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WS 373

3/0/W/T1945-63
29 Nov 63

REACTIONS TO KENNEDY'S DEATH

23 Nov 63 1100
Urgent

Msg. Nr. 486

For

44 USC 2107(5)(g)(2)(D)(i)

Our Nr. 482^a point 3. Everything points to the continuation of the internal struggle [B val based] on the political interpretation of KENNEDY's assassination. Immediately after the attempt, the initial commentaries linked it with the racist movement, which assumed the offensive by rallying themselves around the efforts of the Texas police in order to saddle OSWALD, a reputed pro CASTRO activist who two years ago wanted to remain in the USSR, with the responsibility for the attempt. The arrest of Cubans was begun in Dallas. GOLDWATER, who yesterday refused to comment on the assassination, joined the campaign. Radio and television suspended all their programs and -- with minor exceptions which included ABC directed among others by the former EISENHOWER press agent HAGHERTY -- taking advantage of this background to bring about anti-communist hysteria. The fact that Saturday through Monday are days free of work facilitates reaching the community.

Today's declaration by JOHNSON and the Department of State denying the existence of reputed facts of a conspiracy against KENNEDY's life involving the USSR and Cuba has as its aim the restraint of the campaign of extreme racists, which can create difficulty in overcoming the internal situation and could paralyze the foreign policy of Washington.

Probably in reply to these declarations circulated among the American press (among others in the UN) is the theme that the KENNEDY murder could have been inspired by those centers in the USSR which do not want a detente. This theme is also being linked with the attempt to arrest BARGHOORN, the downing of the Iranian aircraft, and Berlin access roads.

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It is anticipated that immediately after the funeral personal intrigue will begin. Speculation of RUSK's resignation are being repeated (possible successors, FULBRIGHT or HARRIMAN if JOHNSON is determined to continue the present relations with the USSR and BUNDY or perhaps someone comparable but thus far an unknown politician if he decides to lead the Democratic party to the elections on a wave of hardfast foreign policy).



a. See 3/0/W/T1944-63.

44 USC 2107(5)(g)(2)(D)(i)

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