

Israel Has Lesson to Be Learned From JFK Assassination in Handling Rabin Investigation

by

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As the people of Israel grieve over the shocking assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israel government is conducting an official investigation and the similarities are eerily familiar to this nation's most recent murder of its head of state: the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Rabin investigation is at a crossroad: will the Israelis learn from the United States' government's experience in handling the Kennedy assassination or will they fall victim to the same mistakes and be haunted by the event for an eternity?

First, the similarities between the two assassinations:

- * The assassinated head of state was involved in major controversial policy decisions which evoked strong sentiments;
- * The accused assassin, with extreme political views, allegedly acted alone;
- * There is only one film known to exist of the actual assassination, taken by an amateur photographer ;
- * A special commission is conducting the investigation, headed by the the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;
- * Allegations of conspiracy have enveloped the country; and
- * The law enforcement agency responsible for protecting the head of state is coming under fire for alleged serious security lapses and even accusations of complicity in the crime;

Thirty two years after the assassination of President Kennedy, the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent federal agency, is overseeing the review and release of records related to the assassination. The Review Board was created because of continuing interest and lingering doubts among a significant percentage of the American public that its government has not told the whole truth about the events surrounding the assassination.

The Israeli government can avoid the experiences of this country by ensuring that all the facts become known to the Shagmar Commission and the prosecutors, regardless of how painful they may be to divulge, and ensure that everything possible is made public. The Warren Commission ran into

problems

This is not to say that all doubts can ever removed. It is impossible to prove a negative.