

It was enough for somebody to pull the trigger for him to die.

But millions are dying a slower and more anguishing death.

After the assassination of John Kennedy, some people in the USA said: "That can happen only in Dallas." After the death of Martin Luther King it was said: "That can happen only down South." But after Los Angeles I did not hear anyone say: "That can happen only in California."

There is blood all over America. Murder is both a method of resolving political disputes and an amusement with a kick in it.

Whoever pulled the trigger in Los Angeles, it was American society that committed the murder.

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It Can Happen There

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THE ECHO of the shots fired in Los Angeles' Ambassador Hotel reverberated throughout the world. The killing of Senator Robert Kennedy, brother of the late President who was cut down by an assassin's bullets in Dallas less than five years ago, shocked people everywhere.

Once again American society was revealed in a lurid light—the society that prides itself on being a bastion of freedom, democracy, law and order, and seeks to impose its leadership on lands near and far. Even members of the U.S. elite today call it a "sick," a "mad" society.

Mad? Yes. But there is method in the madness.

The men who rule America today—the multi-millionaire war-industry monopolists and their placemen in the state machine and the armed forces—stand in mortal fear of the social changes taking place in the world and in the U.S.A. itself. Trembling for their millions, for their privileges, these frightened men will stop at no crime to halt mankind's irresistible movement forward. They are killing thousands in Vietnam simply because the people of that country are firmly resolved to order their life and their future not as Washington would wish. And they kill in their own country those who raise their voices against militaristic and racist excesses and present a potential danger to the omnipotent Iron Heel—the military-industrial complex.

The assassination of Robert Kennedy prompted *New York Times* to comment that the United States is living in "the age of violence." True, enough, violence has permeated every aspect of the American way of life. At home, it is manifest in ruthless suppression of race and social unrest, in the hounding of those who do not conform,

Abroad it finds expression in aggression, in blackmail, in the subversion and terrorism of the CIA, that monstrous octopus whose tentacles reach out to many parts of the world. The most graphic manifestation of the United States' foreign policy orientation is the dirty war in Vietnam which goes on year after year and is increasingly assuming genocidal dimension with each passing year.

In the United States racist associations of the Ku Klux Klan type which propound violence against people with a different colour of skin thrive under the wing of the authorities, and secret organizations of ultras such as the John Birch Society and the Minutemen are building up strength. More, these organizations, like the rest of the world, are closely interwoven with the police agencies charged with law enforcement.

"It can't happen here," the Americans said in the thirties when the turbid wave of fascist terror swept over many European countries. Today the unbiased mirror of American realities in which features inherent in fascism are increasingly asserting themselves is prompted to say: "It can happen there."

Political murder has become a commonplace in the United States. A team of *London Times* correspondents writing about the circumstances of the recent assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King commented: "One thing an outsider finds disturbing here is the growing acceptance among Americans that the periodic assassination, however regrettable, is now an inevitable part of their political life."

Robert Kennedy's ultra-reactionary political opponents had reason to be disturbed by his entry into the presidential race. Were he to have been swept into the White House on the wave of the widespread dissatisfaction with Administration policy, he would have been in many respects an unknown quantity for the ruling top class. His public statements against the escalation in Vietnam and against rampant

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racism—inconsistent though they were—put the camp of extreme reaction on its guard.

It is noteworthy that Senator Kennedy was killed the very day, more, the very hour of his victory in the California Democratic primary. This election had a major bearing on the entire presidential election campaign. At the Democratic national convention the 174-strong California delegation is second only to that of New York. More, the California primaries to some extent predetermine the outcome in other key states. Assessing Kennedy's chances, the *U.S. News and World Report*, which openly opposed his candidacy, said (June 3): "The Senator's backers put great reliance on California and its 174 votes. If he wins big there, they say, it will enable Kennedy backers to put the heat on leaders in such states as Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and New Jersey."

Would Senator Kennedy have been killed had he lost the California primary?

Only minutes before the fatal shots rang out in the Ambassador, Robert Kennedy, addressing his triumphant supporters, said he wanted to put an end to violence in American society and would seek to steer this society along a different road. But he was not given the chance.

