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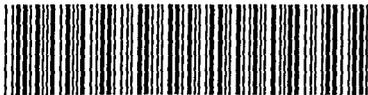
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REACTION TO THE ASSASSINATION
of
ROBERT F. KENNEDY

Background Brief #88

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88
REACTION TO THE ASSASSINATION
OF
ROBERT F. KENNEDY

July 25, 1968

6/316/68

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INTRODUCTION

This compilation deals with world reaction to the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy.

Although there are quite a few items from Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia, the material in this survey includes mainly reports and commentaries originating in the United States, the Arab countries, Israel, and the communist world.

The U.S. sources include mainly reports, commentaries, editorials and letters to the editor in the New York Times and the Washington Post. Middle East sources include both press reports and radio broadcasts; while communist sources are primarily radio broadcasts, although there are some articles from the Soviet press.

The material covers the period June 5 through June 25, 1968 with heavy emphasis on the earlier part of the month.

Following this introduction, there is a detailed synopsis of communist commentary on the assassination. After a general presentation, each communist country is treated separately with rather extensive quotations illustrating the principal themes emphasized.

A SYNOPSIS OF COMMUNIST COMMENTARY
ON THE ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY

General Themes:

Mass media in most of the various communist countries gave considerable coverage to the assassination of Robert Kennedy; and on the whole it was fairly uniform in its assessment of the causes and the implications of the murder.

There was some division with regard to the view of Robert Kennedy himself. Most of the East European countries, including the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia, reacted to the assassination with shock, sympathized with the Kennedy family and eulogized Robert Kennedy as a liberal and a reformer who was against the war in Vietnam and who was stirred by the misery of the poor and tried to do something about it.

Albania, Communist China and, to some extent, East Germany differed from the above view. To them Robert Kennedy was another dirty capitalist who was done away with by members of his own imperialist class in a desperate struggle for power.

The commentaries of most of the countries concerned concentrated mainly on the following basic themes:

1. The assassination of Robert Kennedy is only one more link in an obvious systematic pattern of assassinations, and is identical with the murder of John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King.
2. The assassination clearly shows that violence has become an integral part of the "American way of life", and a part of the political system in the country which also manifests itself in a violent and aggressive foreign policy as illustrated in U.S. aggression in Vietnam.
3. The assassination is a further manifestation of U.S. moral decay and the disintegration of its social fabric.
4. The murder of Robert Kennedy was not the act of a lone fanatic, but the result of a well-planned conspiracy. Versions as to who might be or are behind the conspiracy varied and have included the following:
 - a. Ultra-reactionary fanatic racialists.

- b. The "military-industrial complex".
- c. Political opponents.
- d. President Johnson, the C.I.A., etc.

5. There was also considerable variation in the speculation as to the motive for the murder. Commentaries included the following explanations:

- a. Kennedy was murdered by political opponents and other contenders for the presidency.
- b. Kennedy was murdered by reactionary forces who wanted to prevent him from reaching the presidency at any cost because of his liberal views, especially concerning the various social problems at home, and because of his opposition to the war in Vietnam.
- c. Robert Kennedy was murdered to prevent him from discovering who the real killers of his brother, John Kennedy, are, exposing them and wreaking his vengeance upon them. This he could do, if he had become president.

6. The identity and nationality of the assassin is irrelevant. Sirhan of 1968, like Oswald of 1963, is merely the stupid instrument of the organizers and planners of the killing. As in the case of John F. Kennedy, the real murderers will never be discovered, because they are found in the highest councils of the state.

ALBANIA:

Relatively speaking, Albania devoted surprisingly considerable coverage to the Kennedy murder. Its views can probably be best summarized in the following quotations from a Tirana broadcast on June 7 (p. 4):

Crime and murder, raised to a system, testify to the rottenness of American society, dominated by the clans of the big capitalist monopolies.

Robert Kennedy was assassinated by his political opponents in the fold of the ruling class to which he himself belonged. This is a struggle for power, within the ruling class of the United States of America.....

The magnates of the big U.S. monopolies...assassinate their opponents in order to establish their own representatives in the White House, those representatives who will defend the narrow interests of one or the other group. This is a clash between wolves, between those who have "jungle law" as their main principle. And Robert Kennedy was a victim of this clash.....

The threads of the assassination of Robert Kennedy lead to a wide plot....Just as always, as happened with Robert Kennedy's brother, the late President John Kennedy, as happened with Martin Luther King and others, Johnson and various representatives of the big monopolies will strive to hide the real criminals, laying the blame on some "fanatical young man."

BULGARIA:

The brief Bulgarian commentaries were restricted to speculation on the moral decay of the United States and on violence in its society. The following quotes from a Sofia broadcast on June 5 are illustrative (p. 8):

For dozens of years the United States has been regarded as a country of unlimited opportunity. But today it is a country of political gangsterism and political assassinations. In this country where gangsterism is somehow connected with political banditry and with the murdering of presidents, the murders go undetected and crime is covered up by highest level officials.

It is well known what the world reaction to the new Los Angeles crime will be. Some will say: Another dirty stain on the image of America. But is there in fact any clean small stain, one even as small as a cent on this image? There is nothing clean left on it, but there is an image full of hatred, furious cruelty, and criminality. The moral code of American imperialism has few pages left. It represents only a certificate of hopeless degradation.

COMMUNIST CHINA:

A Peking broadcast on June 8 dismissed the murder as the result of an intense struggle for power. It declared that "The assassination which took place during the election campaign among the U.S. monopoly capitalists is another reflection of the increasingly deepening political and economic crisis of U.S. imperialism." (p. 10) It concluded by stating that "This once again shows that the struggle for power within the U.S. monopoly capitalist class is going on more and more fiercely. It is another indication of the fact that U.S. imperialism is rotting with each passing day and is rapidly declining."

CUBA:

Cuban broadcasts (p. 12) speculated that Sirhan may in fact be a C.I.A. agent and that he killed Kennedy at the Agency's instructions. At any rate, "whether the murderer is mentally unbalanced or a pawn, he is in the final analysis, a byproduct of the U.S. mythology."

CZECHOSLOVAKIA:

The Czech press and radio devoted considerable commentary to the assassination. Many expressions of shock and sympathy for Robert Kennedy, his family and the United States by government leaders and private organizations were broadcast over Prague radio. Kennedy was eulogized as a liberal and a reformer.

A Prague radio broadcast on June 6 declared that the responsibility for the general atmosphere of violence within the United States and for U.S. aggressive policies abroad (pp. 15-16):

.....rests with a small group of politicians, industrialists, financiers, and generals whom former President Eisenhower once described as America's military-industrial complex.

They make up a powerful brutal machine mercilessly sweeping out of their way anything or anyone that dares threaten their interests, anyone who dares interfere with their profits and the slaughter in Vietnam and elsewhere, from America's own poor, from the poor of the banana republics of Latin America and from other parts of the world. For daring to oppose, many nameless people paid with their lives. So did John F. Kennedy, Medgar Evers, and Martin Luther King. Is Robert Kennedy to be the next on the list?

President Johnson has probably served the interests of this machine best of all. And it is he who has brought the United States to a point where its name has become synonymous with death and brutality. Under his presidency not only has the country's prestige fallen to so low a level, but it has lost the confidence of the world.

Another broadcast on June 6 declared (p. 16):

It is beside the point whether the murderer of murderers of J.F. Kennedy are finally found or whether the attacker of his brother Robert is identified. The findings would anyway only show figures on the chessboard of the American political underworld which are moved and paid by others who remain concealed.

After Kennedy died a broadcast on June 7 declared (p. 18):

.....The nationality or religion of murderers like Sirhan, Oswald, Ruby, or still unknown murderer of King is absolutely secondary. The main thing is what links them....The presidential throne of the United States is stained with blood--more terrible than Macbeth's throne, and the way to it stinks of gunpowder.....

EAST GERMANY:

The general tone of East German commentary was one of vindictive gloating. An East Berlin broadcast on June 5 stated in part (p. 21):

.....The murders of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King still remain unexplained, but everything seems to indicate that in "the freest country of the world" murder has become a means of politics; for, as regards the murders of both Kennedy and King, there is open talk of a plot in the United States.

Another broadcast on the same day declared in part (p.23):

One prominent politician after another is slain. Only a very naive person can believe that there is no pattern behind these attempts; that it is not a plot of the most reactionary groups of the American imperialists who are trying to find a path to the right out of the crisis.

An editorial on June 7 sarcastically stated (p. 25):

When President John F. Kennedy, stricken by rightwing extremist bullets, collapsed in the seat of his car, the first course of action took the FBI "by coincidence" to Lee H. Oswald-- a man who had lived in the USSR for a short period, and who was married to a Russian woman.

To this case, too, the intent was obvious: The object was to distract the ghost of suspicion from the organizers of the murder and shift it to the main bastion of world socialism.

Robert F. Kennedy was still in agony when it was determined that an Arab named Sirhan had fired the lethal shot, and this was "by coincidence" exactly 1 year after the Israeli aggression backed by Washington and, likewise, "by coincidence", at the peak of an anti-Arab agitation campaign unprecedented in the United States.

How nicely, indeed, does this picture, too, fit into the gallery of the "lone wolf culprits with contacts"--a gallery set up by the imperialists to deceive the nations.

HUNGARY:

Hungarian commentaries were blistering in their attacks, and rather specific in their speculation as to the causes of the murder and who are its real organizers. An editorial "The Third Bullet" broadcast on June 6 claimed that Kennedy was killed because he knew too much. It stated in part(p. 28):

.....They wanted to get rid of Robert Kennedy because he knew too much. As Attorney General he saw every secret document for years. Thus, he knew of every tangle of the Warren report, and if once he began to speak he could have irremediably exploded the great scandal of contemporary history through his disclosures.

So far the New York Senator has kept silent--partly out of his loyalty to the Democratic Party, or in order to save the remnants of the international prestige of the United States, which has long been lost anyway. Those, however, who were afraid of disclosures every moment did not dare take the risk that he should eventually get into the White House. Then there would be such power centered in his hands that he could safely reveal to American public opinion and to the world the facts and truth, first of all of Dallas, and of many other tragic events.

The same broadcast quoted another editorial which stated in part (p. 29):

What kind of a country could it be in which gun and revolver bullets have been raised to the highest rank of political argument? What kind of a country is it where, in spite of the extraordinary abundance of consumer goods, tens of thousands are marching on the capital to protest with their camps of miserable tents against the unbearable situation of the millions of the masses? What kind of a system is it where 10 percent of the population, 22 million Negroes, subsist in a state of dispossession without any rights? What kind of a policy is it which squanders millions of dollars on a gangster war with mass murder, yet has no money for remedying the most burning social tensions? Answers are superfluous. The questions carry the answers in themselves. The shots fired from a pistol in Los Angeles have added only further material to the specific characteristics of the American way of life.

Another commentary broadcast on June 8 was quite pointed in its accusations when it stated in part (p. 30):

.....Even the President has been forced, however, to admit that terrorist methods have dangerously increased in the United States. Johnson stopped, however, with this modest statement of fact and did not even try to analyze the causes. This is logical since then he unavoidably would have arrived at the conclusion that the traces lead to the White House, the Pentagon, and, last but not least, the underworld and secret organizations closely intertwined with the big financial groups which were interested in preventing the former attorney general, who had the opportunity to look into the most secretly guarded material, from becoming the possessor of the supreme power.

NORTH KOREA:

The brief commentaries dismissed the episode as the result of "dogfight for power, and exposes the ugly face of American society where gangsters swing their arms in broad daylight." (p. 32)

POLAND:

Polish commentary claimed that "extreme reactionary forces, if not facist ones" are behind the murders of both the Kennedy brothers and Martin Luther King (p. 33). Further press comment broadcast on June 7 stated in part (p. 34):

The American community is proud of its achievements, wellbeing, technological developments, and civilization. Thus American propaganda makes efforts to export to the world the American "way of life" and American "democratic ideology" as an ideal model.

