

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NW 89353
By BUT KARA, Date 6/9/85

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INFORMATION

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Thursday, June 6, 1968 - 2:20 p.m.

Mr. President:

Herewith a report on the assassin,
including the fact that he took drugs.

W. W. Rostow

CIA 05827

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Authority NW 89353
By BK NARA, Date 6/9/25

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TO THE WHITE HOUSE SIT ROOM

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WHITE HOUSE SIT ROOM ATTN SECRET SERVICE, PID; STATE OFFICE OF SECURITY INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH ATTN MR. RUSK; DEPT OF JUSTICE ATTN ATTORNEY GENERAL CLARK.

1. A US UALLY RELIABLE SOURCE HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON SHARIF BISHARA SIRHAN:

A. SUBJECT'S FATHER, BISHARA SALAMA SIRHAN, WAS BORN IN 1913 IN TAYBEH, A VILLAGE NEAR RAMALLAH. HE AND THE FAMILY LIVED IN THE CHRISTIAN QUARTER OF EAST JERUSALEM. SUBJECT'S FATHER WAS SHOCKED AT SUBJECT'S ACT.

B. SUBJECT HAS FOUR BROTHERS: SHARIF, AGE 36; SADALLAH, AGE 34; ADEL, AGE 28; AND MUNIR, AGE 20. SUBJECT IS 22 YEARS OF AGE. IN 1957 SUBJECT, TOGETHER WITH HIS PARENTS AND BROTHERS SHARIF AND MUNIR AND HIS SISTER WENT TO THE UNITED STATES. SADALLAH AND ADEL JOINED THE FAMILY LATER. SUBJECT'S SISTER DIED IN THE UNITED STATES AT AN UNKNOWN DATE.

C. SUBJECT'S FATHER QUARRELED WITH HIS WIFE AND FAMILY ABOUT TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS AGO OVER THE KIND OF EDUCATION THE CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE. SUBJECT'S FATHER WANTED THEM TO HAVE A TRADITIONAL EDUCATION, BUT HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN ACHIEVING THIS AND LEFT THE FAMILY AND RETURNED TO TAYBEH.

D. ACCORDING TO SUBJECT'S FATHER, SUBJECT STUDIED AT THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN JERUSALEM AND WAS CAUGHT STEALING AT THE SCHOOL. SUBJECT AND HIS BROTHER SADALLAH BEGAN TO USE HASHISH IN JERUSALEM.. THEY LEFT THEIR FATHER'S HOUSE AND WENT TO RAMALLAH. SUBJECT'S FATHER SAID THAT SUBJECT AND SADALLAH CONTINUED TO USE DRUGS AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THEY BEGAN TO DRINK EXCESSIVELY.

E. SUBJECT'S FATHER KNOWS NOTHING NOW ABOUT THE OCCUPATIONS OF ANY OF HIS SONS, EXCEPT THAT SADALLAH IS AN ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN OR ENGINEER.

2. SOURCES REPORT THAT SUBJECT'S BROTHER ADEL SENT \$200.00 TO HIS FATHER ON 23 FEBRUARY 1968. THE INSTRUMENT WAS DRAWN ON THE UNITED CALIFORNIA BANK AND WAS CASHED AT OR PAYABLE TO THE DISCOUNT BANK IN RAMALLAH. THE VOUCHER NUMBER WAS 9,088,908.

3. SOURCE ALSO REPORTS THAT SUBJECT'S MOTHER HAS A SISTER NAMED VICTORIA WHO LIVES IN AMMAN, JORDAN. VICTORIA IS MARRIED TO SALIM NASAR, WHO OWNS A GROCERY STORE IN AMMAN. SUBJECT'S FATHER VISITED HIS SISTER- IN-LAW IN AMMAN TEN DAYS AGO.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE LEGAL ADVISER

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WH-Mr. Rostow
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June 21, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

THROUGH: S/S *SWR*

FROM: L - Carl F. Salans *CFS*

SUBJECT: Case of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan - INFORMATION
MEMORANDUM

+Rostow #5
2. Saunders
3. Ritz

This memorandum records the Department's activities this week in the case of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, a Jordanian national charged with the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Sirhan is currently in the custody of Sheriff Peter Pitchess of Los Angeles County. Until yesterday, Sirhan was represented by attorney Wilbur Littlefield of the California bar, a member of the Public Defender's Office. On June 20, Mr. Russell Parsons, a private California attorney, was retained by Sirhan and became attorney of record in the case.

In the course of the week, the Department has consulted with Deputy Attorney General Warren Christopher, Sheriff Pitchess and Assistant District Attorney Ritzie of Los Angeles County, Deputy Police Chief Robert Houghton of Los Angeles, and Public Defender Wilbur Littlefield.

Arab lawyers

On June 18, the press reported that influential lawyers' groups in Jordan had selected four prominent Jordanian attorneys to come to the United States to assist in Sirhan's defense. Under California law, a decision on an application by an alien attorney to practice for the purpose of this case in the Superior Court of California would lie in the discretion of the trial judge. While we doubt that any trial judge would allow an alien attorney to assume complete charge of the case, a judge would probably allow such an attorney to appear as associate counsel along with a California attorney of record.

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E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By *JAV*, NARA, Date *2-28-01*

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On June 18, NEA officers spoke with Jordanian Ambassador Sharaf, who expressed the view that the active entry of Jordanian lawyers into the case could create political problems in US-Jordanian relations. Ambassador Sharaf informed the Department that he had strongly advised his government to dissuade the lawyers from coming to the U.S. On June 19, according to press reports (later confirmed by Embassy Amman), Jordanian Prime Minister Talhouni met with the selected attorneys. The result of this meeting was apparently the cancelling of the group's trip and entrusting possible further action to the Arab Lawyers' Federation whose Secretary General may come to the United States "...to take part in discussion of the question" of Sirhan's defense. In response to the Department request for views, Embassy Amman has expressed its opinion that we should make no representations to the GOJ regarding the Jordanian lawyers.

We have reports that other Arab lawyers in Lebanon and Libya have announced their intention to assist Sirhan.

Consular access

On June 19, Ambassador Sharaf told Department officers that on the evening of June 18 the Honorary Consul of Jordan in Los Angeles, Mr. George Zraikat, had visited Sirhan at the prison. According to the Ambassador, Mr. Zraikat and Sirhan were required to sit on opposite sides of a glass partition and to speak through a telephone in English. Public Defender Littlefield was present throughout the conversation. The Ambassador expressed dissatisfaction with these conditions, especially the requirement for communication in English and the lack of privacy in the meeting. The Ambassador requested the Department to look into these matters.

According to Sheriff Pitchess and Public Defender Littlefield, the conditions imposed on the meeting between Mr. Zraikat and Sirhan were the normal security precautions taken at the jail and applicable to all prisoners. The requirement that visitors speak in English is also standard; the Sheriff said this was for Sirhan's protection, indicating that there have been a number of threats made against Sirhan's life. He also pointed out that both Sirhan and Mr. Zraikat speak English perfectly. The point was made to the Sheriff

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that United States consular officers abroad seek to communicate with imprisoned American nationals in English. Sheriff Pitchess informed us, however, that defense counsel Parsons and the trial judge agreed that all visitors should speak in English when communicating with Sirhan. If the Jordanians wanted to press the point, they should speak to Mr. Parsons. Ambassador Sharaf was advised of these developments.

There exists no general international law right of privacy during communication between a consular officer and a national of the sending state, although, of course, a right of access is recognized. Privacy of communication between a prisoner and his attorney is required; and Sirhan has been permitted to meet privately with his defense counsel.

Consultations with Justice Department

We have consulted with Deputy Attorney General Christopher on these various aspects of the Sirhan case. Mr. Christopher said that he had recently visited Los Angeles, has spoken with Sheriff Pitchess, and had inspected the jail where Sirhan is being held in order to have a look at the conditions of detention, which seemed satisfactory to him.

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ROSTOW'S OFFICE
W/REA:RHH:man:gp

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Honorable
Walt W. Rostow

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The Director has asked me to send you these advance copies of a special report prepared by FBIS on Communist reaction to the assassination of Senator Kennedy.

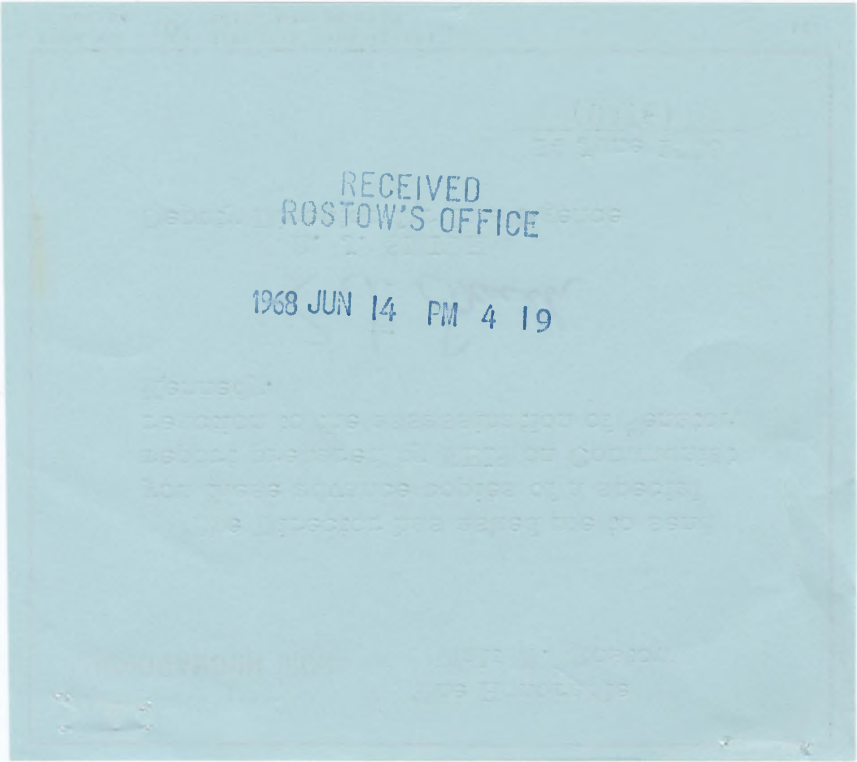
R. J. Smith

R. J. SMITH
Deputy Director for Intelligence

14 June 1968
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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SPECIAL REPORT

on Communist Propaganda

**COMMUNIST REACTION TO THE ASSASSINATION
OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY**

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NLTJ 007-020-2-3
By 90, NARA, Date 11-5-01

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13 June 1968

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COMMUNIST REACTION TO THE ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY

The stock portrayal of a diseased American capitalist society, increasingly driven to violence by internal conflict and increasingly corrupted by violence, dominates communist propaganda reaction worldwide to the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles on 5 June 1968. Comment playing the associated theme that use of violence as an instrument of foreign policy goes hand in hand with lawlessness at home is predictably larded with references to U.S. "aggression" in Vietnam and intensifying dissent over the war. Beyond these standard common elements, the reactions vary in accordance with the character and propaganda practices of the respective regimes.

The harshness of Moscow's indictment of U.S. society is unrelieved by elements of warmth and sympathy for the "majority" of "sober-minded" Americans that marked the Soviet response to the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, and the Soviet propaganda reaction to the personal tragedy this time is secondary and perfunctory. Czechoslovak and Rumanian reactions stand out as exceptionally warm toward Senator Kennedy personally, East German propaganda the most blatantly offensive in its treatment of the U.S. leadership as a whole.

Hanoi takes note of Senator Kennedy's opposition to Administration policies on Vietnam but does not address itself to the impact of his death on the U.S. political scene. Vietnamese communist comment, hinting at Administration involvement in an assassination conspiracy, suggests in one instance that a motive was to forestall further probes into the circumstances of President Kennedy's death--a suggestion raised by various other media, including (briefly) Moscow and (elaborately) Havana. Almost uniformly, communist commentators reject the idea that a single individual could be held responsible.

Peking dismisses the slaying as yet another manifestation of the "dog-eat-dog" climate of a decaying, crisis-ridden society and devotes minimal propaganda attention to the subject.

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FBIS SPECIAL REPORT
13 JUNE 1968

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COMMUNIST REACTION TO THE ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY

USSR: Broad-Ranging Indictment of "Sick," "Violent" America

Soviet propaganda's sweeping indictment of the American way of life pictures Senator Kennedy as a victim of vaguely defined "reactionary" forces resorting to "political gangsterism" in a desperate effort to retain control over a corrupt, disintegrating capitalist society.

Following the assassination of President Kennedy in November 1963, Moscow broadcast solemn music, numerous messages of condolence from Soviet leaders, and a flood of testimonials to the "out-standing American statesman" who had sought peace and Soviet-American cooperation. Expressions of grief and sympathy for the American people were coupled with expressions of concern lest the course of U.S.-Soviet detente be disturbed. Four and a half years later, reacting to the death of Martin Luther King, Moscow developed the theme of the "sick," "violent" society, though with numerous eulogies of the victim of the assassination; memorial meetings were held in the USSR, and Radio Moscow observed a moment of silence on the day of the funeral.* This time, censorious comment on the "vices" and "ulcers" of U.S. society almost wholly displaces expressions of grief, sympathy, concern, or personal tribute.

Apart from the differences in protocol dictated by the respective offices and roles of the men involved, the difference in atmosphere and thrust of the current propaganda may be viewed as a reflection both of the tensions in international relations and of Soviet propaganda's preoccupation with an intensified ideological struggle between the socialist and "imperialist" systems, against the background of intellectual restiveness in the USSR.

* Radio Moscow devoted roughly the same amount of its comment to Senator Kennedy's death as it did to the assassination of Dr. King, about 15 percent of total comment on all subjects, in the five days following the event. More than 30 percent of Moscow's radio comment reacted to the assassination of the President in the five days after the events in Dallas.

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CONDOLENCE MESSAGES

Soviet media have publicized two formal expressions of condolence-- a message to Mrs. Kennedy from Kosygin on 7 June and a message to Vice President Humphrey on the same day from the chairmen of the Council of the Union and the Council of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Both express the Soviet people's "indignation" over the "wicked murder." The sole personal tribute is a reference to the Senator as an "eminent U.S. statesman" in the message to the Vice President.

Soviet commentators, in characterizing Senator Kennedy personally, refer to him neutrally as "a candidate" for the presidential nomination or as a relatively "sober-minded" or "realistic" U.S. politician--Moscow's customary description of the Senator in the past. Even these restrained tributes appear not in the form of testimonials but in the context of comment on the "atmosphere" in the United States that is said to have generated the murder.

THE THEME OF DECADENT CAPITALISM

Moscow's overriding focus on the ills of American society is reflected in the comments by Soviet cultural figures, who in 1963 wrote articles and poems in praise of the slain President. Now a long poem by Yevtushenko in PRAVDA attacks the United States as a land where there is "freedom to murder."

Moscow commentator Shakhov set the tone of Soviet propaganda in 1963 by praising the late President's efforts to ease tensions and his approach to domestic problems; the same commentator on 7 June 1968, in a widely broadcast commentary, uses the Senator's death as the take-off point for an unrelenting attack on the United States, concluding: "America's capitalist society corrupts the soul, the mind, and the heart of man. That is what the murder of Robert Kennedy highlights for us."

Developing the "sick" society theme, Moscow commentator Rubtsov describes the United States as a "political jungle" ruled by force--"a country that is trying to solve internal and external problems by criminal methods of violence, murder, and repressions." PRAVDA correspondent Korionov declares on 8 June that the assassination demonstrates "the foul essence of the world of modern capitalist America," where "political killings" are the "direct result of the well-planned course of monopoly circles."

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Much of the comment takes the occasion to contrast the "violent" capitalist United States with the more disciplined Soviet state and to seek to discredit the U.S. right to world leadership. In the most widely beamed Moscow radio talk on the slaying, broadcast more than 60 times on 6 June, Viktor Glazunov asserts: "America, lauded as an example of Western democracy, appears before the world as a society of brutality and inhumanity. It is rooted in the very essence of the social system in America, in the very foundations of society.... Capitalism is fraught with violence, just as clouds are fraught with rain." Treating capitalism and violence as inseparable, Soviet commentators dismiss the question of gun-control legislation as essentially irrelevant.

A broadcast to North America, by Vladimir Afonin, asks "what sort of moral leadership a country can give if it is unable to protect its own political figures from assassination.... To the world, the American way of life now looks like the American way of death." Moscow domestic service commentator Babich asserts that "the most powerful and rich capitalist country in the world has no inspiring national aims, no ideals to capture the minds and hearts of the people and encourage them to accomplish great deeds." Babich directs an obvious pitch to youth: "What can such bellicose, reactionary ideology give millions of Americans, particularly young ones, who on the very threshold of their conscious life encounter profound dissatisfaction with the cult of profit taking root in their country, and encounter the cult of business, the dollar, and violence?" In contrast to the violence and decadence of capitalism, Vladimir Tregubov reassures domestic listeners, communism in the Soviet Union follows "entirely different laws, in conditions of a truly socialist democracy."

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRIME

Soviet commentators place the responsibility for the assassination on "reactionary circles" and an amorphous conspiracy, usually suggesting that the Senator's comparatively "realistic" views on Vietnam and civil rights were motivating factors. TASS commentator Igor Orlov notes on 7 June that the victims of such crimes are generally leaders who oppose "rabid militarism and racism." On 8 June IZVESTIYA's political commentator Matveyev, remarking that the assassination of Senator Kennedy took place during a time of domestic and foreign political crisis, observes:

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"He was in somebody's way, so he was removed by the most extreme means." IZVESTIYA commentator Kudryavtsev charges that U.S. political circles who "directed the hand" of the assassin "clearly aimed at the Vietnam policy Senator Kennedy intended to pursue if he had become President."

Mikhail Strogovich, a Soviet lawyer, in a broadcast to North America advances the theory that Senator Kennedy was killed because if he had been elected President he would have been in position to reopen the investigation of his brother's murder. This notion is not generally aired in Soviet comment, but Moscow propagandists are insistent on the point--as expressed at the conclusion of Strogovich's talk--that whatever the precise motive, the assassination "cannot be the accidental deed of an unbalanced person acting on his own."

Combining the conspiracy theme with an indictment of U.S. officialdom collectively, Korionov writes in the 8 June PRAVDA that "the shots in Dallas, Memphis, and Los Angeles were not the work of individual terrorists. They were possible first of all because forces are governing the country which stop at nothing in their intention to do away with everything that does not suit them." In a similar vein, Vladimir Paramonov writes in LIFE ABROAD that "the new American tragedy is one more indictment against the ruling circles of this power."

Apart from some references to Mayor Yorty of Los Angeles, to "fascist" organizations, and to "certain local government officials" in Los Angeles as typifying the extreme "reactionary" element, the "forces" and "circles" Moscow indicts are left vaguely identified and impersonal. President Johnson's statements and appointment of an investigative commission are reported without comment.

NATIONALITY OF THE SUSPECT

Soviet media have displayed predictable sensitivity to the fact that the suspect is an Arab immigrant. Radio Moscow did not acknowledge the arrest until 7 June, when it identified the suspect only as "Sirhan Sirhan, a Palestine Arab," and declined to speculate on his motives. On the same day, IZVESTIYA's Kondrashov accused the U.S. press of "playing on the Arab origin of the assassin" and on evidence of his "anti-Israeli attitudes" in order to shift the blame from the American way of life, "the real guilty party in the tragedy."

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In a domestic service roundtable discussion on 9 June, Radio Moscow's Viktor Shragin charges that although the suspect lived "all his conscious life" in the United States, U.S. officials are trying to present him as "some kind of Arab nationalist" and are hinting that "the Reds are implicated." Calling this "an old ruse," Shragin notes a parallel with the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, when charges of communist connections were made against Lee Harvey Oswald. IZVESTIYA's Matveyev similarly discounts allegations by Mayor Yorty that "communists were involved" in the slaying. TASS commentator Orlov notes that a U.S. Communist Party spokesman has "described Yorty's statements as a crude attempt to mislead the public in an effort to prevent a real investigation of this dirty affair and the plot behind it."

In its broadcasts to the Middle East, Moscow has publicized Kosygin's condolences and stressed the general theme of the violent capitalist society that corrupts U.S. policy at home and abroad. Sirhan Sirhan is not mentioned in available Moscow broadcasts in Arabic.

EFFECTS OF ASSASSINATION

Moscow has generally refrained so far from comment on the effects the Senator's death might have on U.S. domestic or foreign policy. PRAVDA's New York correspondents Vasilyev and Kurdyumov suggest on 11 June that there may be an effort to exploit indignation over the slaying to "take antidemocratic measures and persecute the progressive forces." In the only other available comment addressed directly to the possible consequences of the slaying, a Kondrashov article in IZVESTIYA on 8 June says it would appear that Nixon and Humphrey will be nominated, which will "leave many Americans who are dissatisfied with the Vietnam adventure no real choice." Neither Radio Moscow nor TASS carried this article.

Varied Reactions From East European Media

East European media respond with varying degrees of sympathy and expressions of shock, generally echo Moscow's portrayal of Senator Kennedy as the victim of vaguely identified "reactionary forces" in a "sick society," and largely ignore or play down the role of the murder suspect. The Czechoslovak and Rumanian reactions emerge, overall, as the most sympathetic. Yugoslav comment contains personal tributes to Senator Kennedy, along with censure of the evils of U.S. society. Polish, Hungarian, and Bulgarian comment most closely parallels Moscow's, while

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East Germany's is the most blatantly hostile in its assault on the United States.

Prague media on 6 June publicized condolence messages or statements by President Svoboda, First Secretary Dubcek, Premier Cernik, Foreign Minister Hajek, National Assembly Chairman Smrkovsky, and Czechoslovak Ambassador Duda. Prague radio quoted Cernik as stating that the Senator's death had shaken him personally as well as all Czechs, and CTK cited Foreign Minister Hajek's expression of concern that his death could have an unfavorable effect on the "realistic and peace-loving forces" in the United States. Rumanian Premier Ceausescu's telegram to Mrs. Kennedy, reported by AGERPRES on 7 June, expresses grief over the death of an "eminent statesman, leader of American public life," and Bucharest media that day publicized Foreign Minister Manescu's tribute to the Senator at the U.N. General Assembly session over which he presided. Tito's message to the widow expresses great personal shock at the tragedy, calling the Senator's death "an irreparable loss to the American people and to world peace."

