

RAMSEY CLARK ASSASSINATION THEORY QUESTIONED

Budapest MTI International Service in English 1448 GMT 11 Jun 68 L

[Text] The Tuesday NEPSZABADSAG carries a commentary entitled "From the Hip," which reads as follows: Texas is known as a place where shots are fired rapidly, usually from the hip. Lately we have also become used to judgments in Texas being passed forthwith, offhand or, if you like, from the hip. Just look at the recent example Ramsey Clark gave Sunday in his TV interview.

This Texan, a former judge and Dallas lawyer, had been appointed Attorney General just at a time, spring 1967, when misgivings began to spread widely in the United States about the official version of how the president had been killed in Dallas. At first that those doubts had something to do with the promotion of the former Texas judge could have been put down perhaps to some prejudiced combinations. Mr Clark's latest statement, however, has made it clear that American jurisprudence at the present time is in great need of "self-consistent" men such as Mr Clark.

In his Sunday interview, Ramsey Clark told us: Once again it was a lone murderer who killed one of the Kennedy family. He added, by way of argument, that the slayer had acted alone just as had John Kennedy's or Martin Luther King's murderers. (Of course, Oswald acting alone had been killed by Ruby--acting alone.)

Let's not bother now about the strange peculiarity that America's lone murderers always seem to have trouble with the same persons as the American extreme right. What we now rather wonder is: While the world's criminologists (and all sound men) question the murderer's connections--with little result, we may add--U.S. authorities hasten to declare that the killer operated alone. What the Warren Commission "found out" after long months of inquiry agrees with what the Dallas police, who suppressed the official records of evidence, had announced within one hour and a half after the President's assassination: Oswald acted without accomplices. King's murderer acted alone, indeed; but what about the intricacies of his escape? And lastly, Los Angeles: Sirhan holds his tongue and, though everybody seems to be busily concerned about him, no one tries to disentangle his connections. While he keeps silent, others, whoever they be, find loopholes to escape. What can a further inquest be expected to find out when the attorney general finds it so urgent to declare: No one had anything to do with Sirhan?

If we admit that the conspirators, if any, shrewdly managed to escape and also that evidence cannot be furnished to prove a conspiracy, one thing is absurd and unacceptable, that is, that the suspicion of a conspiracy should be ruled out in advance. This means that opinion from the highest authority steals a march on the inquest. Such judgments "from the hip" put a premium on political murders "from the hip."

North Korea:

PYONGYANG REACTS TO DEATH OF ROBERT KENNEDY

[Editorial Report--B/X] Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean at 1250 GMT on 7 June in its first monitored reaction to Sen Robert Kennedy's death says:

"While the South Korean puppets are engaging in fresh clamors in their scramble for power, their masters too have been engaged in a struggle for power with the approach of the coming November presidential election. On 5 June, the masters' scramble for power culminated in the fatal shooting of Robert Kennedy, a candidate for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. This incident has caused great commotion in U.S. political circles. In 1963, John Kennedy, then president of the United States, was felled by a bullet from his political foes, and now his brother has fallen victim in the scramble for power."

Later Report

Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 7 Jun 68 B

[Text] According to reports from Los Angeles, Robert Kennedy was shot dead in Los Angeles by a bullet from an unidentified youth, while making a so-called campaign speech to seek presidential nomination. Hit by a number of bullets, he remained unconscious throughout the night of 5 June and was found dead on the morning of 6 June.

His brother John Kennedy, too, was shot dead in November 1963; he was campaigning for reelection as president, clinging to the policies of aggression and war.

This shows how frantically the bosses of U.S. imperialism are running wild in their dogfight for power, and exposes the ugly face of American society where gangsters swing their arms in broad daylight.

Poland:

ATTEMPT MADE ON SEN ROBERT KENNEDY'S LIFE

White House Silence

Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1400 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Excerpt] Significant in its eloquence is the attitude on the White House: Despite having been informed of the attempt on the life of Robert Kennedy, it has so far not published any commentary on this incident.

One cannot help but recall the whole obscure and entangled affair around the report of the Warren Commission set up at one time in response to the special wish of President Johnson to discover the perpetrators of the murder of John Kennedy.

The withdrawal of President Johnson from the forthcoming election recently aroused a number of speculations and comments. In the light of the latest events connected with the attempt on the life of Senator Robert Kennedy, the silence of the White House is becoming even more obscure.

Press Comments

Warsaw PAP International Service in English 0632 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[From the press review]

[Text] Warsaw--"Where a Shotgun rules" is the title of a commentary in TRYBUNA LUDU discussing the political situation in the United States in connection with an attempt on the life of Sen Robert Kennedy. The daily writes among other things:

"As the results of the primaries prove, in the major part of important U.S. states a great many Americans pinned their hopes, rightly or not, for peace and changes on the election of Robert Kennedy as the future president. For the same reason the forces of reaction and extreme aggressive imperialism hated him with the same vehemence as they hated the late President John Kennedy.

It is impossible now to foresee all the consequences the attempt on Robert Kennedy may bring about, particularly if it should end as tragically as that on his late brother's life. One thing is certain, however, the gun shot that hit Robert Kennedy has shattered the already shaky internal peace of the United States and its prestige in the world," TRYBUNA LUDU concludes.

ZYCIE WARSZAWY carries a commentary entitled "In American Jungle," which reads in part:

"It can be supposed that the attempt on the life of Robert Kennedy was prepared by the same forces which staged the assassination of the U.S. President in November 1963 and then that of pastor Martin Luther King. They are extreme reactionary forces, if not fascist ones, which oppose the peaceful coexistence of nations in the world, of white and black citizens in America itself. It is a shame for the United States that such groups may impose their decisions on the entire nation.

Washington has been usurping for itself the role of "world gendarme" for many years now, teaching other nations how to live and which political system they should have. We have been questioning the role of the United States for a long time.

A series of recent attempts on the lives of politicians in America proves that Washington should create order at home before it starts teaching others, concludes ZYCIE WARSZAWY.

REPORT ON REACTION TO KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

Winiewicz Condolences

Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1400 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] The head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vice Minister Jozef Winiewicz, has sent a condolence telegram to Mrs Ethel Kennedy.

Press Comment

Warsaw PAP International Service in English 0630 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[From the press review]

[Text] "The Background of the Crime" is the title of an article by M. Malcuzyński published in TRYBUNA LUDU, dealing with the assassination of Robert Kennedy. The author of this article writes in part:

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.

The author of the article goes on to say: The atmosphere of intolerance, chauvinism, nationalist pride, and social conservatism is the source of a real American tragedy, the source of a deep crisis in the whole system. It is in this atmosphere that political assassins, fanatics, and paid conspirators are bred. But because the United States is undoubtedly a big and influential state, it matters very much for the world which provocation, which new adventure staged in this system could endanger the world, TRYBUNA LUDU concludes.

In a commentary headlined "Robert Kennedy," the daily ZYCIE WARSZAWY writes: "It would be guesswork to foretell the further course of the election campaign if the shot of the gunman had not killed Robert Kennedy. But it is easy to guess who was interested in eliminating Kennedy from the U.S. political arena. They were the same circles which 5 years ago organized an attempt on the life of John Kennedy and several months ago murdered Rev Martin Luther King. They are the circles of the American extreme right.

The Los Angeles tragedy has left the whole American nation in mourning. Words of sympathy have come in from a whole world shocked by the horrible crime. Americans and non-Americans are protesting against the situation in which assassins and paid gunmen make decisions on behalf of the American people, ZYCIE WARSZAWY writes in conclusion.

Rumania:

R. KENNEDY VICTIM OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

Bucharest Domestic Service in Rumanian 0900 GMT 5 Jun 68 A

[Text] At the conclusion of our broadcast, a cable from Los Angeles: Sen Robert Kennedy has been the victim of an attempt on his life. On Tuesday night, at the moment when he was leaving the hall of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles where he had spoken to his supporters, several shots were fired at Kennedy. The senator, hit on the hip, was taken to a hospital. Another person was also wounded. It is not known whether Robert Kennedy's wound is serious.

Radio Commentary

Bucharest Domestic Service in Rumanian 1100 GMT 5 Jun 68 A

[Nicolae Popescu talk]

[Text] The assassination attempt made at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles took place shortly after the radio stations had announced the victory of Robert Kennedy in the primary elections in California, practically in front of the television cameras, several seconds after Kennedy had delivered a speech announcing his victory. This success was considered by the brother of the dead President of the United States as well as by broad circles of American public opinion as decisive for the continuation of his race to the White House. Robert Kennedy had won in the primary elections, which had taken place on the same day, in South Dakota, where he had gained 49 percent of all Democratic votes compared to 39 percent won by U.S. Vice President Hubert Humphrey, and 20 percent won by Sen Eugene McCarthy. [percentages as heard]

Robert Kennedy shed the reserve which he had maintained after Johnson took over only a short while ago. He severely criticized the policy of the administration, especially on the Vietnamese problem, during February 1968. But even then he had not yet announced his intention of running for the nomination of the Democratic Party for the presidential elections. Only in March, after the victory gained in New Hampshire by Eugene McCarthy had Kennedy decided to take part in the race for the White House.

This new act of violence which occurred today, after the assassination 5 years ago of John Kennedy, president of the United States, and after the recent assassination of the Negro leader Martin Luther King, shows an extremely grave spiritual state of affairs in American political life. The election campaign in the United States, marked by such bloody events, will likely continue to be very dramatic.

KENNEDY DEATH, REACTIONS IN U.S. REPORTED

[Editorial Report--A] Bucharest Domestic Service in Rumanian at 1100 GMT on 6 June 1968 reports the death of Sen Robert Kennedy. After quoting an AFP report on the death announcement made by press secretary Mankiewicz, Bucharest radio carries a brief obituary highlighting the career of Robert Kennedy. Noting that the news "has caused a strong impression of bitterness and indignation among public opinion," and that a day of national mourning has been scheduled in the United States, Bucharest radio quotes the 6 June editorial of the New York TIMES and the New York POST on the nature of political assassination and its implications for America's political life.

"After the assassination, New York City was not recognizable," the report goes on, citing statements made to the press and radio by New Yorkers in the street. A Harlem man is reported to have said that whenever anyone gets up to speak about racial equality he is killed, while another one said that American was very sick.

Bucharest radio then cites at some length the statement made by Arthur Schlesinger, who said that murder had hit the two men who personified abroad the ideals of America-- President Kennedy and Dr King--and that the latest crime also was not accidental but part of the violence of a country waging "an irrational war" in Vietnam. Senator McCarthy is reported to have said that the assassination of Robert Kennedy was "a reflection of that policy of force the United States is waging outside its borders."

The last part of the Bucharest radio report states that "the death of Sen Robert Kennedy deeply modifies the given data of the presidential campaign." McCarthy and Humphrey will shortly have talks with Johnson, and it is said that the three men "might try a rapprochement in order to remake the unity of the deeply shaken Democratic Party." Some observers refer to a possible McCarthy and Humphrey rapprochement, "but it is believed that in the present phase of the position of the two candidates for the Democratic nomination such a possibility still appears remote. The possibility of a Humphrey-McCarthy ticket also seems excluded due to the fact that the two politicians both come from Minnesota."

VOITEC CABLES CONDOLENCES ON KENNEDY DEATH

Bucharest Domestic Service in Rumanian 2100 GMT 6 Jun 68 A

[Text] Stefan Voitec, chairman of the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian Socialist Republic, has sent the U.S. Congress (and) Hubert Humphrey, president of the Senate, the following telegram:

Deeply saddened by the news of the assassination of Senator Robert Francis Kennedy, a noted representative of the Senate and of U.S. public life, in my own name and in the name of the deputies of the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian Socialist Republic I express to you sincerest condolences. At the same time please convey to Mrs Ethel Kennedy and to the bereaved family the expression of our deep sympathy [words indistinct].

Comment on Implications

Bucharest Domestic Service in Rumanian 1400 GMT 6 Jun 68 A

[Eugen Preda dispatch from New York]

[Text] Robert Kennedy died today 0144 in Los Angeles, 1044 Bucharest time, and a new chapter of U.S. political history closes with this new drama of the family of the late U.S. President. He died at the age of 43; at his bedside was his wife, who is expecting her 11th child. Later today the body will be flown to New York, the state he represented in the Senate. Tomorrow New Yorkers will bid goodbye, and on Saturday he will be transported by train to Washington. The funeral cortege will cross the city, pass the Department of Justice, whose attorney general he used to be, go to Capital Hill where Congress sits, and will cross the Potomac to Arlington National Cemetery where his brother is buried.

Although the news about Senator Kennedy's death was expected after last night's medical bulletins, the official announcement has increased the state of shock and disorientation here. Robert Kennedy died 24 hours after the attempt on his life a few moments after celebrating his victory in the California and South Dakota primaries which, in his opinion as well as in the opinion of his supporters, strengthened his chances of obtaining the nomination of the Democratic Convention in Chicago in August as the party's official candidate in the November presidential elections.

The bullets fired in California have changed the political picture, stopped for the time being the election campaign, and have intensified the discussions regarding the political prospects this (year). Although it is too early to come to conclusions regarding all the implications of this assassination, it is obvious that it will change the whole election campaign. Even before the death of Senator Kennedy was announced, many U.S. observers forecast that such an outcome of the attempt on his life would bring nearer a national crisis and would make the capacity of the U.S. political system more questionable than ever.

The enthroneing of arguments with bullets in political life is a clear illustration of what Swedish sociologist Gunnar Myrdal warned would take place in the United States: namely, the appearance of the policy of assassinations as a permanent factor.