The shots which hit Senator Kennedy, and before him his brother and Reverend Martin Luther King, are deadly shots for the myth, too. The United States, rich and influential, may not and cannot solve the problem of notorious poverty in its own country. Racial discrimination has recently led that country to the brink of civil war.

RUMANIA:

Rumanian broadcasts devoted considerable space to factual reporting of developments and expressions of sympathy. One commentary on June 7 stated in part (p. 38):

Obviously, the Los Angeles assassination, like the previous crimes, derives from the structure of American society in which the darkest forces of reaction are interested in defending their positions and privileges at any cost and to their utmost in order to carry on an inhuman, antipopular policy, a policy contrary to peace and security.

SOVIET UNION:

Soviet media was quick to utilize the Kennedy murder for launching a propaganda campaign using mainly the basic theme of "violence and moral decay" having become the hallmark of U.S. society. Following Kennedy's death, a Moscow radio commentary on June 6 declared in part (pp.46-47):

Yes, the United States has become just that--a land of lawlessness and political assassination, a land where a cult of violence is becoming an unwritten constitution, a land where the bullet is becoming the main argument and the means of settling disputes. We've seen the deaths of the millionaires John and Robert Kennedy, whose increased power was feared by other monopoly groups. We've seen the deaths of the Negro leaders Martin Luther King and Malcom X, for the movement they led is regarded as a threat to the present system based on social injustice and racism. We've seen the deaths

of countless Negroes because a Negro should know his place.

This violence at home goes hand in hand with violence abroad. American boys sent to fight in far-off Vietnam are ordered to shoot at anything moving, whether man, woman, child or goat. These orders are being carried out in a manner so brutal and inhuman as to shock the world. Time and again perspicacious Americans have said that the dirty war in Vietnam is corrupting American society. Little wonder, then, that the escalation of the war in Vietnam has coincided with the escalation of violence within the United States. Terror and assassinations at home are the reverse side of the genocidal war against the Vietnamese people.

The role of world gendarme is turning American society into a gangster at home. So it is that 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 the society based on the dollar and stamping out such notions as honor, justice, legality, and humanity. Capitalism is fraught with violence, just as clouds are fraught with rain. The system of violence and lawlessness, moreover, becomes more and more rotten as political power concentrates in the hands of an ever smaller handful of monopolists.

The rule of the military-industrial complex in the United States is giving rise to an atmosphere of violence that brings death even to individual representatives of big business. The death of Sen. Robert Kennedy, who like his elder brother was a champion of capitalism, is one of those tragedies that bear witness to the steady degeneration of capitalist society and its doom.

An article in LIFE ABROAD implied that the CIA and the FBI may be implicated somehow in the murder of Robert Kennedy. It stated in part (p.48):

.....The gunshots in Los Angeles bring to the fore again with new force the sinister role played by the FBI and the CIA, the mainstays of U.S. ruling circles. Whatever the present murderers may say, or whether they say nothing at all, the FBI and CIA remain a grim embodiment of the police state which America has become--the admission of even many bougeois leaders. The CIA and FBI, many foreign researchers say, were implicated in the assassination of President Kennedy. It was the FBI head, J. Edgar Hoover, who prompted the assassins, calling Martin Luther King a liar, and who, after King's assassination, invented a slanderous version that behind this murder was a "communist conspiracy."

A TRUD article on June 7 concluded (p. 61):

The attempts of the powers that be in the United States to declare this system as a model for the peoples of the world, for the whole of present-day mankind sound as blasphemy! Indeed, how much impudence and brazeness it is necessary to have to teach

others how to live what way of life to choose. No, the road of the peoples is not that of the imperialist system of America, the system of gangster "democracy". The world public these days resolutely stresses this point.

In commenting on Mayor Yorty's statements, a Moscow broadcast declared (p. 63):

The United States is still staggered by the revolver shots fired in Los Angeles in the Ambassador Hotel, but certain elements already are impatient to stage new actions against those who think differently, against those who demand a saner order in the country, who demand that political gangsters be curbed and Negroes really be given equal rights. How can one explain otherwise the remark of Los Angeles Mayor Yorty that communists were involved in the tragic event that took place in Los Angeles on 5 June?

An interesting article in PRAVDA of June 8 by Vitali Kornikov claimed, among other things, that the criminal underworld is tied up with the political structure, and that the "military-industrial complex" which controls the United States has inculcated the cult of violence to serve its needs and purposes. It stated in part (pp. 64, 64a):

The sources of gangsterism go down to the early period of the establishment of American capitalism. The ruling class at that time found itself incapable of coping with gangsterism. Imperialism, to which reaction along the entire line is natural, has made gangsterism serve its class aims. Ordinary thuggery has developed into political gangsterism. Directed political crime permeates the life of decaying capitalism in the same way as salt impregnated the ocean waters. And the assassination of Robert Kennedy, furnishes fresh evidence of this.

The political assassinations, which are shaking America even more often, are the direct result of deliberate course of the monopoly circles aimed at turning the country and its people into an obedient tool for the implementation of the far reaching piratical aspirations. Before throwing millions of Americans into military gambles, whose purpose is to enrich the military industrial complex, attempts are made to kill everything which is living and human in these Americans. Hence the cult of violence, the cult of armaments, which is being praised by hired propaganda as a symbol of courage and dignity of the American nation. Primary schools, colleges, universities, cinemas, radio, television, literature and even the church--all these are being used for extolling the ideas of violence, manhatred, for the propaganda of war.

A Zuhov commentary of Radio Moscow June 9 (p. 66) was devoted essentially to an attack on the American Rifle Association and claimed that a process of Nazification seems to be taking place in America.

An "eminent" Soviet lawyer--in a Moscow broadcast on June 10--speculated that Robert Kennedy was probably murdered to prevent him from finding and exposing the real killers of his brother John (p. 67).

A Moscow broadcast on June 15 argued that Sirhan was not a lone fanatic, but the instrument of a well organized plot (p. 68c).

Another broadcast on June 17 claimed that American propaganda is "doing its best" to stress the Arab nationality of the assassin in order to distract attention from the existence of a plot and from the real organizers of the crime. It stated in part (p. 69):

....Moreover, American propaganda is doing its best to stress the Arab nationality of the criminal in a effort to make the man in the street believe the absurd idea that Sirhan had ties with the Progressive Arab regimes. This is nothing new, just as the style of the killing as nothing new. President John Kennedy was killed in the same way by Oswald in broad daylight. In the same manner Ray shot the Negro civil rights leader, Nobel prize-winner, Martin Luther King, and the killers were selected as if they were picked by one and the same experienced hand--all three were people without any definite occupation, without any definite home, and with shady pasts.

And it is understandable why. It is easier this way to trade lies such as the lie of Oswald, who was even labeled a communist. These absurd versions have only one end: to distract public attention from the search for the killers inside the country, to prevent those really responsible for these killings in the United States from being brought to justice. The organizers of the murders need these lies, especially now because no one can deny there is a link between all three bloody murders in Dallas, Memphis, and Los Angeles. And thus with violence and lies the rulers of America are consolidating their power in the country. But the murder of those people who think differently in the country turns mass killings into a policy of aggression and genocide outside the United States.

Perhaps the crime in Los Angeles looks only like a small episode against the background of the American outrages in Vietnam, where thousands of people are dying from bombs and bullets of the aggressors. But it is precisely against the background of Vietnam that this crime once again shows that violence, from murder as a method of political struggle and racial discrimination to the use of the most deadly weapons and blackmail, is becoming the most important feature of the entire American social structure--the society of violence and guns, the society of namplam and lies longs to impose its order in other countries. Its pseudodemocratic facade, the so-called peace-loving speeches, the game of simple-mindedness can fool only those who themselves want to be fooled.

An article by G. Borovik, Novosti's New York correspondent, in the

LITERARY GAZETTE, probably represents one of the more able and gripping Soviet commentaries on the Kennedy murder (pp. 69a-69d). Its emphasis is not on specific accusations, but rather on describing the general mood and environment in the country, and on indicting American society as a whole. The following paragraphs are illustrative (pp. 69b-69c):

"It is incredible!" I heard these answers from passers-by about the assassination in Dallas, about the massacre in Austin, and about the shot fired in Memphis. And now again after Los Angeles I again hear "It's incredible!" This is already a customary stereotype phrase. It has long stopped expressing what it literally means, though it is often said sincerely through tears.

But, generally speaking, America has grown used to murder. Americans know what will follow the next shot, how that the President will make a statement, know that a church service will be announced, know that Walter Cronkite of CBS will in 24 hours get ready a top-notch 60-minute TV biography of the victim. They know that for the first few months after the tragedy TV firms will be ashamed to interrupt broadcasts with commercials and shows, but that later pills against indigestion, deodorants and ladies' stretch pants will again burst onto the screen and the razzle-dazzle will start again!

They also know that for several days after the killing TV commentators will speak on the theme: "What is the reason for these acts of violence?"

This same question will be asked by Senators, by the President, by archbishops, by newsmen and TV commentators, all to argue that everything's fine and O.K., that American society is healthier than ever. Meanwhile, a chance tragedy, however appalling, means nothing...

This will be asserted by commentators of television, that self-same American television which has made of murder and violence and entertainment for Babbitry.

This will be stated by the newsmen on the Daily News, a paper that resembles more a set of instructions for criminals.

This will be stated by Senators who for several years now have not been enacting the law to ban the free sale of weapons only because the firms making and selling these weapons don't want it (last year two million rifles and pistols were sold in the USA).

Archbishop Cooke will conduct Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral and exhort his audience to root out evil from hearts. In that self-same Cathedral, where only quite recently the late Cardinal Spellman exhorted his audience to violence and blessed G.I.'s to commit murder and atrocities in Vietnam.

The President will appoint a grand commission to investigate the "causes of violence" and a few minutes after the news about this is broadcast, there will come news of a government report to the effect that the Americans killed so many Vietnamese in that country last week.

VIETNAM:

Hanoi's version followed more or less the general communist line. In an early broadcast on June 5, it was stated that the assassination "once again clearly shows the hideous true face of U.S. society." (p. 73). A Nhan Dan article summarized by Radio Hanoi on June 7 argued that the murder was the result of a plot organized by Kennedy's political opponents. It stated in part (p. 75):

.....To everyone...this doubtless was a political assassination which was closely connected with the life and death race for the U.S. presidency between R. Kennedy and his opponents.

The paper continued: the killing of R. Kennedy was reminiscent of the murder of his brother, John Kennedy, on 22 November 1963, which still causes commentaries on the dirty motives. Drawing a parallel between the two cases, the paper recalled that John Kennedy met his also during an electioneering trip, following which Lyndon B. Johnson became the President of the United States.

Speaking of the arrest of the alleged murderer of R. Kennedy, the paper recalled that the hue and cry raised after the death of John Kennedy, too, turned up a murderer who, however, was killed in his turn before his murderer and a series of witnesses were mysteriously dispatched.

The paper pointed out: Whatever the motive, the murder of R. Kennedy has shed more light on the ruthlessness and baseness of the American ruling capitalists and the rottenness of the U.S. capitalist society.

An NFLSV broadcast on June 7 apparently directed at the South Vietnamese armed forces, speculated that Johnson may have masterminded the murder, and tried to draw a parallel between the events in the United States and those in Saigon. It stated in part (p. 76):

Public opinion also affirmed that Sen. Robert Kennedy was a bitter opponent of Johnson and that the former's assassination bears the same character as President Kennedy's. Public opinion is looking for the person who masterminded this new assassination and many people have posed questions about the role of Johnson in this murder case.