By contrast, Ulbricht's condolences to Mrs. Kennedy, carried by the East German news agency ADN on 6 June, are replete with an attack on the "powerful extreme reactionary circles which, in order to enforce their antihumanistic and antidemocratic objectives, are increasingly murdering their political adversaries."

THE "SICK SOCIETY"

The Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP on 8 June headlines its editorial "Sick Society." The Budapest NEPSAVA on 8 June broadly indicts the whole U.S. leadership, declaring "the conclusion is inevitable that the supreme leadership bears responsibility for the atmosphere of bloody murders." Comment in the Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU calls "the atmosphere of intolerance, chauvinism, nationalist pride, and social conservatism" the source "of a real American tragedy." Warsaw's comment, like Moscow's, speaks of explosion of the "myth" of American democracy, and comment from Sofia follows the standard line in denigrating the image of a free, democratic American society.

Comment from both Czechoslovakia and Rumania brings up the theme of capitalist decadence and disease, but the propaganda on this score is more limited and more restrained from both countries than from Moscow or the other East European bloc countries.

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THE MOTIVES AND THE SUSPECT

East European media generally define the motive as removal of a man who disagreed with Administration policies. The Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET on 8 June is atypical in pointing out that, as attorney general, Senator Kennedy was privy to an extraordinary number of secrets: "They wanted to get rid of Robert Kennedy because he knew too much." Sofia's ZEMEDEL'SKO ZNAME, playing the more general theme that the motive was "to intimidate opponents of the aggressive course of the United States," is unique in suggesting that one specific objective was to impede the course of the U.S.-DRV talks in Paris.

East Germany insinuates in an authoritative commentary that President Johnson was somehow involved. A NEUES DEUTSCHLAND editorial article states on 7 June: "As for Johnson himself, perhaps he and his clan were afraid that a President Robert Kennedy might have had the true causes of the murder of John F. Kennedy investigated. So let us ask, who profits?" The article also complains that "imperialist circles," by alleging that an Arab killed Senator Kennedy, are trying to "distract the ghost of suspicion from the organizers of the murder and shift it to the main bastion of world socialism."

Polish media display some sensitivity to the background of the murder suspect. The 7 June TRYBUNA LUDU charges that U.S. publicity media are playing up the line that Sirhan Sirhan committed the crime because he is "a Jordanian nationalist"--a theory of "nationalist motives" which, the paper says, is unsupported by any evidence and has created "understandable indignation" among African and Middle East delegations at the United Nations. The Slovak Communist Party daily PRAVDA questions whether we can now believe that Sirhan Sirhan was acting from "feelings of Arab nationalism, since after five years we do not have the complete facts about the murder of President Kennedy." Rumania, for whom the question of the murder suspect would be especially sensitive, copes with the problem by ignoring it: There is no reference to the identity of the suspect in available comment.

Yugoslav commentators subscribe to the "conspiracy" theory that Senator Kennedy was murdered by reactionary rightwing forces which opposed his progressive views.

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The Albanians, characteristically, present the assassination as a product of a monopoly capitalist system in a state of advanced crisis.

Hanoi Sees "Political Murder" of Administration Opponent

Hanoi and Liberation Radio both broadcast reports on 5 June on the shooting of Senator Kennedy, noted his death on the 6th, and in subsequent comment have drawn the standard picture of a "reactionary and rotten" U.S. society. A NHAN DAN commentary on the 7th goes so far as to state that assassinations "occur daily and are regarded as common events." The article adds that "the assassinations of the Kennedy brothers demonstrate the increasingly serious conflicts among American capitalists, while the murders of Luther King and other progressive U.S. people and the repression of the masses clearly point to the ever-sharpening contradictions between the laboring people and the capitalist class in the United States."

Some of Hanoi's reports on the assassination point out that Senator Kennedy was an opponent of the Administration's policies--"especially its Vietnam policy." And comment on U.S. policies, including a 7 June NHAN DAN Commentator article, cites statements by the late Senator to attack the U.S. position. The Commentator article claims that "the average American" found Senator Kennedy's assessment of the Saigon regime "more credible" than the Administration's, adding that this helped Kennedy in the primaries and "people rightly think this is precisely why Robert Kennedy has been dealt with--as his elder brother John was--by an assassin's bullets instead of by election votes." However, consistent with Hanoi's propaganda position that differences over Vietnam in the U.S. leadership are essentially superficial, the 7 June NHAN DAN commentary notes that the Senator did not favor withdrawing U.S. troops from South Vietnam, although he "stood for a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam problem" and "recognizing the NFLSV."

Responsibility of the Johnson Administration for the assassination is suggested broadly by Hanoi, more directly by Liberation Radio. An initial report on the assassination, carried by both Hanoi and Liberation Radio, recalls the assassination of President Kennedy, notes that President Johnson succeeded to the presidency and that Robert Kennedy was his "most redoubtable" Democratic opponent, and comments that "in the race for position and interests, the ruling cliques, representing the various factions

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of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class, have not hesitated to resort to bloodshed and fire to liquidate one another." The 7 June NHAN DAN commentary, mentioning the arrest of the murder suspect, ridicules the idea that the murder was not the result of a conspiracy and asserts that it "doubtless was a political assassination." The paper sees "similarities" between Senator Kennedy's death and that of President Kennedy, saying "it was rumored" that Robert Kennedy, if elected President, would "bring the John Kennedy murder to light to avenge his brother." NHAN DAN adds: "People also expressed the opinion that the recent murder of Robert Kennedy might be the goal of those who wished to avoid dramatic consequences for themselves."

A 7 June Liberation Radio commentary, stating that "the person who masterminded" the assassination of President Kennedy "is yet to be found," also points to a similarity between the assassinations and asserts that "public opinion is looking for the person who masterminded this new assassination." Liberation Radio adds that "not a few people have posed questions about the role of Johnson in this murder case."

Peking Points to Deepening Crisis of "U.S. Imperialism"

CPR propaganda has devoted only negligible attention to the assassination. An NCNA report of Senator Kennedy's death on 7 June is followed by an NCNA commentary, broadcast 12 times, viewing the assassination in stock terms as still another manifestation of "the deepening political and economic crisis of U.S. imperialism." Observing that American politicians are currently engaged in a "dog-eat-dog" struggle for their respective parties' nominations, the NCNA commentary says it is standard practice to "knife each other in the back."

North Korea's reaction is essentially similar, a Pyongyang domestic service broadcast on 7 June recalling that President Kennedy, too, was shot when he was "campaigning for reelection as President, clinging to the policies of aggression and war." It concludes that "this shows how frantically the bosses of U.S. imperialism are running wild in their dogfight for power...."

Cuban Comment Plays Up Conspiracy Theory

Havana commentators play up alleged efforts to "conceal the truth" about the assassination. There are recollections of the 1963 events, charges that CIA involvement is probable, and repeated

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efforts to suggest White House involvement. A typical commentary in the domestic service rejects the "naive" theory that the murderer was a lone "fanatic," since the Senator's death brought "many benefits to the Democratic Party and, within the Democratic Party, many benefits to President Johnson's candidate, Hubert Humphrey." In a similar vein, another Havana broadcast cites the Garrison investigations into the assassination of President Kennedy, alleges that "the name of President Johnson began to crop up" in these investigations, and concludes that the answer to the question "who benefits from the death of another Kennedy?" should be sought "in Washington, in the White House." Havana comment on 6 June, while the Senator still lay wounded, noted that "trial balloons" were being sent up on President Johnson's "possible candidacy" for reelection.

"Imperialist propaganda" is accused of vainly seeking scapegoats for the murder. The Voice of America is quoted as having tried to link the "presumed murderer with communist organizations." Pointing out that the accused "Jordanian" was "from the occupied zone of Jerusalem," a commentary in the domestic service says "North American propaganda" is trying to "make public opinion believe Kennedy's murder was due to the nationalist sentiments of an Arab." The commentator suggests that an effort is being made to exploit the coincidence of the assassination with the anniversary of "Israel's aggression against the Arab states."

Insisting that the assassination was "not an isolated act," Havana calls it "the natural product of a society in full decomposition, convulsed by violence, by a criminal violence, whose most prominent conveyers are the men who make up the clique of war criminals holding the power in Washington." There are the predictable linkages to the war in Vietnam, "where the United States without any right uses force in its most brutal forms." Commenting on President Johnson's statement following the shooting, one propagandist says the President "has no right to condemn violence because he is the first to use it, raising it to the level of the mainstay of his foreign policy."

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOR THE PRESS

June 6, 1968

NO. 134

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR W. AVERELL HARRIMAN
ON THE DEATH OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

Senator Robert F. Kennedy was one of the most gallant men I have ever known. He was fearless. He faced facts squarely. It was impossible for him not to tell the truth as he saw it. I think that is why some people thought he was ruthless. At times the truth is ruthless. He supported the causes he believed in regardless of the enemies he knew that he would make. But few men have won the deep respect and affection of so many. Negroes and other minorities knew that he had accepted their cause as his own.

If he had been elected President, he would have been a great President. He shared with President Kennedy many of his inspired decisions. He understood the problems of our time, and in some capacity he would have played a major role in forwarding the greatness of our country in which he had such deep faith. Our country has suffered an irreparable loss.

* * * *

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOR THE PRESS

JUNE 6, 1968

5
NO. 133

STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE DEAN RUSK
SECRETARY OF STATE
ON THE DEATH OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

The tragic death of Senator Robert Kennedy is a grievous national loss, and one which I myself feel very deeply.

As members of the Kennedy Administration, we worked very closely together as colleagues in the Cabinet and in the National Security Council.

Robert Kennedy had a very deep concern about world affairs and made many important contributions to our foreign relations, both through his counsel here in Washington and in his visits abroad.

Today the entire world shares our grief, a grief which is made even more poignant because these two remarkable brothers have both fallen to the assassin's bullet. We must not indict an entire people because of the wanton acts of certain violent individuals.

The American people are a decent, wholesome, generous, and dedicated people who want to establish peace in the world and equality and social justice here at home. But we have much unfinished business to which President Johnson has fully committed himself from the very day on which he assumed the Presidency. I know that John and Robert Kennedy would expect all of us to address ourselves to this unfinished business with all the wisdom and energy we can possibly muster.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NW 89353

By BKS NARA, Date 6/9/25

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DE YEKADL 330 1592000

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, ATTN

SECRET SERVICE PID

DEPARTMENT OF STATE:

OFFICE OF SECURITY

INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING RELATIVES OF SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN IS FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES IN AMMAN, JORDAN:

2. SIRHAN'S FATHER, BISHARA GHATTIS SIRHAN, WENT TO THE US SEVERAL TIMES AND EITHER HE OR FAMILY MEMBERS ACCUMULATED ENOUGH MONEY TO ENABLE BISHARA TO RETURN TO TAYBEH IN 1960 AND BUILD A HOME FOR 13,000 JORDAN DINARS (SIC. EQUIVALENT OF \$36,400.00).

BISHARA THEN RETURNED TO THE US FOR A TIME, BUT CAME BACK TO TAYBEH IN 1962 AND HAS LIVED THERE SINCE AS A LANDLORD AND FARMER.

3. PATERNAL UNCLES: HABIH SIRHAN, A FARMER IN TAYBEH; HANNA GHATTIS SIRHAN, BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED IN THE US MANY YEARS AGO.

4. MATERNAL UNCLES: SHUKRI MUZHIR, AGE ABOUT 55, HAS LONG BEEN IN AN AMMAN HOSPITAL SUFFERING FROM A CHEST AILMENT. THEODORE MUZHIR, AGE ABOUT 53, LIVES IN AMMAN AND WORKS FOR THE BRITISH EMBASSY AS A DRIVER.

5. MATERNAL AUNTS: VICTORIA NEE MUZHIR IS MARRIED TO AMMAN GROCER SALIM NASIR. SIRHAN'S FATHER VISITED VICTORIA IN AMMAN ABOUT FIFTEEN DAYS AGO. ELEN MUZHIR IS MARRIED TO HANNA HADDAVAR, A CARPENTER; THEY LIVE IN THE CHRISTIAN QUARTER, OLD CITY JERUSALEM. ULIA MUZHIR, A WIDOW LIVING IN BEIT JALA, WAS MARRIED TO A FNU DANDEL NAIFA MUZHIR, WHO DIED TWO YEARS AGO, WAS MARRIED TO IBRAHIM AWAD AND LIVED IN BEIT SAFABA. IBRAHIM, WHO IS RETIRED, WAS A DRIVER.

6. A SON AND A NEPHEW OF VICTORIA NEE MUZHIR VOLUNTEERED THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND SAID THAT IN TALKING WITH FAMILY MEMBERS THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY CLUE AS TO WHY SIRHAN TURNED ASSASSIN. THEY NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SIRHAN LEFT JORDAN AS A YOUTH AND THE FAMILY REMAINING IN JORDAN HAS LARGELY LOST TOUCH WITH THOSE WHO EMIGRATED TO THE USA.

7. OFFICIAL SOURCES IN AMMAN STATE THAT THERE ARE NO KNOWN CONNECTIONS OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS WITH POLITICAL GROUPS OR FEDAYYIN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

GP-1

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Department of State

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TELEGRAM
46

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01806 072009Z

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ACTION CPR 02

INFO EUR 15,GPM 04,H 02,NSC 10,0 02,OPR 02,P 04,RSC 01,SS 20,SY 03,

USIA 12,CU 04,RSR 01,SSO 00, /082 W

P 071924Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3266

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1806

SUBJ: PEARSON TO ATTEND KENNEDY FUNERAL

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRIMIN TRUDEAU'S STATEMENT RELEASED THIS
NOON: QTE THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES THAT THE RIGHT
HONORABLE L. B. PEARSON WILL REPRESENT HIM PERSONALLY AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AT THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE SENATOR
ROBERT F. KENNEDY IN NEW YORK CITY. THE PRIME MINISTER
STATED THAT NO MAN COULD MORE APPROPRIATELY REPRESENT AND
EXPRESS THE THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS OF ALL CANADIANS IN THIS
TIME OF GRIEF FOR THE KENNEDY FAMILY AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, MR. A. E. RITCHIE,
WILL REPRESENT CANADA AT THE CEREMONY AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL
CEMETERY IN WASHINGTON. END QTE

BUTTERWORTH

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MEMORANDUM FOR WALT ROSTOW

June 7, 1968 5:10 p.m. S
8

SUBJECT: Fifteen Invitations to the Senator Kennedy Interment

Larry Eagleburger tells me that Nick Katzenbach has allotted 15 invitations for members of the White House staff, the NSC staff and the BoB to attend the interment. Larry thought that you and Mrs. Rostow would take 2 and that General and Mrs. Maxwell Taylor would take 2.

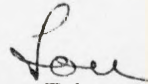
Referring to a phone conversation with you this morning, Larry said that only bearers of the letter invitation (to be issued by us) would be allowed at the site of the interment -- in addition, of course, to those who return from New York as part of the cortege.

Larry also tells me that additional invitations might be obtained, if we really needed them.

Other guidance from Nick Katzenbach, per Larry, is that the determining criterion for invitation is closeness to the Senator and not rank per se.

I've attached the type of letter that we shall prepare for those invited -- one letter per person.

What we need to move ahead is guidance on whom to invite. Hearsay from Larry is that Joe Califano and Barefoot Sanders, maybe others, have been invited directly by the Kennedy family and hence would not need one of the 15 invitations.


Lou Schwartz

June 7, 1968

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have been authorized to invite the bearer of this letter to the interment of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. This letter constitutes such an invitation.

Walt W. Rostow

INSTRUCTIONS

Go to the Pentagon North Parking Lot by 3:30 p.m., Saturday, June 8. You may present this letter as entry to a military bus which will take you to the site of the interment and then return you to the Pentagon North Parking Lot at the end of the interment.



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TELEGRAM
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PAGE 01 BATHUR 00095 071826Z

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ACTION AF 15

INFO SSO 00,SS 20,H 02,CPR 02,NSC 10,P 04,USIA 12,RSR 01,RSC 01,/067 W

R 071707Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY BATHURST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 146

UNCLAS BATHURST 95

FOLLOWING LETTER RECEIVED FROM PRIME MINISTER JAWARA JUNE 6
QUOTE DEAR JOHN I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ACCEPT FROM ME AND MY
COLLEAGUES IN CABINET AND TO EXTEND SAME TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED
MY DEEP SYMPATHY FOR THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF SENATOR ROBERT
KENNEDY THIS CRUEL AND SENSELESS ACT OF VIOLENCE HAS SHOCKED
AND DISMAYED THE WHOLE WORLD YOURS SINCERLEY DAWDA JAWARA
PRIME MINISTER UNQUOTE. LOGHRAN

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Authority NW 89353
By BKT RRA Date 6/9/25

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PID 10
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10:45 PM 6-7-68 RNK
PRIORITY

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY 05
TO: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, ATT.: SECRET SERVICE (PID) 08
FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI

(~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~)

POOR PEOPLES CAMPAIGN

INSPECTOR A. E. BEYE, U. S. PARK POLICE, ADVISED EVENING JUNE SEVEN, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, THAT HE HAS LEARNED FROM TWO SOURCES LIVING AT RESURRECTION CITY (RC) THAT RESIDENTS OF THE CITY PLAN TO LEAD THE FUNERAL PROCESSION OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY FROM RC TO ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY ON JUNE EIGHT, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT.

INSPECTOR BEYE STATED HE HAS REQUESTED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT ANY SUCH ACTION.

METROPLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, U. S. SECRET SERVICE, ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE GROUP, ALSO ADVISED.

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END AND HOLD FOR ACKS

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PAGE 01 MBABAN 00177 061826Z

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INFO AF 09,SS 20,GPM 04,H 02,P 04,USIE 00,NSCE 00,NSC 10,O 02,SY 03,

OPR 02,SSO 00,RSR 01,RSC 01,/060 W

O 061801Z JUN 68

FM AMCONSUL MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 279 IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MBABANE 177

SWAZIS HAVE ENQUIRED POSSIBILITIES APPOINT GAMEDE OR SUKATI PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF KING AT ROBERT F KENNEDY'S FUNERAL.

ARE EITHER PHYSICALLY AVAILABLE SUCH APPOINTMENT AND IS TIME SUFFICIENT TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS? NELSON.

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 03879 061604Z

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ACTION AF 15

INFO SS 20,H 02,CPR 02,P 04,USIE 00,NSC 10,SSO 00,NSCE 00,RSR 01,
RSC 01,CIAE 00,/055 W

0 061500Z JUNE 68
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2774
INFO AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
AMEMBASSY BAIDA

UNCLAS TRIPOLI 3879

1. IN UNUSUAL GESTURE OF INTEREST, FRIENDSHIP, AND SYMPATHY, SERIES OF SENIOR OFFICIALS OF LIBYAN GOVERNMENT CALLED INDIVIDUALLY AT EMBASSY THIS AFTERNOON TO SIGN BOOK OPENED IN HONOR OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY.

2. ACTING PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAAMID AL-ABAYDI WROTE THAT HE QTE EXPRESSES HIS HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES UNQTE. ACTING MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SHAMS AL-DIIN ALL- ARAABI; MAJOR GENERAL SAALIM BIN TAALIB, COMMANDING GENERAL SECURITY FORCES OF WESTERN REGIONS; BRIG GEN 'ALI AGHIIL, DEPUTY CG SECURITY FORCES; FORMER MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PRESENT AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO TURKEY, AHMAD AL-BISHTI; UNDERSECRETARY MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MUHSIN JUMAYYIR; AND FORMER MINISTER DEFENSE, SAIF AL-NASR 'ABD AL-JALIIL, SIGNED BOOK. MINISTER INFORMATION AND CULTURE AHMAD SALHIIN WROTE QTE I PRESENT MY CONDOLENCES ON OCCASION DEATH OF PROMINENT PERSONALITY OF US...WHO WAS AMONG PERSONALITIES OF WORLD WHO WANTED TO SERVE US, THE WORLD, AND PEACE. MY CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY AND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE US.UNQTE

3. ACTING PRIME MINISTER STATED ORALLY HE HAD INFORMED KING IDRIS OF SENATOR'S DEATH THIS MORNING, AND REPORTED THAT HIS MAJESTY HAD INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE SENDING A PERSONAL LETTER OF CONDOLENCE TO MRS.KENNEDY.

4. HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, CROWN PRINCE HASSAN AL-RIDHA DES-

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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 03879 061604Z

PATCHED HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO SIGN BOOK QTE TO CONVEY CONDOLENCES OF HIS HIGHNESS ON OCCASION OF DEATH OF SENATOR KENNEDY.UNQTE NEWSOM



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TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03727 072011Z

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ACTION AF 15

INFO RSR 01,USIE 00,CIAE 00,DODE 00,GPM 04,H 02,INR 07,L 03,NSAE 00,

NSC 10,P 04,RSC 01,SP 02,SS 20,SSO 00,/069 W

R 071837Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2083

INFO AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMCONGEN CAPETOWN

AMCONGEN JOHANNESBURG

AMCONGEN DURBAN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3727

JOINT STATE/USIA MESSAGE.

1. REACTION OF PRETORIANS TO THE ASSISSINATION OF ROBERT KENNEDY HAS BEEN ONE OF SHOCK, DISBELIEF AND SYMPATHY FOR THE FAMILY WHICH HAS NOW LOST TWO SONS BY ASSISSINATION. THE EMBASSY AND USIS TELEPHONES HAVE BEEN JAMED BY CALLERS EXPRESSING SORROW AND SYMPATHY FOR THE LOSS OF A STATESMEN UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. TELEGRAMS HAVE COME IN FROM ALL SECTORS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY.

2. THE ASSISSINATION HAS PUSHED ALL OTHER NEWS FROM THE FRONT PAGES. FULL ACCOUNTS OF THE TRAGEDY HAVE BEEN GIVEN EXTENSIVE PLAY IN ALL LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS UNDER SUCH HEADLINES AS "BOBBY FIGHTS FOR LIFE," "A HORRIBLE DEED," "DEBATE AND VIOLENCE," "LAW OF THE JUNGLE," "BEHIND THE KENNEDY TRAGEDY." ARTICLES HAVE GENERALLY BEEN OBJECTIVE IN SEEKING TO EXPLAIN THE HISTORICAL PATTERN OF POLITICAL LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES, THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM, THE ASSISSINATION AS IT OCCURED AND THE DOMESTIC PROBLEMS FACING THE UNITED STATES. AT SAME TIME, THERE HAS BEEN UNDERCURRENT OF SATISFACTION WITH A RELATIVE DEGREE OF ORDER IN SA SOCIETY, DESPITE RECORD OF VERY WEIRD ASSISSINATION.