Naturally, in writing the history of this situation, seeking its roots, and recalling the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy and of many civil rights fighters, among whom the latest to be assassinated was Dr Martin Luther King, an explanation (is sought) especially in the climate of violence existing in the United States.

(It is implied) that the source of this climate of violence is mainly in the fact that there is poverty in the midst of wealth, and that in U.S. political life there is a long tradition of violence which has dominated the stage for centuries. All of this has been increased by the feeling of frustration and the state of tension caused by the Vietnam war and by the increase in racial conflicts.

FURTHER MATERIAL ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

SCINTEIA Comment

Bucharest AGERPRES International Service in English 0938 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Text] Bucharest--Public opinion in Rumania has received with utmost anger the harrowing news of the dastardly assassination of the American senator, Robert Kennedy, Ion Fintinaru writes in an article in SCINTEIA on 7 June.

Expressing regret over the tragic death of Robert Kennedy and compassion to the family and to all those whose aspirations were struck down by this crime, public opinion in this country, as in the entire world, queries: Why? What is this awful disease which hides in the depths of the richest country of the world? As unanimously acknowledged, the explanations can be found only in the dispensations in the present-day society in the United States.

The author of the article further notes: What strikes and shocks everyone is the repetition of the crimes and the similarity of the circumstances and methods involved. This is the third political assassination having wide repercussions in less than 5 years.

This shows that assassination has become a system and a practice of political life in the United States. "The three Dallases," Ion Fintinaru goes on, are only the most flagrant cases. If one adds to them the long array of the attempts on the lives of fighters for civil rights, of Negroes, of progressive campaigners, of peace champions, the resulting picture is one of a country where lawlessness, crime, and political assassinations now have deep roots which are growing like poisonous mushrooms on putrid soil. Everything follows from the principles and norms governing a system where money, and not man and his life, serves as a gage, where arbitrariness and cynicism rule unhampered.

The Los Angeles crime, like the previous crimes, the article goes on, brands the alleged "free world in the eyes of the Rumanian people, just as of public opinion everywhere." This state of affairs is the direct and "logical outgrowth of the entire line promoted by American reaction in both foreign and domestic policies."

Noting that there is a close connection and interconditioning between the reign of violence in the domestic political life and the orientation of the U.S. aggressive imperialist circles on the international plane, Ion Pintinaru writes: "American imperialism furthers the policy of strength," of rude interference in the internal affairs of other peoples, of plots against and encroachments upon other states, of attempts to bolster at the helm, by means of American bayonets, regimes which are repudiated by peoples, the policy of interference, and overt aggression. In spending annually 25 billion dollars for the Vietnam war, by dispatching an expeditionary corps of half a million men armed to the teeth tens of thousands of kilometers from the U.S. borders [words indistinct] the freedom and rights of a people, the American imperialists are not only committing the most flagrant outrage against international law, but also creating the prerequisite for the establishment in their own home of the reign of illegality and arbitrariness.

The aggression on the foreign plane is doubled by the effort to silence all those inside the country who are opposed to the unjust war, which is inconsistent with the interests of the world and of the American people.

Even in the United States there is an open acknowledgment that the political crimes were possible in the particular conditions and atmosphere created by the war the United States has been waging in Vietnam.

Emphasizing that if a cult of crime and assassination is generated and thrives under the conditions of the policy furthered by the U.S. reactionary circles, the author of the article notes that the behavior of the authorities in relation to the crimes signifies an encouragement. To cast light on all the crimes perpetrated, Ion Pintinaru concludes, means not only to identify the one who handled the lethal weapon, but also it especially means to disclose the roots of the criminal actions, the moral culprits. The question is: Who profits by these crimes? In all the cases mentioned above, the victims were prominent American public personalities who distinguished themselves by their more rational, more lucid views, by their intention to change in one or another field the current baneful course of American politics, to impress an orientation which would correspond more to the real interests of the American nation. Sen Robert Kennedy was killed at the moment when he was announcing his candidacy for the U.S. presidency, with a program which, although with reservations and limitations, proclaimed an end to the war in Vietnam and greater rights for the Negro population. He paid with his life for all this.

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 antihuman, antipopular policy, a policy contrary to peace and security.

Public opinion in Rumania expresses not only its opposition and condemnation in this connection, but also the firm determination to campaign with all its energies against imperialism and reaction. The method of assassination is not a proof of strength, but one of the weakness of international reaction, of its moral, political, and ideological crisis. This gives rise to hopes that in the United States also, despite all the difficulties, the democratic forces, the progressives, will increasingly have their say against obscurantism and crime, against imperialism and reaction, and in favor of democracy and peace.

Manescu, UN Homage

Bucharest Domestic Service in Rumanian 2000 GMT 7 Jun 68 A

[Eugen Preda dispatch report on the speech delivered by Corneliu Manescu, president of the UN General Assembly, at the 7 June session of the General Assembly]

[Text] New York--At the beginning of today's session of the General Assembly the participants at the resumed session paid homage to Sen Robert Francis Kennedy. The session was inaugurated by Corneliu Manescu, president of the General Assembly and minister of foreign affairs of the Rumanian Socialist Republic. After briefly recalling Sen Robert Kennedy's personality and the ideas he expressed in his statement regarding respect for the ideals of peace and of combating prejudice, discrimination, and inequality, and for international understanding and cooperation, the General Assembly President recalled that on 26 November 1963 the General Assembly deplored the assassination, in circumstances of dramatic [word indistinct], of his brother, the late President of the United States.

The speaker pointed out that the senator's tragic death was not the only occasion to shake the American people and the whole world by the brutal ending of the life of [words indistinct]. Recently, Martin Luther King, leader of the struggle for emancipation and prominent son of the American people, sprinkled with his own blood the convictions which had guided his whole life.

The General Assembly President then said that the [word indistinct] regarding the path we still have to go until the establishing of a climate of respect for man, of unhampered and unthreatened participation in national and international public life, of eradicating the sources of unrest and tension, and of insuring basic rights regardless of the color of the skin, [words indistinct], or political philosophy, is especially pertinent here at the United Nations whose supreme aim is the fostering of peace and progress through the efforts of all.

In conclusion Corneliu Manescu said: Allow me to express here, from this rostrum, our feeling of deep compassion for the bereaved family, and our condolences to the U.S. political authorities, and to all the American people.

Ceausescu Condolences

Bucharest AGERPRES International Service in English 1905 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Text] Bucharest--Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the State Council of the Rumanian Socialist Republic, has sent the following telegram to Mrs Ethel Kennedy:

The news of the loss suffered by your much-tried family, and at the same time by the American people, has deeply grieved us. In these moments of deep grief caused by the assassination of your husband, Sen Robert Kennedy--eminent statesman, leader of American public life--kindly accept the most sincere condolences and expression of the feelings of compassion from me, my wife, and the Rumanian people.

FURTHER COMMENT ON SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEATH

Bucharest Domestic Service in Rumanian 2000 GMT 10 Jun 68 A

[Eugen Preda New York dispatch]

[Text] Robert Kennedy disappeared into the grave in the cemetery on the outskirts of the American capital, but the problems facing his country and whose echo was heard in the campaign he waged to become president--the cessation of the war in Vietnam, racial relations, and the poverty in which an important segment of the population is living--have remained. After the shock of the murder and his death, and after the funeral, and after the day of national mourning, the armistice in political life is about to come to an end. During this brief period of public silence in the election campaign, the political calendar has been corrected in accordance with the new situation. James Reston wrote that the last and most bitter irony of the assassination of Robert Kennedy is that it virtually insures the nomination of Hubert Humphrey and Richard Nixon, and thus "instead of a new policy in Vietnam, about the same policy is being offered by Humphrey and even more bombings by Nixon. Instead of quieting the discontented, the satisfied will be rewarded. All these things (?could have come about) even if Robert Kennedy had lived, but he would have been present to maintain the struggle for a change."

A poll published today on the chances of Vice President Humphrey having enough delegates at the convention to obtain nomination shows a greater degree of certainty than in the past. Thus, [words indistinct] primaries carried out in March in snowy New Hampshire up to June in sunny California--namely the repudiation of the administration's policy by members of its own party--has been to a great extent annulled. In California the political opponents of the administration, Senators Kennedy and McCarthy, had obtained 88 percent of the votes; in South Dakota, 84 percent; in Indiana, 69 percent. In Pennsylvania the delegates committed to supporting them at the convention had totalled 86 percent of the votes, and in Massachusetts almost 80 percent.

In the new situation it is said that Vice President Humphrey will let some time pass before publicly resuming his election campaign. In this period, during which it is supposed that the spirit of the times following the murder will [words indistinct] and that the former supporters of Senator Kennedy will redefine their (?views), the vice president will concentrate on consolidating his position with the delegates to the convention.

In an article titled "How Much Democracy?" the New York TIMES points out that preliminary elections have shown the scope of the opposition to the policy of the administration and that as regards the official Democratic nomination it could again be decided by the arithmetic to which the delegates to the convention have been conditioned it writes: "What remains to be seen is the reaction of a nation which appears to be increasingly disquieted by institutions which respond too slowly or not at all to the public state of mind."

It is precisely this great unknown factor in the equation of the 1968 election campaign, and the dramatic successive modifications which have taken place during the campaign, which make many observers particularly prudent with regard to the results of the August conventions and the November elections. In this context [words indistinct] will deliver a speech in New York, thus resuming his public campaign.

The Soviet Union:

09.00 GMT 4.6.68 - 09.00 GMT 5.6.68

The Shooting of Senator Kennedy was reported in home service and Tass news flashes at 08.30 and 08.35 (GMT) respectively, followed by the radio's first comment, in the home service, at 12.00 (GMT). Thus, said the commentator, had another political assassination been attempted in a country which boasted of its democracy and its system of free enterprise. The authorities were responsible for tolerating this notorious capitalist freedom - freedom to kill. The extreme Right-wing forces in the USA enjoyed the support of the reactionary ruling circles in Washington and were exerting a growing influence on the country's political life. These hawks demanded an extension of the war in Vietnam and threatened any who dissented from them with punishment, and at times used the services of paid assassins. This had been the case in the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King, and was also evidenced in the trial of Dr. Spock and others who openly opposed the aggression in Indochina.

American Political Jungle

Moscow TASS International Service in English 1330 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Igor Orlov commentary]

[Text] Moscow--The assassination attempt on Robert Kennedy, who was seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, again attracts public attention to the political jungle of present-day America, where the assassination of political leaders is becoming increasingly frequent. The atmosphere in the country is clearly favorable to such things.

What strikes the eye is that the huge and lavishly financed machinery of the FBI is directed not so much at combating crime and political and criminal gangsterism--the latter are interwoven as a rule--as at persecuting progressive organizations and active members of mass antiwar and anti-imperialist movements, all those who are opposed to the country's present "establishment."

This conclusion is confirmed by the unceasing increase in crime in the United States. President Johnson himself recently pointed out in a special message to Congress that many Americans are afraid to go out and cannot feel safe even at home.

Noted American researchers confirm that aggression in Vietnam has considerably contributed to the increase of crime in the United States. American intervention in Vietnam helps cultivate a psychology of brigandage in the United States proper.

Another contributing factor is the actual impunity of many political crimes. Suffice it to recall the terror of racists in southern states and other parts of the country.

Public opinion continues to express anger at the failure to trace the murderer of the prominent Negro leader, Martin Luther King, although 2 months have passed since his assassination. There are also many obscurities in the circumstances of the assassination of former U.S. President John Kennedy, which is shown by voluminous literature on this subject.

Can one fully rule out an assumption that the assassination attempt on his brother Robert Kennedy is related in some way to the assassination of the President himself? These and other so far obscure questions are still to be answered.

The attempt on Robert Kennedy's life suggests a very gloomy picture of the set-up in the United States.

No End to U.S. Violence

Moscow TASS International Service in English 1610 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Text- Moscow--"There seems to be no end to brutal crimes in today's America, because these crimes are constantly produced by the American way of life with its emphasis on sensations and bloody violence," IZVESTIYA'S correspondent Stanislav Kondrashov reports from San Francisco in connection with the attempt to assassinate Sen Robert Kennedy.

Commenting in IZVESTIYA on the new crime in the United States, M. Severov writes: "The end to violence that sweeps the United States from coast to coast is not in sight. More and more often revolver shots accentuate the events in the modern history of the United States."

The commentator writes that Washington views international law as the law laid down by a mailed fist, and democratic freedoms as the freedom to murder those who think differently."

"The American society that performs on the world arena as an international gendarme more and more degenerates into a gangster within its own country. These are the two sides of one and the same coin."

Severov writes further that the socioeconomic system upon which the United States rests unleashes the basest instincts of an individual. This system, that tries to impose its rule on the world through the use of arms, pays heavily for its crimes. "Its victims are not only Vietnamese women and children, not only campesinos in the Dominican Republic or the Arab fellahs, but also its own citizens no matter whether they are Boston millionaires or political leaders brothers John and Robert Kennedy, the Negro leader Malcolm X, or champion of nonviolent action Martin Luther King. In a word its victim is every man lucky to be born in the country under the stars and stripes.

"And this society, that uses terror as the usual means of the election struggle, that swears by the green dollar and the steel of the revolver, that praises the gods of gain and violence, dares say through its prophets that it is called upon to give moral leadership to the world, and proclaims the 20th century the century of Americanism.

"It is with anger and contempt that mankind rejects the claims of this society," the IZVESTIYA commentator writes in conclusion.