How did official Washington react? Speaking over the TV from the White House, President Johnson admitted that lawlessness, violence, hatred and crime were serious problems facing U.S. society. What remedy did he offer? He proposed to set up a special commission of both Democrats and Republicans to investigate the mounting tide of violence in the country. But if there is anything Washington is not short of it is committees of all kinds; they spring up whenever public opinion has to be mollified.

One is forcibly reminded of another commission set up by the President—the Warren commission to investigate the assassination of President John Kennedy. All it produced was an 888-page report full of selected facts and unconvincing conclusions. Its purpose was merely to declare the case closed. But history ordained otherwise.

There is a direct connection between the two Kennedy assassinations. And the conscience of

the world will not rest until this connection has been revealed and the criminal conspiracy—for all the elements of a conspiracy are there—has been brought into the light of day.

As for the claims of the United States with its "sick" society to world leadership, they are universally rejected with indignation. "The rest of the world will be tempted to turn away from America," the *London Times* said on June 7, "Each fresh act of violence spreads fresh doubt about American capacity for leadership." The *Turkish Ulus*: "The picture painted of America as a 'model democracy' has nothing in common with the revolting reality. It may even be said that in America there is no democracy, but an oligarchy ruled by underhand methods by groups connected with certain interests." And *Pakistan Times* qualifies the Los Angeles assassination as a shameful blot on American democracy. Such is the opinion of influential publications in countries allied with the United States,

The killing of Senator Kennedy is only one episode in the life of present-day America, but an episode that is a damning indictment of the American way of life as a whole and of the social system which engendered it.

OBSERVER

VOA TRIES TO EXPLAIN AWAY AMERICAN VIOLENCE

Moscow IZVESTIYA 19 Jun 68 p 2 L

[Text] Alas and alack for the radio propagandists from across the ocean. They have been given their orders: 'Every day they must sing their hallelujahs to the "American way of life." And how can they do this when they have to interrupt their broadcasts to report the murder of this or that political figure? Well, they are managing to do this.

Voice of America recently decided to take the bull by the horns and talk to their listeners on the subject of "whether American society is sick." The program started with the comment that both in America and abroad, after the murder of Robert Kennedy "people began to say that American society is sick." Let us make one thing clear immediately: people did not begin to say this; many prominent Americans, including Senator Fulbright, had been saying this for a long time. The murder of Robert Kennedy merely confirmed it.

Voice of America, however, does not agree. It says that it was just an isolated case because "political murders have plagued mankind since the earliest age of history." We do not want to delve into history. It is not applicable to this. The transatlantic radio is simply making a clumsy attempt to avoid the issue. Now and again, when it is explaining the increase in crime in the United States, it speaks of the presence of "islands of poverty in a sea of plenty." It turns out that people who are dissatisfied with their position "vent their hate on others, using violent methods."

As for the "islands of poverty," Voice of America is modest, to put it mildly. There are not islands but entire continents of poverty and lawlessness all over the country. But this by no means explains the orgy of crime.

The explanation is quite different: the causes are coercion and terror, the very essence of the system of American capitalist exploitation, a system under which law and order are replaced by the bloody law of the jungle. This is a society which has raised gangsterism to the level of government politics and which is contaminating the situation, not only in America itself, but also throughout the world.

No, Voice of America did not succeed in convincing its listeners that the American system is healthy. It is hopelessly sick and it cannot be raised from its sickbed by any kind of propagandistic incantations.

Vietnam:

ASSASSIN FELS ROBERT KENNEDY IN LOS ANGELES

Hanoi Domestic Version

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1115 GMT 5 Jun 68 B

[Text] According to foreign reports, U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy was assassinated [as heard] yesterday, 4 June, while on his presidential campaign tour for the primary elections in California in the western United States. While speaking to a crowd of about 2,000 in Los Angeles, he was shot in the head by an unidentified person and fell on the spot.

He was immediately taken to the hospital and surgeons are trying to remove the bullet from his head. At present, he is still unconscious and in extremely critical condition.

Robert Kennedy is a younger brother of the late U.S. President John Kennedy who was also assassinated nearly 5 years ago, in November 1963, in Dallas, Texas. Following John Kennedy's assassination, Johnson, the then vice president, succeeded him as president of the United States until the present.