3. THE SOUTH AFRICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE AND EXCELLENT COVERAGE WITH VOA ACTUALITY SPOTS SPICING THE NEWSCASTS. PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF NATIONAL COMMISSION, AND OTHER ITEMS FEATURING ON SPOT COVERAGE HAVE BEEN HIGH-

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 03727 072011Z

LIGHTED.

4. THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY STREAM OF VISITORS TO THE EMBASSY TO SIGN THE CONDOLENCE REGISTER. AMONG THE MANY PROMINENT PERSONALITIES HAVE BEEN THE MAYOR OF PRETORIA, THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE, REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS EMBASSIES, DR. SITA, FOLLOWER OF GHAN-DAIAN PRINCIPLES OF NON-VIOLENCE AND OPPOSER OF THE GROUP AREAS ACT AND MANY PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN, LEGAL PERSONALITIES, EDUCATIONISTS AND STUDENTS. TELEPHONIC MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY HAVE COME FROM MANY OTHERS, INCLUDING MR. D.F. SOLE, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MAJOR GENERAL G.D. MOODIE, CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE PLANNING STAFF.

5. IN AN ADDRESS, JUNE 6, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WITWATERSRAND'S SIXTH ANNUAL DAY OF AFFIRMATION OF ACADEMIC AND HUMAN FREEDOM, DR. ALAN PATON PAID TRIBUTE TO SENATOR KENNEDY AND EXTENDED SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY. JOHN KANE-BERMAN, PRESIDENT STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, ASKED THE AUDIENCE TO STAND IN SILENCE IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SENATOR. IN THE CLOSING ADDRESS JOHN DANIEL, PRESIDENT NUSAS, AND HOST TO SENATOR KENNEDY ON HIS VISIT TO REPUBLIC IN 1966 SAID THAT IN SENATOR KENNEDY YOUNG PEOPLE "SAW A HOPE FOR A NEW BRAND OF POLITICS IN THE FUTURE... NOW THAT HE IS GONE IT IS DIFFICULT NOT TO DESPAIR OF ALL HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. BUT WE WILL NOT DESPAIR; THE MESSAGE OF KENNEDY LIVES ON AND WE WILL CARRY IT FORWARD."

6. THE ARCHBISHOP OF PRETORIA, THE REV. GARNER, HAS ASKED ALL CATHOLIC CHURCHES TO HOLD PRAYERS FOR KENNEDY AND FAMILY. A REQUIEM MASS IS TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 11 A.M., IN PRETORIA'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE. ROUNTREE.

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Department of State

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TELEGRAM
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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 04849 072032Z

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ACTION ARA 16

INFO SS 20,H 02,NSC 10,P 04,USIA 12,CPR 02,SSO 00,RSR 01,RSC 01,/068 W

R 071935Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4766
INFO AMCONSUL COCHABAMBA UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LA PAZ 4849

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION KENNEDY SHOOTING

REFERENCE: LA PAZ 4823

1. ALTHOUGH KENNEDY ASSASSIN EARLY IDENTIFIED BY PRESS AS JORDANIAN IMMIGRANT RESENTFUL OF NEW YORK SENATOR'S POSITION TOWARD ARAB WORLD, EDITORIAL AND POLITICAL COMMENT CONTINUES LARGELY IGNORE IN FAVOR OF "SICK SOCIETY" AND "REACTIONARY CAPITALIST FORCES" THESIS.

2. JORNADA, JUNE 6, DISMISSED ISOLATED ACT OF VEN-GEANCE THEORY AS "NOTHING MORE THAN GIGANTIC SCREEN OF PUBLICITY STIMULATED BY OPINION FAVORABLE TO SUCH INTERPRETATIONS." PRESENCIA REPORTER, CONCLUDING STREET POLL, SUMMARIZED LA PAZ OPINION SAMPLE AS MAINTAINING THAT "ROBERT KENNEDY HAS BEEN CUT DOWN BY CONSPIRACY OF THE ENEMIES OF POOR, OF THE NEGRO AND OF JUSTICE" (SIMILAR JORNADA STREET POLL TAKEN PREVIOUS DAY REVEALED NO SUCH THEORIZING BUT SIMPLY REFLECTED GRIEF AT EVENT). IN MOST MEASURED EDITORIAL STATEMENT BY ANY PAPER TO DATE, DIARIO FELT COMPELLED MAKE COMPARISON WITH EVENTS IN DALLAS, HOWEVER CONCLUDING THAT WHILE BOTH ASSASSINS MAY HAVE CONSTITUTED PART OF CONSPIRACY, "SUCH AN EVALUATION IS ENTIRELY SUBJECTIVE AND TOTALLY LACKING BASIS IN FACT."

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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3. REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING PERMANENT COMMISSION OF CONGRESS EVENING JUNE 6 WAS DEVOTED TO HOMAGE SENATOR KENNEDY. REPRESENTATIVES PSD, PIR, PRA AND FSB SPOKE BRIEFLY TO HONOR THE SENATOR, WHILE MPC DEPUTY FRANZ ONADARZA, REPEATING HIS EARLIER STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS (SEE REFTTEL) BLAMED SHOOTING ON "SINISTER FORCES OF A BLIND, MATERIALIST AND INHUMAN CAPITALISM." VICE PRESIDENT SILES DELIVERED BRIEF EULOGY FOLLOWED BY MINUTE OF SILENCE, AFTER WHICH COMMISSION ADJOURNED IN KENNEDY'S HONOR.

HENDERSON

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TELEGRAM
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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02318 071859Z

82

ACTION EUR 20

INFO SS 20, H 02, NSC 10, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, P 04, RSC 01,
USIA 12, GPM 04, NIC 01, RSR 01, /082 W

R 071655Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3953
INFO AMCONGEN MUNICH

UNCLAS PRAGUE 2318

SUBJ: CZECHOSLOVAKIA MOURNS FOR KENNEDY

1. CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S LEADERSHIP LED NATION IN EXPRESSING SORROW OVER KENNEDY DEATH AND SYMPATHY FOR FAMILY. SVOBODA, DUBCEK AND HAJEK SENT SYMPATHY TELEGRAMS TO ETHEL KENNEDY AND SMRKOVSKY WIRE US SENATE, PRESIDENT CONVEYING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S DEEP EMOTION AND INDIGNATION OVER EVENT, OFFERING HIS OWN AND ALL DEPUTIES' PROFOUND CONDOLENCES. CERNIK ISSUED FOLLOWING PUBLIC STATEMENT: "ROBERT KENNEDY'S DEATH CAME AS A DEEP SHOCK TO ME AND CERTAINLY TO ALL OUR PEOPLE. I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO SENATOR KENNEDY'S FAMILY, THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES." EMBASSY RECEIVING NUMEROUS TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS FROM BOTH INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS, AND HUNDREDS HAVE SIGNED CONDOLENCE BOOK IN LIBRARY.

2. HAJEK MADE THIS POLITICAL APPRAISAL IN CTK INTERVIEW: "THE OBJECTIVE EFFECT OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY'S MURDER IS UNFAVORABLE FOR THE REALISTIC AND PEACE-LOVING FORCES IN THE US, ALTHOUGH THE REACTION OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC CANNOT BE ESTIMATED AS YET. AFTER THE MURDER OF HIS BROTHER AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, IT IS ANOTHER TRAGIC EVENT WHICH MEANS THAT A PERSONALITY WITH A CERTAIN POSITIVE PROGRAM ENDS BY

VIOLENT DEATH. THIS CANNOT BUT CAUSE A FEELING OF SURPRISE AND CONDEMNATION. (KENNEDY) BELONGED TO THOSE STRONG PERSONALITIES WHICH REPRESENTED, ESPECIALLY IN THE US DOMESTIC POLICY, THE EFFORT TO FIND SUCH POLITICAL FORMS AS WOULD CORRESPOND TO A MODERN SOCIETY. HE ALSO BELONGED TO THOSE WHO PURSUE

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02318 071859Z

A REALISTIC COURSE IN US FOREIGN POLICY, LIBERATING IT FROM THE DOGMAS OF ANTI-COMMUNISM AND COLD WAR, WHO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AS WELL AS FOR THE AMERICAN SOCIETY ITSELF."

3. ASSASSINATION AGAIN LEAD STORY IN TODAY'S PRESS. NEWS COVERAGE HEAVY WITH EXTENSIVE PICKUPS FROM AMERICAN AND OTHER FOREIGN SOURCES. MANY EDITORIALS CONTINUE TO BELABOR RIGHTIST CONSPIRACY THEME AS WELL AS CONDEMNING "SICK" US SOCIETY. RUDE PRAVO'S JAROSLAV BOUCEK FULMINATES THAT "FANATIC WHO SHOOTS MEANS MORE IN AMERICAN SOCIETY THAN 6 MILLION VOTERS. THE NATIONALITY OR RELIGION OF MURDERERS LIKE SIRHAN, OSWALD, RUBY OR THE STILL UNKNOWN MURDERER OF KING IS ABSOLUTELY SECONDARY. THE MAIN THING IS WHAT LINKS THEM. THE MILLIONS PROTESTING AGAINST WAR, HATRED, AND SOCIAL INJUSTICES HAVE RECEIVED THE SAME ANSWER FOR THE THIRD TIME. THE PRESIDENTIAL THRONE OF THE USA IS STAINED WITH BLOOD--MORE TERRIBLY THAN MACBETH'S THRONE, AND THE WAY TO IT STINKS OF GUNPOWDER. HOW MANY OF THOSE WHO START OUT ON THE PATH MARKED BY THE DEAD BODIES OF THE IRISH BROTHERS AND THE BLACK PASTOR WILL END WITH A BULLET IN THEIR HEADS?" PRACE ASSERTS US SOCIAL SYSTEM PERMITS WELL-DEVELOPED RIGHT-WING FANATICISM TO EXIST, AND SAYS "STLMYG#FEARS" AROUSED THAT POLITICAL MURDER MIGHT BECOME SYSTEMATIC METHOD OF POLITICAL STRUGGLE IN COUNTRY REGARDED AS MOST ADVANCED IN WORLD. THIS, PAPER SAYS, WOULD BE GREATEST OF ALL AMERICAN TRAGEDIES. LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE IN MORE BALANCED AND SOBER EDITORIAL SAYS ASSASSINATION MANIFESTS TENDENCY TO SEEK SOLUTION TO VEXED QUESTIONS BY VIOLENCE INSTEAD OF REASONED ARGUMENT, AND THIS THREATENS NOT ONLY US BUT WHOLE "HOUSE OF DEMOCRACY...WHETHER DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ARE IN CYPRUS, MIDDLE EAST, VIET-NAM, CALIFORNIA OR EVEN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

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TELEGRAM

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 936

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04161 072107Z

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ACTION EUR 20

INFO CIAE 00,DODE 00,GPM 04,H 02,INR 07,L 03,NSAE 00,NSC 10,P 04,

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R 072000Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WAHSDC 8633

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 4161

SUBJ: SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAPITALIZES ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

REF: MOSCOW 4139

1. SOVIET PROPAGANDA MACHINERY CONTINUES TO GRIND OUT VICIOUS ANTI-US MATERIAL IN CONNECTION WITH SENATOR KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION. MAIN THEME CONTINUES TO BE CHARGE THAT POLITICAL ASSASSINATION NATURAL CONCOMITANT US SYSTEM AND WAY OF LIFE.
2. BY LIBERAL USE OF FOREIGN SOURCES AS WELL AS ELABORATE SOVIET COMMENTARY (INCLUDING PARTICULARLY SCURRILOUS POEM BY YEVTUSHENKO IN TODAY'S PRAVDA) PRESS AND TV EAGERLY ATTEMPTING CREATE PICTURE OF A MURDEROUS GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY IN WHICH RACISM, GANGSTERISM, AND AGGRESSIVE WAR HAVE BECOME COMMON PLACE. WHILE CAMPAIGN THUS FAR STOPS SHORT OF ALLEGING SPECIFICALLY THAT THERE WAS AN OFFICIALLY-INSPIRED PLOT TO ELIMINATE KENNEDY, THERE IS PLENTY OF INNUENDO TO THIS EFFECT, ESPECIALLY IN TODAY'S TRUD AND IN YEVTUSHENKO'S POEM. PRAVDA TODAY GIVES CURRENCY TO INSINUATIONS OF A PLOT BY JUXTAPOSING WITH FRONT PAGE ARTICLES ON ASSASSINATION AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A SECRET SESSION OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HAD TAKEN PLACE.
3. IZVESTIYA TODAY TAKES OFFENSIVE ON QUESTION OF ORIGIN OF ALLEGED KILLER SIRHAN, CLAIMING THAT US PRESS TRYING TO SHIFT BLAME FROM AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE BY DESCRIBING SIRHAN AS BEING ANTI-ISRAELI. INCIDENTALLY, SAME ARTICLE REFERS TO SIRHAN AS NATURALIZED AMERICAN CITIZEN. THIS ASPECT OF CRIME THUS FAR OBVIOUSLY NOT USEFUL FOR EXPLOITATION AND CONTINUES

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BE PROBLEM FOR SOVIETS.

4. KOSYGIN MESSAGE TO MRS. KENNEDY AND SPIRIDONOV-PALETSKIS MESSAGE TO VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY BOTH APPEARED TODAY'S PRAVDA. WE NOTE EMPHASIS ON "INDIGNATION" IN BOTH MESSAGES.

5. SIGNERS OF CONDOLENCE BOOK AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE THUS FAR MAINLY MEMBERS DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND RESIDENT AMERICANS WITH SPRINKLING JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS. ONLY SOVIET OFFICIALS SIGNING DURING DAY WERE SEC GEN MFA ZEMSKOV AND CHIEF US DIVISION MFA KORNIENKO. ONLY OTHER SOVIET SIGNER (BESIDES TWO LOCAL EMPLOYEES) DETAINED BRIEFLY BY MILITIAMEN BEFORE BEING PERMITTED ENTER SPASO HOUSE. ANOTHER SIGNER ALSO DETAINED TEMPORARILY AT GATE BUT ALLOWED ENTER WHEN HE IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS AMERICAN STUDENT. AFTER CLOSE OF BUSINESS YEVTUSHENKO, AKSENOV, BRODSKY AND TWO COMPANIONS CAME INTO EMBASSY COMPOUND TO SIGN BOOK.

EXEMPT. SWANK

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R 0071100Z JUNE 68
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4432

UNCLAS DAR ES SALAAM 3489

SUBJ: REACTION TO SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEATH

REF: STATE 176747

1. ALL JUNE 7 DAR PAPERS HEADLINE SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEATH: STORY WAS LEAD ITEM ON JUNE 6 RADIO NEWSCASTS. NEWS COVERAGE IS STRAIGHT AND FACTUAL. THREE OUT OF FOUR DAILY PAPERS RUN ROMAIN GARY ASSASSINATION PREDICTION STORY.

2. PRESIDENT NYEERERE SENT FOLLOWING TELEGRAM JUNE 6 TO MRS. KENNEDY, " WE HAVE RECEIVED WITH PROFOUND SHOCK AND HORROR THE NEWS OF THE TRAGIC AND CRUEL DEATH OF YOUR HUSBAND. ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF TANZANIA, AND ON MY OWN BEHALF, I SEND YOU AND THE WHOLE KENNEDY FAMILY MY PRAYERFUL CONDOLENCES."

3. EDITORIAL IN JUNE 7 " NATIONALIST" (FULL TEXT BEING SENT USINFO) IS QUITE TEMPERATE, THOUGH IT DECRIES VIOLENCE OF AMERICAN SOCIETY AND SAYS IT IS " SICK." EDITORIAL IN " UHURU" IS MORE STRIDENT, " WHITE AMERICANS AND THE ENEMIES OF THE KENNEDY FAMILY" ARE SAID TO BE " REJOICING" AT HIS DEATH. " LHURU" SAYS SENATOR KENNEDY WAS KILLED BECAUSE HE OPPOSED OPPRESSION OF NEGROES AND OPPOSED WAR IN VIET-NAM. " NGURUMO" CHARGES AMERICA WITH USING " THE VOTE OF THE GUN" TO REMOVE ITS LEADERS AND SAYS THAT U.S. " STINKS IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD."

4. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPY OF TELEGRAM SENT BY NUTA

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GENERAL SECRETARY MICHAEL KAMALIZA TO AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY. KAMALIZA SAYS KENNEDY DEATH WAS " CAUSED BY BARBARIC ACTION OF VIOLENCE ORGANIZED BY SELFISH PEOPLE WITH HOOLIGANIC ATTITUDE WHO DEFENDS (SIC) THE REIGN OF CAPITALISM AND IMPERIALISM IN THE WORLD AT THE EXPENSE OF THE WORKING CLASS. BELIEVE ME THE WAY YOU AMERICANS HAVE CHOSEN OF CHANGING YOUR LEADERS BY ASSASSINATION SHOULD BE CONDEMNED WITHOUT ANY RESERVATIONS".

5. EMBASSY AND USIS HAVE OPENED CONDOLENCE BOOKS WHICH ARE BEING SIGNED BY MEMBERS OF DIPOMATIC CORPS AND BY ORDINARY PEOPLE. FRELIMO VICE PRESIDENT URIAH SIMANGO CALLED AT EMBASSY JUNE 7 TO EXPRESS SYMPATHY.

6. STORY HAS BEGUN TO CIRCULATE IN SOME AREAS OF DAR THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON HIRED ASSASSIN TO KILL SENATOR KENNEDY SO THAT LATTER WOULD NOT BECOME PRESIDENT.

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RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01, /082 W

R 071434Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4969

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 4933

SUBJ: KENNEDY DEATH: REACTIONS

1. NEWS OF KENNEDY DEATH, RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR MORNING PRESS EDITIONS, FILLS FRONT PAGES AFTERNOON PAPERS. FULL WIRE SERVICE STORIES, WITH PHOTOS, CARRIED LEADING EL IMPARCIAL.

2. IMPARCIAL ALSO CARRIED CONDOLENCE STATEMENT BY FONMIN ARENALES INDICATING SADNESS FOR LOSS STATESMAN WHO PROJECTED PROGRESSIVE IDEAS BEYOND FRONTIERS HIS OWN COUNTRY, AND EXPRESSED FEELINGS REVULSION AND IMPOTENCE IN FACE SUCH SENSELESS, TRAGIC AND FUTILE EVENT. "I RELIEVE ALL MEN OF GOOD WILL MUST FEEL OVERWHELMED AT DIMENSIONS SUCH TRAGEDY."

3. SWETES NATIONAL CONGRESS YESTERDAY SENT MESSAGE TO U.S. SENATE CONDEMNING ATTACK ON KENNEDY. VARIOUS OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS REPORTEDLY SENT MESSAGES CONDOLENCE.

4. PAST TWO DAYS, EDITORIAL COMMENT GENERALLY FOCUSED ON ATTACK AS EVIDENCE GREATER MALAISE AFFLICTING USA AND WORLD. IMPARCIAL JUNE 5 CONSIDERED EVENT FURTHER WOUNDED DEMOCRATIC TRADITION "FAIR PLAY," AS HAVE OTHER SIMILAR RECENT TRAGEDIES IN US. THIS EVIDENCE OF A DEMORALIZING CURRENT, IN US AS ELSEWHERE, WHICH HAS PERVERSE INTENT WEAR DOWN DEMOCRATIC VALUES TO MAKE WAY FOR TOTALITARIANISM. EL GRAFICO JUNE 6 SAID MEN OF KENNEDY'S STATURE ARE REGARDED AS SYMBOLS, ARE VALUED NOT ONLY FOR THEMSELVES, BUT FOR WHAT THEY

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REPRESENT--HENCE ENTIRE USA AGONIZES WITH HIM. THERE IS ALARM THAT "AN UNKNOWN DESTRUCTIVE AGENT IS CORRODING HISTORICAL BASIS AND INSTITUTIONS OF GREAT COUNTRY (USA)." BUT THE REMEDY FOR THIS TERRIBLE SICKNESS MUST ALSO COME FROM WITHIN...THE NATION MUST FIND THE WILL TO HEAL ITSELF."

5. VICE PRESIDENT CLEMENTE MARROQUIN ROJAS, IN IMPACTO, SEEMED TO VIEW THE ATTACK AS PART OF A DEEP PLOT, SET IN MOTION BY MANY DARK INTERESTS, WHOSE REAL PURPOSES MAY NEVER COME TO LIGHT. THE CRIME NOT ONLY AFFECTS USA, BUT ENTIRE WORLD, BECAUSE IT IMPLIES A RADICAL REDIRECTION OF US POLICIES, AND HENCE OF WORLD.

6. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SOME 25 MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE FROM PROMINENT AND OBSCURE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS. MEIN

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RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, SAH 03, NIC 01, RSR 01, /090 W

R 071445Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6116
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ WARSAW 3494

1. LEAD STORY IN JUNE 7 PRESS IS DEATH OF SENATOR KENNEDY. MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE FROM ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER WINIEWICZ TO MRS. KENNEDY IS REPORTED. BOTH IN COMMENTARIES AND IN NEWS STORIES THERE ARE TRACES OF SOME EMBARRASSMENT AND EVEN DEFENSIVENESS IN TREATMENT OF SIRHAN AND HIS MOTIVES. DEATH OF FIGURE WELL-KNOWN AND LIKED IN POLAND APPARENTLY AT HANDS OF ARAB NATIONALIST SIMPLY DOES NOT FIT INTO POLISH PROPAGANDA PICTURE EITHER OF US OR OF ALLEGED WORLD ZIONIST CONSPIRACY. THUS, STORIES AND COMMENTARIES MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FIND DIRECT LINKS BETWEEN DEATH OF SENATOR KENNEDY AND DEATHS OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, AND TRYBUNA LUDU HEADLINE SPEAKS ALREADY OF "CAMPAIGN OF LIES BY AMERICAN RADIO AND TV CONCERNING MOTIVES OF MURDER."