U.S. Freedom to Kill

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Text] Another political crime has been committed in the United States, the country which boasts about its democracy, its system--the system of free enterprise. The assassination attempt in Los Angeles was possible because of the irresponsible connivance on the part of the authorities and the notorious freedom of a capitalist society, the freedom to kill.

It is noteworthy that the extreme rightwing forces in the United States enjoy the support of the reactionary ruling circles in Washington and exert a growing influence on the political life of the country. They oppose the granting of equal civil rights to the Negro population. They are in favor of a militarization of the country and of the arms race to please monopolistic capital. The hawks demand an extension of the war in Vietnam, threatening those who dissent from them with punishments and at times use the services of paid assassins. This happened in November 1963, when President Kennedy was killed in Dallas. This happened on 4 April this year when Martin Luther King was killed in Memphis. This is happening today in Boston, at the shameful trial of five representatives of the U.S. intelligentsia led by Benjamin Spock, who openly opposes the aggression in Indochina.

KENNEDY SHOT AT LOS ANGELES PRESS CONFERENCE

Moscow TASS International Service in English 0838 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Text] New York--An attempt on the life of Sen Robert Kennedy was made in the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles today during his press conference on the occasion of his victory in the California primary. According to reports by the news services and television Robert Kennedy suffered three gun wounds in the head, chest, and hip. He was immediately rushed to Los Angeles central hospital. The gunman fired several shots. Kennedy's brother-in-law, a television correspondent, and an unidentified woman were also wounded. The gunman was detained.

Victim of Violence

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1620 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Yuriy Babich commentary: "A Society of Fear and Violence"]

[Excerpts] "Still another vile crime has been committed in America. Robert Kennedy has been wounded in the head by several pointblank shots in the hall of the Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel, after a press conference devoted to his success in the California primary. Kennedy's condition is grave.

Passions have not yet subsided in the country after President John Kennedy's murder. The echo of the fatal shot in Memphis, the victim of which was prominent Negro leader and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize Martin Luther King, has not subsided. Someone's hand once again has fired a weapon and once again blood has been shed.

Who guided the hand of the assassin? How could this new crime have been committed? How is it possible that in a country that praises its freedom and democracy a bullet more and more is becoming the most important "argument" in a political struggle? Prominent politician, Sen William Fulbright, called America a sick society. These are not just words. The American bourgeois society is in fact incurable sick. A profound crisis has long affected the entire U.S. social system in all its aspects: Its entire ideology, economy, and politics.

It is not accidental that a feeling of dissatisfaction with life is growing among Americans. The most powerful and rich country of the capitalist world has no inspiring national aims, no ideals which can capture the minds and hearts of the people and encourage them to accomplish great deeds.

The American reactionary ruling classes are trying to fill this political and moral vacuum with anticommunism and anti-Sovietism. What can such bellicose, reactionary ideology give millions of Americans, particularly young ones who, on the very threshold of their conscious life, come across profound dissatisfaction, across the cult of profit that is taking root in the country, and across the cults of business, the dollar, and violence?

America is profoundly affected by the poison of violence and lawlessness. The attempt on Robert Kennedy's life in Los Angeles following the murder in Memphis of Martin Luther King shows vividly that the ultra-American reactionaries have started to act more and more impudently and to resort increasingly to the merciless means of political struggle; that is, to murder.

The fact that former criminals had not been punished was probably one of the considerations during the organization of an attempt on Robert Kennedy's life. Of course, in this case a great deal is still not clear. Many questions must be answered during the inquest, although in this case too, the possibility of all kinds of unexpected turns of events cannot be excluded.

However, one can already say with confidence that Robert Kennedy has become still another victim of the atmosphere of violence reigning in America, a victim of a reactionary social order, a victim of the darkest forces of American reaction.

In one of his speeches during the stormy events in U.S. cities resulting from Martin Luther King's murder President Johnson called on his compatriots not to allow the United States to become a country where bullets rule. The subsequent bloody reprisals against Negroes and against some participants in the Poor People's March on Washington, and then the attempt on Robert Kennedy's life show clearly that the President's appeal has not been heeded. Once again, America presents itself to the entire world as a country where bullets rule and where terror and violence have become almost a legalized norm of the entire life of society.

(b) Moscow home service 19.00 GMT 5.6.68

Excerpts from commentary by Aleksandr Druzhinin, preceded by report of results of California primary and shooting of Senator Kennedy:

... The Los Angeles police have not yet given personal details of the criminal, or criminals, for according to some reports the man who shot Kennedy was not acting alone... How can such a thing happen in the so-called civilised, democratic America of today, as American propaganda insists on describing it? The answer to this question is provided by the American social system itself, by American society, which is contaminated and thoroughly permeated by violence. Indeed, violence is the foundation upon which happy, free and prosperous America is built.

When the Negro population of the country raises its voice in protest against racial discrimination, those taking part in the movement for civil rights are met with force, tear gas and detachments of the police and the National Guard. When many Americans come out in protest against the criminal war being waged by Washington in Vietnam, attempts are made to stifle their voices; they are thrown into prison and subjected to court proceedings, as is now happening in Boston to Dr. Spock and his colleagues. And if we turn to the USA's actual policy in Vietnam, is it not the clearest example of violence by a powerful imperialist Power against a freedom-loving people? Violence raised to the status of official foreign and home policy finds itself on fertile soil and becomes a cult in a society such as America's, a society built on racial, political and economic inequality, on suppression of the weak by the strong, on the rule of the minority over the majority. Thus the dramatic events in Los Angeles arise from the very essence of America's present system. They have once again covered the USA with shame, and have once more demonstrated to all the true face of America, a country where there is not, and cannot be, any real democracy and freedom.

[In a report from Washington, also broadcast in the home service (16.00 GMT 5.6.68) L. Lipovetskiy said that the violence which Washington was using against the people of Vietnam had not spared American society itself. Millions of representatives of America's coloured population, the poor and all who dared to raise their voices against racialism, poverty, war or deprivation of rights were subjected to violence.]

(c) Moscow in Serbo-Croat 16.00 GMT 5.6.68 (and in other foreign languages, including English for N America)

Text of commentary:

The shots in Los Angeles demonstrated once again that violence and murder are the decisive factors in the US political arena.

The US system itself and the much vaunted US way of life are the source of the cult of violence. The attempt on the life of Robert Kennedy is a clear manifestation of this sick society, of this rotten order. Brute force, the bandit's bullet and rampant corruption are the typical of the USA's political life.

US capitalism is suffering from an incurable disease, and this sick society has made violence the basis of its home and foreign policy. The US military use pellet bombs and napalm against the people of Vietnam. The US Administration sends hundreds of heavy bombers every day to annihilate thousands of peaceful Vietnamese. This is a manifestation of the bestial essence of capitalism, its inhumanity and its brutality.

These same traits also dominate the USA's home life. This is admitted by leading US politicians. The Democratic Senator Ralph Yarborough, speaking about the attempt on Robert Kennedy's life, said: "The horrible aspect of it all is that attempts at political assassination are becoming commonplace in our country". Another Senator, Mike Mansfield, also stressed that violence has become commonplace in the life of the USA.

The attempt on Robert Kennedy's life provides additional proof that the capitalist system, which has become entangled in insoluble contradictions, has made violence a weapon of its national policy. This obvious conclusion, this characteristic trait, cannot be ignored even by the supporters of a capitalist society, even by those who are trying to close their eyes to the real facts. The shots in Los Angeles represent a grave indictment of the order and social system of the USA.

(d) Tass in Russian for Abroad 15.35 and in English 15.33 GMT 5.6.68

Text of report:

"There seems to be no end to brutal crimes in today's America because these crimes are constantly produced by the American way of life with its emphasis on sensations and bloody violence". 'Izvestiya' correspondent Stanislav Kondrashov reports from San Francisco in connection with the attempt to assassinate Senator Robert Kennedy.

Commenting in 'Izvestiya' on the new crime in the USA, M. Severov writes: "The end to the violence that is sweeping the USA from coast to coast is not in sight. More and more often revolver shots accentuate events in the modern history of the USA."

The commentator writes that Washington views international law as law laid down by a mailed fist and democratic freedom as the freedom to murder those who think differently. "American society, that performs on the world arena as an international gendarme, is more and more degenerating into a gangster society within its own country. These are the two sides of one and the same medal."

Severov goes on to say that the social and economic system on which the USA rests unleashes the basest instincts of the individual. This system, that is trying to impose its rule on the world by force of arms, pays dearly for its crimes. "Its victims are not only Vietnamese women and children, not only natives of the Dominican Republic and Arab fellahin, but also its own citizens, no matter whether they are Boston millionaires or political leaders, the brothers John and Robert Kennedy, the militant Negro leader Malcolm X or the champion of non-violence Martin Luther King. In a word, its victim is every man lucky enough to be born in the country the Stars and Stripes.

"And this society, that uses terror as a normal instrument of the election struggle, that swears by the green dollar and the steel of the revolver, that praises the gods of greed and violence, dares to claim through its prophets that it is called upon to give moral leadership to the world and proclaims the 20th Century the century of America. It is with anger and contempt that mankind rejects the claims of this society", 'Izvestiya' commentator writes in conclusion.

Johnson TV Address

Moscow TASS International Service in English 0745 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Washington--President Johnson appeared on television yesterday to try to ease the tension-charged and nervous atmosphere of insecurity and grief which has gripped America as a result of the villainous attempt on Sen Robert Kennedy's life.

Johnson said that the government did not know the reasons for the assassination attempt but he linked the tragedy with the general atmosphere of crime and violence prevalent in American society. He said that the attempted assassination was the latest spectacular example of lawlessness, violence, and insanity in the United States and that it would be self-deception to ignore the connection between this violence and the attempt on Senator Kennedy's life.

Johnson explained the present abnormal situation in the country by a climate of extremism and contempt for the law and the rights of others. All this, he said, rends apart the structure of the American nation's life, and the fear felt by Americans makes them arm themselves with deadly weapons. He stated that in present-day America man is set against man and group against group.

The President urged congress to pass gun control legislation and said that he had set up a special study commission on violence to inquire into the causes of the growing violence and politically motivated murders.

This statement by President Johnson was a forced admission of the sickness and ulcers of American capitalist society.

MOSCOW COMMENT ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

Victor Glazunov Commentary

Moscow in English to South Asia 1600 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Sen Robert Kennedy is dead. He has died in Los Angeles, the victim of an assassination, just as his brother, President John Kennedy, died in Dallas 5 years ago. Reports from the United States speak of the sense of shock that has gripped the country. The assassination is regarded as yet another ominous symptom of the terrible disease corroding American society. Sen Thomas Dodd is quoted as having exclaimed that he felt American society was going crazy. Sen Mike Mansfield has said he is afraid for the future of his country; he doesn't know what is going to happen to the country which has earned a reputation around the world of being a land of lawlessness and political assassinations.

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 Malcolm 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 a 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.

Valentin Zorin Commentary

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] The news of the death of Sen Robert Kennedy has been followed by a chain reaction of comment and political statements in the United States and in the whole world.

The presidential election campaign which was in full swing has practically been suspended now. The candidates to the highest state office in America have interrupted their election speeches and are now busy studying the new situation which has arisen on the American political arena.

But the stormy reactions throughout the world to the tragic death of Robert Kennedy have been even more important. The sad event is being rightly assessed not only as a grim episode in domestic American politics but also as an event of international significance. The fire of revolver shots which sounded in the Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel have exposed like lightning the disgusting reverse side of the political life in the leading state of the modern capitalist world. People have been seriously shaken by the realization of the danger brought to them by the state which is pretending to play a leading part in the world and has raised violence to the level of a state doctrine.

Today the bourgeois press of America is discussing in every possible way the causes of the unprecedented scale of violence in the United States and offers ways to counteract this violence. These means do not go further than proposals to restrict the free trade in tools of violence. Although I have nothing against such a measure, which has long been carried out by many civilized states, I doubt whether the problem of violence in America can be dealt with by this means. So far no one has been able to cure cancer by cooking hemp seeds. Violence reigns supreme in the America of our times not just because any scoundrel there can easily buy weapons and have them mailed to his home, but above all because the whole atmosphere in that country is imbued with a spirit of violence. More than that--this atmosphere has been planned and cultivated for many years: American art consisting of horror books and films; science full of theories justifying the right of the strong; and above all the practical policy of the American state which uses violence and war plunder as a state policy. Such is the soil breeding the poisonous weeds, including the systematic assassinations of politicians for some reason regarded as undesirable by the extreme American reactionaries.

Today one hears from Washington words of condemnation and regret, condemnation of the assassin and regrets concerning the death of the brother of a president, who had also been assassinated. But these regrets sound false, not only because this is not the first time the world has heard them, but above all because what is involved here is not an accidental tragedy but the law of the heartless jungle, which is the bourgeois state of the United States.

Paramonov in LIFE ABROAD

Moscow TASS International Service in English 1418 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Moscow--"The new tragedy of America is one more indictment against the ruling circles of this imperialist power, which reassert their rule by methods of aggression and mass killings outside the country and violence and persecution of 'nonconformists' at home," Vladimir Paramonov writes in the weekly LIFE ABROAD.

Commenting on the assassination of U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles, he writes that a "country lauded by bourgeois propaganda as a 'citadel of freedom and democracy' is increasingly becoming an arena of political banditry. For the second time in 2 months a political murder has been committed in the United States.

"The fighter for the rights of the Negro people, Martin Luther King, died at the hands of an assassin in Memphis on 4 April. The murderer has not yet been found and the actual organizers of President Kennedy's assassination were not found either."