For you, the determination of who is the author of this assassination plot is probably not a matter of great concern. A question more interesting to deal with is the chaotic and corrupt situation within the U.S. ruling machinery. These events have made many of you think of what was occurred and is occurring in Saigon, which many people have ironically called a "city in a state of America.." Thinking of Saigon means thinking of the Thieu-Ky lackey regime. People still remember how Diem and Nhu, who were installed by the Americans as their lackeys. But at last

they were also purged and sacked by the Americans because they no longer pleased them. Ever since then, the Americans have changed a whole series of lackeys, and each time such a change was made, those officers who did not support them were purged.

In the United States, the incumbent rulers, being unable to use force to purge one another, have resorted to guns to kill one another and have used force to cover those who masterminded the murders. In this U.S. state of Saigon, the two brothers Diem and Nhu were eliminated with guns and ever since the purges have been carried out with both guns and force. The use of guns is lawful and hence need not be covered up. In the United States, the liquidation of those on the way to the White House has reached a bitter phase and in this state of Saigon the purge seems even more bitter because the top traitors Thieu and Ky are eagerly fighting each other for personal interests. That is crystal clear.

YUGOSLAVIA:

Yugoslav media eulogized Robert Kennedy as a person who "has demonstrated...his great human and political qualities" and who "has been a friend of Yugoslavia and has been actively working for better relations between our two countries." (p. 80)

A Belgrade commentary on June 6 had this to say about the murder (p. 82):

.....The inspirers and organizers of this assassination quite certainly will not be found. They will even take part in investigations and may even lead them. When and if the technical executor of the assassination is brought to court, the real murderers will sit among the public and probably even on the jury.

Despite all this, despite everything that prevents the conspirators from being identified and the exposure of their collusion with the leaders of the police, the military, politics, and business; despite all this, both the world and America know very well what forces stand behind the crime in Los Angeles. It is a movement fascist in everything but name. This is a movement which fanatically hates not only communism, socialism, and the left in general, but also everything that is in the least liberal and everything that in any way opposes the war in Vietnam, racial segregation, and the omnipotence of the CIA.

COMMUNIST REACTION

Reports on Communist Commentary:

Communists See Sickness in U.S.

[WASHINGTON POST June 6, 1968]

From News Dispatches

Official Communist commentary on the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy interpreted it as an indictment of American society — where “man is wolf to man,” as an article in the Soviet paper *Izvestia* said.

Radio Hanoi said it laid bare the nature of a society which is full of crime and injustice.

The broadcast noted that Kennedy was a strong critic of the Johnson Administration's domestic and foreign policies, especially in regard to Vietnam.

Hinting at a high-level conspiracy, Radio Hanoi said the attack shows “the dirty face and tactics of U.S. politicians who will not hesitate to spill blood in order to even the score.”

Also Suggested

The theme of a plot, with President Johnson as the chief conspirator, was also suggested by one of the North Vietnamese correspondents at the Paris peace talks on Vietnam, Stanley Karnow reported to *The Washington Post*.

The North Vietnamese were quick, as were many other Communists, to draw a parallel with the assassination of the late President Kennedy.

While the official North Vietnamese delegation to the Paris meetings refused any official comment, Hanoi's correspondents were eager to discuss the matter with their Western colleagues, Karnow reported.

They showed not a sign of sympathy or compassion, he said, but were intensely interested in what effect the shooting would have on the American presidential campaign.

'Way of Life'

The *Izvestia* article by its New York correspondent S. Kondrashov, said “It seems it has become a political norm, an everyday occurrence, a real American way of life to kill political figures in broad daylight in the sight of their relatives, before the television cameras and in the presence of large numbers of people.”

The government paper went on, “Imperialism carries violence within itself . . . This is a violence which brings incalculable suffering to all that is new and progressive, a violence which has its aim to kill all that is new and progressive.”

Kondrashov charged that by showing scenes of the wound-

ed Senator on television “the cruel society instantly turned a tragedy into a spectacle.”

Igor Orlov, commentator for the official Soviet news agency Tass, said there were still many unanswered questions about President Kennedy's assassination and asked “can one fully exclude the possibility that the attempt on Robert Kennedy was linked in some way with the President himself?”

Orlov also said the Los Angeles shooting called attention to the “political jungle of modern America where the murder of political leaders is becoming an increasingly frequent occurrence.”

Moscow Radio blamed the shooting on the “notorious freedom of capitalist society — the freedom to kill.”

The radio called the attack a “political crime” made possible by the “irresponsible convenience of the authorities” with “extremist ultra-rightwing forces.” It also linked it to the

Senator's stand on Vietnam and civil rights.

Cautious Approval

Recently the official Soviet government attitude toward Sen. Kennedy has been one of cautious approval because of his criticism of the Johnson Administration.

The government denunciation of American life aside, the general reaction in Moscow to the shooting was one of deep shock and disappointment.

On Gorky Street, the main thoroughfare of the Soviet capital, an old woman burst into tears when she heard the news.

“Oh no,” she cried, “this is the second bratik (little brother), he was such a progressive and nice man.”

News media in the Eastern European Communist nations, as in Cuba, for the most part limited themselves to straightforward accounts of the developments in Los Angeles.

Kennedy is popular among both officials and ordinary citizens in the capitals of Rumania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, Osgood Caruthers of *The Los Angeles Times* reported. Although a rich capitalist, he is known as a leading critic of the Vietnam war.

In Prague, radio and television programs were interrupted repeatedly to give bulletins on the events in Los Angeles.

SOVIET CRITICIZES U. S. ON SUSPECT

[NEW YORK TIMES.

Sees an Effort to Deflect
Guilt to Foreign Circles
June 8, 1968]

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, June 7—The identification of the suspect in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy as an Arab evoked accusations in the Soviet press today that Americans were trying to deflect guilt to "circles of foreign powers."

Some newspapers saw a parallel with the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963 and the conclusions that the assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald, who had gone to the Soviet Union, and had lived here several years.

"The identity of the assailant who was arrested at the scene of the crime, continues to provoke contradictory rumors," wrote Nedelya, a weekly supplement to the Government newspaper Izvestia.

"It is impossible to overlook the obvious attempts of the American press, as five years ago in Dallas, to link the identity of the suspect with 'circles of foreign powers.' The first re-

ports said that the assailant was a Filipino, then a Mexican and later a Cuban.

"According to the latest reports, the suspect is a native of Jordan. His name is Sirhan Bishara Sirhan and he is a Palestine Arab."

Evidence of Terrorism Seen

The identity of Sirhan as an Arab immigrant did not deter Nedelya and other Soviet newspapers from interpreting the shooting as evidence of unrestrained terrorism and moral collapse of the American society.

"Political terror has become a daily reality in the United States," Nedelya said.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, organ of the Young Communist League, expressed displeasure with headlines in the United States press identifying Sirhan as an Arab.

"This reminds us of the dirty and false hints of headlines that appeared on the day of the assassination of President John Kennedy," the newspaper said.

The Soviet Union has been courting the Arab world in recent years and striving to develop friendly feelings toward Arabs among the Soviet people.

Albania:

KENNEDY INCIDENT NOT UNUSUAL IN U.S. POLITICS

Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1700 GMT 5 Jun 68 A

[Text] New York--In the campaign to secure as many votes as possible for their representatives in the American Congress and for top government posts in the country, various American bourgeois parties and groups which represent the interests of the monopolies stop at nothing. They even use violence during the election campaign.

Western news agencies report that an attempt was made today on the life of Sen Robert Kennedy, Democratic Party candidate for president and brother of the late President Kennedy, at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles during a press conference following his victory in the California primaries over Senator McCarthy. Kennedy is in a critical state.

It is not the first time in the United States that political opponents use force to eliminate each other.

KENNEDY SHOOTING 'TYPICAL' OF U.S. POLITICS

Tirana ATA International Service in English 1033 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Tirana--In their fierce struggle to occupy the governmental posts, the seats in the Senate, or the presidential post, the various bourgeois parties of the United States and the monopoly groups resort to all means, indeed gangster-like methods, to liquidate their political opponents.

The news agencies announced that yesterday in the city of Los Angeles an attempt was made on the life of the presidential candidate, Sen Robert Kennedy, the brother of the late President Kennedy, who represents the interests of a big monopoly group and who is opposed in the fold of the Democratic Party by the groups represented by President Johnson and Senator McCarthy.

Robert Kennedy was shot with a pistol after having proclaimed his victory in the primary elections in the state of California over Senator McCarthy.

This is another typical case exposing the real gangster-like essence of so-called American democracy.

FURTHER MATERIAL ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

ZERI I POPULLIT Article

Tirana ATA International Service in English 0917 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Text] Tirana--"Crime and murder, raised to a system, testify to the rottenness of the American society, dominated by the clans of the big capitalist monopolies," the newspaper ZERI I POPULLIT says today in an article dealing with the assassination of Robert Kennedy.

The article points out that Robert Kennedy was assassinated by his political opponents in the fold of the ruling class to which he himself belonged. This is a struggle for power, within the ruling class of the United States of America. This is another typical expression which reveals the criminal nature of the "democracy" of the gangsters, which Kennedy himself and his company have defended and of which they have sung praises.

The Los Angeles events, just as those of Dallas, Memphis, Chicago, New York, and so on, the article continues, once more testify in a very convincing manner to the fascisization of American political and social life. Crime and political terror, blackmail and violence, racial or class persecutions are the distinctive features of this process of fascisization into which the big American capitalists have plunged their country. Through their blind class selfishness they are striving to preserve the monopoly of their power. Thus, the policy of oppression and exploitation, jointly with the fascisization of the domestic life, as well as the policy of war and aggression, are the distinctive features of Washington, of the unchanged criminal and aggressive nature of U.S. imperialism.

The magnates of the big U.S. monopolies, preserving with fanaticism this unchangeable nature of U.S. imperialism, ZERI I POPULLIT, says, are at the same time arguing among themselves. They assassinate their opponents in order to establish their own representatives in the White House, those representatives who will defend the narrow interests of one or the other group. This is a clash between wolves, between those who have "jungle law" as their main principle. And Robert Kennedy was a victim of this clash. He was a victim of his own regime, of his own class, of the fascist methods of the rule of this class of exploiters and murderers. Thus, we are faced here with a plot of the monopolists of one group against the representatives of another group of monopolists.

This class will issue other Kennedys, Humphreys, or Nixons, McCarthys, or Johnsons. It is the names that change, while the essence is the same. The class to which they belong is the same. They are offspring of a class, representatives of the big monopoly groups.

The threads of the assassination of Robert Kennedy lead to a wide plot not only against the American people, against the Afro-Americans and exploited workers, but also against peace in general. Just as always, as happened with Robert Kennedy's brother, the late President John Kennedy, as happened with Martin Luther King and others, Johnson and various representatives of the big monopolies will strive to hide the real criminals, laying the blame on some "fanatical young man." With the hypocrisy characterizing them, they will also express their condolences and they may shed crocodile tears, too. However, ZERI I POPULLIT says in conclusion, the world sees America just as it is: a country where plots, crime, gangsterism, and murders have become a general line of the policy of U.S. imperialism.

And this policy is directed by the big monopoly groups, whom the Johnsons, Rockefellers, and company represent.

Tirana Radio Commentary

Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1920 GMT 10 Jun 68 A

[Commentary: "The American Regime, A Regime of Gangsters"]

[Text] The imperialist-revisionist press and propaganda are sparing no clamor over the assassination of Sen Robert Kennedy. Their propaganda is full of sensational reports and statements intended to cover up and hide the core of this typical phenomenon. The fact that crime, murder, racial terror, social oppression on a national scale, and aggressive wars, with the physical extermination of millions of people by genocide and napalm on an international scale, have become a state system and official political line shows the decadence of the capitalist American society and its inevitable end.