2. OTHER ITEMS IN JUNE 7 PRESS INCLUDE REPORT OF POLISH CULTURAL DELEGATION TO HANOI HEADED BY FONMIN DEPT DIR ZULAWSKI AND INTERVIEW BY FRENCH CP POLITBURO MEMBER GEORGES MARCHAIS WITH ZYCIE WARSZAWY (ZW) ON FRENCH INTERNAL SITUATION. IN RESPONSE TO SURPRISINGLY FRANK QUESTIONS BY ZW CORRESPONDENT KOLODZIEJCZYK, MARCHAIS GAVE CAUTIOUS AND STEREOTYPED REPLIES.

GP-3. JENKINS

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E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By JW, NARA, Date 2-28-06



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INFO EUR 15, SS 20, H 02, NSC 10, P 04, USIA 12, CPR 02, SSO 00, RSR 01, /081 W

R 071732Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4532

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA BY POUCH

AMCONSUL TANGIER BYPOUCH

UNCLAS RABAT 4576

SUBJ: PUBLIC REACTIONS TO THE ASSASSINATION OF SEN ROBERT KENNEDY.

1. SUMMARY - ALL MOROCCAN PAPERS HEADLINED REPORTS OF SHOOTING OF SEN KENNEDY AND HIS DEATH JUNE 6. COVERAGE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE, DRAWN MOSTLY FROM AFP AND AMERICAN WIRE SERVICES. THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT THUS FAR. END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH LANGUAGE "LA VIGIE" AND "PETIT MAROCAIN" COVERAGE OF KENNEDY ASSASSINATION GAVE PROMINENT PLACE TO STATEMENTS OF FONMIN LARAKI AND KING HASSAN EXPRESSING INDIGNATION AND SYMPATHY (SEE RABAT 4545 AND 4557) AND ALSO INCLUDED NUMEROUS NEWS SERVICES REPORTS ON CIRCUMSTANCES OF ASSASSINATION, REACTIONS OF PROMINENT PEOPLE, BACKGROUND OF ACCUSED SIRHAN SIRHAN, AND STATEMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL CLARK. "PETIT MAROCAIN" JUNE 7 HEADLINED QUOTE ASSASSINATION OF KENNEDY - AN ISOLATED ACT UNQUOTE AND EMPHASIZED THAT NO FOREIGN GOVERNMENT IMPLICATED. PAPER ALSO CARRIED 1) STATEMENT BY MOHAMMED MEHDI, SECRETARY, ACTION COMMITTEE ON ARAB-AMERICAN RELATIONS, SAYING THAT WHILE ACT OF SIRHAN IS APPALLING AND INDEFENSIBLE, IT QUOTE REFLECTS THE FRUSTRATION OF A GOOD NUMBER OF ARABS VIS-A-VIS AMERICAN POLITICAL FIGURES WHO HAVE SOLD ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE TO ZIONIST JEWISH VOTERS UNQUOTE; 2) DECLARATION BY PLO PRESIDENT YEHIA HAMMOUDA DENYING ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN HIS ORGANIZATION AND SIRHAN; AND 3) INQUIRING-REPORTER TYPE STORY ILLUSTRATING WIDE-SPREAD SHOCK AND SYMPATHY FOR KENNEDY IN CASABLANCA.

3. ISTIQLAL FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY "L'OPINION" SUGGESTED IN FRONT PAGE STORY JUNE 6 THAT KENNEDY WAS VICTIM OF MAFFIA OR CRIME SYNDI-

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CATE PLOT. ON JUNE 7, HOWEVER, AFTER IDENTIFY OF ACCUSED ASSASSIN CONFIRMED, PAPER SHIFTED ITS LINE BY GIVING PROMINENT PLAY TO AFP STORY FROM NEW YORK SUGGESTING THAT KENNEDY'S PRO-ISRAEL SPEECH IN OREGON MAY 26 MAY HAVE BEEN REASON FOR SIRHAN'S ACTION. L'OPINION" ALSO CARRIED STATEMENTS BY MEHDI AND HAMMOUNDA CITED ABOVE.

4. ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILIES "AL ANBA" (SEMI-OFFICIAL) AND "AL ALAM" (ISTIQLAL) HAVE ALSO REFRAINED FROM EDITORIAL COMMENT THUS FAR. "AL ANBA" AND RTM HAVE CARRIED STRAIGHT FACTUAL ACCOUNTS PUT TOGETHER FROM NEWS SERVICE STORIES. ALTHOUGH ALL PAPERS HAVE INCLUDED STORIES IDENTIFYING ACCUSED ASSASSIN AS COMING FROM PALESTINE, ONLY "AL ALAM" HAS HEADLINED THIS INFORMATION, INCLUDING FACT THAT SIRHAN'S FATHER BISHARA IS A "CATHOLIC ARAB". "AL ALAM" JUNE 7 ALSO CARRIED COMMENTS BY NEW ORLEANS PROSECUTOR JIM GARRISON AND POLISH NEWSPAPER IMPLICATIONS THAT ROBERT KENNEDY MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED BECAUSE HE KNEW TOO MUCH ABOUT HIS BROTHER'S DEATH.

5. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION HAS BEEN MAJOR TOPIC OF PUBLIC INTEREST, COMPLETELY OVERSHADOWING CURRENT VISIT OF LIBYAN PRINCE BAKKUSH AND ANNIVERSARY OF JUNE 5 ARAB-ISRAELI WAR AS SUBJECT OF GENERAL DISCUSSION. UNIVERSAL REACTION HAS BEEN SHOCK, DISMAY, SADNESS, AND SYMPATHY FOR KENNEDY FAMILY. TASCA

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RSC 01,SP 02,SS 20,USIA 12,RSR 01,/082 W

R 071715Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2712

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 2578

1. THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF ROBERT KENNEDY HAS SHOCKED HONDURAS AND DOMINATED ITS NEWS MEDIA. MANY COMMENTATORS SAY HIS DEATH INDICATES THAT SOMETHING IS SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH AMERICA AND SPECULATE THAT THE SHOOTING IS THE RESULT OF A RIGHTIST CONSPIRACY.

2. EL CRONISTA WHICH CALLED KENNEDY THE "MOST RECENT HOPE OF LATIN AMERICA" SAW HIM AS "THE VICTIM OF REACTIONARY PLOTTERS, THE KLU KLUX KLAN, AND THE COSA NOSTRA," AND SAID "THE BULLET WHICH KILLED ROBERT KENNEDY WAS DIRECTED INTELLECTUALLY BY THE SAME DIABOLICAL MINDS WHICH KILLED JOHN KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING."

3. LIBERAL LA PRENSA OF SAN PEDRO SULA SAID THE MURDERS OF BOTH KENNEDYS AND MARTIN LUTHER KING WERE "ORGANIZED BY THOSE WHO DO NOT WANT AMERICAN SOCIETY RADICALLY CHANGED" BUT PERDICTED THAT THESE CRIMES "CANNOT PREVENT THIS CHANGE TO A NEW AND BETTER SOCIETY."

4. EL PUEBLO, LIBERAL PARTY ORGAN, WHICH THREE WEEKS AGO HAD EDITORIALY CALLED ROBERT KENNEDY "THE BEST HOPE OF THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES OF LATIN AMERICA" SAID THER IS NO DOUBT THAT HE WAS KILLED BECAUSE HE FAVORED "CLOSING THE GAP WHICH SEPARATES THE NEGROES FROM WHITE, RICH FROM POOR, ONE GENERATION FROM ANOTHER." IT LINKED THE MURDERS OF THE KENNEDYS AND MARTIN LUTHER KING AS PART OF A STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE FORCES OF GOOD AND EVIL IN THE U.S.

5. THE GOVERNMENT'S DIARIO DEL NORTE, LAMENTED KENNEDY'S SHOOTING AND SAID THE US IS UNDERGOING AN "ACUTE INTERNAL

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CRISIS" AND "MANIFESTING SIGNS OF SOCIAL DISINTEGRATION"
WITH AN "INCREASE IN ANARCHY, RACIAL HATRED AND CRIME OF
ALL KINDS."

6. CONSERVATIVE EL DIA CALLED THE LOSS OF THE "HEIR AND
APOSTLE OF THE NEW FRONTIER" IRREPARABLE.

7. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY
INCLUDING ONE FROM PRESIDENT LOPEZ, TEXT OF WHICH TRANSMITTED
SEPARATELY. PLEASE PASS TO WIDOW OF SENATOR KENNEDY AND
KENNEDY FAMILY.

WILKOWSKI

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R 071700Z JUN 68

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2598

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 1624

SUBJECT: ULBRICHT SENDS CONDOLENCES TO MRS. ETHEL KENNEDY

REF: BERLIN 1615

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND OF JUNE 7 PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF A CON-
DOLENCE TELEGRAM SENT TO MRS. ETHEL KENNEDY BY ULBRICHT ON
BEHALF OF THE STATE COUNCIL AND THE GDR GOVERNMENT. AFTER AS-
SURING HER OF "SINCERE SYMPATHY," THE MESSAGE SAID THAT THE
PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE GDR HAD REACTED WITH INDIGNATION
AND HORROR TO THE NEWS THAT HER HUSBAND -- AFTER THE "POLITICAL
MURDER OF HIS BROTHER, PRESIDENT KENNEDY, AND THE SIMILAR
MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING -- HAD BECOME A VICTIM OF THOSE
POWERFUL EXTREME REACTIONARY CIRCLES WHICH PRACTICE TO AN IN-
CREASING EXTENT THE MURDER OF POLITICAL OPPONENTS TO GAIN THEIR
ANTI-HUMANITARIAN AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC GOALS AND WHO HAVE INTRO-
DUCED MURDER AS A MEANS OF POLITICAL DEBATE IN US DOMESTIC
POLITICS." THE TELEGRAM DESCRIBED SENATOR KENNEDY AS ONE WHO
THOUGHT A BETTER, MORE PEACEFUL, AND MORE JUST US DOMESTIC AND
FOREIGN POLICY.

2. COMMENT: WITH THE TELEGRAM TO MRS. KENNEDY, ULBRICHT EX-
CEEDED HIS ALREADY HIGH STANDARDS OF CYNICISM AND ARROGANCE.
THE SAME ISSUE OF ND IS FILLED WITH COMMENTARY OF THE MOST
VICIOUS KIND CARRYING ON THE LINE REPORTED IN THE REFTEL,
FEATURING A LEAD EDITORIAL TITLED "WHAT A SYSTEM!"

DECON 6/7/69. MORRIS

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R 011710Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5226

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 5189

ON INSTRUCTIONS OF PRIME MINISTER PAPADOPOULOS, AMBASSADOR YANNAKAKIS, DIRECTOR OF DIPLOMATIC OFFICE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER, CALLED ON ME JUNE 6 TO EXPRESS GREEK GOVERNMENT'S CONDOLENCES TO USG AND AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR KILLING OF SENATOR KENNEDY. EMISSARY EXPRESSED ANTICIPATED SENTIMENTS AND ADDED PRIME MINISTER'S PROFOUND HOPES FOR SUCCESS OF AMERICANS IN MEETING CURRENT TROUBLES. HE ASKED THAT THIS MESSAGE BE CONVEYED TO THE PRESIDENT.

TALBOT

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R 062207Z JUN 68

FM AMCONSUL NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1132

UNCLAS NASSAU 831

MRS. LYNDEN O. PINDLING, WIFE OF THE PREMIER OF THE BAHAMAS,
HAS ASKED THAT THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM BE DELIVERED TO MRS.
ROBERT F. KENNEDY. TEXT FOLLOWS:

"THE PREMIER AND I ARE DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE TRAGIC DEATH
OF YOUR HUSBAND. HIS PASSING IS A NATIONAL LOSS TO YOUR
COUNTRY. WE SHARE YOUR GRIEF. MAY GOD KEEP YOU AND
STRENGTHEN YOU AND COMFORT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN THESE
DIFFICULT HOURS. SIGNED MRS. LYNDEN O. PINDLING".
SHELTON

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P 071519Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6117

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 3495

1. POLISH MEDIA REPORT TODAY MFA VICE MINISTER WINIEWICZ SENT MESSAGE CONDOLENCE TO MRS. KENNEDY.

2. SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEATH RECEIVING MAJOR PLAY IN ALL REGIME MEDIA, TOGETHER WITH COMMENTARIES THAT CONTINUE YESTERDAY'S THEMES OF CONSPIRACY, THE AMERICAN SICK SOCIETY AND VIET NAM. TYPICAL COMMENTARY BY KAROL MALCUZYNSKI IN PARTY ORGAN TRYBUNA DUDU ALLUDES TO CONSPIRACY THEORY AND ALLEGED ATTEMPTS BY CALIFORNIA AUTHORITIES TO IDENTIFY MURDER SUSPECT AS HAVING COMMUNIST VIEWS, NOTING THAT THIS "TOO ABSURD" FOR STATE DEPARTMENT AND ATTORNEY GENERAL CLARK WHO HAVE DENIED FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN EVENT. MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHO SHOT KENNEDY IS QUESTION OF WHY POLITICAL ASSASSINS IN UNITED STATES FIRE "ONLY IN ONE DIRECTION."

3. "CAN THE FACT BE EXPLAINED THAT NO FANATIC AND NO MADMAN FIRED AT ONE OF THE HAWKS, ADVOCATES OF IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION? HOW CAN FACT BE EXPLAINED THAT ADVOCATES OF PATHOLOGICAL RACISM IN SOUTH AND APOSTLES OF OBSCURANTISM IN USA CAN SLEEP AND LIVE UNDISTURBED?" ANSWER LIES IN INTOLERANCE, CHAUVINISM, NATIONAL PRIDE AND SOCIAL CONSERVATISM WHICH ARE "REAL SOURCES BEHIND AMERICAN TRAGEDY."

4. GLOS PRACY COMMENTARY ON U.S. POLITICAL SCENE SAYS "EVERYTHING INDICATES THAT PART OF ODIUM FOR KENNEDY ASSASSINATION FALLS ON ADMINISTRATION AND PRESIDENT WHICH WILL BY NO MEANS HELP HUMPHREY." COMMENTATOR ADDS THERE IS "REALISTIC" CHANCE KENNEDY FORCES MAY LINE UP BEHIND MCCARTHY CANDIDACY.

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5. MEANWHILE, EMBASSY HAS INCREASING INDICATIONS POLISH POPULAR OPINION REACTING TO SENATOR'S DEATH IN MUCH SAME WAY AS IT DID TO THAT OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO EMBOFF, VOLUNTEERED BY PEOPLE SIGNING CONDOLENCE BOOKS AT EMBASSY THURSDAY NIGHT, GIVE FLAVOR OF REACTION: "MANY EXPRESSIONS DEEP SORROW FOR KENNEDY'S DEATH, AND LOVE FOR ENTIRE KENNEDY FAMILY. EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY FOR MRS. KENNEDY AND CHILDREN. WILL HE BE BURIED NEXT TO BROTHER? IS IT TRUE ASSASSIN WAS AN ARAB? IS THIS A CONSPIRACY? THE POLISH PEOPLE LOVE AMERICA AND AMERICANS. THE POLES ARE NOT COMMUNISTS. WHY DON'T AMERICANS PROTECT PROMINENT PERSONALITIES? NUMEROUS REQUESTS FOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF SENATOR KENNEDY."

6. CROWD INCLUDES ALL STRATA OF SOCIETY. NO INTERFERENCE OR OTHER INTIMIDATION FROM MILITIA POLICE IN FRONT OF EMBASSY. THREE PRIESTS, DRESSED IN SPORTS CLOTHES ALLEGEDLY TAKING A WALK AS RUDE TO PAY RESPECTS, ASKED FOR KENNEDY PHOTO FOR PLANNED CHURCH SERVICES.
JENKINS

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R 071640Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 794

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUXEMBOURG 422

SUBJECT: LUXEMBOURG REACTION TO DEATH OF KENNEDY.

1. SHOOTING AND DEATH OF ROBERT KENNEDY CONTINUE TO MONOPOLIZE FRONT PAGES OF ALL LOCAL PAPERS AND DOMINATE CONVERSATION HERE.

2. PRESS COMMENTARY HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY HEAVY FOR LUXEMBOURG. INITIAL REACTIONS TENDED TO EMPHASIZE ALLEGED POLITICAL ASPECT OF SHOOTING. LATE SENATOR'S LIBERAL POLICIES WERE COMPARED WITH THOSE OF JOHN KENNEDY AND MARTIN KING, WITH IMPLICATION ALL THREE KILLINGS WERE RESULT OF REACTIONARY PLOTS. EQUALLY STRESSED WAS THEME OF AMERICAN VIOLENCE AND QUICKNESS TO REACH FOR GUNS TO SETTLE POLITICAL DISPUTES. NORMALLY ANTI-AMERICAN COMMENTATORS PRESENTED THIS AS PARTICULARLY AMERICAN PHENOMENON, WHILE MORE FRIENDLY PRESS WENT ON TO GENERALIZE AND SOUND ALARM OVER WORLD-WIDE TREND TOWARD DISORDER AND SOCIAL BREAKDOWN.

3. AS CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING KILLING BECAME CLEARER, PARTICULARLY IN WAKE OF SENATOR'S DEATH, COMMENT TENDED TO MODERATE SOMEWHAT, STRESSING EXPRESSIONS OF GRIEF AND LOSS TO WORLD. READY ACCESSABILITY OF GUNS IN US, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO BE SPOTLIGHTED AS TARGET OF SCATHING CRITICISM. FREQUENTLY NOTED IN PERSONAL COMMENT TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL BY LUXEMBOURGERS, IS FACT THAT SUSPECTED KILLER IS EVIDENTLY NOT US CITIZEN.

4. EVIDENT THROUGHOUT HAS BEEN FACT THAT KENNEDY NAME HAS LOST NONE OF ITS CACHET IN LUXEMBOURG AND THAT LUXEMBOURGERS ARE CONVINCED ROBERT KENNEDY WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED IN SOLVING AMERICAN AND WIDER PROBLEMS WHOSE SOLUTION HAS SO FAR ELUDED OTHERS.

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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00422 071706Z

THEY ARE REACTING WITH STRONG AND REAL EMOTION TO HIS LOSS.

5. OUR PRESENT ASSESSMENT IS THAT EVEN IF KENNEDY DEATH IS SHOWN TO HAVE BEEN WORK OF DERANGED FANATIC ACTING IN ISOLATION, IT HAS DEALT BLOW TO AMERICAN IMAGE HERE, EFFECTS OF WHICH WILL BE SOME TIME IN WEARING OFF. FELDMAN

TO SECRETARY WASHINGTON
FM WASHINGTON
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PAGE 01 TRIPOLI 03891 071731Z

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ACTION AF 15

INFO USIE 00, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10,

P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, RSR 01, /069 W

R 071041Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2778

INFO RSHMZT/AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI 1135

AMEMBASSY BAIDA

UNCLAS TRIPOLI 3 91

SUB: PRESS ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

1. NEWS KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PROMINENTLY FEATURED TRIPOLI PRESS AGAIN JUNE 7, DRAWING BANNER HEADLINES, MULTI-PAGE COVERAGE AND MAJOR EDITORIALS IN TRIPOLI DAILIES AL RAA'ID AND AL YOUM AND AL ALAM ONLY ARABIC PAPERS PUBLISHED TODAY.

2. LOCAL PAPERS AVE REPORTED BUT NOT HIGHLIGHTED STORY SARHAN DIAPFWLI

IOBILCCI,E

ORHHL

CIDTES(1)

ENATOR KENNEDY BY JUNE

5 AND OTHER ALLEGATIONS SARHAN HATRED OF ISRAEL AND ANTI-SEMITISM.

3. FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL IN AL YOUM MENTIONED PRIME MINISTER BAKKUUSH'S STATEMENT TO PRESS DURING CURRENT VISIT TO MOROCCO EXPRESSING REGRET OVER ASSASSINATION AND CONVEYING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES TO KENNEDY FAMILY. WRITER CONFRONTED FACT SARHAN OF ARAB EXTRACTION AND STRONGLY DENOUNCED ASSASSINATION "NO MATTER WHAT PUSHED SARHAN TO HIS ACTION". WRITER STATED, QTE ZIONISM HAS NOW FOUND GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM ITS UGLY CRIMES IN PALESTINE. UNQTE EDITORIAL ASSERTED

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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 03891 071731Z

"ALL ARABS DENOUNCE ASSINATION; SUCH AGGRESSIVE ACTS ARE NOT IN ARAB INTERESTS." EDITORIAL CONCLUDED, "WHILE EXPRESSING OUR GREAT REGRET AND CONDOLENCES TO AMERICAN PEOPLE, WE PROFOUNDLY HOPE THIS INCIDENT WILL NOT AFFECT UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ARABS AND AMERICA."

4. AL ALAM EDITORIAL OBSERVED THAT ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR KENNEDY MET BY LIBYAN PUBLIC OPINION WITH SENSE OF SHOCK AND CONDEMNATION. WRITER ADDED THAT THERE IS FEELING "THAT A MEAN ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE PLOT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN ORDER SPREAD THE SEEDS OF HATRED IN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST THE ARABS. IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT ALL NEWS COVERAGE OF THE EVENT CONCENTRATES ON MENTIONING THE REPORTED ASSASSIN'S DESCENT." ALL ARABS, THE COMMENTARY POINTED OUT, HAVE CONDEMNED THE KILLING, INCLUDING THE AL FATAH ARAB COMMANDO ORGANIZATION.