Robert Kennedy is the most redoubtable political opponent of Johnson within the Democratic Party.

The assassination [as heard] of Robert Kennedy once again clearly shows the hideous, true face of the U.S. society, full of crimes and injustice. In the race for position and interests, the ruling cliques, representing the various factions of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class, have not hesitated to resort to bloodshed and fire to liquidate one another.

[Hanoi in English to Southeast Asia at 1530 GMT on 5 June 1968 carried a report similar to the above but added the following paragraph: "About 2 months ago Reverend Luther King, a famous black leader, was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee."]

Hanoi to South Vietnam Version

Hanoi in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0330 GMT 6 Jun 68 S

[Text] According to Western sources, yesterday morning, 5 June, U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy, a candidate for presidential election, was victim of a planned assassination in Los Angeles, California. Elections of the Democratic Party, preliminary to the presidential elections in November 1968, have just been held in this state.

In these preliminary elections, Robert Kennedy received more votes than the other candidates. The planned assassination occurred in a hotel where Robert Kennedy had convened a meeting. He was hit by several bullets, one of them entered his brain. His wound was very serious.

Robert Kennedy is the brother of U.S. President John Kennedy who was murdered in November, 1963, and this murder case remains a big problem for the U.S. administration.

The planned assassination of Robert Kennedy took place at a time when the race for the Democratic presidential nomination was in its harshest stage. Kennedy was a redoubtable opponent of the Johnson-Humphrey party. Since the planned assassination of Robert Kennedy, conflicts within U.S. administrative circles have become more arduous.

Broadcast to South Vietnam

Hanoi in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 1200 GMT 6 Jun 68 S

[Text] According to reports from the United States, 24 hours after he was seriously hit, U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy died at a hospital in Los Angeles, California, in the western part of the United States.

Since yesterday, the news on the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy has stirred up public opinion throughout the United States and the world, as strongly as did the news of the assassination of U.S. President John Kennedy in November 1963.

According to an AFP correspondent in Washington, people in the streets, when asked about this event, said: "Our country is a country of stupid and barbarous people." [words indistinct]

U.S. Senator Yarborough stated: "A disgusting thing in this matter is that political murder has become generalized in the United States." U.S. Senate Democrat leader Mansfield stressed: "I am very much surprised and panic-stricken because violence has become generalized in our country."

Many foreign papers believe this assassination is part of the plots of the ruling cliques aimed at eliminating each other in the struggle for power and interests. The paper EASTERN SUN in [locality indistinct] wrote: "The murder of Mr Robert Kennedy can be taken as a plot aimed at setting him aside from the presidential campaign, for there were great prospects that he would be elected president of the United States."

Commenting on this assassination, Moscow radio said clearly: "The well-known freedom in the U.S. capitalist society is the freedom of killing." Soviet paper IZVESTIYA said: "Cancer and violence are (ruining) the U.S. capitalist society." According to UPI, the Asian diplomats in Washington have said that along with the fact that the U.S. Congress cannot yet pass a law on the restriction of the use of firearms, the assassination of Mr Robert Kennedy clearly shows that the United States is an unstable and unreliable nation.

REPORTS ON ROBERT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION

Broadcast to U.S. Servicemen

Hanoi in English to American Servicemen in South Vietnam 1300 GMT 6 Jun 68 B

[Text] Senator Robert F. Kennedy died Thursday morning at Good Samaritan Hospital, according to a report from Los Angeles. The senator, brother of the assassinated President John F. Kennedy, had been shot the day before shortly after he claimed victory in California's presidential primary. A suspect for his assassination was seized. Robert F. Kennedy was considered a strong critic of the Johnson administration's domestic and foreign policy, especially its Vietnam policy.

Broadcast to Southeast Asia

Hanoi in English to Southeast Asia 1530 GMT 6 Jun 68 B

[Text] According to a report from Washington, Senator Robert Kennedy, who was shot and wounded on 5 June, died at a Los Angeles hospital at 0840 GMT. It was 4 years and 6 months ago that Kennedy's brother, the late President John Kennedy, was assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

Public opinion in the world unanimously maintains that with the assassination of Robert Kennedy, U.S. prestige in the world has further declined. AFP's Washington correspondent reported that the man in the street interviewed about the incident said, "Our country is one of madmen and barbarians."