This is not the first assassination of this kind in the United States. From the time of the attempt on the life of Abraham Lincoln, Americans have witnessed fierce political clashes which have led to such scandalous political crimes. Political assassinations have become, especially lately, even more frequent. Here the question does not concern the lynching of Negro leaders and the opponents of the American aggression in Vietnam alone, but also the attempts like the one on the life of President John Kennedy in Dallas in 1963 and that on the life of Martin Luther King in Memphis a few weeks ago.

This is evidence of the exacerbation of the antagonistic differences not only between the oppressed and the oppressing classes, but also those between the various monopolistic groups. This is a typical reflection of the criminal character of the regime of gangsters, the regime which Kennedy himself and his associates defended and praised. Victims of this social system are not only the Negro fighters for freedom and the opponents of aggression, but also political and social personalities who become, if even only a little, an obstacle on the aggressive path of the groups in power.

The struggle between the great monopolies and the race for markets, raw materials, resources, hegemony, and control over the country's economy is reflected in the struggle of the two leading parties, the Democrats and the Republicans. The monopolistic groups, despite their common interests, have their own specific interests contradictory to the interests of one another. Therefore, exacerbation of the internal struggle within the ranks of the financial oligarchy for political power is a characteristic feature of the domestic political situation in the United States and other imperialist countries. A merciless struggle has for years been waged between the Wall Street monopolistic group and the new groups of the financial oligarchy created in the western part of the country. John Kennedy was a victim of the clashes between these financial clans. His brother Robert Kennedy also became a victim of them.

The United States is now facing great difficulties, leading to its decline. The grave political crisis of its vanishing position of world hegemony is interlaced with economic difficulties, especially the financial crisis to an increasing extent.

In view of this situation, a fierce struggle over tactics for ruling the country was sparked among the ruling circles a long time ago: that is, whether to go over openly to fascist dictatorship or to still camouflage this dictatorship with the veil of bourgeois democracy.

To overcome the difficulties of his time, John Kennedy chose the method which Franklin Roosevelt employed to overcome the catastrophic crisis of 1929-33. It was not by accident that he baptized his program "the New Frontier," analagous to Roosevelt's New Deal. However, in the course of the past decades the situation has changed to the disadvantage of the United States. Roosevelt ruled when the United States was at its peak, whereas now that country is on the decline. Therefore, the reintroduction of Rooseveltian methods was opposed by a part of the monopolistic American bourgeoisie, who have switched to the extreme method of physical liquidation of the dabblers in these methods. They prefer a strong hand, a new Fuehrer to suppress by fire and iron the struggle of the Negroes, the resistance against American aggression in Vietnam, and the strike movement, in order to restore the lost American world hegemony.

Johnson, as a representative of the new monopolies which, like thirsty vampires, seek as much sweat and blood as possible, has made great steps in that direction. To suppress the movement of Negroes and students and the Poor People's March, Johnson's Government, like Hitler in the past, mobilized the Secret Service and the federal and state police forces, dispatched about half a million men of the National Guard units with special training for this purpose, and used the most up-to-date weapons, including tanks, helicopters, and chemical weapons. Encouraged by the American Government headed by Johnson, the many fascist bands of the Ku Klux Klan type, the John Birch Society, and the American fascist party, fattened in the stables of Wall Street, are waging extensive activity, from the publication and distribution of fascist literature to participation along with the police and the army in suppressing the anti-imperialist movement and shooting people in the back. Not a day goes by in the United States during which attempts against progressive elements are not made.

In organizing concentration camps as well, Johnson's clique is nothing short of Hitler. In the past, too, the FBI--otherwise labeled Washington's Gestapo--used to throw into concentration camps all those who dared raise their voices against the order in power. However, with the aggravation of the class struggle, the network of concentration camps is being extended and modernized. As reported by the Canadian press agency, 18 concentration camps are being set up just for those who refuse to take part in the American aggression in Vietnam or who oppose it. In addition, new concentration camps are being established in many isolated and deserted regions.

In the international arena Johnson, like Hitler in the past, is trying by force of arms to impose the hegemony of American imperialism on other peoples and countries. He is escalating the aggression in Vietnam, spreading the flames of war in Laos and Thailand, suppressing by fire and iron the liberation movement of the peoples in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, accelerating the arms race, and planting and supporting the fascist and bloody regimes everywhere. Thus American imperialism has spread the phenomenon of domestic murders in the field of international relations as well.

The foreign policy of American imperialism is a policy of gangsters and characterized by putsches, plots, assassination of progressive social personalities, aggression, and brutal interference in the internal affairs of other peoples. Therefore, what happened to Kennedy is a common phenomenon of this internal and external policy.

The contemporary revisionists, principally the Khrushchevite revisionists, are trying to exploit the assassination of Kennedy for spreading illusions among the broad masses. They present the assassination of Robert Kennedy, just as they did in the case of John Kennedy, as a great loss for the American people and world peace. In so doing, they are trying to create the impression among the broad masses that the social and economic problems of the masses will be automatically solved through the election campaign by electing new Kennedys who promise to eliminate unemployment, reduce taxes, achieve liberty for the Negroes, and restore peace and justice.

This misleading line of the Soviet revisionists is being increasingly discredited. Experience shows that the ruling, all-powerful American oligarchy not only makes no concessions at all, but it also liquidates its own people when they are not to its liking or when they engage in demagoguery before assuming power. These disgusting traitors of the international workers class [the Soviets] do not blush when criticizing American imperialism when a Kennedy or a Luther King is assassinated. Yet they continue to cooperate with American imperialism in all fields, including cooperation with its aggressive activities, as in the case of the Congo and in the aggression against the Arab peoples, and join weapons with it in their crusade against the peoples who are fighting for their national liberation.

The peoples of the world are drawing and will draw the necessary lessons from what is now happening in the United States, as well as from the policy of American imperialism in international relations and its cooperation with the Soviet revisionists. The American people and the other peoples of the world are increasingly drawing the necessary conclusion each passing day that they should unite their ranks to handcuff the American criminals who threaten mankind with a new world war.

Bulgaria:

ROBERT KENNEDY SHOOTING (NOT UNEXPECTED)

Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1030 GMT 5 Jun 68 A

[Vasil Nedkov commentary: "Dallas, Memphis, and Los Angeles"]

[Text] For dozens of years the United States has been regarded as a country of unlimited opportunities. But today it is a country of political gangsterism and political assassinations. In this country, where political gangsterism is somehow connected with political banditry and with the murdering of presidents, the murderers go undetected and crime is covered up by highest-level officials.

It has proved to be dangerous, even when there is only the possibility of nomination as a presidential candidate. The bullets fired at Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles were not unexpected. Anybody generally acquainted with American reality and its disgusting temper has always had the apprehension that not all the candidates would be alive on election day.

Some American cities have assumed a strange glory. The greatest miracle of our century could happen in Dallas, Texas, but its name will always be connected with the murder of John Kennedy. There have been and surely will be other victims of racial terror in Memphis, but it will always remain the place where Dr Martin Luther King died. Los Angeles now joins this list.

Whose hand pulled the trigger of the gun? By no means someone hidden somewhere in a book depository in Dallas or opposite a hotel in Memphis or in the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. (?They were) only victims in the hands of a brutal, backward, and extremely reactionary caste. This caste and its political mannequins and puppets are in fact the ones who hold in their hands the fate of the most important [words indistinct]. They are, moreover, those who blare that they are the defenders of democracy and justice throughout the world. But as Socrates said: Wishful thinking is the biggest lie of all lies.

When John Kennedy entered the White House he confided to his brother Robert Kennedy [word indistinct] (?Why don't you also come to the White House?) Now following the assault on Robert Kennedy, this wish of his brother attains sinister significance and a sinister prophecy: Why not be killed as I was killed, and why not terminate your growing career in the same way I finished mine some time ago?

It is well known that the world reaction to the new Los Angeles crime will be. Some will say: Another dirty stain on the image of America. But is there in fact any clean small stain, one even as small as a cent on this image? There is nothing clean left on it, but there is an image full of hatred, furious cruelty, and criminality. The moral code of American imperialism has few pages left. It presents only a certificate of hopeless degradation.

PREMIER EXPRESSES SYMPATHY TO ETHEL KENNEDY

Sofia BTA International Service in English 1344 GMT 8 Jun 68 L

[Text] Sofia--Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, has sent a telegram of sympathy to Mrs Ethel Kennedy. "Will you please accept my deep sympathy for you and your family on the occasion of the villainous assassination of your husband, Robert Francis Kennedy, which has severely shocked the Bulgarian people," the telegram reads.

ASSASSINATION MIRRORS U.S. POLICY OF VIOLENCE

Sofia BTA International Service in English 1436 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Sofia--By editor Vladimir Radev--The assassination of Robert Kennedy again focuses the attention of all on the United States, the country in which violence and madness reign. In millions of Bulgarians this assassination has awakened memories of the recent past, when loyal sons of the people died by the bullets of the fascist assassins and executioners on the streets, in the dungeons of the fascist police stations, and in prisons.

We are witnesses to a series of political assassinations in a country which claims to carry the flag of "perfect" democracy, which does not cease to advertise and impose on other peoples "the American way of life." The U.S. imperialists get angry when their methods in Korea, Vietnam, and Latin America, or in their own country are compared to the methods of fascism. They draw most scrupulously a demarcation line between themselves and the fascists, but in fact they outdo them. Now in "the most free thinking" society, in the society "which provides the freest avenues for the expression of the human personality" they shoot scot free just as in the jungle.

Robert Kennedy's assassination mirrors the policy of violence which the United States follows all over the world and more especially in Southeast Asia. And it happens thus that everybody who even dares to hint of his disagreement with this policy gets a bullet. Both President Kennedy and his brother fell victim exactly because of this policy of violence, which the United States follows all over the world. In fact they only tried to bring some sort of correction in the American society of today, a society in which lawlessness becomes the law.

The bullets that shot Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles are an expression of fear before reality, a reality charged with the explosives of the menacingly mounting dissatisfaction of millions of Negroes and poor people.

The new demonstration of the "American way of life" only serves to further intensify mankind's aversion to the mores of the U.S. political jungle.

Communist China:

NCNA ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, U.S. ELECTIONS

Peking NCNA International Service in English 0926 GMT 8 Jun 68 B

[Text] Peking--In the midst of the fierce scramble within the U.S. monopoly capitalist class for the presidential throne, Senator Robert Kennedy, brother of former U.S. President John Kennedy, was shot on 5 June in Los Angeles as he was campaigning for the Democratic Party presidential nomination. He died on 6 June, according to reports from Washington.

An "election" farce will be staged in the United States this year for the "election" of the president and congressmen. Primary elections for the presidential nomination are under way in the United States. Politicians belonging to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party, both tools of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class, and representing diverse interest groupings, are engaged in an intense struggle, each trying to knife the other in the back in seeking the presidential nomination. Robert Kennedy was running for the presidential nomination and died from an assassin's bullet just after he won the California primary.

The assassination which took place during the election campaign among the U.S. monopoly capitalists is another reflection of the increasingly deepening political and economic crisis of U.S. imperialism. With the repeated heavy defeats the United States has suffered in its war of aggression in Vietnam, the continued deepening of its financial and economic crisis, and the surging struggle of the people at home, the reactionary rule of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class has become more and more unstable and the dog-eat-dog internal strife within the ruling class has become unprecedentedly aggravated. Some congressmen noted in alarm recently that the U.S. ruling class was confronted with "a disaster of national proportions."

Four years ago, U.S. President John Kennedy was assassinated in Texas; now, his younger brother Robert Kennedy has also been assassinated during the presidential election campaign. This once again shows that the struggle for power within the U.S. monopoly capitalist class is going on more and more fiercely. It is another indication of the fact that U.S. imperialism is rotting with each passing day and is rapidly declining.