5. IN BACK PAGE EDITORIAL, AL RAA'ID OFFERED PROFOUND CONDOLENCES TO KENNEDY FAMILY, THE NEGROES, AND THE POOR. WRITER SAID ALL ARABS STRONGLY CONDEMNED ACT, AND THAT "WE SPIT ON ASSASSIN". EDITOR ASSERTED ASSASSINATION AN INDIVIDUAL ACT, UNCONNECTED WITH NATIONAL MOTIVE OR SPECIFIC PLOT, BUT ADDED, "PERHAPS ZIONIST MOVEMENT BEHIND THE CRIME AND HOPING TO BENEFIT FROM IT". AS PROOF, WRITER ADDUCED "TWO FACTS": FIRST, ZIONISM WORKS BY VIOLENCE AND CONSPIRACY AS EVIDENCED BERNADOTTE ASSASSINATION AND EICHMANN ABDUCTION. SECONDLY, ARABS THROUGHOUT HISTORY UNFAMILIAR WITH ASSASSINATION AND AGAINST VIOLENCE. WRITER CONCLUDED BY PRAISING KENNEDY FOR HIS CONDEMNATION VIETNAM WAR, CONCERN FOR NEGRO RIGHTS AND REGARD FOR POOR AND SUFFERING OF ALL COUNTRIES. "WORLD WEEPS FOR HIS HONORABLE STANDS AND ALL PEOPLE SORROW AT HIS DEATH. KENNEDY WILL REMAIN ALIVE IN HEARTS OF MAN AND WILL HAVE WHITE PAGE IN HISTORY. WORLD HAS LOST A MAN WHO CALLED FOR PEACE, WHO CARRIED MESSAGE OF JUSTICE AND WAS AMERICAN CITIZEN, LOYAL TO HIS COUNTRY AND TO WORLD." NEWSOM

(#) NOTE: AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15825 071921Z

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ACTION EUR 20

INFO CIAE 00,DODE 00,GPM 04,H 02,INR 07,L 03,NSAE 00,NSC 10,P 04,

RSC 01,SP 02,SS 20,USIA 12,RSR 01,/086 W

R 071728Z JUN YI

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2779

UNCLAS PARIS 15825

SYMPATHETIC REACTION TO NEWS OF SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEATH CONTINUES, AND EMBASSY ESTIMATES AT LEAST SEVEN THOUSAND PERSONS-- MOSTLY FRENCH OF ALL CLASSES -- HAVE NOW SIGNED REMEMBRANCE BOOKS. AS OF SIX-THIRTY P.M. TONIGHT MORE THAN HUNDRED STILL WAITING IN LINES AND OTHERS ARRIVING.

AT LEAST FOUR CHURCHES, ST. JOSEPH'S, ST. JEAN DE MONTMARTRE, AMERICAN CATHEDRAL AND AMERICAN CHURCH PLANNING COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, AND MANY FRENCH AND FOREIGN DIGNITARIES PLAN ATTEND ONE OR MORE OF SAME. CONSULATES REPORT SAME REACTION WITH SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES SCHEDULED AT AMERICAN CHURCH NICE. WALLNER
BT

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TELEGRAM
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PAGE 01 ANKARA 06421 071754Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04,

RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, SAH 03, RSR 01, /084 W

R 071420Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9094

UNCLAS ANKARA 6421

SUBJECT: KENNEDY ASSASSINATION - REACTION

1. SHOOTING AND SUBSEQUENT DEATH OF SENATOR KENNEDY
BLANKED OUT MOST OTHER NEWS IN JUNE 6 AND 7 TURK
NEWSPAPERS. PRIMIN DEMIREL'S MESSAGE TO FAMILY
REPORTED. ASSASSIN IDENTIFIED AS PALESTINE ARAB.

2. EDITORIAL REACTION IN PAPERS OF ALL POLITICAL
PERSUASION DEPLORES ACT, NOTES US SOCIETY "VIOLENT,"
IN THROES OF "ARMED HATRED." SEVERAL EDITORIALS COM-
MENT UPON "FURTHER LOSS OF PRESTIGE BY US." FAR LEFT
PRESS NOTES SENATOR KENNEDY "VOICE OF PEACE IN VIET-
NAM" AND THIS WHY HE SHOT. LEFTIST PRESS ALSO
IGNORES NATIONALITY AND BACKGROUND OF ASSASSIN, SEES
HAND OF "VESTED INTERESTS" BEHIND DEATH.
HART

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PAGE 01 IBADAN 00489 071755Z

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ACTION AF 15

INFO USIE 00, SS 20, H 02, CPR 02, NSC 10, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00,

P 04, RSC 01, RSR 01, /062 W

R 061554Z JUN 68
FM AMCONSUL IBADAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 570
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE IBADAN 489

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

REF: STATE 176747

JOINT/ USIS MESSAGE

1. IBADAN PRESS REACTIONS INCLUDED IN LAGOS USINFO.

OTHER REACTIONS FOLLOW:

2. ACTING BPAD RECEIVED PHONE CALL IN WHICH UNIDENTIFIED

CALL REPEATED "YOU ARE KILLERS." NO OTHER SUCH CALLS:

REPORTED BY OTHER USG PERSONNEL.

3. WHEN MEMORIAL DISPLAY PUT UP IN USIS LIBRARY, GROUP
OF ABOUT DOZEN LIBRARY MEMBERS WHO HAD NOT YET HEARD OF
KENNEDY'S DEATH, TORE UP THEIR LIBRARY CARDS AND LEFT LIBRARY.

OTHERS REMAINED. LIBRARY REMAINS OPEN. NO FURTHER INCIDENT.

4. TWO UNIBADAN STUDENT LEADERS WHO HAVE VISITED US,

IKUTALA-ALLEN, FORMER PRESIDENT UNIBADAN STUDENT'S ASSN,
AND KAYODE IWAKUN, EXECUTIVE IN NIGERIAN STUDENT VOLUNTEER
SERVICES ORGANIZATION, VOLUNTEERED RESTRAINED COMMENTS.

SAID RUMORS THAT ASSASSINATION WAS CONSPIRACY WERE CIRCULATION
ON UNIBADAN CAMPUS, IMPLICATING VARIOUS PERSONS INCLUDING

PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND SENATOR MCCARTHY. BOTH SAID

THEY ARGUING AGAINST SUCH THESES ON GROUNDS IMPOSSIBILITY

KEEP CONSPIRACIES SECRET IN US. STUDENT REACTION GENERALLY

ONE OF SHOCK AND BITTERNESS OVER ASSASSINATION OF ANOTHER

AMERICAN WHO IDENTIFIED WITH ASPIRATIONS NEGROES, POOR, ETC.

COMMON CRITICISM E.G. BY ASSISTANT POLICE COMMISSIONER ONITOLA

ON ABSENCE EFFECTIVE GUN CONTROL LAWS AND STATEMENTS SUCH ASSASSI-

NATIONS LOSING FRIENDS FOR U.S. AROUND WORLD.

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PAGE 02 IBADAN 00489 071755Z

5. LINDSEY BARRETT (VLOB) JAMAICAN FREELANCE WRITER, WHO OUTSPOKEN CRITIC US RACIAL PRACTICES VISITED BPAO SEEKING USIS MATERIALS AND WHILE CLEARLY SHOCKED, EXPRESSED HIMSELF MODERATELY AND HOPED TRAGEDY WOULD RESULT IN SOME RACIAL PROGRESS IN US.

6. WESTERN INFO COMMISSIONER ONABANJO EXPRESSED SYMPATHY TO ASSISTANT BPAO BUT MADE NO OTHER COMMENT. ALHAJJI SAKA FAGBO HEAD OF NEWS FOR NBC IN WEST, AND DESIGNATED SPECIALIST GRANTEE, MADE POINT THAT VIOLENCE SO WIDE SPREAD IN WORLD THAT NO POLITICAL LEADER SAFE.

7. AMERICAN TEACHER REPORTS UNIVERSAL SHOCK AMONG FACULTY AT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AND UNIBADAN. NIGERIANS, AMERICANS AND OTHER EXPATS BELIEVE SERIES OF ASSASSINATIONS IS RESULT OF WHITE RACISM IN US WHICH MANY ASSOCIATE WITH "ESTABLISHMENT." MOST ALSO BELIEVE CONSPIRACY THEORY. AT SAME TIME, VOA CREDIBILITY HAS INCREASED BECAUSE OF ITS OBJECTIVE REPORTING ON RACIAL MATTERS.

8. COMMENT: WE PRESUMABLY HAVE NOT HEARD BITTEREST REACTIONS OR HAVE GOTTEN DILUTED VERSION, AND, IN ANY CASE, THERE HAS NOT BEEN TIME FOR FULL REACTION TO DEVELOP. WE ARE, NEVERTHELESS, STRUCK BY FACT THAT, THUS FAR, LOCAL SHOCK, BAFFLEMENT AND REVULSION HAS BEEN TEMPERED BY EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY AND HAS NOT SHOWN ITSELF IN OVERT ANTI-AMERICANISM.

STRONG

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PAGE 01 LIMA 05483 071810Z

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ACTION CPR 02

INFO ARA 08, IO 13, GPM 04, H 02, NSC 10, O 02, OPR 02, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20,

SY 03, USIA 12, CU 04, RSR 01, SSO 00, /088 W

O 071748Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6353

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LIMA 5483

REF: STATE 178273

THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL ADVISED CHARGE THAT PERU WILL
ACCREDIT AS ITS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO KENNEDY FUNERAL
AMBASSADOR CARLOS MACKEHENIE, PERUVIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE UN, LEAVING TO HIS DISCRETION WHETHER ALSO TO
ACCREDIT CONUNSELOR OF THE DELEGATION VALDIVIESO. SIRACUSA

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PAGE 01 SANTO 02772 071806Z

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ACTION ARA 16

INFO USIE 00, INS 03, VO 02, SCA 02, SSO 00, RSR 01, NSCE 00, CPR 02, GPM 04,
H 02, NSC 10, O 02, OPR 02, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20, SY 03, /074 W

O 071800Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5415
AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 2772

SUBJECT: PRD DELEGATION TO KENNEDY FUNERAL
REF: SD 2762

1. FOURTH PRD LEADER, SENATOR PABLO RAFAEL CASIMIRO CASTRO,
JOINING THREE OTHERS (REFTEL) GOING NY FOR KENNEDY FUNERAL.
2. REPEAT REQUEST DEPT URGENTLY INFORM INS ORDER TO
FACILITATE ENTRY NEW YORK.

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01464 071650Z

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ACTION AF 15

INFO USIE 00, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10,

P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, RSR 01, /069 W

R 071545Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1120
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
/AMCONSUL DURBAN 114

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 1464

JOINT EMB-CONGEN-USIS

SUBJECT: KENNEDY ASSASSINATION: FURTHER REACTIONS

1. OFFICIALS, DIPLOMATS AND CITIZENRY OF ALL RACES SIGNING
CONDOLENCE BOOK IN STEADY FLOW. PRESS COVERAGE OF WORLD
REACTION, FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS, ETC., COMPLETE, AND
EDITORIAL ASSESSMENTS CONTINUE. BEYOND TELEGRAMS AND
PHONE CALLS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC, AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE
RECEIVED NUMEROUS PERSONAL CONDOLENCES FROM SOUTH AFRICANS.

2. RELIGIOUS SERVICES HELD BY ROMAN CATHOLICS AND ANGLICANS,
AND REMEMBRANCE OF FAMILY IN PRAYERS TO TAKE PLACE SUNDAY
AT METHODIST, PRESBYTERIAN AND DUTCH REFORMED CHURCHES.
I ATTENDED CROWDED RC REQUIEM MASS YESTERDAY AT WHICH
ARCHBISHOP OF CAPE TOWN, OWEN CARDINAL MCCANN, MADE
PUBLIC REQUEST I TRANSMIT CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY.

3. CT MAYOR FERRY, SIGNING CONDOLENCE BOOK, SAID HE HAD
SENT TELEGRAM ON BEHALF PEOPLE OF CT TO MRS KENNEDY.

4. CAPE TIMES CARRIES TRIBUTES OF COLIN EGLIN AND R.
HURLEY, CAPE LEADERS OF PROGRESSIVE PARTY; TOM SWARTZ,
CHMN COUNCIL FOR COLORED AFFAIRS; AND MRS MARIA MALAN,
WIFE OF FORMER PRIMIN. MRS MALAN, WHO MET SENATOR
ON VISIT HERE TWOYEARS AGO, NOTED THEIR DIFFERING OPINIONS.

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PAGE 02 CAPE T 01464 071650Z

BUT SAID "I WAS FORCED TO RESPECT HIM" FOR COURAGE OF HIS CONVICTIONS. SHE MOURNED "NOT ONLY LOSS OF GREAT MAN, BUT LOSS OF FATHER AND HUSBAND".

5. TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM DIR COMMUNITY CENTER AT GUGULETUS COMMUNITY (AFRICAN LOCATION CT) READS AS FOLLOWS: "GUGULETU DEEPLY MOURNS DEATH OF AMERICA'S ROYAL SON ROBERT KENNEDY".

6. BURGER STORY "TWO YEARS AGO AT STELLENBOSCH" RECALLS KENNEDY VISIT THERE AND REPORTS PREFECT OF MEN'S HOSTEL, SIMONSBURG, WILL SEND CONDOLENCE CABLE TO MRS KENNEDY ON BEHALF RESIDENTS.

7. CAPE TIMES ROUNDED UP COMMENTS ON CAUSES OF ASSASSINATION FROM PARLIAMENTARIANS, WHO VOICED IDEAS SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS: TOO MANY PEOPLE REACHING "FRUSTRATION TOLERANCE" TOO EASILY, EAST HAVE INCREASING INFLUENCE ON WEST, SPIRIT OF RECKLESSNESS AND IRRESPONSIBILITY PERMEATING WORLD, AND PEOPLE BEING LED INTO VIOLENCE IN SEARCH OF NEW MEANING IN LIVES. THOSE COMMENTING WERE PAUL VAN DER MERWE, D VAN DEN HEEVER AND D CARR OF NP; CATHERINE TAYLOR, DR G JACOBS AND A HOPEWELL OF UP, AND SUZMAN OF PROGRESSIVES.

8. EDITORIAL REACTIONS JUNE 7:

A. CAPE TIMES ASSESSED ABILITY OF MEN OF KENNEDY FAMILY TO "LOOK AT THINGS AFRESH" IN GRAPPLING WITH NEED FOR "DYNAMIC CHANGE", AND SUGGESTED THAT SENATOR KENNEDY CARRIED EVEN "MORE HOPES" FOR THIS THAN PRESIDENT KENNEDY. "HIS KIND OF THINKING WAS CLEAR; HE WAS ON THE SIDE OF PEOPLE-- NOT 'THE PEOPLE' ... BUT PEOPLE, HUMAN BEINGS, MEN AND WOMEN, BLACK OR WHITE, POOR OR RICH". NOTED PROFOUND DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS OUTLOOK AND THAT OF "MANY POLITICIANS ... FOR TENDENCY AMONG MEN WHO HAVE BEEN IN POWER FOR SOME TIME IS TO CONSIDER THE SYSTEM IMPORTANT, ALMOST SACROSANCT. SOME CONSERVATISM IS ALWAYS NECESSARY. BUT IN REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD LIKE PRESENT IT IS PERILOUS IF OVERDONE... MANY OF US EXPECTED ENOUGH (OF KENNEDYS) TO MAKE US BEWEEP THESE MURDERS, EVEN BEYOND THEIR POIGNANCY AS HUMAN TRAGEDIES."

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PAGE 03 CAPE T 01464 071650Z

B. ARGUS POINTED OUT FEAR OF MANY SAFRICANS AT MOUNTING SUPPORT FOR SENATOR'S CANDIDACY, BUT SAID "EVIDENCE SUGGESTS HE WOULD HAVE BEEN REALISTIC AND EFFECTIVE PRESIDENT WHO WOULD HAVE RESISTED PRESSURES FOR IMPRACTICABLE 'SOLUTIONS' TO RACIAL PROBLEMS". ILLUSTRATED THIS CONTENTION BY FACT SENATOR CAME TO SAFRICA TO SEE FOR HIMSELF, AND ALTHOUGH HE FOUND APARTHEID REPUGNANT, HIS OBJECTIONS TO IT DID NOT CLOUD HIS JUDGMENT, AND HE SAID CATEGORICALLY THAT SA NO THREAT TO PEACE. MOREOVER HE CAME OUT AGAINST ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AND URGED CONTINUING DIALOGUE.

C. BURGER LINKS ASSASSIN WITH "TERRDRISTS", HOPING COMMISSION ON VIOLENCE WILL LEAD USG TO UNCONDITIONAL CONDEMNATION OF TERRORISM. SAYS NO DOUBT THERE WILL BE PEOPLE IN WORLD WHO WOULD REGARD ASSASSIN AS "FREEDOM FIGHTER". BUT BETTER DESCRIPTION IS "DEVILSIH CRIMINAL, WHOSE SHOTS NOT ONLY WOUNDED HIS VICTIM, BUT ALSO AMERICAN CIVILIZATION". RHETORICALLY ASKS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIM AND TRAINED TERRORISTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. BY CONDONING THEIR DEED INCREASING SPIRIT OF VIOLENCE IN WORLD CANNOT BE HALTED.

9. CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION TO EFFECT OF ASSASSINATION ON PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN AND NEW SITUATION OF SEN EDWARD KENNEDY AS BEARER OF FAMILY'S POLITICAL FORTUNES.

10. FURTHER REACTIONS WILL BE REPORTED BY AIRGRAM UNLESS ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY. ROUNTREE

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01544 081141Z

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ACTION CPR 02

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OPR 02,P 04,RSC 01,SS 20,NSCE 00,CCO 03,/070 W

O 081148Z JUN Y8

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2157

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 1544

REF: STATE 173273

SUBJ: ATTENDANCE AT SENATOR KENNEDY'S FUNERAL

FONMIN HAS JUST ASKED EMB TO INFORM DEPT THAT TELEGRAM
SENT PORTUGUESE AMB WASHDC DESIGNATING HIM TO REPRESENT GOP
AT SENATOR KENNEDY'S FUNERAL.

WELLMAN

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PAGE 01 ROME 06420 072008Z

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ACTION AF 15

INFO EUR 15, SS 20, H 02, NSC 10, P 04, USIA 12, CPR 02, RSR 01, RSC 01,

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R 071527Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7202
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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Schwartz

UNCLAS ROME 6420

PRESIDENT AND MADAME MOBUTU CAME TO EMBASSY JUNE 7 TO SIGN BOOK FOR SENATOR KENNEDY. SAID HE ACTING IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF CONGOLESE REPUBLIC, OF OAU, AND OF CONGO, CHAD, CAR UNION, AND AS SIGN HIS AND WIFE'S FEELINGS OF PERSONAL ATTACHMENT TO KENNEDY FAMILY. EXPRESSED CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY. I THANKED HIM FOR GESTURE AND SAID WOULD INFORM FAMILY AND PRESIDENT.
ACKLEY

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PAGE 01 PORT A 00927 072201Z

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ACTION ARA 16

INFO CIAE 00,DODE 00,GPM 04,H 02,INR 07,L 03,NSAE 00,NSC 10,P 04,

RSC 01,SP 02,SS 20,USIA 12,NIC 01,AID 28,RSR 01, /111 W

R 072139Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1595

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 927

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 919

1. CONTINUING EDITORIAL REACTION ON SENATOR KENNEDY MIXED. LE MATIN PRAISED HIM AS ANOTHER MARTYR TO CAUSE OF PROGRESSIVE POLICIES WHICH HAVE CREATED HOPE FOR ALL WHO SUFFER AND ASPIRE TO WELL-BEING. PARTICULAR SORROW EXPRESSED THAT CRIME COMMITTED BY NON-AMERICAN ON U S SOIL AGAINST A PEOPLE "WE LOVE FOR NUMEROUS NOBLE ACTS AND GENEROSITIES TOWARD OTHER COUNTRIES DURING THEIR UNHAPPY DAYS."

2. LE NOUVEAU MONDE CHARACTERIZED KENNEDY AS AMBITIOUS, RUTHLESS, CYNICAL AND DANGEROUS FOR AMERICAN NATION. EDITORIAL BLAMED AMERICAN CIVILIZATION FOR DELUDING KENNEDY INTO BELIEVING HIS FORTUNE MADE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE INCLUDING "SECOND PURCHASE OF WHITE HOUSE."

3. ONLY OFFICIAL CONDOLENCE THUS FAR IS TELEGRAM FROM PRESIDENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO PRESIDENT U S SENATE, TEXT OF WHICH PUBLISHED NOUVEAU MONDE TODAY. AFTER EXPRESSING "INDIGNATION AT THIS CRIME," TELEGRAM ADDS AMBIGUOUSLY THAT "THESE ACTS OF VIOLENCE FREELY PREACHED AND PRACTISED HAVE AN ELOQUENCE IN AN ADVANCED DEMOCRACY WHICH RELIEVES ONE OF NEED OF ANY COMMENTARY." EXEMPT ROSS

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 01843 072202Z

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ACTION ARA 16

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02,

SS 20, USIA 12, NSA 02, RSR 01, /084 W

R 072139Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2549

UNCLAS MANAGUA 1843

SUBJECT: NICARAGUAN REACTION TO KENNEDY DEATH

REF: MANAGUA 1837

1. NICARAGUAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PASSED UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION JUNE 6 EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF NICARAGUAN PEOPLE ON OCCASION TRAGIC DEATH OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION INCLUDING ALL SHADES OF POLITICAL OPINION CALLED ON AMBASSADOR CROCKETT JUNE 7 TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE.

2. AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS CONDOLENCE MESSAGES AND PHONE CALLS. NEWS MEDIA CONTINUING HEAVY COVERAGE ALONG SAME LINES AS REPORTED REFTEL.

CROCKETT

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 896

PAGE 01 ROME 06441 072034Z

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ACTION EUR 20

INFO NIC 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10,

P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, EA 10, NEA 13, ACDA 16, RSR 01,

/126 W

R 071810Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7208
INFO RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 1036
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ROME 6441

SUBJECT: COMMUNISTS EXPLOIT ASSASSINATION

1. PREDICTABLY ITALIAN COMMUNISTS ARE USING ROBERT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION TO MOUNT ANTI-AMERICAN PRESS CAMPAIGN WITH THEME THAT UNSOLVABLE CONTRADICTIONS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY LEAD TO CHAIN OF VIOLENCE AND ASSERTIONS ABOUT SINGLE PLOT LEADING TO KILLINGS OF TWO KENNEDYS AND MARTIN LUTHER KING. IN STATEMENT BY PCI SECRETARY LONGO AND DOCUMENT OF PCI DIRECTORATE ITALIANS ARE WARNED OF DANGERS THAT "POLICY OF ALLIANCE AND SUBORDINATION TO AMERICA" BRING TO ITALY (LONGO), AND "ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES" ARE REQUESTED TO FIND NEW FOREIGN POLICY AND INITIATIVES TO BRING VIET-NAM PEACE, LIQUIDATE US BASES IN ITALY AND MEDITERRANEAN, AND MOVE TOWARD SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS OF SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT (DIRECTORATE).