Many foreign papers pointed out that the assassination was part and parcel of the plot of U.S. ruling circles to eliminate one another in their race for power.

NHAN DAN Article

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0601 GMT 7 Jun 68 B

[Text] Hanoi--The assassination of Robert Kennedy was another product of Johnson's great society, said the Hanoi daily NHAN DAN today.

The paper said that the murder of this 42-year-old American Senator had caught the special attention of the Western world. This, it continued, is because of the role of the victim in American politics and the unusualness of the circumstances.

The paper showed complete disbelief in Attorney General Ramsey Clark's statement that there was no evidence of a conspiracy and that the murder was just an individual act. To everyone, the paper pointed out, this doubtless was a political assassination which was closely connected with the life and death race for the U.S. presidency between R. Kennedy and his opponents.

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

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

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

The assassinations of the Kennedy brothers strongly indicate the increasingly serious conflicts among the American ruling capitalists, while the murders of Luther King and other progressive Americans and the repression of the masses clearly point to the ever-sharpening contradictions between the laboring people and the ruling circles in the United States.

On the international plane, the paper said, the U.S. imperialists are resorting to no less loathsome maneuvers in an attempt to attain their aim of dominating--and enslaving--various nations, as they are doing in Vietnam, Korea, the Mideast, and other parts of the world. The paper recalled the various U.S.-masterminded coups in Guatemala, Brazil, Indonesia, Ghana, and so forth, and the assassinations of Premier Bankaranaike of Ceylon and Foreign Minister Quinim Pholsena of Laos, and even of those henchmen of the United States who had outlived their usefulness, such as the Diem brothers in South Vietnam.

The paper said that the murder of R. Kennedy had further revealed the ugly features of Johnson's great society. Obviously, by freedom the U.S. imperialists only mean licensed murder, licensed exploitation, and licensed aggression, the paper stressed in conclusion.

NFLSV REACTS TO SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEATH

Liberation Radio (Clandestine) in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 1300 GMT 7 Jun 68 S

[Commentary: From the United States to Saigon]

[Text] Dear officers, news coming from the United States is causing much excitement and discussion among public opinion. U.S. Sen Robert Kennedy was shot and died after winning a victory in the California primary.

Public opinion raised the question as to why it was not Johnson or Humphrey who was assassinated. They are criticized by many and opposed by the American people. Why not someone other than Robert Kennedy? Nor does one forget that President Kennedy, Sen Robert Kennedy's brother, was also a victim of assassination in 1963 and that the person who masterminded it is yet to be found. Indeed, Johnson is well aware of it, but the documents on that assassination have been carefully kept in his ultra-secret archives.

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

For you, the determination of who is the author of this assassination plot is probably not a matter of great concern. A question more interesting to deal with is the chaotic and corrupt situation within the U.S. ruling machinery. These events have made many of you think of what has occurred and is occurring in Saigon, which many people have ironically called "a city in a state of America." Thinking of Saigon means thinking of the Thieu-Ky lackey regime. People still remember how Diem and Nhu, who were installed by the Americans as their lackeys [words indistinct] to them. But at last they were also purged and sacked by the Americans because they no longer pleased them. Ever since then, the Americans have changed a whole series of lackeys, and each time such a change was made, those officers who did not support them were purged.

Since the Americans hired Thieu and Ky, a series of officers have successively been ousted in various ways ranging from being sent away as exiled ambassadors to being eliminated, imprisoned, executed, or secretly liquidated. Those generals who previously helped Thieu and Ky to rise to the posts of heading the puppet army and administration were also purged by them in order to consolidate their power. Among the purged were Nguyen Chanh Thi, Ton That Dinh, Vinh Loc, Nguyen Van Manh, and others, including recently, on 5 June, Le Nguyen Khang. While Thieu and Ky have been at odds and have struggled against each other, woe has befallen their subordinate officers who were either executed, imprisoned, or dismissed with charges that were supposedly accurate, but were insignificant if measured against the sins committed by Thieu and Ky themselves.

