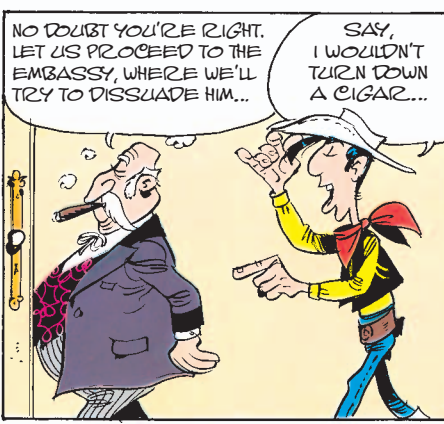


ABILENE! THE CATTLE TOWN, WHERE ALL THE DESPERADOES HOLE UP? ALL THE RUFFRAFF? AND YOU EXPECT ME TO GUARANTEE YOUR GRAND DUKE'S SAFETY? OUT OF THE QUESTION!



NO DOUBT YOU'RE RIGHT. LET US PROCEED TO THE EMBASSY, WHERE WE'LL TRY TO DISSUADE HIM...

SAY, I WOULDN'T TURN DOWN A CIGAR...



YOU LIKE BEING A CIVIL SERVANT?

IT'S A PAIN IN THE NECK NOW AND THEN, BUT THERE'S THE JOB SECURITY TO CONSIDER.