2. PRIMIN MORO AFTER SIGNING CONDOLENCE BOOK AT EMBASSY EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT ABOVE PCI USE OF ASSASSINATION TO LAUNCH PRESS ASSAULT ON US AND ON NATO ALLIANCE.

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E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4

By JWL, NARA, Date 2-28-06



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RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, PC 04, RSR 01, /114 W

R 072300Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

SECSTATE WASHDC 2922

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 2051

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RENDERS TRIBUTE TO ROBERT KENNEDY

1. PRESIDENT FIDEL SANCHEZ WAS "KEY-NOTE" SPEAKER AT FIRST MEETING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. HIS MAIN THEME WAS THAT PARTY POLITICS SHOULD NEVER BE AN IMPAIRMENT TO THE PROMOTION OF PROJECTS OF NATIONAL INTEREST. THE COUNTRY'S INTERESTS SHOULD ALWAYS PREVAIL OVER ANY PARTISAN ACTION. A DIALOGUE AND TEAMWORK MUST ALWAYS EXIST BETWEEN ALL POLITICAL FACTION.

2. THE MOST IMPRESSIVE PORTION OF THE CEREMONY WAS WHEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ASKED EVERYONE TO STAND FOR A MINUTE OF SILENCE IN TRIBUTE TO FORMER SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY. TAPS WERE PLAYED DURING THE PERIOD OF SILENCE. THIS GESTURE WAS WELL-RECEIVED BY ALL THOSE PRESENT.
CASTRO

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INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02,

SS 20, USIA 12, NSA 02, RSR 01, /083 W

R 071345Z JUN 68
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 854

UNCLAS LUBUMBASHI 979

SUBJ: REACTION TO SENATOR KENNEDYS ASSASSINATION

1. GOVT LINE LOCAL DAILY DEPECHE HAS GIVEN HEADLINE COVERAGE TO ASSASSINATION. EDITORIALS HAVE LUMPED TOGETHER ASSASSINATIONS OF SENATOR, LATE PRESIDENT, MARTIN LUTHER KING AND EVEN MALCOLM X, AND HAVE PUT BLAME ON MALAISE OF US SOCIETY.

2. DEPECHE EDITORIALIZED YESTERDAY (BEFORE NEWS OF DEATH) UNDER TITLE QTE THE SERIES CONTINUES UNQTE THAT US ON PATH TO ITS OWN DEATH. TENOR OF EDITORIAL WAS THAT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ROOTED IN RACIAL SITUATION WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO HAUNT US UNTIL SOLUTION FOUND. TODAY'S EDITORIAL (AFTER DEATH CONFIRMED) NOTICEABLY SHARPER. SAID SENATOR KENNEDY WAS VICTIM OF HIS OWN POPULARITY IN UPHOLDING DEFENSE OF UNIVERSAL EQUALITY OF MEN AND HIS DETERMINATION TO SAVE US WHICH AT PRESENT ON UNCHECKED FALL TO QTE PROFOUND DEGRADATION UNQTE. DEPECHE RHETORICALLY ASKED HOW ONE OF MOST ODIUS CRIMES AGAINST LIBERTY, CIVILIZATION AND PEACE HAPPENED IN QTE SELF-NAMED PARADISE OF FREE WORLD UNQTE. PAPER ADDED QTE AMERICA ASTOUNDS WITH ITS FLAGRANT CONTRADICTIONS ...ITS SOLEMN PROMISES AS WELL AS ITS DISCONCERTING DECEIT UNQTE. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT IF THERE NOT A RADICAL CHANGE IN US IT WOULD CONTINUE ON PATH TO DECADENCE.

3. CONSULATE HAS OPENED CONDOLENCE BOOK WHICH TO

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DATE HAS ATTRACTED LITTLE ATTENTION SAVE FOR CONSULAR CORPS AND FEW EUROPEANS. LOCAL EUROPEAN RESIDENTS SEEM MORE SHOCKED THAN CONGOLESE, ALTHOUGH A FEW OF LATTER HAVE CALLED BOTH CONSULATE AND RESIDENCE TO VOICE THEIR ANONYMOUS INDIGNATION AT QTE US SAVAGERY UNQTE.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO WIDESPREAD OR ORGANIZED REACTION TO ASSASSINATION. HARROP

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RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01, NIC 01, EA 10, CU 04, HEW 07,
/104 W

R 072031Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5841

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REF: SANTIAGO'S 3929

1. NO FOREIGN EVENT SINCE ASSASSINATION PRESIDENT KENNEDY, INCLUDING DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, HAS MOVED PEOPLE OF CHILE AS MUCH AS ASSASSINATION SENATOR KENNEDY. STARTING WITH PRESIDENT FREI'S PUBLIC DECLARATION (SEE REFTEL) STREAM OF VISITORS, OFFICIAL, SEMI-OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL HAS FOUND ITS WAY TO EMBASSY, CONSULATE AND RESIDENCE TO EXPRESS CONDOLENCES, CONSTERNATION AND SYMPATHY. THESE INCLUDE PRESIDENT FREI, FORMER PRESIDENT JORGE ALESSANDRI, ALMOST ALL CABINET MINISTERS AND NUMEROUS POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS. NOTABLE NON-FRAP EXCEPTION HAS BEEN RADICAL PARTY WHOSE LEADERS HAVE NOT APPEARED (SENATOR DURAN OUT OF COUNTRY).

2. SPOKESMEN FOR MARXIST LEFT HAVE PREDICTABLY SEIZED ON EVENT WITH COLD CYNICISM TO PRESS THEIR THESIS THAT AMERICAN NATION MORALLY CORRUPT BEYOND ALL SALVATION AND DESTINED FOR DISASTER. THEY CHARGE THAT SENATOR'S KILLER WAS SIMPLE TOOL OF POWERFUL RIGHTIST CLIQUE WHICH ALSO PLOTTED ASSASSINATIONS PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING. VIET NAM WAR, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND STUDENT UNREST LINKED TO ALLEGED WIDESPREAD USE OF DRUGS AND EMPHASIS ON SEX IN MATERIALISTIC DOLLAR CULTURE CITED AS EVIDENCE PROFUNDITY FISSURES IN U.S. BODY POLITIC. EVEN DEMOCRATICALLY ORIENTED INDIVIDUALS HAVE NOT HESITATED

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 03969 072058Z

MAKE LEAP FROM SENATOR'S TRAGIC DEATH TO VIRTUALLY WHOLE-SALE CONDEMNATION U.S. SOCIETY. MANY IN THIS CATEGORY ARE ESPECIALLY BITTER BECAUSE THEY CONSIDERED SENATOR "THEIR" CANDIDATE FOR U.S. PRESIDENCY AND UNIQUE IN HIS UNDERSTANDING

OF LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS AND NEEDS.

3. PDC DEPUTY BOSCO PARRA PERHAPS TYPIFIED LOCAL POLITICAL REACTION IN EXPRESSING VIEW THAT CRIME REFLECTS "EXISTENCE TENSIONS AND FRUSTRATIONS IN BOSOM NORTH-AMERICAN SOCIETY" ADDING "SOCIETY THAT BELIEVE IT HAS RESOLVED ALL ITS PROBLEMS BY HAVING MANAGED SURPASS CERTAIN LEVELS IN STANDARDS OF CONSUMPTION IS SICK SOCIETY."

4. DETAILED PRESS REACTION BEING SENT SEPARATELY.

KORRY

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RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01, /082 W

R 072009Z JUN 68

FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 775
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAO PAULO 1846

SUBJECT: REACTION SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEATH

1. SAO PAULO REACTION TO DEATH SENATOR KENNEDY ONE OF DEEP GRIEF, SHOCK, AND BEWILDERMENT OVER QUOTE WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE UNITED STATE UNQUOTE. CONGEN HAS RECEIVED COUNTLESS EXPRESSIONS SYMPATHY FROM GOVERNOR, VICE GOVERNOR, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, FOREIGN CONSULATES AND GENERAL PUBLIC. GOVERNOR, MAYOR AND PRACTICALLY ALL MEMBERS STATE ASSEMBLY ISSUED STATEMENTS AND/OR EULOGIES OF SENATOR. DESPITE GENERAL SYMPATHY FOR KENNEDY FAMILY AND AMERICAN PEOPLE, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC ADVERSE REACTION AGAINST UNITED STATES IN SAO PAULO.

2. NEWSPAPERS ARE UNANIMOUS IN LAMENTING LOSS TO UNITED STATES AND WORLD. HOWEVER, SOME NEWSPAPERS SUCH AS FOLHA DA TARDE AND ULTIMA HORA GIVING SENSATIONAL COVERAGE LINKING DEATHS OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING AND ROBERT KENNEDY TO BIG BUSINESS, MILITARY AND CIA, ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE THESE MEN REPRESENTED THREAT TO STATUS QUO. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO SETS EVENT IN PERSPECTIVE AND CASTIGATES SOVIET ATTEMPTS BLAME ALL AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR KENNEDY'S DEATH.

3. NEGROES SUCH AS PELE BLAMED ASSASSINATION ON U.S. RACE PROBLEM AND COLORED STATE DEPUTY TARQUINHO CASTIGATED QUOTE BIG BUSINESS UNQUOTE. OTHER BRAZILIANS REFUSED ACCEPT EVIDENCE REGARDING ASSASSIN'S ORIGIN CLAIMING EXISTENCE OF PLOT MOTIVATED BY RIGHTIST FORCES. IN MAUDLIN, SENSATIONAL AND EMOTIONALLY-

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INFO GPM 04, NSC 10, SP 02, SS 20, RSC 01, P 04, USIA 12, L 03, H 02, INR 07,

CIAE 00, NSA 02, RSR 01, DODE 00, /084 W

R 072151Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2496

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 2592

LETTER FROM LLOYD, PERMSEC, MINEXTAFF, DELIVERED TO AMB, STATED PRIMIN FEELS EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE BY USG TO HAVE STATEMENT OF LA POLICE CHIEF IMPLYING JAMAICAN INVOLVEMENT IN KENNEDY ASSASSINATION CONTRADICTED AND EXPRESSED PRIMIN'S HOPE FOR APOLOGY FROM AUTHORITIES CONCERNED. TO THIS LETTER, WE PROPOSE TO SEND FOLLOWING SIGNED BY COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY ON TUESDAY, JUNE 11:

" THE AMBASSADOR HAS REQUESTED ME TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 6, 1968.

" AS THE WORLD NOW KNOWS AND KNEW BEYOND ALL SHADOW OF DOUBT WITHIN HOURS AFTER THE SHOOTING, THE INDIVIDUAL NOW CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF SENATOR KENNEDY IS NOT A JAMAICAN. IT DOES NOT SEEM THAT THE IMPLICATION THAT A JAMAICAN MIGHT POSSIBLY BE INVOLVED, SO QUICKLY CORRECTED BY OVERWHELMING PUBLICITY AS TO THE TRUE NATIONALITY OF THE SUSPECT, NECESSITATES ANY FURTHER ACTION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, SINCE, AS YOUR ARE AWARE, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NO JURISDICTION OR CONTROL OVER EMPLOYEES OF A MUNICIPALITY.

"AS YOU MUST KNOW, REGRETS HAVE ALREADY BEEN VOLUNTEERED BY THE AMBASSADOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER PERSONALLY. FURTHER WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT REGRETS WERE SIMILARLY VOLUNTEERED BY AN OFFICER OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO THE JAMAICAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON."
TOBRINER

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ACTION EUR 20

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04,

RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, RSR 01, /074 W

R 071710Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6620
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 7134

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

REF: BRUSSELS 7090

1. BULK OF PRESS COMMENT CONTINUED IN TONES SHARPLY CRITICAL OF ALLEGED ILLS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY.

2. THERE ALSO WAS TREMOR OF FOREBODING DERIVING FROM FEELING THAT WESTERN EUROPE'S DESTINY IS LINKED TO OURS. (THIS THEME HAS COME THROUGH REPEATEDLY IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL BELGIANS.) MOST PRESS COMMENT IS PUNCTUATED BY NUMEROUS EXPRESSIONS OF GRIEF AT SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEATH AND SYMPATHY FOR HIS FAMILY AND COUNTRYMEN.

3. MANY PAPERS CARRIED FULL TEXT OF DECLARATION MADE BY AMBASSADOR ON TV IN FRENCH AND DUTCH THANKING BELGIANS FOR THEIR SYMPATHY AT THIS SAD TIME. MOST OTHER PAPERS SUMMARIZED STATEMENT.

4. MOST COMMON THEME WAA AGAIN STRAIN OF VIOLENCE ALLEGED TO RUN THROUGH AMERICAN LIFE AND CHARACTER. INFLUENTIAL LA LIBRE BELGIQUE (CATHOLIC CONSERVATIVE) RAN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL ENTITLED "LAST WARNING" WHICH USGGESTED THAT "AMERICAN CHALLENGE AS TOPIC OF INTEREST HAD BEEN REPLACED BY "AMERICAN SICKNESS - PLAGUE OF VIOLENCE. REFORM WOULD NOT COME QUICKLY THROUGH PASSAGE OF SOME NEW LAW BUT NECESSITATED "BASIC CHANGES IN THE FAMOUS AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE" TO WEED OUR GLORIFICATION OF VIOLENCE IN TV AND FILMS. LA LIBRE SAID

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THAT " OLD EUROPE" WAS WATCHING AN " AMERICAN DISASTER WHICH LEFT HER (ERUOPE) DISTRESSED AND WORRIED AND PLUNGED HER INTO NEW UNCERTAINTIES."

5. DE NIEUWE GIDS (CATHOLIC) REMARKED THAT " DRIVE FOR POWER" SEEMED TO BE ASSUMING PLACE AS " DOMINATING FORCE" IN AMERICAN LIFE. VOLKSGAZET IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED " WAVE OF INTOLERANCE" TOOK SIMILAR LINE, POINTING OUT THAT PRESIDENT'S ACTION IN APPOINTING SPECIAL COMMISSION WAS RECOGNITION BY HIGHEST AUTHORITY OF VIOLENCE AS SPECIAL PROBLEM IN AMERICAN LIFE.

6. GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN (CATHOLIC), AFTER NOTING MASSIVE LOCAL ONTEREST IN KENNEDY'S CONDITION UP UNTIL HIS DEATH WAS ACTUALLY ANNOUNCED, HELD THAT AMERICAN PRESTIGE WAS BADLY DAMAGED. U.S. SEEMED TO BE A " STILL SMOKING MELTING-POT OF RACISM." AMERICANS MUST CONTINUEFIGHT AGAINST " SICKNESSES" OF THEIR SOCIETY.

7. LA DERNIERE HEURE (LIBERAL) TOOK MORE BALANCED APPROACH, COMMENTING THAT US HAD NO MONOPOLY ON ACTS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE. PAPER SUGGESTED THAT THOSE WHO SPREAD FANATICISM OF ANY SORT WERE REAL AUTHORS OF THIS HORRIBLE CRIME. KNIGHT

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R 071555Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8570

UNCLAS BONN 13011

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

1. THE DEATH OF SENATOR KENNEDY ECLIPSED ALL OTHER SUBJECTS IN THE GERMAN PRESS TODAY AND ON RADIO AND TELEVISION YESTERDAY. "THE WORLD MOURNS KENNEDY," WAS THE HEADLINE DOMINATING THIS MORNING'S FRONTPAGES. TIME DIFFERENTIAL DID NOT PERMIT THE PRESS TO REPORT SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEATH EARLIER.
2. SOME RADIO AND TELEVISION CORRESPONDENTS, REPORTING FROM LOS ANGELES, COULD HARDLY CONTROL THEIR EMOTIONS. GERD RUGE, FOR INSTANCE, FIRST CHANNEL'S U.S. BUREAU CHIEF, WAS SO OVERCOME THAT HE HAD TO STRUGGLE FOR NEARLY TEN MINUTES BEFORE HE COULD GET HIS VOICE UNDER CONTROL. RUGE NARRATED A HALF-HOUR, SPECIAL REVIEW OF THE CAREER OF SENATOR KENNEDY. SECOND CHANNEL ALSO PROGRAMMED A HALF HOUR KENNEDY MEMORIAL SHOW.
3. LOCALLY, TELCISION CONCENTRATED ON INTERVIEW WITH PROMINENT GERMANS COMMENTING ON THE SENATOR'S DEATH. SECOND CHANNEL CARRIED A STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR LODGE, COVERED THE LOWERING OF THE FLAG AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, AND PEOPLE SIGNING THE CONDELENCE BOOK, RADIO COVERAGE FOLLOWED SIMILAR LINES.
4. MOST OF THE PRESS WAS QUICK TO PICK UP PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S TELEVISION APPEAL TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO ABIDE BY THE RULE OF LAW. EDITORIAL OPINIONS FOLLOWED ALONG YESTERDAY'S LINES. MANY EDITORIALS SEEMED TO ASK QUESTIONS RATHER THAN EXPRESS OPINIONS. AND AGAIN THERE WERE UNDERTONES WHICH PUT INTO QUESTION AMERICA'S LEASERSHIP BECAUSE OF "INABILITY TO COPE WITH DOMESTIC PROBLEMS."
5. DUESSELDORF'S HANDELSBLATT, FOR INSTANCE, CONCENTRATED ON THE INTERNATIONAL EFFECT OF THE KENNEDY DEATH. THE PAPER THINKS THAT THE SENATOR'S DEATH IMPLIES FAILURE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

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AND ITS AUTHORITY. "...THIS IS A FACT OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE. AMERICA'S INTERNAL WEAKNESS AND LOSS OF PRESTIGE MIGHT PRODUCE AN IMPACT EVEN IN THE REMOTEST CORNERS OF THE GLOBE...THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS CONFRONTED WITH THE NECESSITY OF CONCENTRATING MORE THAN BEFORE ON ITS OWN COUNTRY. CONSEQUENTLY, EUROPE WILL HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ON ITS PROBLEMS, WITH EUROPEAN COOPERATION BECOMING MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER BEFORE."

HANDELSBALATT ALSO FEARS THAT THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION MIGHT HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE VIET NAM TALKS.

6. FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG VOICES SIMILAR APPREHENSIONS WHEN IT SAYS, "...AS LONG AS THE DOMESTIC AMERICAN SCENE REMAINS UNCLEAR THE PARIS NEGOTIATIONS WILL REMAIN DEADLOCKED WHILE FIGHTING IN VIET NAM WILL BE STEPPED UP. OF ALL POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE KENNEDY SLAYING, THIS IS THE MOST UNFORTUNATE."

7. MUENCHNER MERKUR TAKES A MORE OPTIMISTIC VIEW. IT BELIEVES THAT THOUGH THE KENNEDYS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ATTAIN THEIR GOALS, "...THEY HAVE MADE AN IMPACT ON MANKIND'S DREAM - ETERNAL PEACE."

8. RHEINISCHE POST WARNS OF OVERSIMPLIFICATION AND HASTY CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM THE KENNEDY TRAGEDY. "VIOLENCE," THE PAPER SAYS, "NO LONGER HAS EASILY RECOGNIZABLE ROOTS...IT PERVADES ALL GROUPS, NATIONS AND CLASSES, PROGRESSIVES AND REACTIONARIES..."

9. SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG FEELS THAT THE KENNEDY LEGACY WILL BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT'S MOST DIFFICULT TASK, NAMELY TO "RENEW IN THE NEGROES, THE POOR OF ALL COLORS, AND THE YOUNG...A FAITH IN THEIR COUNTRY AND A PRIDE IN ITS DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS..."

10. FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU'S MANAGING EDITOR ADMONISHES THE U.S. TO REEXAMINE ITS ENTIRE SOCIAL STRUCTURE. HE USES THIS OCCASION TO VOICE HOSTILITY TO FREE ENTERPRISE AND WHAT HE FEELS IS ITS INFLUENCE OVER THE CONGRESS. "...WHAT KIND OF A COUNTRY IS IT THAT UNTIL NOW COULD NOT PASS A LAW TO CONTROL THE POSSESSION OF ARMS? THE POWER OF THE BUSINESS LOBBIES AND OTHER INTERESTS IS TOO STRONG. THE IDOL OF FREE ENTERPRISE IS BECOMING A MONSTER WHICH IS THREATENING SOCIETY..."

11. DIE WELT'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT HEINZ BARTH WRITES THAT THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION HAS THROWN THE U.S. INTO A DEEP ABYSS OF NATIONAL CRISES. HE EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE THE SIGNAL TO REVERSE THE TREND OF VIOLENCE.

12. STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG EMPHASIZES THAT THE REPLY TO VIOLENCE MUST NOT BE RESIGNATION OR APATHY, "INSTEAD, THE KENNEDY

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ASSASSINATION COMPELS THE FREE WORLD TO RETURN TO THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMANITY AND STRICT ADHERENCE TO LAW."

13. WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG COMPARES THE KENNEDY TRAGEDY WITH THE SHOOTING OF RUDI DUTSCHKE IN BERLIN TO SHOW THAT EXTREMIST EXCESSES CAN OCCUR ANYWHERE. THE PAPER EMPHATICALLY CALLS FOR A RETURN TO REASON AND ABSTENTION FROM VIOLENCE.

14. REJECTION AND CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE IS PROBABLY THE MOST COMMON REACTION THROUGHOUT GERMANY. THERE WAS A NOTICEABLE ATTEMPT TODAY NOT TO SINGLE OUT THE UNITED STATES, BUT RATHER TO POINT TO A GENERAL DETERIORATION IN WORLD MORALITY LEADING TO VIOLENCE. THE IDENTITY AND PRESUMED MOTIVE OF THE ASSASSIN WAS FAIRLY WIDELY COVERED IN TODAY'S PRESS.