The author says that "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 even of many bourgeois 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."

"But what are such inventions worth against the background of a shocking bacchanalia of murders in America, where political quarrels are fought not by arguments but by a bullet! Behind this orgy emerges an ugly face of U.S. imperialism which vainly tries to halt the march of history which is passing a fair verdict on it."

Vladimir Afonin Commentary

Moscow in English to Eastern North America 2300 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] For a long time it was hard for Americans to recognize that political crimes had become a systematic occurrence in their country. The assassination of John F. Kennedy was called the murder of the century to stress, perhaps, that it was the only event of its kind. But after the killing of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy this [words indistinct] become the century of murders. The latest dispatches indicate that now also in the United States it is being acknowledged that political terror has become a built-in feature of the American way of life.

In the country that the mass media has tirelessly tried to depict as a land of democracy, it now appears that there are forces that prefer bullets to ballots, and frenzied action to sensible (?divisions of opinion). Unlike the lone assassin, the men who commit the murders of the century are bound to be someone's agents; and the prospective organizations to employ them are quite numerous. Never before in U.S. history have there been so many terrorist organizations, semilegal, or even legal. These are a product of the U.S. social system, a policy of weapons. Little wonder no traces are left when the attempt is made to find the conspirators and those who (?commit) political crimes.

The mortally wounded Robert Kennedy has died. Before him, there were dozens, hundreds, and even thousands of Americans who died the same violent death. And nobody knows who will be the next. But the situation is natural for a country where terror and arbitrary actions have become quite ordinary; where every year the police and [words indistinct] use unbridled violence to crush the appeals of the city poor; where the chiefs of police can order bullets pumped into marchers; and where the generals can send aircraft to bomb the civilian population in Vietnam.

It remains to be asked what sort of moral leadership a country can give if it is unable to protect its own political figures from assassination. To the world, the American way of life now looks (?rather) like the American way of death.

Humphrey, Nixon Statements

Moscow TASS International Service in English 1625 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] New York--The death of Sen Robert Kennedy has stunned the Americans. Making a statement in Washington last night, President Johnson expressed condolences to the family of the deceased senator. He declared Sunday, 9 June, a day of national mourning.

Many politicians in America have also made statements on Kennedy's assassination. Nearly all of them expressed concern over the situation in the country in which such crimes are possible.

Vice President Hubert Humphrey, who is pressing for the Democratic presidential nomination, questioned the nation's ability to find enough strength, belief, and wisdom to put an end to the unreasonable hatred existing among Americans.

Nixon, a probable Republican presidential nominee, said in New York that Kennedy's death was a horrible tragedy for the family and for the nation which had known too many such tragedies in recent times.

Robert Kennedy's body will be flown to New York today and placed in Saint Patrick's Cathedral. The funeral service will be held on Saturday, after which the Senator's remains will be taken by train to Washington. The funeral will be held at Arlington Cemetery where President John Kennedy, who also died from an assassin's bullet in 1963, is interred.

U.S. Academicians' Reactions

Moscow TASS International Service in English 2050 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] New York--Oleg Anichkin dispatch--"The shame of the nation." This is how many Americans characterize the assassination of Sen Robert Kennedy, who died in Los Angeles today.

"The United States is a land of violence. The instinct of violence is in the blood and flesh of our nation," said Arthur Schlesinger, a prominent American historian and former assistant of the late President John Kennedy.

The whole world, he said, views the United States as the most frightening nation in the world, because our country is conducting the war in Vietnam and because President John Kennedy, the Negro leader Martin Luther King, and Sen Robert Kennedy have become victims of assassins.

Prof David Abrahamson believes that no civilized country in the world has such an atmosphere of violence as the United States. Cruelty has always been in our blood, he said, while the assassination of President John Kennedy laid the beginning of a new era of violence in the United States.

Americans are brought up from a tender age in conditions of violence and cruelty, said John Spiegel, a professor of psychology. The pistol has become an American cult, a means of settling conflicts, he said.

Soviet Condolences

Moscow TASS International Service in English 2203 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Moscow, 7 June--Aleksy Kosygin has expressed sincere condolences to Ethel Kennedy. "The foul murder of your husband Robert F. Kennedy evokes a profound feeling of indignation among Soviet people," a telegram sent by the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers says.

The chairmen of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Ivan Spiridonov and Justas Palestskis, have expressed sincere condolences upon Robert Kennedy's assassination in their telegram to Hubert Humphrey, the president of the Senate and vice president of the United State.

[Moscow TASS International Service in English at 0543 GMT On 7 June reports that head of the Soviet delegation to the 22d session of the UN General Assembly Vasily Kuznetsov and the Soviet Union's permanent representative to the United Nations, Yakov Malik, sent a message to U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations A. Goldberg. On behalf of the Soviet delegation and the permanent representation of the Soviet Union, they expressed deep condolences to the government and the people of the United States on the untimely and tragic death of Sen Robert F. Kennedy. In the message, the Soviet delegation and the Soviet representation express heart-felt condolences to the family of Sen Robert Kennedy.]

SENATOR KENNEDY DIES FROM ASSASSIN'S BULLET

Moscow Announcement

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] An AP correspondent reports that Sen Robert Kennedy, on whose life an attempt was made yesterday, died in a Los Angeles hospital at 0144 hours.

SOVIET RUSSIA has a commentary by Genrich Borovik, New York NOVOSTI correspondent, entitled "Crime in Los Angeles." He calls attention to the fact that the "police, which should have protected Kennedy, proved once again powerless as in Dallas 5 years ago and Memphis 2 months ago." "I do not know if this time the crime will be solved. The only thing clear is that the much-vaunted American freedom is a freedom to kill those who think differently. The much-vaunted American way of life is one of violence. That has become an inevitable companion to capitalist society."

Aleksey Leontyev writes in RED STAR: "Apparently, this time also certain gentlemen of the United States will weep and hypocritically express condolences. Spilling the blood of their victims and shedding tears over their fate have become favorite occupations with the bosses of America. They are steeped in crime and are trying to save face, whether in Vietnam or the United States. But these are vain attempts. Millions of people see America today as it really is. And they are justified in their hatred and disgust at this America."

SOCIETY OF VIOLENCE

Political Assassinations and Murders--Inseparable
Feature of American Way of Life. "Land of
Freedom" Extolled by Imperialist Propaganda
Seen by the Whole World as Society of Violence
and Terror

S. Vishnevsky

[PRAVDA. June 6, 1968. In full]

Senator Robert Kennedy, one of the claimants to the post of the US President, is now in a Los-Angeles hospital with a bullet hole in his head. He has become the victim of one more act of political terror.

Why was Senator Kennedy shot at?

Nobody plotted assassination against him when in the beginning of his political career he was adviser in the inquisitional committee of the notorious Senator Joseph McCarthy. Nobody aimed a gun at him when he served with his might and main the ruling class, as the country's Attorney General.

The atmosphere of hatred around Robert Kennedy appeared in the camp of ultra-reactionaries only when, under the pressure of public sentiments, he made a step, though not a very confident one, in the direction of realism and criticised the most aggressive and senseless aspects of America's foreign policy and condemned the escalation of the dirty war in Vietnam, incidentally without demanding an unconditional withdrawal of the interventionist troops from Indo-China. He was and remains a representative of the "moderates" in the top quarters of the Democratic Party. Yet, even this kind of moderate approach evoked convulsions of venom in the camp of obscurantist reaction. William Buckley, the "theorist" of the ultrareactionaries, publicly damned Kennedy for his "shift to the left." Even before the Senator said that he would run for President in the elections, there appeared numerous little booklets describing him as a "dangerous radical and trouble-maker." The racialists of the South paid Kennedy in wild hatred for his "encouragement" of the Negroes. His name is anathema for many southerners, recalls Time.

Political assassinations and murders are an inseparable feature of the American way of life. In that land of "advanced democracy" murder has become a method of the policy of the ruling classes just as much as bribery, blackmail of voters and election campaign demagogy. On learning about the assassination of Kennedy, Senator Yarborough exclaimed: "The terrible thing in all this is that political assassination is becoming an ordinary phenomenon in our country."

This is a rather belated admission. There is a chain of acts of terror and violence stretching through the entire history of the USA. The murder of President Abraham Lincoln is like an indelible blot on America. There are the bodies of thousands of lynched Negroes moulding in American soil. Many sons of America's working class died at the hands of the hired murderers of capital.

The establishment of monopoly capitalism sharply increased the traditional tendency of the US social system towards reactionary violence. V.I. Lenin emphasised that "the political superstructure of this new economy of monopoly capitalism (imperialism is monopoly capitalism) is the change from democracy to political reaction... Both in foreign and home policy imperialism strives towards violations of democracy, towards reaction."

Mass-scale and individual acts of terror against progressive people, against workers, against the functionaries of democratic movements has become a routine weapon of the US ruling circles.

Even a bourgeois leader, who departs a jota from the general line of imperialism, is as a rule subject to attempts of elimination from political life. In 1933 President F.D. Roosevelt managed to remain alive by some miracle after being shot at by a terrorist. The year of 1963 saw the death of President John Kennedy. American researcher, Dr. Peel, in his book "Cases in the White House" even offers a "curve" of the growth of the number of assassinations of American presidents.

Even as the representatives of Washington's elite cannot feel safe, there is a constant threat of destruction hanging over the real fighters for the interests of the people.

Obscurantists make regular raids on the buildings of the Communist Party of the USA and other progressive organisations. The house in New York, accommodating the editorial office of the progressive newspaper Worker, is shaken now and again by explosions of dynamite planted by belligerent anti-communists. These bandit raids supplement the many-year campaign of court persecutions against the Communist Party and progressive forces.

Many states in the South and in the North are in a web of terroristic organisations which preach and practice terror, with impunity, against the champions of freedom and democracy. The "invisible empire" of the Ku Klux Klan spreads over dozens of states. The murderers in white cloaks have many times been caught red handed, but they invariably managed

to get away unscathed from the hands of the all-forgiving American Themis. "Ku Klux Klan's terroristic violence, is a proven fact. Murder, arson and bombthrowing are being perpetrated by the Klan in many districts," says Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI. Yet, the chief of the Secret police has not put a single murderer in the electric chair.

No wonder the list of the victims of obscurantists grows with every year. Here are only some of the items from that bloody list:

1963--Negro leader Medgar Evers murdered in Mississippi.

1964--three functionaries (two whites and one Negro) put to death.

1965--two Negro leaders were murdered in the Harlem district of New York among whom was Malcolm X, the leader of the Black Moslems; James Read, a white Alabama clergyman, who attempted to appeal to the conscience of racists, was clubbed to death. In the same state of Alabama Jonathan Daniels and Viola Luizzo, a mother of five children, civil rights champions, were shot; Richard Morrisraw, a Catholic clergyman, was gravely wounded "for sympathising Negroes."

1966--Negro James Meredith who "dared" to study in a white university was wounded.

1967--W. Jackson, a Negro leader, was murdered in Mississippi.

And finally this year which witnessed the heinous murder of Martin Luther King, this prominent peace and freedom champion, and now the bandit attempt on Kennedy.

This terrible enumeration only slightly shows the general American panorama of atrocities and violence.

Each Negro unrest is accompanied by a bloody massacre of hundreds of poor people. Vice-President Humphrey admits: "Those who live in the slums, which are fraught with explosions are mainly the victims of violence", Martin Luther King shortly before his death sent a message to the Department of Justice stressing the sadistic nature of the mass slaughter of Negro students: "The evidence presented by witnesses in Orangeburg (South Carolina) shows that all the students were murdered by shots in the back and that many were wounded while they were lying on the ground."

In the same Los Angeles, where Robert Kennedy was shot, the authorities organised special military-police groups to deal with Negroes. This is how police inspector Merton How described these groups: "Our special weapon and tactics team is made up of groups, each consisting of four men: a marksman with a rifle with a telescopic sight, an aim setter and two policemen, armed with revolvers and tommy-guns for conducting cover fire."

What we have is an armed to the teeth group of terrorists, this time in police uniform, prepared, with the blessings of the authorities, to open fire at the "seditious" civilian population. The legislators in the Capitol call for spreading the "valuable" Los Angeles experience of these police groups throughout the country. Numerous facts confirm that lily-white America is arming for "city wars" against the poor.

Negro leader Wilson points out: "Not a single Negro can feel secure when such misfortunes fall on our heads. Detroit and Orangeburg have proved this." According to the moderate liberal South Regional Council, America today represents "an astounding picture of the super-escalation of police and military forces," directed against the Negro movement.

With the same brutality and on the same mass scale "official terrorists" come down on the anti-war movement. I saw with my own eyes how demonstrators protesting against the US aggression in Vietnam were beaten up with police clubs. The escalation of military operations in the Vietnamese jungles proceeds side by side with the escalation of military-police brutality in the United States proper. Why should violence within America not be in fashion when, as L. Anderson, an ordinary American, in a letter to the New York Times justly stresses that "in Vietnam massed organised violence is being committed on our behalf."

J. Sheffner, a youth leader, has every reason to note that the use of violence by reaction in all spheres of life --attacks on progressive organisations, the murder of Negroes, the persecution of Doctor Spock and other anti-war activists are interlinked. Sheifner is of the opinion that the powers that be are nurturing the idea of "rolling back" the mass progressive and democratic movements "by suppressing the freedom of speech and by routing the opposition which comes out against war and racialism."

Freedom House organisation recently published a report on the situation in the country. One of the conclusions in the report: "Everywhere violence... destroys the tissue of American society". "The entire society of the Americans suffers from violence," the Saturday Evening Post confirms the report.