Through such facts, one realizes that the political situation in Saigon, viewed from a certain angle, is not very different from that in Washington, namely chaos and corruption, but to a more serious degree. Such being the situation in the United States itself, the U.S. ruling clique can by no means create political stability in Saigon.

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

On 5 June, VOA reported that Le Nguyen Khang was dismissed for failing to prevent the communist forces--the People's Liberation Armed Forces--from launching attacks against Saigon. This argument only serves to cover up Thieu's perfidious scheme aimed at liquidating Ky's supporters, since everybody knows that the responsibility for protecting the U.S. and puppet dens in Saigon was not laid on Khang alone; that the Americans and their puppets Thieu and Ky have repeatedly boasted that appropriate

measures had been adopted for the defense of their positions in Saigon; and that long ago Thieu had registered the names of Khang and other high-ranking officers on the list of disloyal members.

On 1 March, REUTERS reported that "seven province chiefs have been dismissed by President Thieu. This new action took place after the replacement of two army corps commanders which occurred last month". In its news reports on 11 March AP pointed out that this was the biggest purge of province chiefs since the Ngo Dinh Diem regime. But this is not the last one. According to reliable sources, many other province chiefs already have their names registered on the list of those to be dismissed. In its news reports on 12 March, AP said that reliable sources disclosed that President Thieu intended to replace at least one-third of the province chiefs. But the real situation shows that not only have the province chiefs been dismissed, but Nguyen Van Loc, the puppet prime minister and an old friend of Ky, has been removed. And now it is time for Le Nguyen Khang, Ky's supporter, to share the same pitiful fate. This means that in coming days, on U.S. orders, many other puppet officers will certainly be purged by their perfidious and cruel president.

Dear officers, in the face of the irresistible offensive and uprising of the people and revolutionary armed forces, it is obvious that the U.S. aggressors will certainly meet with shameful defeat and the declining Thieu-Ky puppet administration will surely be overthrown. In their helpless situation, Thieu and Ky are making every effort to do away with one another in order to consolidate their own position, to prolong their death struggle, and to please their U.S. masters as Thieu is trying to do now. In their perilous situation, the Americans and their henchmen have committed more crimes against our compatriots and forced more ruthlessly the puppet officers, soldiers, and policemen to counterattack the revolutionary forces and to commit more crimes against our compatriots.

If one sides with the Americans and their henchmen, one has to go and fight, and a close look at the present and forthcoming military situation shows that this [words indistinct]. But it is obvious that none of your troops are willing to risk their lives. If you fail to force them to risk their lives, you will be removed. If you deliberately force them to go and die, how can you avoid being gunned down with your troops by the revolutionary forces? The pitiful examples of Luu Kim Cuong, Dam Van Quy, Nguyen Ngoc Loan, and many others are of great significance to you. Or more tragically, how can you avoid being killed or wounded by the U.S. aggressors, such as the case of 11 puppet colonels, lieutenant colonels, and majors like Nguyen Van Luan, Le Ngoc Tru, Dao Ba Phuoc, and many others killed or wounded in Cholon on the evening of 2 June. In particular, how can you escape death from the weapons of your friends, patriotic puppet officers, noncommissioned officers, soldiers and policemen, who are living with you.

Think of the relationship between the murder of Robert Kennedy in the United States, the confused state of the puppet administration here in Saigon, and the present fluctuating situation.

If you still remain clearheaded, vigilant, and aware of the purging scalpel of the Americans, Thieu, and Ky; if you are full of national spirit; if you do not let yourselves be deceived by their false arguments; if you do not hesitate and hope that the situation will improve, we are sure that you, forebears, will see that the time has come when none of you can gain anything by remaining in the ranks of the Americans and their hirelings Thieu and Ky.

R. KENNEDY VICTIM OF POLITICAL ASSASSINATION

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1115 GMT 7 Jun 68 S

[Excerpts from 7 June NHAN DAN commentary: "The assassination of Robert Kennedy has crudely revealed the rottenness of the U.S. political regime"]

[Text] U.S. and Western public opinion are highly inflamed at the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy, a presidential candidate of the Democratic Party, the party now in power in the United States.

On 4 June, Kennedy ran in the California primary. He received more votes than his rivals. The next morning, 5 June, Kennedy was shot with several bullets, and he died on the night of 6 June. The Los Angeles police arrested a man suspected of being the murderer.