Cuba:

REPORT SAYS KENNEDY ATTACK HELPS U.S. POLICY

Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2145 GMT 5 Jun 68 F

[Inside the News: Commentary by Pedro Martinez Pir and Lazara Rodriguez Aleman]

[Summary] I believe that with respect to Robert Kennedy's personality and his political thinking, we could refer to the speech made by Armando Hart at the end of the 4th Latin American Congress on the steps of the university in 1966. Hart urged all revolutionaries there to learn the political thinking of this skillful man, Robert Kennedy, who undoubtedly, at least on the surface, represents a variant in North American policy, particularly in foreign policy. At that time, Hart made it very clear that Latin American revolutionaries should keep up to date on Kennedy's political maneuvering, because he obviously represented the reformist line within North American monopolies--a line, together with the military line, which is part of North American policy.

In other words, it is a matter of subtle variations of historic necessity facing North American imperialism. It appeared to be that Robert Kennedy was the perfect card to be played at a time when the United States faces extremely difficult situations, not only on the international field as represented by the crushing defeats suffered in Vietnam, but also in internal problems, particularly economic problems deriving from the war and other financial problems. These problems have caused a serious crisis, or at least the beginning of a serious crisis, for North American imperialism.

Even in this type of incident, politics plays a part. You know that the United States is characterized by such things. Certainly the first to pray at this time is President Johnson. McCarthy has already done so. The things that happened after the murder of Martin Luther King, for example, around whose coffin all the politicians gathered in an effort to win Negro votes, are now being repeated with this attack on Senator Robert Kennedy. It is not strange, then, that trial balloons are being sent up on Johnson's possible candidacy. International news agencies reporting from the United States are thinking and asking who will benefit from this shooting? They are busy trying to figure this out, while one of the candidates is practically on his deathbed. This is one of the characteristics of the dramatic social climate of the United States.

CIA ACCUSED OF INVOLVEMENT IN KENNEDY MURDER

Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2145 GMT 6 Jun 68 F

[Inside the News: Commentary by Lazara Rodriguez Alenman and Pedro Lobaina]

[Summary] Lobaina: I believe that it is important to point out that there are two versions of the reasons for the Kennedy shooting. One of them is that the killing was performed by a fanatic, an individual who attacked Kennedy on the eve of the anniversary of Israel's attack on the Arab countries, and at a time when Israel has just attacked a Jordanian village, killing 30 people. Another version says that he was an individual sent by the Central Intelligence Agency, paid by the groups within the United States who prefer a hard, violent, war policy rather than the reformist policy of concessions which Kennedy favored.

In spite of this, I believe that while these two possibilities have been stated, it would not be the least bit strange if he [Kennedy's killer] had been both a fanatic and an individual hired by the Central Intelligence Agency, which as is known, works on human weaknesses and carefully picks out an alienated person, an undoubted fanatic, as in this case, for activities of this type in which it is necessary to eliminate someone. It would not be strange if the CIA is mixed up in this. In spite of all this, the version that the killer is a fanatic is a somewhat naive story, because Kennedy's death undoubtedly brings many benefits to the Democratic Party and to President Johnson's candidate, Hubert Humphrey. It would not be the least bit strange if the interests which struck in Dallas against John F. Kennedy are the same ones that have struck and murdered his brother and candidate for the presidency, Robert Kennedy.

KENNEDY ATTACK SAID TO BE REACTIONARY PLOT

Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Jun 68 F

[Gomez Wanguemert commentary concerning the attack on Senator Kennedy]

[Summary] It seems obvious that the murderers [as heard] wanted to prevent Kennedy from occupying the White House. Why were there people interested in preventing another Kennedy from becoming U.S. President? If the alleged attacker, Sirhan Sirhan, if that is his name, is an unbalanced fanatic, as it appears, he is after all a byproduct of the violent North American society. It is not strange that they killed John Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, because they suspected that these three favored the Negroes or intended to cast doubts on the myth of North American superiority.

Who benefits from preventing the Kennedys from again installing themselves in Washington? It appears that the answer must be sought in Washington, in the White House, and in the millions of those poisoned by propaganda who believed that Robert Kennedy would make certain changes in the North American power structure and society. In one way or another, whether the murderer is mentally unbalanced or a pawn, he is in the final analysis, a byproduct of the U.S. mythology.

Czechoslovakia:

SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY SHOOTING REPORTED

Prague CTK International Service in English 0840 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Text] Los Angeles--Senator Robert Kennedy was shot in the hip last night when leaving his campaign headquarters and was taken to the hospital. No details are known about his condition. The would-be assassin was caught but has not yet been identified. A woman near Senator Kennedy also was reported to have been shot.

Additional Opinion

Prague in English to Africa 1530 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Excerpts] In Czechoslovakia the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman said this morning that the ministry expresses its deep grief that violence was playing such an important role in the political life of the United States. The Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry condemned violence as a political weapon, the spokesman said.

I have always viewed Robert Kennedy as a very progressive politician said Jiri Hochman, a well-known Czechoslovak commentator who spent many years in the United States and knows Robert Kennedy personally. He went on to say that something should be done to see to it that political struggles be waged by strictly political methods. Robert Kennedy comes very close to the ideas of his Brother and has the same views as his brother on questions of domestic and foreign policy, the commentator said.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman

Prague in German to West Germany 2000 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Excerpts] Czechoslovak television broadcast a statement by this head of the American Section of the Foreign Ministry, Dr Zdenek Trhlik. He stressed that it was regrettable and shocking news.

Everyone among us certainly condemns the application of force as a means for solving disputes, be it force on a national or international level, be it on U.S. soil or outside, said Dr Trhlik.

The method of an assassination attempt has appeared in the United States as a tool in the political struggle. This can certainly yield nothing positive, and one must consider to what extent the force visible in the international atmosphere is reflected in the life of the United States.

The attempt on Robert Kennedy, the head of the American section of the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry said in conclusion, is proof of the crisis in American society, and we can only hope that the American people will remove the causes that make such violent deeds possible.

JOHNSON NAMES COMMISSION TO STUDY VIOLENCE

Prague CTK International Service in English 0807 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Washington--President Johnson has appointed a special study commission on violence of 10 members headed by Dr Eisenhower, brother of the former President. The aim of the commission is to find out "why we inflict such suffering on ourselves," the President said.

OFFICIALS EXPRESS SYMPATHY AT KENNEDY DEATH

Premier Cernik

Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1100 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] "The death of Robert Kennedy," Oldrich Cernik, premier of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Government, has declared, "has shaken me and, I am sure, all our citizens. I express to the family of Senator Kennedy, to the U.S. Government and to the people of the United States [word indistinct] sympathy."

International Relations Society Head

Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1100 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Prof Jaroslav Martinic, chairman of the Czechoslovak Society for International Relations, today sent the following telegram to the U.S. Senate and to the American UN Association on the occasion of Sen Robert Kennedy's death:

"The Czechoslovak Society for International Relations has received the news of the tragic death of Sen Robert Kennedy with profound shock. In his person an outstanding politician, one of the best sons of the American people, has departed." Professor Martinic has also cabled condolences to the late Senator's family.

SYMPATHY MESSAGES ON SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEATH

President Svoboda

Prague CTK International Service in English 2030 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Prague--President Ludvik Svoboda of Czechoslovakia today sent a telegram of deep sympathy over the tragic death of Robert Kennedy, who became a victim of a [word indistinct] attack, to his wife and family.

Premier Cernik

Prague CTK International Service in English 1715 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Prague--"Robert Kennedy's death came as a deep shock to me and certainly to all our people," Czechoslovak Premier Oldrich Cernik stated here today. "I should like to express my deepest condolences to Senator Kennedy's family, the U.S. Government, and the people of the United States," the Czechoslovak Premier added.

Alexander Dubcek

Prague in English to Africa 1530 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] The first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, Alexander Dubcek, has sent a telegram to Mrs Ethel Kennedy expressing deep sympathy over the death of her husband.

Foreign Minister Hajek

Prague CTK International Service in English 1804 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Prague--Dr Jiri Hajek, Czechoslovak minister of foreign affairs, sent a telegram of sympathy today to Mrs Ethel Kennedy on the occasion of her husband's death.

Josef Smrkovsky

Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1400 GMT 6 Jun 68 A

[Text] Josef Smrkovsky, chairman of the National Assembly, has sent the following telegram to Hubert Humphrey, president of the U.S. Senate:

Esteemed Mr President, the deputies of the National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic have received with deep emotion and indignation the report on the attack on Sen Robert Kennedy and of his tragic death. Please accept from me and from all deputies an expression of deep sympathy, and kindly convey our sympathy to the family of the late Senator.

Czech Envoy to U.S.

Prague CTK International Service in English 1835 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Washington--A telegram of deep sympathy over the death of Sen Robert Kennedy was sent today to Mrs Ethel Kennedy and Sen Edward Kennedy by Dr Karel Duda, Czechoslovak ambassador to the United States.

CZECHOSLOVAKS DEPLORE KENNEDY SHOOTING

Ondacek Comment

Prague in English to Africa 1530 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Here now instead of our usual press review in a short comment on today's tragic event in California. The speaker is Lubos Ondracek:

The news of the death of President Kennedy 5 years ago shook the entire world. The shock was soon followed by genuine sympathy and grief.

Again, there was horror and indignation over the assassination of American civil rights leader Medgar Evers, and then negro leader Dr Martin Luther King earlier this year.

And now, when we learn today of the attack on the life of the brother of the late President, Sen Robert Kennedy, our feeling is one of scorn, scorn that a civilization which sets itself up as the home of freedom and democracy allows its best sons to be murdered.

The United States is the richest country in the world, a country in which the scientific and technical revolution has gone the farthest. But at the same time it has sunk to a new low as regards moral values. Its prestige has already greatly suffered as a result of its aggression in Vietnam and its other campaigns of (?intervention).

Of course we realize that it is not the millions of ordinary American people who are responsible for this policy. The responsibility rests with a small group of politicians, industrialists, financiers, and generals whom former President Eisenhower once described as America's military-industrial complex.

They make up a powerful brutal machine mercilessly sweeping out of their way anything or anyone that dares threaten their interests, anyone who dares interfere with their profits and the slaughter in Vietnam and elsewhere, from America's own poor, from the poor of the banana republics of Latin America and from other parts of the world. For daring to oppose, many nameless people paid with their lives. So did John F. Kennedy, Medgar Evers, and Martin Luther King. Is Robert Kennedy to be the next on the list?

The same machine, of course, shows its gratitude to those who serve its interests. President Johnson has certainly won its gratitude in spite of, or perhaps because of, the fact that his era has been (?marred) by four such attempted assassinations--three of them already fatal.

President Johnson has probably served the interests of this machine best of all. And it is he who has (?brought) the United States to a point where its name has become synonymous with death and brutality. Under his presidency not only has the country's prestige fallen to so low a level, but it has lost the confidence of the world.

The world cannot help feeling that, as long as the United States follows this course, as long as it is characterized by the unpunished murderers of outstanding leaders, there is no chance of achieving peace and understanding in the world.

REPORT, COMMENT ON SENATOR KENNEDY SHOOTING

President Johnson Remarks

Prague CTK International Service in English 0828 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] New York--President Johnson, in a special radio and television speech yesterday, called on all Americans to condemn violence and encouragement to violence and to respect laws. He expressed deep concern over the absurd and terrible attempted assassination of Sen Robert Kennedy.

Johnson appointed a special commission to deal with the increased expressions of violent trends in American life. The members of the commission are Milton Eisenhower, brother of the former U.S. President, some members of Congress, the archbishop of New York, philosopher Eric Hoffer, and others.

The President further called on the Congress to speedily adopt a legislative measure on the control of firearms.