Bourgeois observers agree that terror and violence are inevitable concomitants of present-day America.

The "land of liberty" highly vaunted by imperialist propaganda, appears before the entire world as a society of violence and terror. Today this is being admitted even by the most loyal adherents of the American way of life. Even Edgar Hoover, the FBI Director, states that violence "is inseparably interlaced in the tissue of life of America of the 20th century." "On the whole", this FBI chief continues, "many seeds of violence are embedded in our society, often at a great depth".

The crime in Los Angeles is a new and most convincing example of this terrible gangster "democracy."

"The United Lynching States" is how Mark Twain called his country. This devastating definition is today true as never before.

(Pravda, June 6, In full.)

(b) Moscow in English for Gt. Britain and Ireland 19.00 GMT 7.6.68

Excerpts from commentary by Anatoliy Gan in the series "A Glance at the British Scene":

... In the words of the 'Daily Sketch', "the land of the free has become the land of the fearful". But today it's not enough simply to note this fact, which is actually common knowledge. Today it's necessary to get at the root cause as to why the land of the free has become the land of the fearful.

I have little liking for historic parallels, but we of the older generation still have vivid memories of the bloodbath that Hitler engineered among his political opponents, headed by Roehm, soon after he came to power. Is it perhaps the same process that is going on, or at least beginning, in the United States? Dr. Martin Luther King was killed because he opposed America's present policy of violence at home and abroad. Now Senator Robert Kennedy has been killed, because he became aware of the need for some change in that policy of universal violence.

Glancing once more at our historical parallels, we are struck by the thought that although the methods of political assassination in Hitler Germany were different from those in present-day America, they served the same purpose, this is the physical elimination of those who think differently, regardless of whether the person in question is the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King or Senator Robert Kennedy.

I can well understand the concern that Senator Kennedy's assassination has caused in Britain... Britain's ruling circles have accepted American moral leadership for their country. The moral foundation of that leadership today is the freedom to kill, to kill Negroes, America's own political leaders, and women and children in Vietnam. Tomorrow, this freedom to kill, freedom of violence under American moral leadership, could well take the place of all the traditional freedoms in Britain. Such a dire possibility is in fact foreseen by the 'Sun'...

This threat seems all the more real in the light of the attempts of certain British propagandists to whitewash the American governing circles, and to dismiss political assassinations as the work of individual maniacs. These maniacs in the words of the BBC are flinging a challenge to the entire political and State order, to democracy and to the system, and they are beginning to influence the administration of the country. Well, in my view one has to be a real propaganda maniac to indulge in such ideological subversion. It was not individual maniacs who killed the two Kennedy brothers, or Martin Luther King and the many other dissenters. Maniacs, if they are really maniacs, are simply the tools of the real master of the United States, the military-industrial complex.

It was futile therefore, I think, for the 'Financial Times' to lament that the sale of arms in the United States could have been placed under legal control some years ago if one Administration after another had not been lobbied by the Rifle Association. But that is exactly what the military industrial complex is; it's a complete merger of the government with the war industry monopolies, and that being so, the administration will pass no legislation that could affect the interests of those monopolies, which fatten on murders at home and on wars abroad, and that in turn means that the cemeteries in Washington, in Memphis and in other American cities will be getting more tombstones over the graves of those who challenge the two freedoms of present-day America; the freedom to kill and the freedom to starve in the richest country of the Western world.

COMMUNISTS COMMENT ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

Moscow TASS International Service in English 1021 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Text] Rome--The Directorate of the Italian Communist Party has issued a statement in connection with the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy: All people who desire peace must be concerned by the violence which is increasingly gaining the upper hand in American society--from murder as a method of political struggle and racial discrimination, to the use of the most lethal types of armament and blackmail in international politics. We urge all Italians to consider the danger which subjugation to imperialist America spells to Italy and to peace throughout the world. We urge all democratic organizations to seek new avenues for Italian foreign policy, and to display such initiative as will immediately contribute toward restoring peace in Vietnam, removing American bases in Italy and the Mediterranean, and successfully solving the problems of security and disarmament.

[Oggi in Italia (Clandestine) in Italian to Italy at 2130 GMT on 6 June reported: "The Italian Communist Party press organ L'UNITA writes that the violence in the United States that leads to assassinations and attempted assassinations is another symptom of the violence in Vietnam. What is happening in the United States tells us that we are no longer in the presence of isolated tragedies, but of a bloody refusal to (accept) reality. L'UNITA concludes by stating that there is a link between the bombing of Vietnam, which continues, and the chain of political assassination attempts against those suspected of having an alternative policy."]

Orlov Commentary

Moscow TASS International Service in English 1635 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Text] Moscow--The assassination of Sen Robert Kennedy, one of the chief contenders for the presidential nomination in the current election campaign in the United States, has shocked the whole world. The spate comments on the sad event is dominated, perhaps, by one thought: "Political murder has become to a dangerous degree part and parcel of the American way of life. As shown by the long list of crimes, the victims of political gangsterism are leaders of different stature and different political views--ranging from local active members of the civil rights movement to national leaders.

Characteristically, the victims of these crimes are, as a rule leaders who in one way or another express their opposition to rabid militarism and racism and are therefore not suitable to extreme reaction. The murder of Robert Kennedy, says well-known Brazilian professor of law Varisto de Mois Fillo, shows that in the United States there is apparently a movement of rightwingers who are connected with military circles which are interested in continuing the war in Vietnam. The chief aim of this organization, he says, is to destroy prominent democratic and liberal political leaders.

Have you noticed that crime is committed invariably in the same direction? Asks the French newspaper POPULAIRE DE PARIS DEMOCRACIE 68 [name as received]. Similar questions are asked these days by many people, including prominent American public figures. The atmosphere of violence and brigandage in the United States has been engendered by military hysteria and the increased activity of the ultrarightwing organizations. As is justly observed by many commentators, connivance and even sympathy on the part of certain officials of central and local authorities facilitates the operation of these organizations and is a contributing factor to political crimes.

To judge by quite evident symptoms, the reactionary circles have decided now to use Robert Kennedy's assassination as a pretext for whipping up an anticommunist hysteria in the country to camouflage the launching of a campaign against all progressive and liberal movements including the antiwar movement, the civil rights movement, the Poor People's Campaign, and so forth. The tone for this campaign was set by certain local government officials in Los Angeles, where this villainous crime was committed.

Mayor Yorty hurried to state that the man charged with the murder apparently had contacts with the local Dubois Club, a progressive youth organization, and that he allegedly showed sympathy for the communists. A U.S. Communist Party spokesman denied this absurd invention and described Yorty's statement as a crude attempt to mislead the public in an effort to prevent a real investigation of this dirty affair and the plot behind it.

According to American press reports, Los Angeles is a hotbed of crime and misanthropic ideas. It is the main den of the John Birch society, a big semifascist organization. Mayor Yorty has been repeatedly referred to by the press as a "wildman." He often spoke out for an unlimited escalation of the Vietnam war up to the use of nuclear weapons and criticized Senator Kennedy for his calls for a more sober-minded and realistic policy. Is this not the reason why Yorty and other reactionaries are now maneuvering and trying to distract public attention from those responsible for the tragedy now experienced by America?

SEN KENNEDY DEATH SIGN OF U.S. MORAL DECAY

Moscow in English to Africa 1530 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Geliy Shakhov commentary]

[Text] The world has been shocked by this crime, this outrage; but in America they tell us that there is nothing exceptional in the murder. New York reporters asked 300 people in the streets what they thought about it. Most of them said they weren't surprised. Now that is just what surprises me: why hasn't this terrible crime upset the American people? Why have they let murder become so commonplace for them? I realize that their reaction is perfectly natural. The entire history of the United States is one long list of violence, massacres, and monstrous crimes.

No country in the world had to fight a bloody war for and against slavery, no other country ever exterminated its native population so mercilessly and on such a scale.

In foreign affairs, too, America has always depended on force. It won breathing space in the wild west by aggression against Mexico. It has at one time or another attacked most of the Central American nations. Washington has engineered hundreds, if not thousands of revolutions in Central and South America. Such is the American history that is lauded to the skies in books, films, on radio, and on television. Why this murder and crime? The American people have been fed the cult of violence with their mother's milk. If a man is in your way, kill him. If a nation is in your way, exterminate it. If it is a whole country, bomb it out of existence.

This has been the spirit in American politics throughout the country's history. In 1865 they assassinated President Lincoln, in 1881 President Garfield, in 1901 President McKinley; there were attempts on Franklin Roosevelt. In 1963 there President Kennedy. These were on heads of state, but thousands and tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of other Americans have been killed in political plots. Why should the man in the street be so surprised that a senator is assassinated? It is just a small crime in a big history.

The American man in the street isn't surprised that he is living in surroundings so much like a nightmare. He is sent off to slaughter the Vietnamese with pellet bombs, napalm, and poison. Before that he hunted Koreans. Now he is in the uniform of the National Guards stalking Negroes in the streets of Detroit, Chicago, and Milwaukee. On television around the clock there is shown vice and violence; he gets it in the books he reads. The films are the same. In modern American society the formula is kill your way to success. I can't help feeling that by our very nature none of us has been born for a life of violence and brutality, of capitalism and injustice. We are getting rid of such a life; it doesn't suit us. We don't want to kill or be killed. The law of universal killing is against man's nature. In our indignation over the latest murder and crime in capitalist society we condemn that society and its laws.

In the final count it isn't so important what Robert Kennedy was killed for; what is important is that he was killed, that he was killed by the society he lived in, that his society can solve its troubles and antagonisms only with bullets. America's capitalist society corrupts the soul, the mind, and heart of man. That is what the murder of Robert Kennedy highlights for us.

From PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA Review

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0200 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Text] Both papers publish materials in connection with the death of Robert Kennedy. Sen Robert Kennedy, critically wounded in Los Angeles, has died. As already reported, the man who shot him was detained at the place where the attack was made. He is Sirhan Birshar Sirhan, a Palestinian Arab.

Attorney General Clark has charged the FBI with determining whether the shooting was the result of a conspiracy. There is naturally still no official answer to this question.

Both papers stress that murder for political motives is becoming a norm for contemporary America. Martin Luther King called the United States the greatest bearer of violence in the modern world. The shooting of Senator Kennedy is a new consequence of this violence. The U.S. Communist Party has called for all those responsible for the killing to be found and brought to justice.

Central Press Comment

Moscow TASS International Service in English 0816 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Text] Moscow--The assassination of Robert Kennedy has shown again that gangsterism, terrorism, and political reaction are rife in the United States and that there is a close connection between them. This is the conclusion of the central papers that have published comments and interviews about the political assassination in Los Angeles.

The tragedy in Los Angeles is caused by the aggravation of political, economic, and social contradictions. It undermines the very foundation on which the Johnson system and all public life rests in the United States, the chairman of the Japan General Council of Labor unions, Toshikatsu Horii, told a TRUD correspondent.

The chairman of the General council of trade unions in Japan said that U.S. aggression in Vietnam is one of the things that has aggravated the situation in the United States.

The forces of ultrareactionaries use terror against every person who makes an attempt, however small, to express a doubt concerning the regime of political gangsterism in the United States, TRUD commentator B. Stolpovskiy writes. While crimes are rampant in the United States, it exports brigandage and political gangsterism to other countries, the author writes.

The world gendarme who recognizes only diplomacy by strength is the same gangster, only this time he operates in the international arena, G. Polskoy writes in SOVIET RUSSIA. It is not accidental that the crackle of machineguns in the jungle of Vietnam accompanies revolver shots that resound in the streets of the American cities.

The tragedy in Birmingham, Dallas, Memphis, and Los Angeles is not the tragedy of separate people. It is the tragedy of capitalist America, PRAVDA Washington correspondent B. Strel'nikov writes. The assassination of Senator Kennedy once again presented to mankind the much-lauded United States as the country of no rights, the country of violence, and the country of crimes that have become law, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVA writes.

JOHNSON, OTHER LEADER STATEMENTS ON TRAGEDY

Johnson Letter to Senate

Moscow TASS International Service in English 0827 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Text] Washington--The assassination of Sen Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles was the result of the atmosphere of crime that reigns in the United States. Crimes committed with firearms take a toll of 6,500 lives each year. This fact was admitted by President Johnson in a letter that he sent after the assassination of Senator Kennedy to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate. President Johnson believes that one of the reasons for the large-scale murder is the free sale of firearms. According to him, 2 million rifles and revolvers were sold in the United States last year alone. The President asked Congress to pass a law on control of the sales of firearms.

The American press points out that because of pressure from corporations producing arms and making billions of dollars in profits from their sale, Senators and members of the House have thus far refused to pass such a law.

Sirhan Accomplices

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1550 GMT 7 Jun 68 L

[Text] Reports from Los Angeles give further details about the circumstances of the murder of Sen Robert Kennedy. As is well known, the man accused of the attempt, one Sirhan, at first figured in all the reports of the police and other investigating agencies as a fanatic nationalist acting alone. However, according to eye witnesses, Sirhan had accomplices. One of the members of the staff of the election apparatus of Robert Kennedy, Sandra Serrano, said that literally a few seconds after the shots, a woman ran out of the Ambassador Hotel shouting "We have shot him." "Who?" asked the puzzled Serrano. "We have shot Kennedy," the woman replied.