Among the assassinations occurring daily and regarded as common events in the U.S. capitalist society, the case of Robert Kennedy caught the special attention of the people. This is because of the role of the victim and the circumstances surrounding the case.

Robert Kennedy, 42, had previously been attorney general in the government of John Kennedy, his brother. After the assassination of John Kennedy in 1963, Johnson became President of the United States. Robert Kennedy resigned, campaigned for electoral office, and was elected senator from New York state. During the past few years, Kennedy was one of those who severely criticized Johnson over domestic and foreign policies, especially over the Vietnam problem. Robert Kennedy stood for a peaceful settlement to the Vietnam problem, recognizing the NFLSV, but not withdrawing U.S. troops from South Vietnam.

Having a large fortune, political prestige, and ambition, the Kennedys felt that Robert would continue in the path of John, and they prepared a program to introduce Robert Kennedy into the presidential race to be held in 1972. But the increasingly heavy failures encountered by the United States in its aggressive war in Vietnam, especially since the beginning of this year, isolated the Johnson administration and subjected it to unprecedented difficulties. In the face of such a situation, the Kennedy family changed its mind, and Robert Kennedy decided to jump into the race for the Democratic nomination in the U.S. presidential election to be held in November of this year, rather than waiting 4 years.

In these past months, Kennedy campaigned ardently for the nomination. He reaped increasing success in some state primaries. U.S. public opinion assesses that Kennedy was the most redoubtable rival to the Johnson-Humphrey clan in the race to the White House.

Robert Kennedy's success in the primary in California--one of the biggest states in the United States--heightened his prestige, prior to the Democratic convention to be held in Chicago in August. On 4 June, he won a big victory in the primary in South Dakota, the birthplace of U.S. Vice President Humphrey who is the presidential candidate enjoying Johnson's support.

Robert Kennedy was assassinated while he was celebrating his victory. U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark hastily explained: This was an individual act and not a conspiracy. But to everyone, this doubtless was a political assassination and the bullets shot at Kennedy were closely connected with the life and death race for the U.S. Presidency between Kennedy and his opponents.

The recent political assassination of Robert Kennedy reminds us of the assassination of the late U.S. President John Kennedy on 22 November 1963. This was also a political assassination which, 4 and a half years later, still causes the U.S. people to discuss its secrets and dirty motives. There were similarities between the assassinations of the Kennedy brothers. In late 1963, John Kennedy was murdered during his visit to Dallas, Texas, to campaign for another presidential term. John Kennedy's death promoted Johnson, then vice president to the U.S. presidency. Later Johnson won the 1964 presidential election.

It was rumored that in case Robert Kennedy won the presidential election, he would sooner or later bring the John Kennedy murder to light to avenge his brother. People also expressed the opinion that the recent murder of Robert Kennedy might be the goal of those who wished to avoid dramatic consequences for themselves. Whatever its motives and goals, the murder of Robert Kennedy has shed more light on the ruthlessness and baseness of the American ruling capitalists and on the reactionary and rotten nature of the capitalist society in the United States. In a society where money is the goal of life and where competition, exploitation, and liquidation characterize the relationships among human beings, the American capitalist ruling circles have not hesitated in killing each other by whatever means available. They have not hesitated to eliminate all obstacles on the road leading them to more money and more power.

The assassinations of the Kennedy brothers strongly demonstrate the increasingly serious conflicts among American capitalists, while the murders of Luther King and other progressive U.S. people and the repression of the masses clearly point to the ever-sharpening contradictions between the laboring people and the capitalist class in the United States.

While eliminating one another, terrorizing and massacring the masses and progressive people, and actually carrying out a blood-soaked dictatorial regime, the U.S. capitalists have also brazenly carried out this cruel policy of theirs throughout the world. They have resorted to extremely cruel maneuvers in an attempt to achieve their aim of invading and enslaving various nations. Along with waging criminal wars of aggression in Vietnam, Korea, the Middle East, and elsewhere, the U.S. imperialists have continuously engineered coups d'etat, assassinations, and sabotage against peoples of various countries.