Newspaper Comment

Prague CTK International Service in English 1024 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Prague--The connection between Dallas and Los Angeles is clear, writes the Czechoslovak Communist Party daily RUDE PRAVO today in a note on the attempted assassination of Senator Kennedy.

"It is beside the point whether the murderer of murderers of J.F. Kennedy are finally found or whether the attacker of his brother Robert is identified. The findings would anyway only show figures on the chessboard of the American political underworld which are moved and paid by others who remain concealed. One thing can be said, however, now: The pistols and carbines in Dallas and Los Angeles were in reality aimed by those who want to preserve the old world in America and over the ocean," the paper says.

"The Los Angeles attack is a severe accusation of that part of America that is represented today by the names of Wallace, Reagan, Goldwater, and others, but particularly the tens and hundreds of far more powerful people whose names appear mainly in the address books of the cream of society."

RUDE PRAVO points to the attention with which Czechoslovakia is following Kennedy's struggle for life and adds: "If thoughts of sympathy are any strength, then the fight for life in the Los Angeles hospital should be victorious."

"In such cases as the recent attacks on Jack Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Bob Kennedy, I do not believe in the theory of lone, mad political fanatics who, either from hate or from a simple desire for fame, shoot at the best people of America," Ales Benda writes in the Czechoslovak youth paper MLADA FRONTA today.

"The senile stories and thousand-page reports of the Warren Commission only put to sleep the 'great american children' of whom there are unhealthily many in that country."

Every American bears his part of the responsibility for what is happening in the country, the paper goes on and thinks that "the shooting in Los Angeles was a further slap in the face of millions of honest Americans." "Will this part of America find in itself the strength to wipe out the shame?" MLADA FRONTA asks.

"The furious, bloody, and impassioned blow against a responsible, intelligent, and modern politician in such a country as the United States is a dangerous blow to the entire civilized world," the Czechoslovak socialist party organ SVOBODNE SLOVO says.

Hajek Interview With CTK

Prague CTK International Service in English 1745 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Prague--"The objective effect of Sen Robert Kennedy's murder is unfavorable for the realistic and peace-loving forces in the United States, although the reaction of the American public cannot now be estimated," Dr Jiri Hajek, Czechoslovak foreign minister commented on the senator's death.

In an interview with CTK today, the minister continued: "After the murder of his brother and Martin Luther King, it is another tragic event, which means that a personality with a certain positive program ends by a violent death. This cannot but cause a feeling of surprise and condemnation.

"He was one of those strong personalities who represented, especially in U.S. domestic policy, the effort to find political forms that would correspond to a modern society.

"He also was one of those who took a realistic course in U.S. foreign policy, liberating it from the dogmas of anticommunism and cold war, who understand the importance of peaceful coexistence for the maintenance of peace as well as for American society itself," Minister Hajek said.

The Czechoslovak foreign minister recalled Robert Kennedy's last book which he read recently and which is certain evidence of the senator's political concepts.

He added that "it contains a criticism of U.S. policy in Vietnam, the policy of anti-communism, and appeals to U.S. Government circles to rid themselves of prejudices and to look at the world from a standpoint of analyzing those social processes currently underway in the United States and other countries, and not from a narrow dogmatic angle."

The minister believes that Kennedy's strength was in the fact that "he attempted to see these very things and to fight for them. That was a decisive contribution to American life."

"It is a tragedy that he who, as attorney general, tried to fight against crime--on the whole successfully--and who then stood against the worship of violence as expressed by the war in Vietnam, should become its victim at a moment when the results of the primaries in California suggested the possibility of his bringing these concepts of life as president," Dr Hajek concluded.

Further Press Comment

Prague CTK International Service in English 0838 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Text] Prague--The death of Robert Kennedy, the hope of dissatisfied America, is another act in the dark tragedy, the end of which no one can foresee, writes Jaroslav Boucek in today's Czechoslovak Communist Party daily RUDE PRAVO.

"A shooting fanatic means more in American society than 50 millions voters. The nationality or religion of murderers like Sirhan, Oswald, Ruby, or 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 United States is stained with blood--more terrible 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?" the paper asks.

The trade union daily PRACE points out in connection with the assassination of Robert Kennedy that the social system in the United States permits the existence of a well-developed rightwing fanaticism.

"The series of three key political murders in one country within 5 years is giving rise to strong fears that this phenomenon might become a systematic method of political struggle in a country which is regarded as the most advanced country in the world. Of all the American tragedies so far, this would be the greatest tragedy."

LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE, the daily of the Czechoslovak People's Party, writes about the assassination of Robert Kennedy that "...democracy is not a gift given once and for all." "Democracy, in which arguments are replaced by pistols and guns, is not true democracy."

SYMPATHY AT R. KENNEDY DEATH MANIFESTED

Youth Union Condolences

Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1300 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Text] The International Commission of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Youth Union today sent a telegram of condolences to the U.S. embassy in Prague. The text follows:

Our youth has been deeply moved by the news of the murder of Senator Kennedy. We condemn (?threats) and force as means unworthy of man. We ask you to convey our deep sympathies to the Kennedy family.

PRESS COMMENT CONTINUES ON KENNEDY CASE

Bratislava PRAVDA, PRACA of 7 June

Prague CTK International Service in English 1021 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Text] Bratislava--The fact that not even after 5 years has the murder of John Kennedy been cleared up is proof of the abilities and experience of the directors of the crime, Peter Fridner writes in the Slovak Communist Party daily PRAVDA today. "Can we now believe a word of the reports published that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was acting from feelings of Arab nationalism?" he asks.

In a country where the art of murder has been brought to an incredible degree of perfection, any combination is possible, he adds. "The fact remains, however, that, as literally the whole world press agreed immediately after the assassination, America is ruled by the cult of violence."

The Dallas tragedy of the first Kennedy had its second act with the murder of Dr Martin Luther King and culminated in the attack on Kennedy No 2, Vlado Palovic writes in today's PRACA, Slovak trade union daily.

"The assassin's aim was on the whole the same in each case: to attack progress and efforts for the well-being of the majority of mankind," the paper says. "Bob Kennedy is today the symbol of Americans who do not agree with the senseless aggression in Vietnam and their concern over matters of the future," the author continues.

In conclusion the author expresses doubts regarding the American President's decision to set up a commission to investigate the reasons why the wave of violence is growing in America. Vlado Palovic doubts the courage of the members of this commission to face up to the truth.

8 June Comment

Prague CTK International Service in English 0832 GMT 8 Jun 68 L

[Text] Prague--"In some respects, the ideas of Robert Kennedy are very useful for us, also," Czechoslovak Minister of Education Prof Vladimir Kadlec writes in an article "Robert Kennedy and Students" in the youth daily MLADA FRONTA today. He points out that "the death of Robert Kennedy is a loss for university students in the United States, and to a certain extent also in other countries." In this connection the author quotes from Robert Kennedy's book "To Seek a Newer World."

RUDE PRAVO, the Communist Party daily, writes that although he was "a successful man" in the American sense of the word, "he did not lose contact with those who now stand on the lowest rungs of the social and economic ladder--Negroes, Indians, and Mexicans"--and he was not interested only in votes.

RUDE PRAVO describes the "capability to orient himself" as one of Robert Kennedy's main qualities because he "had begun to understand the position of the United States in this atomic era, this especially critical period."

Role of Envoy Duda

Prague CTK International Service in English 1735 GMT 9 Jun 68 L

[Text] Washington--Dr Karel Duda, Czechoslovak ambassador to the United States, was present at the requiem mass for Sen Robert Kennedy in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York last night. He also attended the funeral ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, where Robert Kennedy was later buried.

Mass in Karlovy Vary

Prague CTK International Service in English 1736 GMT 9 Jun 68 L

[Text] Karlovy Vary--A mass was said today for Sen Robert Kennedy by two American priests in an improvised chapel in a Karlovy Vary hotel.

Present at the mass was Vladimir Surin, general director of the Soviet film studios "Mosfilm" and head of the Soviet delegation to the 11th international film festival in Karlovy Vary.

The two American priests, Ron Holloway and Ed Francis, are on a study tour of Europe.

U.S. STAND BLOCKS PROGRESS IN PEACE TALKS

Prague in English to Africa 1530 GMT 9 Jun 68 L

[Review of the events of the week]

[Excerpt] John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King all had to die when they took an uncompromising stand in favor of a just settlement of world affairs, on the equality of all nations in their right to freedom, peace, and self-determination and when, regardless of their previous views, they began opposing the American war in Vietnam and started to promote better relations with the socialist countries. They were murdered when they stood up against the policy of violence, that policy, which has so long characterized America's attitude toward smaller countries, such as Vietnam, where, under the guise of protecting freedom and democracy, the United States is brutally suppressing this freedom.

However, the efforts of the world public and of many outstanding individuals have brought certain results in the form of talks between the representatives of the DRV and the United States. They have met in Paris to bring about an end to the war and to negotiate a political settlement of the situation in Vietnam. So far both sides have been persisting in their positions, and it seems that the deadlock is complete.

Therefore great hope is placed in the person of Le Duc Tho, who arrived in Paris at the beginning of the week. This leading politician of democratic Vietnam is believed to have brought with him the draft proposal of a compromise. He himself so far has not taken any direct part in the talks.

Nevertheless, the head of the DRV delegation made a notable statement shortly after Le Duc Tho's arrival, saying that the talks are being torpedoed by the U.S. demand for reciprocity as a condition for halting the bombing of the DRV. It is generally believed that if the United States did not ask for reciprocity as a condition, Hanoi would take certain reciprocal measures on its own initiative, to set a good example. That would certainly push the talks ahead.

East Germany:

R. KENNEDY SHOT AFTER CALIFORNIA PRIMARY

East Berlin Domestic Service in German 0932 GMT 5 Jun 68 G

[Text] An attempt on the life of Senator Robert Kennedy, who is seeking the nomination as a candidate for the presidency, was made in Los Angeles today. The attempt was made after Robert Kennedy had announced at an election meeting his victory in the South Dakota and California primaries.

Kennedy reportedly was hit by three shots. Eyewitnesses gave contradictory reports on his injuries, speaking of injuries in the head and the hip.

As the attempt was made, television cameras of the North American television companies were operating, so that the assassination attempt could be viewed in large parts of the United States.

Meanwhile, it has been announced from the Los Angeles hospital that Robert Kennedy is in critical condition. Two suspects are said to have been arrested by the police. Since 1966, the brother of the assassinated former President has increasingly advocated NFLSV participation in peace negotiations. He is considered an opponent of Johnson's current Vietnam policy.

COMMENTATORS VIEW CAUSES OF KENNEDY'S MURDER

Views on Vietnam

East Berlin ADN Domestic Service in German 0941 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Rolf Bergmann commentary: "Attempt on Robert Kennedy--the third political assassination attempt in recent U.S. history"]

[Text] Berlin--The attempt on Robert Kennedy is the third political assassination attempt in recent U.S. life. These attempts were directed against leading personalities whom international reaction hated or at least disliked when enforcing its imperialist strategy.

In November 1963, President John F. Kennedy fell victim to such an attempt in Dallas, Texas. In the spring of 1968, Negro leader Martin Luther King was murdered. And now shots have hit Robert Kennedy. The murders of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King still remain unexplained, but everything seems to indicate that in "the freest country of the world" murder has become a means of politics; for, as regards the murders of both Kennedy and King, there is open talk of a plot in the United States.

Parallels can be drawn to the conditions in West Germany and West Berlin where Rudi Dutschke, an authoritative figure of the extraparliamentary opposition, was shot down in the street.

President Kennedy had realized to a certain extent the limits of imperialist policies and had shown signs of a realistic approach, for instance, to the Vietnam problem and also to domestic issues. After his death, Johnson pushed himself into the most powerful position, escalated the Vietnam aggression, and stepped up internal political terror, particularly against the colored people. Their leader, Martin Luther King, was among the most outspoken opponents of the Vietnam aggression and had also made a stand against anticommunism.

