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1 March 1968

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Garrison and the Kennedy Assassination:
Interview of Garrison on Dutch TV by
William L. Oltmans (201-155221)

REFERENCES: A. Joint State-USIA cable, HCM 553,
HAGUE - 3981, 24 February 1968
B. The Hague 3870, IN 59064,
27 February 1968

SUMMARY

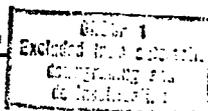
Garrison appeared on Dutch TV on 22 February 1968. He continued -- in fact, escalated -- his attack upon CIA in a persuasive performance. There is a possibility of a follow-up program in Holland and replays elsewhere in Europe. Garrison's interviewer, William L. Oltmans, is a Dutch pro-Communist, although he pretends not to be, and a homosexual who seems to be or to have been intimate with ex-President Sukarno of Indonesia.

Consideration is being given to forwarding to the Station at The Hague overt derogatory information about Garrison from the U.S. press and TV/radio interviews for release to CA assets there.

DETAILS

1. References state that on 22 February 1968 Garrison appeared on Dutch TV (Dutch Television Foundation, NTS) during prime time for one hour (time not stated). Neither reference explains whether Garrison travelled to The Hague or whether the show was taped in the U.S. and sent on tape to Holland. The Dutch desk believes that the latter is true.

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2. The following were Garrison's charges:

a. Kennedy was murdered because he favored a detente detrimental to the interests of the "military-industrial complex".

b. Kennedy was the victim of a CIA plot. CIA has made common cause with the military-industrial establishment because of a vested interest in maintaining the cold war.

c. CIA is committed to the land war in Asia, whereas one of President Kennedy's last orders directed a reduction of troops there.

d. A U.S. president who brings the U.S. to the brink of peace will suffer Kennedy's fate.

e. Asked why the program had been designed for a European audience, Garrison said that the growing influence of CIA on U.S. media had made it impossible for him to be heard in his own country.

3. Reference A says Garrison, calm and composed, was sufficiently credible to elicit rather favorable reviews from generally well informed Dutch newspapers. "Several Dutch viewers also commented on the credibility [of] his person and presentation. Likely that the NTS will try to sell this program to other European stations."

4. Reference B says that the Dutch press was generally favorable and that many comments noted he seemed logical and in control of his facts. The majority opinion among Embassy, USIS, and CIA personnel at The Hague is that he seemed credible to a large proportion of the Dutch viewers. SYMPATHIZER 17 feels that the program created an all-time low in the U.S. image in the Netherlands. Dutch TV alluded to a third part of the interview, still to come.

5. Garrison was interviewed by William L. Oltmans. A synopsis regarding Oltmans follows:

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- a. DPOB 10 June 1925 Huizen, The Netherlands.
- b. Studied at Yale 1950 but expelled for unstated misbehavior.
- c. Thereafter worked briefly as correspondent for U. P. and for Dutch paper De Telegraaf but dismissed by both for unstated cause.
- d. An FBI report of 1960 states that he calls himself anti-Communist but expresses the views "of a great admirer of communism".
- e. An I&NS report of 1961 lists his address for 1956-1961 as 118-09 83rd Ave., Kew Gardens, Long Island, New York.
- f. A CIA report of 1961 lists him as a UN correspondent then planning an unsponsored trip to East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. Dutch correspondents said that they had yet to see a story written by him. When he applied for membership in the UN correspondents association, he was unable to produce a single clipping in support of the application. He travels extensively. He has excellent contacts in all Communist countries including Cuba.
- g. The Haague Post of 15 April 1951, with a nationwide readership, characterized Oltmans as an intimate friend of the then President of Indonesia, Sukarno, and as having tried for five years to arrange contacts for Sukarno in Holland.
- h. An FBI report of 24 November 1961 restates the above and adds that he had been separated or divorced from his American wife 18 months earlier because "he is not a man". He was living with a male at the time of the report.
- i. An FBI report of 1 February 1962 includes an interview with the ex-wife Frieda Bieling (she had remarried).

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She said that her ex-husband and President Sukarno were close friends and that he wrote to Sukarno at least once a week throughout their marriage. Around 1957 she and Oltmans lived at the Paramount Hotel, New York, for a time. The Indonesian government paid their bill, which was more than \$300. She met Sukarno through her husband in May 1959 in Copenhagen. At the time of the introduction Sukarno cleared the room of all advisors and bodyguards, then said to her, "So you are Frieda. Well, I am Sukie." He told her "that he looked forward to receiving his weekly messages from her husband and that he always read them just before he went to sleep while he was in bed." She said that ten minutes after her wedding ceremony with Oltmans was over, she was alone. Her father, she said, learned that Oltmans had a police record for molesting young boys in Amsterdam. She obtained a Mexican divorce in 1960. She said that Oltmans is at least intellectually a Communist and believes Communism to be the economic system of the future.

j. HAGU-1365, 24 October 1966, says Oltmans wrote pro-Lumumba articles in 1960, visited Cuba in 1962 and perhaps 1963, developed friendly relations with Chicoms at The Hague and may have visited China in 1964. In August 1966 he applied for a Chicom visa at The Hague.

k. An FBI report of 12 May 1967 says that Oltmans claimed to have written for Ramparts an article about CIA in Indonesia. No such article has been found.

6. Reference B requested background information about Garrison's mental health and performance as a public official. A summary of derogatory information from overt U.S. media for the past year (March 1967 to March 1968) has been compiled in response. A decision will soon be made as to whether part or all of this material may be sent to the Station for use by Dutch CA assets.

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