15. MANY COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS MOURN KENNEDY'S DEATH. THE FLAG FLIES AT HALF FROM BONN'S CITY HALL. BERLINERS HAVE STAGED A SILENT TORCHLIGHT PARADE, AND MUNICH ORGANIZATIONS ARE PREPARING FOR A MARCH OF MOURNING DURING THE WEEKEND.
LODGE

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R 071600Z JUN 68

FM AMCONSUL BREMEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 284

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BREMEN 229

REACTION TO KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY'S DEATH WAS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY SINGLE PAGE NEWS SUPPLEMENTS DISTRIBUTED FREE BY THE TWO MAJOR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, NUMEROUS TELEPHONE CALLS, TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE. AMONG THESE WERE LETTERS FROM BURGERMEISTER HANS KOSCHNICK, THE PRESIDENT OF THE BREMEN BURGERSCHAFT AND A JOINT TELEGRAM FROM THE SPD BURGERSCHAFT FRAKTION AND THE LAND PARTY ORGANIZATION. IN ADDITION THERE HAS BEEN A MODERATE TO HEAVY TRAFFIC OF PERSONS COMING TO THE CONGEN TO SIGN CONDOLENCE BOOK.

AMONG THE FIRST TO SIGN THE CONDOLENCE BOOK WAS BURGERMEISTER KOSCHNICK WHO FOLLOWED THE SIGNING WITH A CALL ON THE CONSUL IN CHARGE. THERE FOLLOWED A HALF HOUR CONVERSATION ON WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED "THE STATE OF THE NATION. KOSCHNICK WAS OBVIOUSLY PERSONALLY DISTURBED BY THE SENATOR'S DEATH AND BY WHAT HE THOUGHT IT PORTENDED FOR THE U.S., GERMANY AND THE WORLD. HE FREELY CREDITED THE US FOR IMPARTING DEMOCRACY TO THE FRG AND STATED THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS, AND STILL IS, FAR FROM PERFECT HE AND MANY GERMANS FELT THAT THE AMERICAN MODEL HELD BEFORE THEM SERVED AS A GOAL TOWARD WHICH THEY COULD WORK. DURING THE INTERVENING YEARS HOWEVER HE HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY DISAPPOINTED WITH AMERICA'S SEEMING INABILITY TO SOLVE ITS PROBLEMS AND BRING FULL DEMOCRACY TO ITS OWN PEOPLE. HIS DISPAIR GAVE WAY TO HOPE DURING THE PRESIDENCY OF JOHN KENNEDY BUT AFTER HIS DEATH THOUGHT THAT AMERICA WAS AGAIN LOSING ITS SENSE OF

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DIRECTION AND MOMENTUM. HE THOUGHT THAT ROBERT KENNEDY WAS THE ONE MAN WHO COULD SAVE AMERICA AND NOW HE TOO WAS DEAD. THE CONGEN OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE DECEASED SENATOR WAS INDEED AN IRREPARABLE LOSS FOR AMERICA, THE OTHER LEADING CANDIDATES OF BOTH PARTIES, IN ESSENCE, SHARED HIS GOALS FOR AMERICA. THOUGH THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO EMULATE HIS PARTICULAR STYLE OF LEADERSHIP, THEY NEVERTHELESS, IN THEIR OWN WAY, CAN STILL ATTAIN THESE GOALS. WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO DISPUTE THE ABOVE, KOSCHNICK APPARENTLY REMAINS CONVINCED THAT ROBERT KENNEDY HAD BEEN DESTINED TO PLAY A UNIQUE ROLE ON THIS EARTH AND WITH HIS DEATH IT WILL REMAIN UNPLAYED. KOSCHNICK CONCLUDED HIS VISIT, HOWEVER, WITH THE HOPE THAT AMERICA WILL SOLVE ITS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND THEREBY REGAIN ITS FORMER STATURE. OTHERWISE, HE FELT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE HOPE FOR GERMANY, OR EVENTUALLY, FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD. ELLISON

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June 6, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR WALT ROSTOW

SUBJECT: Anti-Arab Sentiment in the Wake of Kennedy's
Assassination

You are probably aware that there is concern that we are going to face a rise in anti-Arab feeling in the country because of Senator Kennedy's assassination.

This stems mainly from Sirhan's Jordanian origin, but there have also been a few unfortunate Arab statements tending to approve of the incident. On the whole, however, the Arabs have deplored the event and there is no evidence of a Near Eastern conspiracy. There has even been pro-Kennedy commentary out of Damascus. King Hussein has sent his condolences to the family and the Jordanian Embassy has released a statement, but so far the other Arab governments have done little or nothing.

State is thinking about asking the Jordanians to get the other Arabs to say something helpful, but the press hasn't given much attention to what the Jordanians have already done. The US Government can take the line that this was the act of one man, not all the Arabs but ultimately it will depend on the good sense of the reporters to keep the Arab aspects of the incident in proportion.


John Foster

cc: Louis Schwartz

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By 304, NARA, Date 12806

6/6/68

48

President told Mr Rostow not send
out circular telegram. Handle
matter on individual basis

Mr Rostow passed instruction on
to Sec. Rusk

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

48a
ACTION

Limited Official Use

Thursday, June 6, 1968, 3:15 P.M.

Rec'd
407p

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Attendance of Foreign Representatives at Kennedy Funeral

Nick Katzenbach has worked out with the Kennedy family the response to be made by our representatives abroad if asked by foreign governments whether they can send special representatives to attend Senator Kennedy's funeral.

Paragraph 3 of the attached draft telegram authorizes our Ambassadors to say that the United States would receive from each country one foreign special representative at the Parliamentary and Ministerial level.

I recommend that you approve this instruction which will be sent immediately to our Embassies. There is some urgency in deciding this question. The British Prime Minister has already raised the subject with Ambassador Bruce.

W. Rostow

Attachment

____ Approve

____ Call Me

Limited Official Use

48-b

Limited Official Use

Circular to all Diplomatic Posts and USUN
State

IMMEDIATE

Subject: Kennedy Funeral and Interment

1. As of noon Washington time, June 6, following are plans for funeral and interment of Senator Robert F. Kennedy:

(a) The Senator's body will lie in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EDT, Friday, June 7.

(b) Funeral services will be held in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City at 10:00 a.m. EDT Saturday morning, June 8.

(c) Following funeral services, body will be taken from New York to Washington by special train, arriving approximately 4:00 p.m. EDT.

(d) After procession, burial will be at Arlington Cemetery at approximately 5-5:30 p.m. EDT, Saturday, June 8.

2. Invitations will be limited to two attendees for each country desiring to have representatives attend funeral. Space in Cathedral will be severely limited, and it will not be possible to assure attendance of additional representatives. We assume most governments will designate its regular member of diplomatic corps here and/or chief representatives at UN to attend.

3. Special representatives from abroad -- We have received indications from a few countries that they will send special representatives to the funeral. If asked -- REPEAT -- if asked by host government concerning level of such representatives, you are authorized to say that a Parliamentary or Ministerial level representative would be appropriate. At same time you should indicate severe space problem described above and note difficulty if more than one representative is designated in addition to Ambassador to US and UN Rep. in assuring their attendance at services.

4. Burial at Arlington will be open to the public and there will be a less stringent limit on other country representation at burial. Transportation will be provided for diplomatic and special representatives to and from New York City and Washington on June 8.

5. Social functions scheduled by mission and mission attendance at social functions of host government and others should be limited, through Sunday, June 9, in discretion of Ambassador. Many social functions in Washington have been cancelled but others which have important official purposes are proceeding on schedule.

END



Department of State

49
TELEGRAM

50

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 313

PAGE 01 STATE 177657

47

ORIGIN SS 30

INFO SSO 00, NSCE 00, /030 R

DRAFTED BY: NEA/IRN:TLELIOT, JR
APPROVED BY: NEA/ - MR. ROCKWELL
S/S - MR. MEEHAN
WHITE HOUSE - MR. ROSTOW

O R 061924Z JUN 68 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ASMARA
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 177657

EXDIS

1. DEPENDING ON PRESENT WHEREABOUTS SHAH, EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA OR CONSULATE ASMARA SHOULD SOONEST PASS MESSAGE TO SHAH THAT PRESIDENT STILL LOOKS FORWARD TO BEING SHAH'S HOST IN WASHINGTON JUNE 11 AND 12 AS SCHEDULED. ONLY CHANGE IN PROGRAM AS RESULT SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEATH WILL BE ELIMINATION AFTER-DINNER ENTERTAINMENT JUNE 11. SHAH AND PRESIDENT WILL WITHDRAW FOR PRIVATE CONVERSATION.

2. ADVISE ANY IRANIAN REACTION.

GP-3. RUSK

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By J0W, NARA, Date 2-28-06

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NW 89353
By BK NARA Date 6/9/25

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TO WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
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~~SECRET~~ CITE CIA 05352.

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM ATTN SECRET SERVICE; PID; DEPT OF STATE ATTN MR. RUSK, OFFICE OF SECURITY, INTELLIGENCE & RESEARCH; DEPT OF JUSTICE ATTN ATTORNEY GENERAL CLARK

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, ALSO KNOWN AS SHARIF BISHARA SIRHAN, IS FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES IN AMMAN.

2. THE FULL FAMILY NAME IS GHATTIS-SIRHAN. THE FAMILY IS ORIGINALLY FROM THE VILLAGE OF TAYBEH NEAR RAMALLAH, JERUSALEM DISTRICT. ALL THE FAMILY ARE GREEK ORTHODOX AND SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH SEVERAL SIRHAN FAMILIES IN JORDAN AND SYRIA WHO ARE MUSLIM. THE FAMILY WAS ALWAYS POOR, AND AT SOME TIME DURING THE MANDA TE MOST OF THE MEMBERS MOVED INTO THE NASARA (CHRISTIAN) QUARTER OF THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM. THE FAMILY LONG DEPENDED ON CHURCH CHARITY TO SURVIVE. NONE OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS HAS A KNOWN SUBVERSIVE OR CRIMINAL RECORD.

3. THE FILES CONTAINING RECORDS CONCERNING MARY BISHARA SIRHAN, PASSPORT 142026, WERE LEFT IN JERUSALEM DURING THE JUNE WAR AND ARE PRESUMED INTACT AND UNDER THE CONTROL OF ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN JERUSALEM.

4. SOME MEMBERS OF THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY, NAMES UNKNOWN, ARE BELIEVED STILL LIVING IN THE NASARA SECTION, OLD CITY.

5. THERE IS NO RECORD CONCERNING SUBJECT'S AUNT, ELEN HADAWWAR OR HADANAH. THERE IS A PALESTINIAN HAWADAH FAMILY WHICH IS OF JEWISH ORIGIN, BUT IT CANNOT BE DETERMINED NOW WHETHER ELEN AND MARY SIRHAN, SUBJECT'S MOTHER, BELONG TO THAT FAMILY.

6. THE ZAHARAN FAMILY IN JORDAN IS CLOSELY RELATED TO THE GHATTIS-SIRHAN FAMILY AND ELDER ZAHARAN MALES ARE BEING QUERIED RE ANY KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN.

GP-1
250

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Authority NW 89353
By BKS NARA Date 6/9/25

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1968 JUN 6 17 14

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FBI
DEPT OF STATE
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R. Stow

~~SECRET~~ CITE CIA 05851

WHITE HOUSE SIT ROOM ATTN SECRET SERVICE, PID; STATE ATTN: MR. RUSK
OFFICE OF SECURITY INTELLIGENCE & RESEARCH; DEPT OF JUSTICE
ATTN: ATTORNEY GENERAL CLARK

1. FROM AN OFFICIAL SOURCE IN AMMAN WE HAVE LEARNED THAT ONE
WALID MUHAMMAD AHMAD SIRHAN, AGE 23, FROM SULWAN, JORDAN, ARRIVED IN
THE US ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO AND IS STUDYING AUTO MECHANICS AT A
SCHOOL IN JACKSON, MICHIGAN. HE LIVES AT 508 WEST JACKSON STREET IN
JACKSON, MICHIGAN, 49201. IN LETTERS TO HIS SISTER IN AMMAN WALID
HAS REPORTED THAT HE HAS MADE FRIENDS WITH AND DEVELOPED A CLOSE
QUOTE BROTHERLY UNQUOTE RELATIONSHIP WITH SIRHAN SIRHAN.

2. THE ABOVE INFORMATION COMES FROM WALID'S UNCLE, ITSAG SIRHAN
WHO LIVES IN AMMAN, JORDAN, AND WHO CLAIMS THAT THERE IS NO QUOTE
DIRECT UNQUOTE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIS FAMILY AND THAT OF SIRHAN
SIRHAN.

3. WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ABOVE NAMED SIRHAN
SIRHAN, NOR OF HIS POSSIBLE IDENTITY WITH SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN,
ALSO KNOWN AS SHARIF BISHARA SIRHAN.

3P-1

200

NNNN

~~SECRET~~

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 6, 1968

Mr. Schwartz

51

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

PILOT OF PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT
86972

Major Warren H. Smith, Jr., USAF, was born in Framingham, Massachusetts 36 years ago. He and his wife, Estella, now reside in Suitland, Maryland. His parents reside in Ashland, Massachusetts.

He was commissioned in the USAF as 2nd Lt. in 1953 after entering as an enlisted man in 1950. He completed Air Force Basic Flying School in 1955, and since that time has accumulated over 8,000 flying hours. He is now a Senior Pilot.

He was assigned to the 89th Air Wing as a Special Missions Pilot at Andrews Air Force Base in January 1961. Prior to being assigned at Andrews he was stationed at Charleston Air Force Base in South Carolina.

Mrs. Smith's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leon G. Slacum reside on Reliance Road in Fredericksburg, Maryland.

The aircraft departed Andrews AFB en route to Los Angeles International at 7:43 EDT. Estimated time of arrival is 9:45 a.m., PDT.

#

JUNE 6, 1968

58

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

PRESIDENT'S ARMY MILITARY AIDE
ABOARD PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT
ESCORTING THE BODY OF
SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUGH G. ROBINSON, US. ARMY

Born 4 August 1932, Washington, D. C.

Attended Junior high school and high school in Washington, graduating from Dunbar High School in 1949.

Attended Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts from 1949 to 1950.

In July 1950, entered the class of 1954 at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York. Graduated number 100 in class of 640 and selected the Corps of Engineers as his basic branch.

Attended the Engineer Officers Basic Course at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia from September 1954 to November 1954.

Attended the Basic Airborne Course and Jumpmaster Course at Ft. Benning, Georgia, graduating in February of 1955.

Served in Korea for 16 months from April of 1955 to July of 1956, serving as a company commander and platoon leader, first in the 185th Engineer Battalion and then in the 74th Engineer Company, Heavy Equipment.

From July of 1956 to June of 1958, served as a Branch Chief in the Engineer Supply Control Office, St. Louis, Missouri.

From June 1958 to June 1959, attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and obtained a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

From August 1959 to June of 1960 attended the Engineer Officer Advance Course at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia.

From July 1960 to July 1963, served in Orleans, France as Chief of the Catalog and Authorization Division of Engineer Supply Control Agency and as a company commander in the 553rd Engineer Battalion (Construction).

From August 1963 to July 1965, served as the Chief, Combat Branch, War Plans Division of the Engineer Strategic Studies Group.

Present assignment is in the position of Army Assistant to the Armed Forces Aide to the President.

Married to the former Karen Wiggs, December 21, 1954, in Washington, D. C.

Two children - Son - Hugh G. Robinson, Jr.
Born October 30, 1957

Daughter - Susan K. Robinson
Born January 24, 1959

MORE

- 2 -

Father is Colonel James H. Robinson, retired from the U.S. Army in 1958. Presently Assistant to the Vice President of Howard University.

Mother is Wilhelmina T., a teacher at Ballou High School in Washington, D.C.

Brother - James H., Jr., a captain in the Signal Corps, stationed at the Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, D. C.

Sister - Leonora, age 20, is studying Mechanical Engineering at Howard University.

#

53

9:00 a.m. -- June 6, 1968

Mr. Rostow,

Mr. Helms called to say:that through the Israelis we have located Sirhan's father in East Jerusalem and that the results of what little we learned from him will be coming over in a little while. Also, since we have made contact with other members of the family, we have been in contact with the Los Angeles police and will fulfill any additional requirements they want.

Lois

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

54

June 6, 1968

MEMO FOR MR. ROSTOW

SUBJECT: Announcing Foreign Dignitaries Who May Attend
RFK Funeral

At Tom Johnson's instruction, I have told State and Defense that the State Department should make all announcements of foreign governmental visitors who may attend the Kennedy funeral, after the Department coordinates this with the Kennedy party.

LS
Lou Schwartz

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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1968 JUN 6 16 57

55

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HCE579

PAGE 01 STATE 177570

53

ORIGIN SS 20

INFO AF 09,ARA 08,EA 10,EUR 15,NEA 13,RSC 01 IO 13,GPM 04,H 02,CPR 02,
P 04,USIE 00,SSO 00,NSCE 00,CIAE 00,CCO 00,DODE 00,/101 R

DRAFTED BY: S/S: JWDAVIS

APPROVED BY: S/S: BENJAMIN H READ

WH: MR SMITH

O 061638Z JUN 68 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 177570

INFORM CONSULS

REF: STATE 177492

PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION WILL BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT
FLAGS REMAIN AT HALF-STAFF THROUGH DAY OF NATIONAL MOURNING,
SUHDAY, JUNE 9. RUSK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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56

PAGE 01 STATE 177492

54 40

ORIGIN SS 20

INFO CPR 02,CIAE 00,DODE 00,GPM 04,H 02,INR 07,L 03,NSAE 00,NSC 10,

P 04,RSC 01,SP 02,USIA 12,CCO 00,SSO 00,NSCE 00,RSR 01,/068 R

DRAFTED BY: S/S: JWDAVIS

APPROVED BY: S/S: BENJAMIN H. READ

O 061409Z JUN 68 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS STATE 177492

INFORM CONSULS

PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS ISSUED FOLLOWING STATEMENT AND OFFICIAL
PROCLAMATION APPROXIMATELY 6:00 A.M. EDT ON DEATH OF SENATOR
KENNEDY.

TEXT OF STATEMENT: QUOTE THIS IS A TIME OF TRAGEDY AND LOSS.

SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY IS DEAD.

ROBERT KENNEDY AFFIRMED THIS COUNTRY -- AFFIRMED THE ESSENTIAL
DECENCY OF ITS PEOPLE, THEIR LONGING FOR PEACE, THEIR DESIRE
TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR ALL.

DURING HIS LIFE, HE KNEW FAR MORE THAN HIS SHARE OF PERSONAL
TRAGEDY.

YET HE NEVER ABANDONED HIS FAITH IN AMERICA. HE NEVER LOST
HIS CONFIDENCE IN THE SPIRITUAL STRENGTH OF ORDINARY MEN AND
WOMEN.

HE BELIEVED IN THE CAPACITY OF THE YOUNG FOR EXCELLENCE -- AND
IN THE RIGHT OF THE OLD AND POOR TO A LIFE OF DIGNITY.

OUR PUBLIC LIFE IS DIMINISHED BY HIS LOSS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 177492

MRS. JOHNSON AND I EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO MRS. KENNEDY AND HIS FAMILY.

I HAVE ISSUED A PROCLAMATION CALLING UPON OUR NATION TO OBSERVE A DAY OF MOURNING FOR ROBERT KENNEDY. END QUOTE

TEXT OF PROCLAMATION: QUOTE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:

A NOBLE AND COMPASSIONATE LEADER, A GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE, IN THE FULL VIGOR OF HIS PROMISE, LIES DEAD FROM AN ASSASSIN'S BULLET.

THE TRAGEDY AND THE SENSELESS VIOLENCE OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY'S DEATH CASTS A DEEP SHADOW OF GRIEF ACROSS AMERICA AND ACROSS THE WORLD.

THIS IS A MOMENT FOR ALL AMERICANS TO JOIN HANDS AND WALK TOGETHER THROUGH THIS DARK NIGHT OF COMMON ANGUISH INTO A NEW DAWN OF HEALING UNITY.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, DO CALL UPON ALL AMERICANS TO OBSERVE SUNDAY NEXT, THE NINTH DAY OF JUNE, AS A DAY OF NATIONAL MOURNING IN HIS MEMORY THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. IN OUR CHURCHES, IN OUR HOMES, AND IN OUR HEARTS LET US RESOLVE BEFORE GOD AND BEFORE EACH OTHER THAT THE PURPOSE OF PROGRESS AND JUSTICE FOR WHICH ROBERT F. KENNEDY LIVED SHALL ENDURE.

I DIRECT THAT UNTIL INTERMENT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES SHALL BE FLOWN AT HALF-STAFF ON ALL BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND NAVAL VESSELS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND ITS TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS.

I ALSO DIRECT THAT THE FLAG SHALL BE FLOWN AT HALF-STAFF FOR THE SAME LENGTH OF TIME AT ALL UNITED STATES EMBASSIES, LEGATIONS, CONSULAR OFFICES, AND OTHER FACILITIES ABROAD, INCLUDING ALL MILITARY FACILITIES AND NAVAL VESSELS AND STATIONS.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND THIS SIXTH DAY OF JUNE, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 177492

SIXTY-EIGHT AND OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SECOND. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
END QUOTE. RUSK

MEMORANDUM

INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

57

90 / ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Wednesday, June 5, 1968 -- 3:05 p.m.

Rec'd
306
3p

Mr. President:

State informs me that their immigration files show that the man who shot Sen. Kennedy is a Jordanian - Palestinian.

As a security precaution, extra guards have been put on the Jordanian and UAR missions. — *here and in New York.*

W. W. Rostow
W. W. Rostow

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 1/30/95, State Dept. Guidelines
By *8*, NARA, Date *3-9-01*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Department of State

58
TELEGRAM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 236

PAGE 01 STATE 176710

53 44
ORIGIN NEA 15

INFO SY 03,SSC 00,CCO 00,NSCE 00,USIE 00,CIAE 00,DODE 00,GPM 04,H 02,

INR 07,L 03,NSAE 00,NSC 10,P 04,RSC 01,SP 02,SS 20,/071 R

DRAFTED BY: NEA: LDBATTLE
APPROVED BY: NEA: LDBATTLE
SY/PRS: MR. LYNCH (DRAFT)

Z 051915Z JUN 68 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN FLASH

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 176710

PERSON CURRENTLY HELD AS SUSPECT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT
ROBERT KENNEDY TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS SHARIF BISHARY
SIRHAN. BORN IN JORDAN MARCH 19, 1944 AND NOW IN US AS PER-
MANENT RESIDENT UNDER INS NUMBER A-10-711-881.

IN YOUR DISCRETION INFORM KING OR SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL
FOREGOING BUT WITHHOLDING ANY COMMENT WITH RESPECT TO GUILT,
POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. FURTHER DETAILS FOLLOW.