Robert Kennedy developed into an emphatic opponent of Johnson's policies and war putting himself forward as candidate for the presidential election in November. His political concepts, which he recently expounded at meetings and in interviews, had several main points. He emphatically warned against playing the part of a world gendarme and said there must not be "any more Vietnams." As regards Vietnam itself, he stated a few weeks ago: "For more than 3 years, I have been advocating the view that the war in Vietnam can be ended satisfactorily only by negotiations which must be preceded by a cessation of bombing." Kennedy further said: "I have also urged that the NFLSV be given a share in the negotiations and in South Vietnam's political life."

Of course, Kennedy is not an opponent of the general concepts of imperialism, but he, too, sees, as did his brother John at the time, the limits imposed on U.S. policies by the development of the socialist world system and the national liberation movement. This more or less realistic assessment has called the champions of a constant intensification of imperialist policies into the field. They are accountable for the shots fired in Los Angeles.

Opposition to Johnson

East Berlin Domestic Service in German 1701 GMT 5 Jun 68 G

[Joachim Raabe commentary]

[Excerpts] The bullets of an assassin hit Robert Kennedy just after the majority of Democratic Party in the so-called primary elections--the opinion poll for presidential elections--and wide circles of the American public had indicated that they would vote for this politician and his ideas on Vietnam, the Negro problem, and other domestic political crises, and not for the ultras. From this everybody can draw his own conclusions regarding the coincidental nature of the murderous attempt.

President Johnson declared this morning that he could find no words to describe the horrible deed, and that one could only pray that the use of force would become alien to all people. Johnson used similarly unctuous words following the murders of John F. Kennedy and Doctor King. However, another utterance by Johnson on Robert Kennedy dates back to 1967. At that time, Johnson plainly warned Robert Kennedy that if he did not give up his demands for stopping the bombing of the DRV, within 6 months the latter would have no political future in the United States. But in recent weeks Robert Kennedy, as well as Senator McCarthy, proved that precisely because of such demands he would have a political future if it were left to the voters. Obviously, this is why he became a burden to the American ultras, despite the fact that he kept himself within the confines of the imperialist policy.

Democratic Senator Yarborough said a few hours ago that the worst thing about this attempt is that political murder has become a daily routine in the country. This new political attempt on life is not new. It is imbedded in a policy which for years has made killing and destruction a daily practice--in Vietnam and other states and against the Negro population of the United States. And now the pursuer of this same policy of force--Johnson--has taken the floor and appealed for the elimination of force. He could think of nothing better; or to put it more correctly, he could think of nothing more inept.

Guilt of U.S. Society

East Berlin Domestic Service in German 1800 GMT 5 Jun 68 G

[Klaus-Dieter Kroeber commentary]

[Excerpts] It can be no coincidence that to date the well-organized U.S. police forces have not yet found the murderer or the murderers of John Kennedy. It can be no coincidence that the murderer of Dr Martin Luther King is still at large and that we have never heard anything about the murderer or the murderers of Negro leader Malcolm X, and other militant fighters for racial equality.

This is not all. When President Kennedy was shot he was just passing a long cordon of policemen. When Martin Luther King was hit by deadly bullets more than 40 policemen were nearby. And Robert Kennedy was not without police protection last night in Los Angeles.

One prominent politician after another is slain. Only a very naive person can believe that there is no pattern behind these attempts; that it is not a plot of the most reactionary groups of the American imperialists who are trying to find a path to the right out of the crisis.

Dear listeners, if you look at the history of the United States, you see that political murder has been a part of the system since the days of President Abraham Lincoln. This is quite logical in a society such as the capitalist society where the law of the wolves prevails; where the stronger creature eats the weaker one in the economic and all other spheres of life; where from early youth one generation after the other is educated to look down on some men and to think in terms of racial bias; where the Colt and its masters have been idolized from the founding years until today--"the one who is fastest on the draw lives the longest"; where brutality, violence, and perversity appear on film and television screens and in newspapers, magazines, and comic strips; where crime prevails; where police and gangsters are filthily affiliated; where the FBI, which is responsible for domestic order, is the most powerful crew; and where omnipotent FBI chief Edgar Hoover has in his withering hands police dossiers on nearly all representatives of U.S. public life.

Murder and crime are an integral part of this society; yet representatives of this society pretend to teach us about freedom, humanity, and human dignity. No, thank you!

ULBRICHT SENDS CONDOLENCES TO ETHEL KENNEDY

East Berlin ADN Domestic Service in German 1657 GMT 6 Jun. 68 L

[Text] Berlin--GDR Council of State Chairman Walter Ulbricht conveyed a message of condolences to Mrs Ethel Kennedy, the widow of the murdered U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy. It reads in part: "Following the tragic death of your husband, Sen Robert Kennedy, I, on behalf of the GDR Council of State and government, convey to you and your children assurances of sincere sympathy."

The German people and the GDR Government have received with indignation and horror the terrible news that, after the political murder of former President John F. Kennedy, now also Robert Kennedy has become a victim of those powerful extreme reactionary circles, which, in order to enforce their antihumanistic and antidemocratic objectives, are increasingly murdering their political adversaries. They have introduced murder as an instrument of political argument into the internal politics of the United States, the message says further.

"Robert Kennedy was like his brother, President Kennedy, and Rev Martin Luther King, a seeker of a better, more peaceful, and more just internal and foreign policy for the United States. This fact assures you, esteemed Mrs Ethel Kennedy, of the sympathy and compassion of people of all nations who are concerned about peace, humanity, and democracy."

'PARTIES' GUILTY OF KENNEDY MURDER VIEWED

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND Editorial

East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 7 Jun 68 p 1 G

[Unsigned editorial: "What a System"]

[Text] Senator Robert Kennedy, Democratic party candidate for the presidency, is dead, shot down like his brother J.F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and many other American politicians in the past. The first problem in every investigation of a murder case in uncovering the assassin is the question of who would profit from it. As in the case of J.F. Kennedy in Dallas, the perpetrator--the suspected or actual assassin--was also arrested immediately in Los Angeles. It is said that in the case of one acting on his own no one will ask who will profit from it.

Robert Kennedy was not slain while he was assisting communist-hunter McCarthy. He was also in no danger while serving the U.S. imperialist regime as Attorney General. Only when he had taken a few steps toward a realistic policy in the thrills and throes of the election campaign under the impact of the voters' will, when he advocated during the election campaign an end to aggression against the Vietnamese people, when he represented the social interests of the poor people, particularly the Negroes, and thus increased his prospects as an election candidate, did the American ultras become alarmed. Thus, Kennedy's murder benefits those forces who do not want peace at home and abroad because their system depends on war at home and abroad.

Incumbent U.S. President Johnson, who seized power 5 years ago through the murder of John F. Kennedy and who has been pursuing an extremely reactionary policy at home and abroad ever since, hypocritically said before the microphones the morning after the assassination that he was "shocked and dismayed by the lawlessness and violence in the United States." He demanded "an end to violence." These are the words, accompanied by crocodile tears, of a man under whose presidency the barbaric escalation of violence against a small people in Southeast Asia and the fascist coup in Greece took place. These are the words of a man whose national guard and army are raging with the most brutal force against demonstrators who demand nothing but peace, democracy, and social security. These are the words of Johnson who, because of his policy of force, became the most hated man in the world and thus felt compelled to publicly withdraw his candidacy for the presidency.

In his radio address, Johnson asked whether America had gone insane. What shameless demagogy! This violent, bloodthirsty, anomalous policy of America's most reactionary forces is reaping what it has sown. As for Johnson himself, perhaps he and his clan were afraid that, as president, Robert Kennedy might have had the true causes of the murder of John F. Kennedy investigated. So let us ask again, who profits from it?

Reading and seeing all this from our vantage point, that of a socialist country, one asks instinctively and rightly: What kind of a system is it under which there is so much murder and manslaughter, so much unscrupulousness in the struggle for power, so much hypocrisy and demagogy? The answer is simple but true: It is the system of declining, rotting imperialism. However, this system retains its dangerousness until the very last day. It is a system built on murder and manslaughter, violence and barbarism, demagogy and hypocrisy, which feels it can survive only this way and thus pronounces its own verdict. Common crime is increasingly becoming the instrument and method of a policy which itself is criminal in terms of international law.

The United States, the strongest and leading imperialist country of the world, was once regarded as a land of unlimited opportunities. This was meant in a positive sense. Today, we see that the United States has become a country where anything in the way of crime is possible. This signifies decline. Vietnam and Alabama, Dallas, Memphis, and Los Angeles prove this.

Identity of Assassin Questioned

East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 7 Jun 68 G

[Editorial article signed: Dr Steil]

[Text] One thing is equally symptomatic of all big, insidious, and abominable crimes of the most reactionary imperialist circles: The flames are still leaping, the dead are still lying in their blood, the cries are still resounding, yet the "identity" of the hardly identifiable culprit is already known.

When the torches of the SS men burned in the Reichstag, their bosses had already dragged out the feeble-minded Dutchman Van der Lubbe, held a light to his face, and immediately established that the Reichstag had been "set afire by the communists." When President John F. Kennedy, stricken by rightwing extremist bullets, collapsed in the seat of his car, the first course of action took the FBI "by coincidence" to Lee H. Oswald--a man who had lived in the USSR for a short period, and who was married to a Russian woman.

In this case, too, the intent was obvious: The object was to distract the ghost of suspicion from the organizers of the murder and shift it to the main bastion of world socialism.

Robert F. Kennedy was still in agony when it was determined that an Arab named Sirhan had fired the lethal shot, and this was "by coincidence" exactly 1 year after the Israeli aggression backed by Washington and, likewise "by coincidence," at the peak of an anti-Arab agitation campaign unprecedented in the United States.

How nicely, indeed, does this picture, too, fit into the gallery of the "lone wolf culprits with contacts"--a gallery set up by the imperialists to deceive the nations.

[This article appears in the republic edition of NEUES DEUTSCHLAND. The Berlin edition's version of the same article is signed "K.S." and contains the following variant passage for the next to the last paragraph above: "While Robert F. Kennedy was still in agony, it was determined that an Arab was the culprit, and the mayor of Los Angeles immediately discovered that the assassin, 'an Arab and opponent of Israel, logically has a procommunist attitude.' Police issued an all-points bulletin on a female companion of the murderer, described as 'Caucasian,' and the mayor very soon was able to tell of a diary providing evidence of 'his sympathy with the communists, the Russians.'"]

Tool of Real Manipulators

East Berlin ADN Domestic Service in German 0807 GMT 8 Jun 68 L

[From the press review]

[Text] Berlin--Writing in BERLINER ZEITUNG, G.R. Hartke says that the instigators of the murder of Robert Kennedy "again did their utmost to obliterate all clues, to establish an alibi for the real manipulators, and to put outraged public opinion onto the wrong track."

The author points out that the intended lynching of the murderer was prevented only at the last moment and believes that his superiors will make efforts to kill him in the same way as everybody who might have given evidence on the murder of John F. Kennedy was killed. "Naturally, the danger for the wealthy manipulators that in the end their tool may give away the names of those who ordered the murder, who did the staff work, and who gave the assailant the four 100 dollar bills which he still had on him at the time of his arrest is very great."

Concerning the attempts, especially by the West German press, to mislead public opinion the article says: "So far, no Springer paper and no U.S. attorney has taken the trouble to explain why an allegedly fanatic Arab should murder Robert Kennedy, of all people, who had nothing to do with U.S. foreign policy and its vicarious aggression via Israel against the Arab countries. In that case, it would surely have been far more logical to take a shot at somebody holding real authority, a member, that is to say, of the real Washington ruling circles."