One has clearly seen the U.S. imperialists' participation in the coups d'etat that were staged over the past 10 years in such places as Guatemala, Brazil, Indonesia, and Ghana. The assassinations that occurred in this period of time, such as the assassinations of Premier Bandaranaike of Ceylon and Foreign Minister Quinim Pholsena of Laos, were perpetrated by the lackeys of the U.S. imperialists.

The U.S. imperialists have also barbarously pushed their betrayal to the point of unhesitatingly eliminating even their efficient lackeys when they saw that such an act was advantageous to their plots. Everyone recalls the case of Ngo Dinh Diem who was supported by the United States and then sent to Saigon as a puppet, and when Diem was no longer useful to the United States, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency killed both Diem and his brother in November 1963.

The assassination of Robert Kennedy has clearly revealed to everyone the extremely evil, horrible true face of the rotten U.S. capitalist society, which President Johnson named "the great society." The so-called free world in the United States simply means licensed murder, licensed exploitation, and licensed aggression and perpetration of crimes against the U.S. people and the peoples of various countries.

The assassination of Robert Kennedy will certainly make the existing contradictions among the U.S. ruling, monopolist, and capitalist factions increasingly acute and at the same time will make the U.S. people see ever more clearly the true nature of the U.S. regime and make them struggle against the cruel, reactionary policy of the U.S. ruling clique more vigorously and fiercely.

Yugoslavia:

TITO SENDS WISHES FOR KENNEDY'S RECOVERY

Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 5 Jun 68 A

[Text] Belgrade--President of the republic Josip Broz Tito has sent the following telegram to Ethel Kennedy, wife of Sen Robert Kennedy:

"It is with consternation that I received the news of the criminal attempt on the life of your husband. Please accept my sincere wishes for his quick recovery."

[Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian at 1000 GMT on 5 June, cites AFP and REUTER reports stating that the condition of Robert Kennedy is critical following an attempt on his life. The report notes that he has been moved to a second hospital, that two assailants have been arrested, that President Johnson has not made a statement, and that television stations carried the attack.]

ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTED ON ROBERT KENNEDY

Veljko Micunovic Comments

Belgrade TANYUG International Service in English 2022 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Text] Belgrade--"A crime has been committed not only against Robert Kennedy, but against his program of a policy of peace, cooperation among peoples, and the development of a new, constructive, and powerful (role) for America in the present-day world and the future," President of the Yugoslav Federal Assembly Committee for Foreign Affairs and International relations and former Yugoslav Ambassador in Washington Veljko Micunovic stated here this evening in connection with the assassination attempt on the American senator.

Among other things, Veljko Micunovic expressed consternation that crime and assassination have been used for the third time during the past several years as a means of U.S. policy, and this on a top national and world level, as far as American policy in general is concerned. [sentence as received]

"Our public knew that Robert Kennedy and all others in America considered that the primary in California was decisive, and following Robert Kennedy's victory a crime came to the scene as a political device. The assassin raised his hand against the life of Robert Kennedy; that is, against his political program and against millions of American citizens who voiced their confidence in Kennedy."

In his statement, made on Belgrade Television, Veljko Micunovic pointed out that Robert Kennedy has demonstrated to America and the world his great human and political qualities.

Robert Kennedy has been a friend of Yugoslavia and he has been actively working for better relations between our two countries. In realistically viewing the policy concerning North Vietnam, he did what he could to make his great contribution to the improvement of these conditions, contrary to what the United States has unfortunately been doing over the past several years, Veljko Micunovic said.

Timotijevic Commentary

Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 5 Jun 68 A

[Kosta Timotijevic commentary]

[Excerpts] There can be no doubt that behind the attack on Robert Kennedy stand the same dark forces that (?caused the death of) John Kennedy and Martin Luther King. The extreme right has united in blind hatred and fanatical opposition to anything representing social or political progress in America and the world.

Robert Kennedy is no revolutionary or leftist. He is not even what is called a radical in America. He is only a moderate liberal [words indistinct] who perceived the simple truth that the Vietnam war and (?racial) conflict have brought America to the brink of disaster. For saying this in public, he was proclaimed a selfish petty politician, a capitulationist, and almost a traitor.