YOU SHOULD MAKE NO PUBLIC COMMENT. RUSK

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By JH, NARA, Date 1-28-06

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 6, 1968

59

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

This is a time of tragedy and loss. Senator Robert Kennedy is dead.

Robert Kennedy affirmed this country -- affirmed the essential decency of its people, their longing for peace, their desire to improve conditions of life for all.

During his life, he knew far more than his share of personal tragedy.

Yet he never abandoned his faith in America. He never lost his confidence in the spiritual strength of ordinary men and women. He believed in the capacity of the young for excellence -- and in the right of the old and poor to a life of dignity.

Our public life is diminished by his loss.

Mrs. Johnson and I extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Kennedy and his family. I have issued a proclamation calling upon our nation to observe a day of mourning for Robert Kennedy.

#

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

60
JUNE 6, 1968

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

DEATH OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:

A noble and compassionate leader, a good and faithful servant of the people, in the full vigor of his promise, lies dead from an assassin's bullet.

The tragedy and the senseless violence of Robert F. Kennedy's death casts a deep shadow of grief across America and across the world.

This is a moment for all Americans to join hands and walk together through this dark night of common anguish into a new dawn of healing unity.

NOW, THEREOFRE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States, do call upon all Americans to observe Sunday next, the ninth day of June, as a day of national mourning in his memory throughout the United States. In our churches, in our homes, and in our hearts let us resolve before God and before each other that the purpose of progress and justice for which Robert F. Kennedy lived shall endure.

I direct that until interment the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff on all building, grounds and naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions.

I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-second.

/s/

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

THE WHITE HOUSE
June 6, 1968

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 5, 1968

61

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

6:45 George Christian issued the following statement by the President:

"There are no words equal to the horror of this tragedy. Our thoughts and our prayers are with Senator Kennedy, his family and the other victims.

All America prays for his recovery. We also pray that divisiveness and violence be driven from the hearts of men everywhere."

Christian also made the following statements:

The President was notified of Senator Kennedy having been shot at 3:31 EST by Special Assistant Walt Rostow, who had been called immediately by the White House Situation Room as first reports were received.

The President has been up since then, talking three times with the Attorney General, twice with Secret Service Director Jim Rowley, with Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford, and with FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

The President has asked that a protective U. S. Secret Service Detail be placed with each Presidential candidate and with their family. There is not authorizing legislation for this action, but the President has asked that this be done.

The President has directed the FBI to assist with supplying manpower if necessary to supplement the Secret Service details.

The President also talked this morning with Senator Monroney, Senator Dirksen, Sen Mansfield and Congressman Tom Steed of Oklahoma. The President advised these members of Congress of the actions he had taken in placing Secret Service details with each of the Presidential candidates and discussed the need for authorizing legislation to follow up this action.

#

62
Rostow

FBIS 36

MOSCOW ON KENNEDY SHOOTING

MOSCOW DOMESTIC SERVICE IN RUSSIAN 1200 GMT 5 JUN 68 L

(TEXT) ANOTHER POLITICAL CRIME HAS BEEN COMMITTED IN THE UNITED STATES, THE COUNTRY WHICH BOASTS ABOUT ITS DEMOCRACY, ITS SYSTEM--THE SYSTEM OF FREE ENTERPRISE. THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN LOS ANGELES WAS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE IRRESPONSIBLE CONNIVANCE ON THE PART OF THE AUTHORITIES AND THE NOTORIOUS FREEDOM OF A CAPITALIST SOCIETY, THE FREEDOM TO KILL.

IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE EXTREME RIGHTWING FORCES IN THE UNITED STATES ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF THE REACTIONARY RULING CIRCLES IN WASHINGTON AND EXERT A GROWING INFLUENCE ON THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY. THEY OPPOSE THE GRANTING OF EQUAL CIVIL RIGHTS TO THE NEGRO POPULATION. THEY ARE IN FAVOR OF A MILITARIZATION OF THE COUNTRY AND OF THE ARMS RACE, TO PLEASE MONOPOLISTIC CAPITAL. THE HAWKS DEMAND AN EXTENSION OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM, THREATENING THOSE WHO DISSENT FROM THEM WITH PUNISHMENTS AND AT TIMES USE THE SERVICES OF PAID ASSASSINS. THIS HAPPENED IN NOVEMBER 1963, WHEN PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS KILLED IN DALLAS. THIS HAPPENED ON 4 APRIL THIS YEAR WHEN MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS KILLED IN MEMPHIS. THIS IS HAPPENING TODAY, IN BOSTON, AT THE SHAMEFUL TRIAL OF FIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S. INTELLIGENTSIA LED BY BENJAMIN SPOCK, WHO OPENLY OPPOSED THE AGGRESSION IN INDOCHINA.

5 JUN 1315Z AM/RG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

63
JUNE 5, 1968

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

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All America prays for his recovery. We also pray that divisiveness and violence be driven from the hearts of men everywhere.

#

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 6, 1968

64

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

DEATH OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:

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I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-second.

/s/

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

THE WHITE HOUSE
June 6, 1968

65
JUNE 5, 1968

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT
ON THE SHOOTING OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
THE FISH ROOM

AT 10:07 P.M. EDT

My fellow citizens, I speak to you this evening not only as your President, but as a fellow American who is shocked and dismayed, as you are, by the attempt on Senator Kennedy's life, deeply disturbed, as I know you are, by lawlessness and violence in our country, of which this tragedy is the latest spectacular example.

We do not know the reasons that inspired the attack on Senator Kennedy. We know only that a brilliant career of public service has been brutally interrupted; that a young leader of uncommon energy and dedication, who has served his country tirelessly and well, and whose voice and example have touched millions throughout the entire world, has been senselessly and horribly stricken.

At this moment, the outcome is still in the balance. We pray to God that He will spare Robert Kennedy and will restore him to full health and vigor. We pray this for the Nation's sake, for the sake of his wife and his children, his father and his mother, and in memory of his brother, our beloved late President.

The Kennedy family has endured sorrow enough, and we pray that this family may be spared more anguish.

Tonight this Nation faces once again the consequences of lawlessness, hatred and unreason in its midst. It would be wrong, it would be self-deceptive, to ignore the connection between that lawlessness and hatred and this act of violence. It would be just as wrong, and just as self-deceptive, to conclude from this act that our country itself is sick, that it has lost its balance, that it has lost its sense of direction, even its common decency.

200 million Americans did not strike down Robert Kennedy last night any more than they struck down John F. Kennedy in 1963 or Dr. Martin Luther King in April of this year.

But those awful events give us ample warning that in a climate of extremism, of disrespect for law, of contempt for the rights of others, violence may bring down the very best among us. A Nation that tolerates violence in any form cannot expect to be able to confine it to just minor outbursts.

My fellow citizens, we cannot, we just must not, tolerate the sway of violent men among us. We must not permit men who are filled with hatred, and careless of innocent lives, to dominate our streets and fill our homes with fear.

MORE

We cannot sanction the appeal to violence, no matter what its cause, no matter what the grievance from which it springs.

There is never -- and I say never -- any justification for the violence that tears at the fabric of our national life; that inspires such fear in peaceful citizens that they arm themselves with deadly weapons; that sets citizen against citizen or group against group.

A great nation can guarantee freedom for its people and the hope of progressive change only under the rule of law. So let us, for God's sake, resolve to live under the law.

Let us put an end to violence and to the preaching of violence.

Let the Congress pass laws to bring the insane traffic in guns to a halt, as I have appealed to them time and time again to do. That will not, in itself, end the violence, but reason and experience tell us that it will slow it down; that it will spare many innocent lives.

Let us purge the hostility from our hearts and let us practice moderation with our tongues.

Let us begin in the aftermath of this great tragedy to find a way to reverence life, to protect it, to extend its promise to all of our people.

This Nation and its people have suffered grievously from violence and assassination. For this reason, I am appointing, with the recommendation of the Leadership of the Congress -- with whom I have talked this evening -- a commission of most distinguished Americans to immediately examine this tragic phenomenon. They are:

Dr. Milton Eisenhower, the former distinguished President of Johns Hopkins University.

Archbishop Terrence Cook of New York.

Albert E. Jenner, Jr., of Illinois.

Ambassador Patricia Harris.

Mr. Eric Hoffer.

Senator Philip A. Hart.

Senator Roman Hruska.

Congressman Hale Boggs.

Congressman William McCulloch.

Judge Leon Higginbotham.

MORE

The commission will look into the causes, the occurrence and the control of physical violence across this Nation, from assassination that is motivated by prejudice and by ideology, and by politics and by insanity, to violence in our cities' streets and even in our homes.

What in the nature of our people and the environment of our society makes possible such murder and such violence?

How does it happen? What can be done to prevent assassination? What can be done to further protect public figures? What can be done to eliminate the basic causes of these aberrations?

Supported by the suggestions and recommendations of criminologists, sociologists and psychologists, all of our Nation's medical and social sciences, we hope to learn why we inflict such suffering on ourselves. I hope and pray that we can learn how to stop it.

This is a sober time for our great democracy, but we are a strong and we are a resilient people who can, I hope, learn from our misfortunes, who can heal our wounds, who can build and find progress in public order.

We can. We must.

So I appeal to every American citizen tonight:
Let us begin tonight.

END

(AT 10:18 P.M. EDT)

JUNE 5, 1968

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON MILTON S.
EISENHOWER

Age 68 (born September 15, 1899 in Abilene, Kansas)

Residence: Johns Hopkins University

PRESENT POSITION - President Emeritus of Johns Hopkins University

EDUCATION:

1924 B.S., Kansas City University
 Received honorary degrees from 26 universities and colleges

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:

1924-26	American Vice Consul, Edinburgh
1926-28	Assistant to Secretary of Agriculture
1928 -41	Director, Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture
1942	Director, War Relocation Authority
1942-43	Association Director, OWI
1943-50	President, Kansas State University
1950-56	President, Pennsylvania State University
1956 --	President, Johns Hopkins University

ALSO:

	Director, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad
1962	Public Governor, New York Stock Exchange
1958-61	Member, Board of Visitors, U. S. Naval Academy
1953-60	Member, President's Committee on Government Organization
1957-60	Special ambassador and personal representative for the President for U. S. Latin American Affairs
1953-60	Director, Fund for Adult Education
1947-51	Trustee, National Committee for Economic Development
1952-53	Chairman, American-Korean Foundation
1952	Director, The Geisinger Memorial Hospital
1950	Chairman, General Awards Jury
1951	Director, Freedom Foundation, Inc.
1946-48	Chairman, U. S. National Commission for UNESCO
1946-47	Delegate, UNESCO Conference
1946	Member, Famine Emergency Relief Commission
1940	Member of numerous government commissions Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences Recipient of several awards from foreign governments.

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JUNE 5, 1968

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON ALBERT E. JENNER, JR.

PRESENT POSITION

Partner, Raymond, Mayer, Jenner and Block
(135 LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois)

EDUCATION

1930 LL. B., University of Illinois

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

1930-now General Practice of Law

ALSO

Special Assistant Attorney General of Illinois (Counsel, Illinois Budgetary Commission) from 1956 to 1957

Member, Illinois Commission and National Conference Commission on Uniform State Law in the U. S.

Member, Advisory Committee on Federal Civil Rules, U. S. Supreme Court

Member, Conference Bar Association (President 1952-1953)

Member, U. S. Loyalty Review Board (1952-1953)

Member, Council of the University of Illinois Law Forum (1948-51)

Law Member, Illinois Board of Examiners in Accountancy (1945-51)

Recipient, Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Public Service, Chicago and Illinois Junior Chambers of Commerce (1939)

Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers (Board of Regents and President, 1958)

Member, Illinois Society of Trial Lawyers

Member, American Bar Association (House of Delegates)

Member, Illinois Bar Association (President, 1949-50)

Member, Chicago Bar Association (Secretary 1947-49)

Member, American Judicature Society (President, 1958)

Member, American Institute of Judicial Administration

Member, Board of Governors, Bar Association of U. S. Court of Appeals

Member, American Law Institute

Legal Staff, Presidential Commission to Investigate the Assassination of President Kennedy (1963-64)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 5, 1968

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON WILLIAM M. McCULLOCH

Born Holmes County, Ohio, November 24, 1901.

Attended Wooster College 1919-1921.

LL.B. Ohio State University 1924.

Member Ohio House of Representatives 1933-45; Republican Minority leader
1936-1939; Speaker 1939-1944.

Elected to 80th Congress on November 4, 1947 and re-elected to each
succeeding Congress.

Resides in Piqua, Ohio.

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JUNE 5, 1968

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

BIOGRAPHY OF A. LEON HIGGINBOTHAM JR.

Age: 40 (Born February 25, 1928 in Trenton, New Jersey)

Present position: U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Education: 1944-45 Attended Purdue University
1949 A.B., Antioch College
1952 LL.B., Yale University

Previous Experience: 1946-48 NLRB, Chicago and Philadelphia
1949 Research director, AFL, St. Louis
1953 Law clerk, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia
1953 Assistant District Attorney, Philadelphia County
1954-62 Practice of law, Norris, Green, Harris and Higginbotham, Philadelphia
1962-64 Member, Federal Trade Commission
1964 -- U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Also: 1956-62 Special Assistant to Pennsylvania Attorney General
1958-62 Hearing Officer in conscientious objector cases
1961-62 Member, Pennsylvania Fair Employment Practices Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 5, 1968

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON MRS. PATRICIA R. HARRIS

PRESENT POSITION

Law professor at Howard University

EDUCATION

1945	B. A. , Howard University (summa cum laude)
1945-47	Postgraduate study, University of Chicago
1949	Postgraduate study, American University
1960	J. D. , George Washington University Law School

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

1943-45	Research Assistant, Howard University
1946-49	Program Director, YWCA, Chicago, Illinois
1949-53	Assistant Director, American Council on Human Rights, Washington, D. C.
1953-59	Executive Director, Delta Sigma Theta, National Headquarters, Washington, D. C.
1959-60	Research Assistant, George Washington University Law School
1960-61	Attorney, Department of Justice, Appeals and Research Section, Criminal Division
1961-63	Associate Dean of Students and Lecturer in Law, Howard University
1963-65	Assistant Professor of Law, Howard University
1964	Member, U. S. -Puerto Rico Commission on the Status of Puerto Rico
1965-67	Ambassador to Luxembourg
1967-now	Professor of Law, Howard University

PERSONAL DATA

Married to William Beasley Harris. Age 43 (Born May 31, 1924 in Mattoon, Illinois). Present address: 2416 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 5, 1968

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON ROMAN LEE HRUSKA

Born in David City, Nebraska, August 16, 1904.
Attended University of Omaha.
LL.B. Creighton University College of Law 1929.

General practice of law in Omaha.
University of Omaha Board of Regents 1950-57.
Board of County Commissioners, Douglas County, Nebraska, 1945-1952.

Elected to the 83rd Congress, November 4, 1952.
Elected to the United States Senate, November 2, 1954 to complete
unexpired term.
Re-elected November 4, 1958, and November 3, 1964.

Resides in Omaha, Nebraska.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 5, 1968

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON HALE BOGGS

Born in Louisiana, February 15, 1914.

B. A. Tulane University 1935

LL. B. Tulane University 1937

Served in World War II as an officer in the United States Naval Reserve
and United States Maritime Service.

Elected to 77th Congress as youngest Democrat.

Elected to 80th Congress and to each succeeding Congress.

Elected to Committee on Ways and Means in 1949.

Appointed to Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation in 87th Congress.

Deputy Democratic Whip 85th, 86th and First Session of the 87th Congress.

Democratic Whip since Second Session of the 87th Congress.

Member of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President
Kennedy 1963-1964.

Resides in New Orleans, Louisiana and represents the 2nd District of
Louisiana in the House of Representatives.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 5, 1968

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON PHILIP A. HART

Born Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, December 10, 1912.

A. B. Cum Laude, Georgetown University 1934

J. D. University of Michigan Law School 1937

U. S. Army 1941-1946 with the 4th Infantry Division. Wounded in
D-Day assault on Utah Beach, Normandy.

Michigan Corporation and Securities Exchange 1949-1950

U. S. Attorney for Eastern Michigan 1952.

Legal Adviser to Governor Williams 1953-54.

Elected Lt. Governor 1954 and re-elected 1956.

Elected to the United States Senate, November 4, 1958 and re-elected
November 3, 1964.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 5, 1968

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON TERENCE J. COOKE

Born in New York City, March 1, 1921.

Educated at St. Joseph's Seminary.

Ordained as a Roman Catholic Priest December 1, 1945.

Served at St. Athanasius Parish in the Bronx and St. Agatha's Home
in Nanuet, New York.

Assigned to graduate studies at Catholic University in Washington.

Returned to New York City in 1949 and work with the Catholic Youth
Organization while assigned to the Catholic Youth Activities of the
Archdiocese and while assisting in St. Jude's Parish served as
Instructor at the Fordham University School of Social Service, 1949-1956.

Named Procurator of St. Joseph's Seminary in January 1954 and

Became Secretary to Cardinal Spellman in January 1954.

Elevated to the rank of Papal Chamberlain in August 1957 and to the
rank of Domestic Prelate by Pope John XXIII on June 1, 1958.

Appointed Chancellor of the Archdiocese of New York, June 15, 1961.

Raised to Protonotary Apostolic by Pope Paul VI, June 1964.

Named by Cardinal Spellman Vicar General of the Archdiocese of New York
February 16, 1965.

Appointed 7th Archbishop and 10th Bishop of New York March 8, 1968.

Formally installed in his See by Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, Apostolic
Delegate to the United States and designed Military Vicar to the Armed
Forces of the United States at St. Patrick's Cathedral April 4, 1968
with President Johnson in attendance.

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SUBJ: KENNEDY DEATH

1. WE HAVE INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTRY AND DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS THAT BOOK OF CONDOLENCE FOR SENATOR KENNEDY WILL BE OPENED FOR SIGNATURE AT SPASO (RESIDENCE OF AMBASSADOR, 10 SPASO-PESKOVSKAYA PLOSHCHAD) DURING DAY OF JUNE 7.

2. IF VOA PLANS MENTION IN ITS COVERAGE OPENING OF BOOKS OF CONDOLENCE IN VARIOUS US EMBASSIES, IT MAY WISH USE INFORMATION PARA ONE AS STRAIGHT NEWS ITEM BUT SHOULD AVOID APPEARANCE OF INVITATION TO SOVIET PUBLIC.

DECON RECEIPT. THOMPSON

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MADRID FOR AMBASSADOR PAYTON

REF: MADRID 3987 (NOT TO DEPT)

STATE/USIS MESSAGE

" C'A Y EST, ROBERT KENNEDY EST MORT," RADIO CAMEROON OPENED NOON
NEWSCAST JUNE 6. COMMENTATOR SAID AMERICA STRONG, RICH COUNTRY
THAT HAS LEFT ALL OTHERS BEHIND TECHNOLOGICALLY BUT HAS DEEPLY
DISCONCERTING ASPECT. BELIEVES U.S. HASN'T FULLY OUTLIVED ITS
DAYS OF FRONTIER VIOLENCE. OBSERVED QUOTE IN AMERICA YOU CAN
BUY GUNS LIKE YOU CAN BUY CANDY UNQUOTE. COMPARED DEATHS OF
JOHN KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, ROBERT KENNEDY, NOTING THEY
AND THEIR IDEALS NOW SURELY BELONG TO WORLD.

BROADCAST CARRIED CONDOLENCES TELEGRAM FROM PRESIDENT AHIDJO
TO MRS. KENNEDY AND CHARGE'S STATEMENT KENNEDY DEATH. RADIO
PLAYED EXCERPT USIS TAPE KENNEDY TELLING AFRICAN STUDENTS HE
AGAINST ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE.

KENNEDY DEATH WAS ONLY ITEM CARRIED THAT BROADCAST. PROGRAM
CONCLUDED WITH SELECTION SPIRITUALS BY GOLDEN GATE QUARTED
WHICH HAD BEEN TO CAMEROON.

FLAG AT HALF MAST, CONDOLENCES BOOK AND PHOTO DISPLAY PLACED
EMBASSY LOTBY. ARCHBISHOP ZOA PROBABLY WILL CELEBRATE REQUIEM
MASS 5:30 P.M. MONDAY JUNE QPM

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RESIDENT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CALLED ON USIS TO EXPRESS SORROW
AND SYMPATHY CAMEROONIAN STUDENT BODY. SAID MANY CRIED, BUT
NOT PLANNING PUBLIC MANIFESTATION SENTIMENTS.

INITIAL CAMEROONIAN REACTION APPEARS TO CONTAIN ELEMENT
SURPRESSED, UNDIRECTED ANGER, CONFUSION OVER WHAT IT REGARDS
AS GROWING REIGN OF VIOLENCE IN UNITED STATES AND DISMAY THAT
ALMOST ANYONE CAN BUY ANY KIND OF WEAPON IN AMERICA. DENNIS

Rafael

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 6, 1968

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

DEATH OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:

A noble and compassionate leader, a good and faithful servant of the people, in the full vigor of his promise, lies dead from an assassin's bullet.

The tragedy and the senseless violence of Robert F. Kennedy's death casts a deep shadow of grief across America and across the world.

This is a moment for all Americans to join hands and walk together through this dark night of common anguish into a new dawn of healing unity.

NOW, THEREOFRE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States, do call upon all Americans to observe Sunday next, the ninth day of June, as a day of national mourning in his memory throughout the United States. In our churches, in our homes, and in our hearts let us resolve before God and before each other that the purpose of progress and justice for which Robert F. Kennedy lived shall endure.

I direct that until interment the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff on all building, grounds and naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions.

I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-second.

/s/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUNE 6, 1968

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

This is a time of tragedy and loss. Senator Robert Kennedy is dead.

Robert Kennedy affirmed this country -- affirmed the essential decency of its people, their longing for peace, their desire to improve conditions of life for all.

During his life, he knew far more than his share of personal tragedy.

Yet he never abandoned his faith in America. He never lost his confidence in the spiritual strength of ordinary men and women. He believed in the capacity of the young for excellence -- and in the right of the old and poor to a life of dignity.

Our public life is diminished by his loss.

Mrs. Johnson and I extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Kennedy and his family. I have issued a proclamation calling upon our nation to observe a day of mourning for Robert Kennedy.

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