At that moment an unknown young man ran up to the woman; she also shouted to him "We have shot Kennedy," after which they both disappeared. Another eyewitness interrogated by the police, the leader of one of the local Negro organizations, (Booker Griffin), stated that a few minutes before the attempt was made he saw the accused Sirhan in the company of a woman whose appearance corresponded to the description given by Sandra Serrano. The Los Angeles police have put out an order to detain the unknown woman answering to this description, and have even been forced to make a statement that they do not rule out the participation of several people in the murder of Robert Kennedy. The investigation agencies also stated that they do not rule out the possibility of the existence of a conspiracy. The investigation into the murder of Sen. Robert Kennedy is continuing. It is difficult to say what results it will have. As is shown by the experience of the investigation on these political murders, which have already become an integral part of the American way of life, the thread leading to the organizers of the murders is broken as a rule.

VIOLENCE -- THEIR WAY OF LIFE

B. Stolpovsky

[TRUD. June 7, 1968. In full]

Another political murder has been perpetrated in America, this country of the "yellow devil". The assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy most clearly revealed the degradation of present-day American society. Indeed, terror and violence have become an integral feature of the American way of life.

No, those who directed the murderer's revolver were by no means indifferent as to whom and where he should kill. The forces of extreme reaction direct terror against everyone who makes even the slightest attempt to question the regime of political gangsterism in the United States. Was this not the case in April when Doctor Martin Luther King, this outstanding champion of civil rights and peace in Vietnam, met his death at the hands of a mercenary racist? Is this not the source of the epidemic of murders which for many years has been sweeping the United States? The shooting of Negroes in Watts, the pogroms and victims in Detroit, Harlem, Memphis and in many dozens of the largest cities of America--has all this been forgotten? Indeed, it meant next to nothing for the present administration to give the order as was the case in Toledo (Ohio): "kill if necessary..." The racists, these upholders of the present system in the United States, only needed this. And shots rang out.

People, freedom champions, are falling, murdered by the observers of gangster "democracy". The entire strength of the state apparatus comes down on those who uphold different opinions. This system of violence has covered itself with indelible disgrace. However, while perpetrating crimes within the country it exports international brigandage and political gangsterism beyond America. It precisely brought death to many patriots who came out in defence of the Dominican Republic. It precisely covered the United States with eternal disgrace by drawing it into the dirty war in Vietnam. The same murderer who cold-bloodedly pulls the trigger of a revolver directed against an American with a black skin somewhere in Harlem, with the same cold-bloodedness fires machine guns in other countries and ravages alien territories.

In front of us is a document of barbarity. On the day Robert Kennedy was assassinated the Swedish Social Democratic Arbetet carried the confession of Edwin Arnett, an American soldier: "I tortured and murdered women and children; I don't know how many I killed: after all nobody counts corpses. I never saw the enemy, but only American soldiers killing innocent people."

From political gangsterism to the policy of genocide, to the annihilation of entire peoples -- such is the scope of the crimes perpetrated by America of the "yellow devil." They determine the essence, the spiritual basis of the notorious American way of life. This is confirmed by numerous tragedies. The latest proof is the tragedy of Robert Kennedy. President Johnson's statement on the eve of the Senator's death sounds so unconvincing: it is wrong to draw the conclusion that our country is an ailing country... that it has deprived itself even of ordinary decorum... But this is precisely the case, Mister President. And today there is no sense in attempting to conceal the ulcers of the American social system, the characteristic features of which according to Johnson are lawlessness, hatred and recklessness. It is precisely the system which has given rise to gangsterism, racial terror and violence that is directly to blame for the crimes shaking America.

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 imprudence 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.

(Trud, June 7. In full.)

NEAR EAST, ASIAN PRESS VIEWS ASSASSINATION

Moscow in Hindi to India 1130 GMT 8 Jun 68 B

[Text] [female announcer] In America, Sen Robert Kennedy, who wanted to become a candidate for the post of president, has been murdered. A wave of anguish has spread throughout the world over this assassination. Many commentaries have been published in Asian newspapers in connection with this horrible crime committed in California. In this connection, our commentator Yevgeniy Petrov writes.

[Male announcer] Numerous newspapers of Asia have described this political murder as a stigma for America. The Indian newspaper PATRIOT has said that this crime, like the assassination of President John Kennedy and Negro leader Martin Luther King, can be considered a manifestation of secretly organized violence based on the ideas of chauvinism, racial discrimination, and opposition to communism. Robert Kennedy spoke with wisdom, which is rather unusual for American politicians. Undoubtedly in this state of affairs, such a person could not go unpunished in the so-called free world of secret, guilty business.

The Pakistani newspaper HIRRIYAT has reported on the moral corruption of America and the ignominy of the American way of life. It said the murder of Robert Kennedy attests to the social and moral vacuum in modern America and the bankruptcy of its so-called democracy. America has boasted of its democracy before the entire world. Where is this democracy now? asked Japan's SANKEI SHIMBUN.

Analyzing the causes of murderous pillage in America, many Asian newspapers and leaders link this violence to America's aggressive policy in the international field. This murder has exposed the American (?social order).

Pater Keuneman, secretary general of the Ceylonese Communist Party, has said that the American rulers, who follow a policy of annihilation of the Vietnamese people and removal of politicians of other countries with the help of the CIA, use the same methods in their own country against (?critics) of the policies of the Washington "hawks and militarists."

The Turkish newspaper CUMHURİYET has written that crime has spread in America on a big scale. The Wall Street industrialists and oil tycoons of Texas who have lent their support to numerous criminal organizations see to it that the leaders of every new revolution are removed from their path. Such leaders are removed in underdeveloped countries by America's CIA. This same organization toppled the regimes of Mosadeq in Iran, Nkrumah in Ghana, and Sukarno in Indonesia.

Some Asian newspapers have suggested that Robert Kennedy's murder was premeditated and well planned. Newspapers in the Middle East have written that the murderer was intentionally chosen from among American citizens of the Palestinian Arab race. In this connection Riad Taha, chairman of the Lebanon press association, has written in AL KIFAH that the assassin had no ties with the Arab people.

With this hideous provocation, a feeling of animosity toward the Arab people is being awakened. Ground is being broken for the moral advocacy of further Israeli aggression. With this well-planned crime, an effort is being made to justify America's aggressive foreign policy and Israeli aggression. But, no matter how well the madmen in America planned for the murder, they themselves cannot remain hidden. People the world over are drawing conclusions about the American capitalist society which they consider diseased and disgraceful.

Matveyev IZVESTIYA Article

Moscow TASS International Service in English 1830 GMT 8 June 68 L

[Text] Moscow--Robert Kennedy was removed in a brutal way from the political scene at a time of acute struggle in the country, at a time of a crisis in foreign policy unlike any in peacetime, writes IZVESTIYA'S political commentator Vikentiy Matveyev. He was in somebody's way, so he was removed through the most extreme means.

After the Negro leader Martin Luther King was assassinated, Robert Kennedy many times called for measures to alleviate the plight of Negroes in the United States. He used to say that there will be no peace in the country until this acute problem is settled. His statements received great response among Negroes. So, by assassinating Robert Kennedy, racist elements have shown their resolve to do away with any person who is in their way.

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?

Many speeches are being made in the United States these days blaming the degeneration of morals and lawlessness and demanding the restriction on sales of firearms to private persons, a study of the problem of delinquency, and other such things. But these speeches never mention the campaign of animosity and hatred against states whose social system is different from that of the United States. Neither do they mention the existence of a great number of fascists and racist organizations in the United States, and this is what creates the conditions for violence and terror in the United States and threatens the American people with even graver consequences.

The crime committed in Los Angeles is another proof of the hysteria mounting in the United States. It is also a grave lesson that no honest American can ignore, the commentator writes.

WHEN GANGSTERISM BECOMES THE NORM...

Vitali Korionov, Pravda Political Commentator
[PRAVDA June 8, 1968]

The short fired in Los Angeles has done its deed: Senator Robert Kennedy, one of the prospective candidates for US President in the 1968 elections, is dead. Another sinister page has been turned in the history of the political life in the United States.

US statesmen and political leaders, senators and congressmen, observers and press commentators exclaim that they are shocked over what has happened which is beyond their understanding. Possibly a number of them declare this sincerely. But one cannot help noting another thing: the majority of them are advancing to the forefront of the stunned public the personal, subjective moments that attended the tragedy in the bustling state of the United States.

And this is not accidental. Before us is an obvious attempt to divert the attention of the public from the decisive issue.

The overseas political leaders helplessly shrug their shoulders: violence, they say, has become so intertwined with American 20th century society that it is impossible to do anything about it. Gangsterism has indeed assumed tremendous proportions in the United States. But the question is, why has this happened? What social forces are responsible for the fact that physical violence has become the synonym of American society? How could it happen that the measure of life in a society which boasts of its democracy has become the bloody jungle law and not the constitution, not the system of legislation?

The murders of President John Kennedy and now of his brother, senator, have shown even more vividly the infamous essence of present-day capitalist America. How far the corruption of the very system of American imperialism has reached if even the remotest symptoms of the possibility of the appearance in the White House of a man who decided to timidly voice disagreement with the reckless foreign policy of imperialist reaction, including the escalation of the war in Vietnam, and who condemned other forms of violence, evokes a fit of frenzy in certain circles and puts into motion the mechanism of political murder!

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 conversion of the election campaign into a sham duel of two bourgeois parties has long become the tradition of American political life. That was the case so far. However, the hopeless losing of the Vietnam war by American imperialism adds a different character to the 1968 election campaign. The country is shaken by increasing social clashes. The protest of millions of Americans against the criminal Vietnamese venture is becoming ever sharper. The actions against the reckless foreign policy of the ruling elite are merging in a single stream with the actions of the Negro people, with the marches of the poor people, with the movement of resistance to the anti-people's course which has gripped thinking America.

How to gag the dissenters? How to scare the millions of people who are resisting the anti-national policy of the top leadership--this is a question which is giving this top leadership no peace either by day or by night. And so in search of a solution to the given problem they resort to the most extreme methods. No wonder shots have begun to resound in the election campaigns of the past years.

For decades one could feel ever more obviously the emasculation of even bourgeois democracy in America's political life. The country's progressive forces, especially the Communist Party, USA, have given warning many a time that the power of the Congress is becoming ever more fictitious and that the real power is going into the hands of an "invisible government." The ill-starred military-industrial complex, the FBI, the CIA, the Pentagon and other tools of the military and out-and-out reactionaries--such are some of the main links of this back-stage government of imperialist America.

These are precisely the forces which inspire Washington's aggressive foreign policy; it is actually these forces that are encouraging in every way militarist cliques, give support to fascism and stage manage the policy of flagrant racialism.

Napalm and bombs in Vietnam, the policy of racial hatred to Negroes and other "coloured people," terror against Communists, against all democrats and patriots, outrages of the Ku Klux Klan, the trial of Benjamin Spock, political assassinations and provocations--all these are links of one and the same criminal chain.

The recently published statement of the Communist Party, USA, quite justly points out: "The domination of the military industrial complex creates an atmosphere of violence and leads to the appearance of ultra rightist fascist movements. These cruel acts are the reverse side of the vengeful imperialist aggression against Vietnam, tantamount to genocide. Violence, cruelty and murder will continue as long as the United States follows this suicidal road, leading to a blind alley."

The political assassinations, which are shaking America ever more often, are the direct result of the 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.

There is a plague harassing American society--such is the conclusion which was drawn among other things by Karl Bakal, American journalist, former officer of the US Armed Forces, in his recently published book "The Right to Bear Arms." As a result of unhindered sale of fire arms to the American population, he writes, this disease had taken, since the beginning of the 20th century, a toll of approximately 750,000 lives, whereas during all the wars waged by the United States, the number of Americans killed

was 530,000. At present an average of up to 50 people die from fire arms in the USA every day. The number of murders in the USA is 3 times as great as in France and Japan, 7 times as great as in Britain, and 16 times as great as in the Netherlands. There are many special newspapers and magazines, with a circulation of 1,500,000 copies a month, engaged in the propaganda of fire arms. "The world's biggest arsenal of private weapons is the American home," says Bakal. According to the press, there are more than 50 million used rifles in circulation in the country.

Now it is already clear to everyone that the shots, fired in Dallas, Memphis, and Los Angeles, were certainly not acts of arbitrariness of individual terrorists. They became possible primarily because dominating the country are forces which stop at nothing in their desire to trample underfoot and destroy everything that does not suit them somehow.

There is no counting the number of "investigations", "works", and "documents" produced by the learned and journalistic servitors of the monopolies, whose purpose is to affirm the myth that the United States is precisely the country which is called upon to be the factor of stability in the world, the mainstay of international order and international law. The echo of gun reports which overseas ever more often take the lives of political personalities is dispersing even the last vestiges of this myth.

There were many crises in domestic and foreign policies in the history of the USA. Yet, not a single one of these had been as acute as the present crisis. This is a case of a most profound crisis of all the facets and all the aspects of the domestic and foreign policies of the US ruling circles. One can see coming to the surface ever more clearly each day the ulcers and vices of the "sick society." The organism of capitalist America is being devoured by a malignant process. This process is developing, and it is incurable. It is hard not to agree with those Americans who regard with bitterness the destinies of their country and say that the disease of modern society in America has assumed such proportions when superficial therapy treatment is useless.

It is in vain that the advocates of the imperialism of the dollar keep clamouring about America's "greatness." They will not deceive anyone. The atmosphere of lawlessness and arbitrariness in the country, where political gangsterism has become a standard of life, where an animal-like hatred to intrinsic human values is being instilled along with fierce cruelty and readiness for any crimes, granted that money is paid for them--such is the true aspect of imperialism in America. And no camouflage can conceal this aspect.