Hungary:

KENNEDY ASSASSINATION LINKED WITH OTHERS

Identity of 'Real Criminals'

Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Excerpts] Sen Robert Kennedy underwent an operation in Los Angeles this morning after an attempt had been made on his life. A team of six neurosurgeons performed the operation. One of the bullets which hit the Senator in the right ear became lodged in his brain. They are now trying to remove it. According to the latest reports, his condition is extremely critical.

We do not pretend to be perfect, we do not pretend that everyone agrees with us, he said when he was attorney general in his brother's administration, and perhaps he himself did not realize how true and telling his words were. Hardly a year later, the assassination of his brother, John Kennedy, proved that there are powerful forces in the United States which are deterred by nothing, which intend to realize their aims by trampling the law underfoot, by the use of violence.

John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Viola Liuzzo, Robert Kennedy--these are only five names from among those at whom murderous weapons have been levelled during the past 5 years in the homeland of democracy, the United States. These five names are only a random example, because one could include the civil rights volunteers, for instance, who were buried in the marshlands of Mississippi after incineration of their bodies.

The real criminals are not known even to the American people. They remain in the background. The assassins are those who put the weapons into the hands of the murderers of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, or Robert Kennedy; who proclaim violence instead of law, war instead of peace; and in whose eyes the life of one man is just as expendable as the destiny of their own nation or of mankind.

Dallas-Memphis-Los Angeles

Budapest MTI International Service in English 1501 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Text] Budapest--ESTI HIRLAP is the first organ of the Hungarian press to carry the news about the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles. In a commentary entitled: "Dallas-Memphis-Los Angeles," the paper expresses deep consternation and adds:

"We seem to have reached the time when the strength of arguments are measured by the size of the gunshot caliber in America, when telescopic rifles and short-range fire-arms carry the ultima ratio in political controversies. Dallas marked the tragic end of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Memphis extinguished the life of Martin Luther King. In Los Angeles, the bullet hit Robert Kennedy. . . . And how many more towns and villages are linked with these three places in the series of assassinations whose victims are Americans--whites and blacks--only not as noted as those three.

"These past few years, alas, have clearly shown to all of us that the assassinations symbolize much more than an extremist 'derailment' in the American 'great society.' Within a public atmosphere in which fanatic race hatred and violence are not met by definite condemnation, in which the Warren Commission's actions added up to a farcical parody of what ought to have been a quest for the real perpetrators of the first Kennedy murder, in which King's killer is still unidentified--under such conditions the Los Angeles episode can take no one by surprise, the paper states and closes with the words:

"It would be a satisfaction for world public opinion, if the sober part of the United States would at last remove the cancer of political gangsterism."

Political Gangsterism

Budapest MTI Domestic Service in Hungarian 1750 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Excerpt] The assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas, the murder of Martin Luther King in Memphis, and the attempt on the life of Robert Kennedy, the Democratic Party's most likely candidate to win, at Los Angeles, all point to the fact that a uniquely (?explosive) atmosphere has developed in the United States; and in this political atmosphere gangsterism is becoming an accepted method used for the solution of social and political differences of opinion.

There can be no doubt that the Vietnam war--which is a veritable symbol of the fact that the official U.S. policy is aimed at using the forces (?of destruction) on a worldwide scale--played a decisive part in the emergence of this atmosphere. Vietnam and the aggressive policy in Vietnam have done their disruptive work in the fabric of American society, and if anywhere, it is here that the ultimate and deepest features of the attempt on Robert Kennedy must be sought.

Of course there are more direct causes, too. The career and personality of Robert Kennedy are complex and contradictory. Nevertheless, he always maintained his capacity for facing problems and trying to solve them--even at the price of denying his earlier views. This is how he went from conditional support of the Vietnam war to firm opposition to Johnson's Vietnam policy. This is how he arrived--independently from his wealthy family background--at supporting the poor millions and at becoming the most dangerous candidate for those fighting against Negro civil rights.

From all this it organically follows that his political enemies must be sought in the ranks of the American extreme right, the opponents of an international agreement, the racists, and those political forces that are obsessed by the desire of American world hegemony. Factual conclusions pointing further ahead cannot be drawn in these hours, because complete obscurity covers the identity of the assailant--his motives and the identity and aims of his possible accomplices and instigators. Details are unknown. Only the essential fact is known that Robert Kennedy was fired at by the same political underworld which destroyed his elder brother in Dallas four and a half years ago. In the last analysis, the aim in both cases was identical: to prevent the emergence of an American policy truly based on the realistic (?requirements) of the world.

PAPERS COMMENT ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

Budapest MTI International Service in English 1425 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[From the press review]

[Text] Budapest--Hungarian public opinion learned with deep consternation the news of the latest American political murder attempt. This consternation is voiced in the editorials of Budapest's Thursday morning papers.

The editorial "The Third Bullet" in MAGYAR NEMZET says in part: "They wanted to get rid of Robert Kennedy because he knew too much. As Attorney General he saw every secret document for years. Thus, he knew of every tangle of the Warren report, and if once he began to speak he could have irremediably exploded the great scandal of contemporary history through his disclosures.

"So far, the New York senator has kept silent--partly out of his loyalty to the Democratic Party, or in order to save the remnants of the international prestige of the United States, which has long been lost anyway. Those, however, who were afraid of disclosures every moment did not dare take the risk that he should eventually get into the White House. Then there would be such power centered in his hands that he could safely reveal to American public opinion and to the world the facts and truth, first of all of Dallas, and of many other tragic events."

The editorial in MAGYAR HIRLAP under the heading "Sick Society" points out:

"The world, which is following with increasing concern the troubling signs in American society, has received with extremely great consternation the news of the attempt. It was not so much the person of the would-be assassin which attracted worrying attention, but rather the society in which the attempt could have taken place. We well know that Robert Kennedy, like his brother, was no messiah. But in many respects they realistically viewed world events and knew that peace was a fundamental interest of American society, that the fight must be waged for racial equality, and that they could not tolerate the fantastic dimensions of growing misery. The attempt on the life of Robert Kennedy, who was taking over the political inheritance of the last President, has not been an attack only against the senator and his program.

"A society which spends a great part of its energy and the larger part of the state budget for the production of fantastic means of destruction cannot be surprised if the traditional antiforce prohibitions no longer function. If a state has been waging a destructive war for years against a small people, Vietnam; if, against its democratic principles and traditions, a society unreservedly praises violence; if a government uses the Vietnam peace talks as a mere election trick--then the revolver which may be bought in America freely and carried freely will lawfully replace political means, and [the society will] legalize murder attempts as a method . . . The state of a sick society which acts in international politics according to the laws of violence will use the very same means against those who dare to profess something different."

The editorial in NEPSZAVA entitled "Murder Attempt in the Ambassador" points out that the murder attempts at Dallas, Memphis, and Los Angeles are three links in a chain--the chain which, to the greater glory of the "free world," marks political assassination with the trademark "Made in USA." Millions of men all over the world are asking with consternation: Is this possible?

"The question marks," the paper continued, "have for a long time been transformed into exclamation points by contemporary American reality--a reality which surpasses the fantasy of even the most hardened crime writers, the reality which presents the over-publicized American way of living to the whole world as the way of living by brute force, the reality which makes all sensible thinking people raise more and more questions.

"What kind of a country could it be in which guns and revolver bullets have been raised to the highest rank of political argument? What kind of a society is it where, in spite of the extraordinary abundance of consumer goods, tens of thousands are marching on the capital to protest with their camps of miserable tents against the unbearable situation of the millions of masses? What kind of a system is it where 10 percent of the population, 22 million Negroes, subsist in a state of dispossession without any rights? What kind of a policy is it which squanders millions of dollars on a gangster war with mass murder, yet has no money for remedying the most burning social tensions? Answers are superfluous. The questions carry the answers in themselves. The shots from a pistol in Los Angeles have added only further material to the specific characteristics of the American way of life."

KALLAI SENDS CONDOLENCES TO MRS KENNEDY

Budapest MTI Domestic Service in Hungarian 1805 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Text] In connection with the death of Senator R.F. Kennedy, Gyula Kallai, president of the National Assembly of the Hungarian People's Republic, has addressed a telegram of condolences to the widow of the senator.

Political Underworld

Budapest MTI International Service in English 1429 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Text] An article in the latest, Friday, issue of the Budapest foreign political weekly MAGYARORSZAG tries to sketch the political background behind the assassination of Robert Kennedy. The author notes: The list of the senator's political adversaries was long, and it was within his own camp with President Johnson and the present party apparatus of the Democrats that he fought the fiercest battles.

The article continues: "There is plenty of experience in U.S. politics, particularly in the aftermath of the Dallas tragedy, that behind the manifest and distinct front of political opponents there is a second frontline--that of enemies. An invisible, precisely untraceable and constantly changing (?line) separates this hostile world from the theaters of open battle, fought with legal means. This political underworld--remaining in obscurity, though often basking in luxury and controlling influence (as in the case of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, a distinct group of Texas oil magnates' organizations supporting the counterrevolutionary Cuban emigrants)--is linked by invisible but strong threads to the real world of gansters which, in the physical and most vulgar sense of the word, hold their fingers on the triggers of the firearms that are so easy to get a hold of."

"If we leave the opponents alone and look only for enemies, Robert Kennedy's will be found just where John Fitzgerald Kennedy's were--among the most extremist people who hate any reasonable international cooperation and sober policy, in the ranks of American neofascism and its financial supporters, in the world of politically fanatic racialists and (?bedazzled) zealots of an 'American century.'"

"Whatever the factual and legal investigation discovers about the Los Angeles tragedy, in the social and political sense the bullet which shot Robert Kennedy came from the same place as the one which killed his brother," says the Budapest weekly in conclusion.

RIGHTWINGERS, GANGSTERS BEHIND KENNEDY DEATH

NEPSZABADSAG, NEPSZAVA . Comment

Budapest MTI International Service in English 1415 GMT 8 Jun 68 L

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Budapest--NEPSZABADSAG's commentary "It Does Not Depend on the Gun" refers to the latest speech of President Johnson in which the President spoke against unlimited trading in arms. In this connection, the Hungarian paper states in part:

"Since Robert Kennedy's murder, Johnson, with the exception of a single occasion, has always been publicly blaming the postal sale of arms, so much so that now he talks more about this problem than about the murdered Robert Kennedy. He declared that investigations were going in the wrong direction since they were looking for an explanation for the political murders in the social conditions of America. If we listen to him, we may come to believe that the shootings of the two Kennedy brothers or of Martin Luther King represent only three cases in the series of the hundreds of thousands of American murders by arms--as if the ultrarightwing organizations and those behind them would be forced to dissolve through inactivity, unless they order arms by post, or that the Kennedy murder is a simple police affair of public safety and not a political and moral matter demonstrating the essence of the system.

"Murderers, gangsters, conspirators beware of America. From now on you will have to go to the shops for a gun and munitions if your stock at home happens to run short."

Johnson's speech is also discussed by the commentary in NEPSZAVA: "After the Los Angeles tragedy, Johnson has felt it to be his duty to speak and defend American society, saying that 'the murder was not committed by the 200 million Americans' thereby giving further indirect support to Humphrey, since the conclusion is inevitable that the supreme leadership bears responsibility for the atmosphere of blood murders. Even the President has been forced, however, to admit that terrorist methods have dangerously increased in the United States." Johnson stopped, however, with this modest statement of fact and did not even try to analyze the causes. This is logical since then he unavoidably would have arrived at the conclusion that the traces lead to the White House, the Pentagon, and, last but not least, the underworld and secret organizations closely intertwined with the big financial groups which were interested in preventing the former attorney general, who had the opportunity to look into the most secretly guarded material, from becoming the possessor of the supreme power.