

House Assassinations

## CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

## NEWS SERVICE

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FBO-ASSASSINATIONS; 470

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**CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON (AP) - FORMER HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COUNSEL RICHARD A. SPRAGUE TODAY QUOTED JAMES EARL RAY AS SAYING OTHER PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED IN A CONSPIRACY IN WHICH MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS ASSASSINATED.

SPRAGUE ALSO SAID HE HAS CONCLUDED FROM RAY'S STATEMENTS THAT "RAOUL," A MAN RAY HAS CLAIMED ENLISTED HIM IN A GUN-RUNNING OPERATION THAT PUT HIM IN MEMPHIS WHEN KING WAS KILLED; IS A FICTITIOUS NAME.

RAY, WHO PLEADED GUILTY TO KING'S MURDER AND IS SERVING A 99-YEAR SENTENCE; HAS CONTENDED THAT THE OPERATION DIRECTED BY "RAOUL" HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH KING; SO FAR AS HE KNEW.

RAY CONTENDS HE PURCHASED THE RIFLE THAT POLICE BELIEVE WAS USED TO KILL KING BUT HANDED IT TO "RAOUL" AND LEFT THE AREA SHORTLY BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION.

SPRAGUE ALSO SAID SOME FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS BELIEVE THE MAN THE CIA RECORDED CONTACTING SOVIET AND CUBAN EMBASSIES IN MEXICO CITY BEFORE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED WAS NOT LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

SPRAGUE SAID HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COMMITTEE CAN CONDUCT A PROPER INVESTIGATION OF THE TWO ASSASSINATIONS AND SAID HE DOUBTS IT EVEN WANTS TO.

HE SAID A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR SHOULD BE SET UP WITH AN INDEPENDENT STAFF TO INVESTIGATE THE ASSASSINATIONS; WITHOUT THE PRESSURE HE SAID THE HOUSE COMMITTEE STAFF WAS UNDER TO PRODUCE SOMETHING SENSATIONAL.

SPRAGUE SAID HE BELIEVES THE COMMITTEE WAS SET UP BEFORE THE ELECTION TO APPEAL TO BLACK VOTERS UNHAPPY WITH INADEQUATE INVESTIGATION OF THE KING ASSASSINATION. HE SAID THE PANEL WAS ESTABLISHED WITH THE IDEA THAT IT MIGHT BE SCRAPPED AFTER THE ELECTION.

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SPRAGUE SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THAT ALL OF THE  
EVIDENCE THAT HE HAS HEARD OF IN THE PAST  
CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY  
HAS BEEN TOTALLY MISLEADING AND FALSE.

SPRAGUE HAS BECOME AN ISSUE BECAUSE MANY CONGRESSMEN RESISTED WHAT  
THEY SAW AS HIS LIAISON IN A FIELD THAT FORCED FORMER CHAIRMAN  
JONTALEZ (D-TEX.) TO RESIGN.

SPRAGUE QUOTED RAY AS SAYING IN THE TWO INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY  
COMMITTEE INVESTIGATORS THAT PEOPLE OTHER THAN MEMBERS OF RAY'S FAMILY  
HELPED HIM OBTAIN A WEAPON TO ESCAPE FROM A MISSOURI PRISON BEFORE  
THE ASSASSINATION.

RAY SAYS HE CONTACTED OTHER PEOPLE AFTER THE ASSASSINATION; AND THAT  
OTHER PEOPLE HELPED HIM TO ESCAPE TO CANADA; WHERE HE TRAVELED BEFORE  
HE WENT TO GREAT BRITAIN; WHERE HE WAS ARRESTED.

RAY HAS NOT YET DESCRIBED THE OTHER PEOPLE EXCEPT TO SAY THEY ARE  
NOT HIS BROTHERS; SPRAGUE SAID. THE INVESTIGATOR SAID IT HAS BECOME  
CLEAR PARTLY THROUGH RAY'S OWN COMMENTS AND PARTLY THROUGH WHAT THE  
INVESTIGATORS COULD PERCEIVE THEMSELVES THAT THE NAME "RAOUL" IS  
MADE UP.

SPRAGUE SAID THAT NAME WAS MADE UP BY SOMEONE ELSE AND RAY  
RELUCTANTLY USED IT.

IN THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION; SPRAGUE SAID; FBI  
INVESTIGATORS DOUBT THAT THE VOICE THE CIA RECORDED CONTACTING THE  
SOVIET AND CUBAN EMBASSIES IN MEXICO CITY BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION IS  
THAT OF OSWALD.

SPRAGUE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT IT WOULD MEAN IF; IN FACT; THE  
VOICE THE CIA SAID WAS THAT OF OSWALD WAS NOT OSWALD. THE WARREN  
COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT OSWALD ASSASSINATED KENNEDY ACTING ALONE.

"THERE WELL COULD HAVE BEEN A CONSPIRACY THAT AROSE AFTER THE  
ASSASSINATION; THAT CERTAIN AGENCIES FELT IT WOULD BE AN EMBARRASSMENT  
TO DISCLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OSWALD;" SPRAGUE SAID. "I DON'T  
KNOW."

HE SAID THAT CIA TAPE-RECORDINGS OF THE MAN WHO CONTACTED THE SOVIET  
AND CUBAN EMBASSIES WERE ERASED BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION TO BE USED  
TO RECORD SOMETHING ELSE.

BUT HE SAID PEOPLE WHO HEARD THEM AND KNEW OSWALD'S VOICE SAY THE  
MAN RECORDED WAS NOT OSWALD.

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