Berezin RED STAR Article

Moscow TASS International Service in English 1022 GMT 8 Jun 68 L

[Text] Moscow--"America is parting with Robert Kennedy today. One of the contenders for the presidency was killed, and in the same bandit manner as the previous victims-- John Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and scores of other Americans of different views and convictions," V. Berezin writes in RED STAR.

The author notes that the shots in Dallas, Memphis, Los Angeles, on the roads of Mississippi and Alabama, in the streets of New York clearly showed to the whole world the real value of American democracy and freedom in action. This "is a democracy of the sniper rifle and the pistol bullet, the freedom of external and internal violence and gangsterism."

Sen Robert Kennedy's murder is also commented on by other Moscow papers. Writing in SOVIET RUSSIA Prof Igor Blishchenko, a member of the Presidium of the Association of Soviet Lawyers, believes that Kennedy's assassination is not a chance happening and not only because, being a representative of his class and under the influence of crying American contradictions made a certain, though limited, step toward realism, "but mainly because an atmosphere of impunity and violations of elementary human rights has been created in the United States."

The aggressive, reactionary policy of the U.S. ruling circles has created an atmosphere in which one political murder after another takes place and in which progressive, fighters for democracy, social rights, and freedoms are hounded, Blishchenko writes.

Gennadiy Gerasimov, the NOVOSTI political analyst, writes in TRUD that "American history is spattered with blood." Every ninth president was killed, Indians were annihilated, workers were shot, "witches" were hunted, and hysterical fear of communist implanted. "All this has taken place and still exists."

He writes further that the curing of American society, if started, will be a lengthy one because it exudes violence from every pore. "But one thing is clear: It must start with the ending of the dirty war in Vietnam that poisons American souls."

EFFECT OF ASSASSINATION ON U.S. ELECTION

Moscow IZVESTIYA 8 Jun 68 p 3 L

[Article by S. Kondrashov: "The Crime is Accomplished, the 'Advocates' Shift"]

[Excerpts] At present observers are refraining from comment on the possible effect of [the Kennedy assassination] on American political life, in particular on the election campaign. This restraint is explained by the state of mourning and by the vagueness of the position, which has now changed sharply. It is obvious that with the disappearance of such a well-known figure from the political scene, the position of other figures is sure to be changed. After his victory in the California primary, where he gained 46 percent of the votes, Robert Kennedy had intended to redouble his efforts to gain the nomination at the Democratic convention in Chicago in August by getting the vote of some delegates from Vice President Humphrey. Kennedy had not realized the degree of his success.

The election campaign is at present in abeyance as a mark of mourning, and, according to the President's press secretary, the Secret Service has placed under guard all those seeking the nomination, regardless of party. It is reported that after the period of mourning Senator McCarthy, who was the first to enter the election campaign in opposition of Johnson's policy, intends to continue with the campaign.

With whom will Kennedy's supporters side now that they have no leader. Since the primaries are now completed, it is now a question not for the voters but for the party foundationaries, the delegates at the Democratic convention, to choose their candidate for the presidency. It is thought that those people connected with the party machinery will prefer Humphrey. According to preliminary estimates, he has gained the necessary number of votes at the convention. On the other hand McCarthy has now become the sole standardbearer against the Vietnam policy of the present administration. His chances now depend on how wide and decisive a pressure he can bring to bear on delegates at the Chicago convention.

As far as the Republican Party is concerned, the position is really unchanged. Richard Nixon still leads among the Republicans seeking the nomination. It cannot be ruled out that the election struggle in November will be between a former vice president and the present vice president; this will leave many Americans who are dissatisfied with the Vietnam adventure with no real choice.

Vladimir Zhukov Commentary

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1550 GMT 9 Jun 68 L

[Excerpts] The foul murder of Martin Luther King, the series of blood reprisals against Negroes, the cold-blooded shooting of Robert Kennedy--all this bacchanalia of bloody crimes has come like lightening from the leaden clouds hovering over U.S. skies. A person who is even slightly familiar with the practice and ideology of German fascism would not have much difficulty in seeing in the actions of the militant American reactionaries the customs of the Nazis.

And it is not only a matter of the murder of political opponents; it is a matter of the direct inclination of the American racists, ultras, and militarists toward fascism.

In the United States there exists a far-flung system of clubs of the so-called National Rifle Association, which operate under the aegis of the Pentagon. Formally concerned with the development of the sport of shooting among the urban population this association has become a refuge for various illegal terrorist organizations. [passage omitted quoting from a "Minutemen" leaflet on the need to arm against communists through the National Rifle Association]

The familiar smell of Hitler's "writings, "the atmosphere of the burning of the Reichstag, and the night of the long knives come from these leaflets and other incitement literature.

And one must stress that the "program for the suppression of disorders"--that is, the violence against Negro demonstrations and those by their sympathizers, the program set out in the leaflet of the American ultras--found its application in the bloody outrages against Negroes following the murder of Martin Luther King. The army and police authorities acted virtually as one with the racists.

The fascist fanatics have long been compiling a list of their victims. The magazine of the "Minutemen," ON TARGET informed readers some years ago about a meeting of representatives of the nine most militant ultra rightwing organizations, which made the first major step toward closer collaboration. This step, the magazine explained, consisted in the setting up of a jointly controlled and financed pool for the exchange of information. A person who wishes to remain anonymous donated some most expensive equipment for making microfilm, and "we are already duplicating in our archives the names and documentation of 60,000 communists and sympathizers."

We are not speaking here about the scores and hundreds of people disliked by the ultras, who also have been victims of the violence of militant American reaction. These are just some of the features of the awesome danger threatening the United States. In the line of the sights now are the last remnants of the vaunted "democratic freedoms" of this major country of the capitalist world, where violence has become a way of life.

THE WORLD REJECTS "COLT DEMOCRACY"

Victor Maevsky

[PRAVDA

June 9, 1968]

The world knows that as soon as the talk gets round to the subject of American "democracy," bullets start whistling through the air.

This had become the truth not after the Los Angeles shots which killed Robert Kennedy, and not after the murder of Martin Luther King, John Kennedy or Medgar Evers. The entire history of monopoly-ruled America, which gives such a loud publicity to its "freedom and democracy," is permeated with law violations, gangsterism and terror which are bound inseparably with the expansion and aggression of the United States. The last week events are one more tragic evidence of this.

Now in America they prefer to keep mum on the "great society" they shouted so much about quite a short time ago. They talk of a "sick society" there now, a society writhing in a grip of great fear and acute social and racial conflicts. Violence has become an inalienable part of the US way of life.

"The state is in the hands of the businessmen and billionaires. This oligarchy of the rich makes use of mercenary generals, on the one hand, and unleashes a great number of corrupt politicians, including Hollywood stars, on the other. Television, radio and the press are controlled by the businessmen. While in America itself leaders representing advanced trends are eliminated with the help of criminal elements, in the developing countries leaders of this kind are annihilated by the Central Intelligence Agency. Crime after crime, one attempted assassination after another - such are the functions of the CIA in other countries and of the mafia in the United States."

The above-quoted paragraph is from the Turkish newspaper Cumhuriyet. There were times when the same newspaper spoke differently of the American way of life. But the acquaintance with the overseas ways, implanted in Turkey itself, seems to have taught much to the Istanbul paper, and not to it only.

The shots in California sent their reverberations throughout the world, making millions of people hear more clearly the explosions of US bombs and shells in Vietnam. At the seventh official talk between the representatives of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the United States in Paris on June 5, the head of the Vietnamese delegation Xuan Thuy cited US data which showed that after Washington's announcement of "limited bombing" the intensity of bombing has increased instead of decreasing. In the period between May 1 and 9, US aviation attacked objectives in the provinces of Nghe An, Quanbinh and Vinhlinh 175 times a day on the average. The strength of the US forces in South Vietnam had grown to 533,000 men towards the close of May.

It seems that somebody on the other side of the Atlantic still cherishes futile hopes for "victory" in the war.

The US Congress has just enacted a law on weapons control which forbids ordering guns by mail and introduces some other restrictions. However, this law will scarcely save America which is checkfull of arms like a top-rate arsenal. Indeed, last year two million (save the mark!) guns, rifles and revolvers were purchased.

A certain section of the American press has raised a clamour around the person arrested on charges of having assassinated Robert Kennedy and is patently seeking to aggravate Israeli-Arab relations, which are tense enough as they are. Noteworthy are the attempts of America's inveterate reactionaries to exploit Robert Kennedy's tragic killing to heat up the anti-communist campaign. Revealed are the same methods which the American extremists resorted to immediately after the assassination of John Kennedy, when they sought to pass off for a "pro-communist" Oswald, the man the police captured and whose intimate acquaintance with the FBI is currently obvious even from the report of the Warren Commission which investigated the murder.

The latest tragic developments in the USA have brought American society to the pillory. Attempts are being made in the New York Times and other papers to present matters as if to blame for everything is the "wave of lawlessness and violence now rolling across world," and the claim is made that the USA is supposedly no exception. These are attempts to dodge the substance of the matter. This substance is that the USA, having created a society of violence is appropriating the functions of a world policeman and is prosecuting a pernicious policy that is serving as a source of world tensions besides contaminating the atmosphere at home. America has nobody else to blame for the present tragedy it is going through, except itself; it is reaping the fruit of its own policy.

The world angrily rejects the "democracy of colts" which has been brought into being by Big Business America.

The past weeks' violent developments in the USA have not obscured cardinal political events elsewhere.

Still focal in the public eye is the steadfast struggle being waged by the working classes of France under the leadership of the Communists, those true sons of the toiling folk. As the outcome of a powerful strike movement the millions of working folk employed in the private and nationalised sectors have secured gratification of demands which for many a year the government and the employers refused to meet. However, a section of the working folk have still not had their demands satisfied, as employers in the metallurgical and building industries seek to deprive the workers of the fruit of the victories won.

Meanwhile a political struggle is developing around the coming elections to the French National Assembly. The impression is created that in their use of the scarecrow of anti-communism, the Right-wing pro-NATO forces crave to artificially complicate the situation and put fear into the hearts of part of the voters. Playing into the hands of the reactionaries are sundry "Leftist" groupings, which stoop even to provocations against the workers. In this complex situation, the French Communist Party is showing itself to be a true champion of the interests of the working people and all progressives, in calling for solidarity and endurance in the struggle for the interests of the masses.

Developments in France are unquestionably important also from the angle of European security, which currently acquires particularly topical significance. In West Germany the concluding stages of the ritual of the enactment of the emergency laws are drawing to a close; the Bundesrat will rubber-stamp them next week. Relying on this legislation, Bonn authorities plan to activate their revanchist schemes. It is highly indicative that right at the moment the UN is completing the drafting of an international nuclear non-proliferation treaty, with 46 countries having already sponsored a resolution of approval, Strauss and his supporters are striving anew to impede the signing of this treaty by Federal Germany. These are manoeuvres spearheaded against peace and security in Europe and they call for the utmost vigilance from the world public.

In the present perturbing condition of the world, of tremendous importance are both the victories the working masses win in the struggle for their rights and the mounting movement among world progressives against the USA's policy of aggression, for peace in Vietnam and the Middle East and for stronger European security. The Presidium of the World Peace Council continues to sit in Nicosia. In Helsinki there has been inaugurated an international conference devoted to recognition of the GDR. Stormy anti-imperialist demonstrations have taken place in many countries. Invariably a cardinal factor for stronger peace and security of the nations is the policy of peace pursued by the USSR and the other socialist states in their aim to rally together the anti-imperialist forces in the world today, frustrate imperialism's aggressive designs and consolidate peace.

Assassination Theory

Moscow in English to Eastern North American 0100 GMT 10 Jun 68 L

[Text] Mikhail Strogovich, eminent Soviet lawyer, has an interesting theory on why Robert Kennedy was assassinated. Here is his recorded statement.

When President John Kennedy was killed in 1963, all the circumstances of the assassination that were made public pointed to the indisputable fact that it had been organized by a powerful reactionary organization. But the investigations were promptly restricted on the theory that it was the act of a lone killer, Lee Oswald, and all inquiries centered around him. Since there was a danger that Lee Oswald might tell something that could lead to the identification of the real organizers of the murder, he also was killed. The circle closed around Ruby; and there the investigation ended. True, some curious circumstances came to light. During the investigations, several persons who might have had some pertinent information were either killed or died in suspicious circumstances.

And now the President's brother, Sen Robert Kennedy, has been killed, just when he had a good chance himself of being elected president. We do not overestimate Robert Kennedy, just as we did not overestimate his brother John. Their activities, their ideology, the policies they stood for were alien to us, but both were realists to a certain degree. John Kennedy was against racism in its blatant forms. He also opposed the idea of starting the war in Vietnam. That, too, was Robert Kennedy's line, on the whole. He urged an end to the war in Vietnam. And now he too is dead. The murderer has been caught. It now remains to discover the mainsprings of the crime. The same task now arises to find the organizers of the assassination, for this second murder in similar circumstances was, beyond a doubt, actuated by the same motives. The idea here was to get the brother of the assassinated President out of the way. It cannot be the accidental deed of an unbalanced person acting on his own.

The murder of Robert Kennedy throws some light on the murder of the President. Had he been elected to the White House, it is certain that he would have taken energetic steps to find his brother's real assassins. We must now wait and see what will happen. They cannot again attribute the murder to the act of a lone killer, and then kill him off to stop any chance of the truth coming out. I believe they can not get away with it this time. America's progressives and all honest men and women cannot stand by and do nothing while political figures, whom the most reactionary quarters do not like, are systematically killed off.

