

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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PRESS COMMENT ON KENNEDY'S DEATH AND JOHNSON'S ACCESSION TO
PRESIDENCY

FR Helsinki: Embassy
TO Ankara: Foreign Ministry
Msg Nr: --

27 Nov 63

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38.

The incident of the killing of the United States President KENNEDY caused great indignation and grief in Finland. A sort of period of national mourning was established in Helsinki with flags lowered to half-mast everywhere. On the 25th of the month in the city of [3 gr G/M], a Mass was arranged in which the President of the Republic will also participate. All means of publication are discussing the exceptional personality of KENNEDY and his service to humanity and peace.

The press, taking up the personality of L. JOHNSON who ascended to the presidency unexpectedly, wrote that the aforementioned in his youth was a protégé of ROOSEVELT and went to Australia and New Zealand as his special representative during the war; that he was one of those who defended the [1 gr U] at the time. The press added that, although he has great influence especially in internal politics and in the party, his experience in the matter of foreign policy expanded by his trips after 1961; that following the Moscow agreement, he made a statement to the effect that he saw the possibility of nuclear-free zones [1 gr M] created; that, however, he supported the idea that it was necessary not to abandon caution because of the belief that the cold war will continue; and that in 1959 KHRUSHCHEV [1 gr G]ed to him stating, "(B val I am not) acquainted with you but I have read all your [1 gr M]s and I did not [2 gr G/U] at all.

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As was submitted during his visit to Helsinki several months ago, the impression which he left as a statesman [1 gr G] is negative.

Some of the opinions expressed in official and political circles are as follows: the incident of the death of the president is of a nature to alter conditions of domestic policy; in spite of the certainty of KENNEDY's Democratic Party candidacy in the future elections, now the party will be the scene of a great dispute; however, from the struggle between the [1 gr U] and liberal wings of the [1 gr G] party, it can be expected that NIXON will be the victor.

The primary point which these circles [1 gr U] upon is that the incident of the sudden withdrawal from the scene of KENNEDY whose personality was forcefully felt on east-west (B val relations) which are taking a favorable direction despite the [1 gr G] deviations recently, [1 gr G] destructive reactions on these relations.

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