The men behind the murder of Dr Martin Luther King, that staunch opponent of racism, have not been found. But it is said, to the disgrace of the United States and its ruling circles, that the authorities are not trying very hard to find him.

LOOK AT YOURSELF. AMERICA!

G.Vasilyev, N.Kurdyumov, Pravda Special Correspondents

[PRAVDA June 11, 1968. In full.]

America has rendered its last tribute to Senator Robert Kennedy, slain by an assassin in Los Angeles. The politicians and statesmen have made the speeches appropriate to such occasions, and services have been conducted in the churches. One more grave has been added to Arlington Cemetery in Washington. However, the shock and revulsion caused by this dastardly murder will not pass so soon. And not only because this crime has filled human hearts with anxiety and suspicion over the removal of an influential personality from the political scene. The shots fired in Los Angeles have raised in all its acuteness that cardinal issue of the accelerated degradation of society in the USA, of the character and substance of that society.

"What on earth is happening?" literally millions of Americans exclaimed when they heard about the assassination. "In what sort of a country do we live?"

Very well aware that the search for answers to these questions may cause people to arrive at far-reaching conclusions that are undesirable for it, the US ruling class at once instituted a massive procedure of "verbal therapy" through all media. A distinct trend was evident in the commentaries and articles of bourgeois propaganda in the very first hours after the slaying. The purpose is to divert reflections about the "sick society" into the calm and innocuous channel of psychological analysis and America's specific historical features. Radio and TV news analysts talk about the traditions of the "Wild West", about American habits of resolving an argument or misunderstanding with a shot from a revolver, about the injurious influence of superfilms and TV programmes dedicated to the cult of force and violence, in short about everything the sun except the real fundamental vices engendering social and political crises.

Nevertheless, from time to time, regardless of the desires of the stage-managers of these broadcasts, propaganda slips up and the smooth flow of discussions is disturbed. From the heights of abstract deliberations about the good and evil that presumably ever coexist in the human heart and mind, the talk and arguments descend to the mortal soil of reality. We ourselves have seen several such programmes over the past few days.

It is the seventh channel. CBS, Columbia Broadcasting System, is giving the Bishop Show from Hollywood.

On the screen, instead of film stars and crooners, we see political and public personalities. Among them is Charles Evers, brother of Madgar Evers, the Negro leader in Mississippi who was murdered by the Ku-Klux-Klan, the priest Kaiser, a Congressman from California, a psychiatrist, and Governor Ronald Reagan.

Referring to Senator Kennedy's tragic death the compère begins talking about the reasons for it, by invoking traditional arguments as to the reckless doings of lone madmen and the fact that there have always been failures and psychologically unstable people.

"But how do you explain such a long chain of political assassinations?" the psychiatrist interrupts. "Today it is Senator Kennedy, two months back it was Martin Luther King and still earlier it was President John Kennedy, let alone dozens of known political murders committed by racialists in our country and hundreds of similar political murders that have remained unknown. No," he continued, "We must look further than the trigger in the hands of the slayer. We must get down to the root, to the foundation giving rise to the cult of violence in the country."

The compère again tries to switch the discussion to the circumstances surrounding the recent tragedy. However, at this moment Charles Evers joins in. Outwardly he looks calm, but one feels that he is boiling with passion. He speaks of racist terror in the southern states:

"Only recently 46 Negroes were killed in the state where my brother died. Lawlessness, clublaw represent a way of life in Mississippi.

"If a hungry Negro steals a chicken he is thrown into jail for a year. But if a white man kills a Negro he goes off scot-free. Violence is planted from above and injustice is legalised in our country. The blows are struck against all who demand freedom, against the disinherited.

"We spend six million dollars on each supersonic jet plane to kill innocent people in Vietnam. But we don't have even 600 dollars to assist a poor man dwelling in a miserable hovel."

"In my electoral district five to six thousand men are chronically unemployed," a congressman says. "The year's earnings of many are equal to what the Beverly Hill residents make in fifteen minutes. Why does it happen, I wonder?" the liberally-minded member of the House of Representatives asked.

"What are the causes?" clergyman Keiser chimed in. "We can tell, of course; who pulled the trigger. But we shouldn't overlook the main thing, and namely that the atmosphere in our country is imbued with violence and tolerance of racist prejudices, discrimination and actual colonisation of part of our fellow-citizens."

The conversation takes on a turn clearly undesirable for the official propagandists. The narrator brought in Ronald Reagan, the governor of California, to "balance" the appraisals of the situation in the country. The former movie actor, and now one of the leading figures of America's conservative forces, appeared on the screen next to the participants of the discussion. By force of professional Hollywood habit, Reagan began to smile but, having probably thought of the national mourning, he put on a grave expression again.

He called the vicious murder "a senseless act of an individual." True, Regan admitted that crime grew sharply in America in the last few years, that the atmosphere of violence reigns in the country. But he sees the causes of that not in the corrupted morals of society or in the policy of the ruling class, but in the actions of the rebellious students and other "trouble-makers." The governor clearly aims at the Americans who are coming out for social justice, human rights, at those protesting against the policy of aggression. Regan threatened to "put the country in order."

The governor of California expressed not only his personal opinion. Washington high-ranking officials and the reactionary press talk ever more frequently these days about "respect for the law", about "discipline" and "order." The idea obviously is to use the people's indignation over the murder for taking anti-democratic measures and for persecuting progressive forces. As it has already happened on more than one occasion, the blow is aimed not at those really to blame for lawlessness and arbitrariness, but at the victims of the exploiting society.

The apprehensions voiced by certain Americans in this connection are not surprising, therefore. "I am afraid for my country," Coretta, the widow of Martin Luther King, said. David Shenbrun, a professor of Columbia University, voiced his apprehensions in still more worried terms. Stressing the interconnection between the violence in America proper and the violence exported by the United States abroad, he said: "When I hear Washington people talk about violence, I recall Vietnam. I was there and saw villages napalmed 'for their own salvation.' Those who call on us to combat violence today have foul hands. The roots of what is taking place lie in our way of life. I shall never believe that the murder of some American political figure or other is just a separate episode. The American society is very ill. In the twenties and the thirties many seemingly "senseless" murders were committed in the streets of Germany, too. We know what happened next."

Speeches, articles, television discussions... The most fitting word to describe what is going on in America now is soul-searching. Flabbergasted by what has happened, the thinking Americans are trying to find out the causes of moral degradation and deep political crisis now experienced by the United States. Some confine themselves to a mere statement of the fact: 'indeed, the atmosphere in the country is contaminated with the cult of violence. Others look deeper and gradually arrive at the admission that the vices of the American way of life, obvious to all, are explained by the very character of the system based on oppression, exploitation and profiteering.

Where is America going? the worried Americans ask. Where is the root of all evil? Few people expect these questions to be answered by another commission just set up by the president to investigate the cause of the growing wave of violence although its head, Dr. Milton Eisenhower, promises "complete objectivity" in approaching the problem. Negro leader Ralph Abernathy, the successor of Martin Luther King, declared that the investigations based on the "widespread concepts of American democracy" would not achieve anything. It is necessary to peep into the soul of the society, "to begin with the very system of oppression, terror, money-grabbing, racialism, poverty and militarism, for such is the stiff and sinister reality."

VOA REPORT ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION REFUTED

Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 2030 GMT 15 Jun 68 L

[Text] In its commentaries on the tragic event in Los Angeles, Voice of America maintains that the series of political murders recently committed in the United States is not caused by the social order and the American way of life. In this connection the radio stubbornly maintains that the killers of John Kennedy, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy are individual maniacs and lunatics who were guided by some personal reasons which have nothing in common with American society.

Is this true? When the shots were fired in Los Angeles VOA hastened to describe Robert Kennedy's killer, Sirhan, as a fanatic and introvert. However, numerous facts speak against the assumption that this was the deed of a fanatic.

As is well known, in Sirhan's pocket four 100-dollar bills were found. Not even I carry that sum of money with me, stated Edward Kennedy. Yet, Sirhan was a minor employee at the racetrack and dreamed about being a jockey. The other fact is that Robert Kennedy was killed by a pistol in the kitchen corridor where he went after the press conference to take the freight elevator and enter his suite at the Hotel Ambassador unnoticed by the people who waited for him. We are asking ourselves: How and from whom could Sirhan learn not only where Robert Kennedy would speak of his victory in the primary election in California, but also that he would take this exit through the kitchen? And finally, how would Sirhan reach this corridor at the given moment and choose the right time for shooting? All this required careful preparation, a good knowledge of the place, and great experience. Somebody had evidently told him also the spot from which it would be best to fire at the Senator.

Some organs of the American press are trying to accuse pro-Arab organizations for Robert Kennedy's assassination.

In connection with these groundless accusations I would like to refer to the statement which, as related by UN journalistic circles, Arthur Goldberg gave to Arab representatives at the United Nations. He told them that the U.S. Government has no proof of information about any Arab country or pro-Arab organization being connected with Robert Kennedy's murder.

However, the VOA keeps silent about this. Finally I would like to refer to a statement which I consider very symptomatic. Senator Jackson, chairman of the Senate Committee for Interior and Insular Affairs, stated that the death of Sen Robert Kennedy and President John Kennedy was the result of conspiracy. I have no details, but I am personally convinced that both of these deaths, as well as Martin Luther King's death, were planned by groups of people.

Such are the facts which refute VOA's statements that the series of political murders committed in the United States recently allegedly had nothing in common with the American society.

U.S. STRESSES ARAB TIES OF KENNEDY ASSASSIN

Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia 1030 GMT 17 Jun 68 L

[Text] The American authorities claim that the arrest of a certain Sirhan, who shot at Senator Robert Kennedy removed the question (?from) the world public of a plot in the United States against those who think differently. Moreover, American propaganda is doing its best to stress the Arab nationality of the criminal in an 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 was 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 napalm 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.

ON TARGET

G. Borovik, APN New York
Correspondent

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA No. 24, 1968. In full.]

The TV eye scans the American continent, covering the three-hour difference at the flick of a button. For me round-the-clock TV time-machine travel started off with a buzz from Los Angeles at 3:30 a.m. on June 5.

"They've just shot at Kennedy! Right now! Heaven knows what the world is coming to! Think, how such a thing could have happened?"

On the line was my friend Dmitri Tiomkin, an American composer.

Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles. A news reporter in consternation, entangled in the microphone wire. Blood. The wet paths of the park at the White House. The President has already heard about it. New York. Commentators repeat cables and adjust hastily knotted ties. Stretchers outside the hospital: "Look again to see how it happened." Sobbing faces. Morning President Johnson speaks. Robert Kennedy's wife. "Look again to see how it happened." Jacqueline Kennedy. In Harlem New York all is quiet. A police photograph of the man who fired the shots. "Look again to see how it happened." The operation is over. "Look again to see how it happened." No improvement. Passers-by on Times Square: "It's incredible! How could it happen again?" The death notice in Los Angeles: "He was 42." "Look again to see how it happened."..

The reporter has long disentangled himself from the microphone wire and commentators of central studios have long adjusted their ties. Professionalism triumphs. Reports about the assassination and the death come through without a hitch. Information, parallels, expertise. An ABC man points on a skull to the place hit by the bullet.

Here is the place where the wounded Senator lay in the bedroom of the Ambassador Hotel. It is marked by a small chalk cross. A plain, understandable, customary cross--just like the plus sign on a class blackboard.

Plus one.

Two months ago to the day I saw an identical cross on the balcony of the motel in Memphis. Then the plus sign designated the place where Dr. Martin Luther King had lain. The TV commentator also led us to the window from which King had been shot. Through the sights I saw somebody come up to the balcony railing and lean on it just like King. At the moment his face was on target.

And plus one more.

Before that I had looked at the square in Dallas from the window of the paper warehouse. Again the thin plus of rifle sights. Again someone down below imitated President Kennedy in a moving car and a woman sat next to him acting the part of Jacqueline Kennedy.

Also thanks to television I aimed from the Austin University at all 49 places on the University campus where people had been killed or wounded by student Charles Whitman.

Describing each new slaying, TV reporters went out to buttonhole passers-by and ask them to comment and answer the question: "How could it happen again?"

"It's 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, know 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 an 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.

"Many call us a 'sick society'. Especially so abroad. Over there it is particularly hard to prove the reverse." This is said by a TV reporter interviewing passers by in Times Square. As he focusses the camera on them he asks: "Do you think our society sick?"

"Yes, we're living in a sick country. I don't know what can be done, I have no solution to offer."

"All of life must be changed."

"We live with hate. And I have no respect for my country."

"We are a degraded society. We have no moral values."

"It's not only that Kennedy was killed. I voted for Johnson. He promised to stop the war in Vietnam. But three months after the elections he did exactly what Goldwater suggested. Now Dr. Spock is being tried. But what he wants is what Johnson once promised. Our faith has been killed. That's worse. What can be done? What Dr. Spock is doing."

I have cited answers only in one plane. But there were many such answers, at least half.

A fortnight ago, in an interview with a French newsman, Senator Kennedy said: "Sooner or later an attempt will be made on my life... It's just like that."

His prediction came true earlier than he possibly expected. I don't know what sort of policy Kennedy would have conducted had he become President of the USA, but when running for this office, he spoke in a sober frame of mind and took sober stock of the country's situation. Once he happened to say that murder was not only instantaneous, when it was enough to pull the trigger. Murder may also be unnoticeable and drawn out when it is murder through poverty, hunger, slums, dark ignorance and finally callous indifference.