American politicians now exclaim in disbelief and disgust: What is happening? What sort of madness has swept America? Since it cannot be supposed that American politicians are unusually naive, one can only conclude that they are not entirely sincere in their surprise.

Like the rest of the world, they know very well what is happening in America and why. The anticommunist hysteria which many of them have fostered and which few have opposed has had its logical consequences.

Under the benevolent auspices of the existing American system, a well-financed armed movement has been organized and constituted and it is fascist in the full sense of the word in everything but name. Unless this movement is stopped and energetically combated, it will turn to square accounts with those who are much less liberal than Robert Kennedy. The assassination attempt in Los Angeles is perhaps the last warning.

SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY DIES IN LOS ANGELES

Tito Wire to Mrs. Kennedy

Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 6 Jun 68 A

[Text] President of the Republic Josip Broz Tito has sent the following telegram to Ethel Kennedy, widow of Sen Robert Kennedy: "It was with great sorrow that we received news of the great tragedy which hit your family and especially you, depriving you of your dear husband and your children of their kind father. Having known Senator Robert Kennedy personally, we have been hit harder by the report of the great tragedy which shocked the peoples of Yugoslavia. The tragic death of Senator Kennedy constitutes an irreplaceable loss to the American people and peace in the world. I convey to you our deepest sympathy on behalf of the peoples of Yugoslavia, my wife Jovanka, and myself personally."

Popovic Wire to Humphrey

Belgrade TANYUG International Service in English 1912 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Text] Belgrade--President of the Yugoslav Federal Assembly Milentije Popovic today sent a message of condolence to President of the U.S. Senate Hubert Humphrey which reads:

"Deeply moved by the news about Sen Robert Kennedy's tragic death, I am sending the most sincere condolences on behalf of the Yugoslav parliament and in my own name. Please, Mr President, extend our sympathies to the family of the late senator."

Timotijevic Talk

Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 6 Jun 68 A

[Talk by Kosta Timotijevic]

[Text] Now that Robert Kennedy is dead, it is futile to speculate what would have happened had he by some miracle lived. He has been definitely removed from the political scene. The inspirers and organizers of this assassination; quite certainly will not be (?found). They will even take part in investigations and may even lead them. When and if the technical executor of the assassination is brought to court, the real murderers will sit among the public and probably even on the jury.

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

The murder of Robert Kennedy is not only an internal American affair. It concerns the whole world. Whether peace reigns or war begins depends greatly on who rules America and how he rules it. Whether the forces of reaction and aggression all over the world will be suppressed or whether they will gain sway depends on whether America pushes toward peace or toward war.

The revolver shots in Los Angeles were aimed at the hopes of mankind that America would (?change its course). The consequences of these mortal shots cannot yet be foreseen.

U.S. SEEKS TO EXPLAIN KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 6 Jun 68 A

[Text] American newspapers, radio, and television today stress the shame and horror felt in America following the murder of Sen Robert Kennedy. The publicity accorded this tragedy matches that given the murder of President John Kennedy 5 years ago.

Because of the need to explain the assassination of Robert Kennedy so as not to unduly perturb the peace and conscience of America, theories are being developed about a mass psychosis of crime in the United States which has allegedly remained from pioneer times and which is encouraged by Hollywood films and inane cartoons.

The most conservative elements, including some from the Johnson administration, exploit such explanations stressing the need for law and order, behind which are concealed tendencies to introduce control over and limitation of constitutional rights.

The liberal camp has shown resistance to endeavors to utilize the murder of Robert Kennedy to suppress the liberties and reforms which he advocated. Senator McCarthy has linked the killing of Kennedy with the moral and political crisis of the United States caused by the unsolved social problems and the war in Vietnam.

A U.S. official in Saigon, who is to return to Washington soon after 18 months in Vietnam, commented on Kennedy's death: "To what sort of country will I bring my family to from Vietnam? What is happening to our society?"

Non-Bloc Communist Parties:

COMMUNISTS SEE PATTERN IN ATTACK ON KENNEDY

Santo Domingo Radio HIN in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 June 68 C

[Text] The Dominican Communist Party (PCD) is of the opinion that the attack on Senator Robert Kennedy last night foreshadows the future prospects of the United States and the rest of the world that is under its domination. The PCD states that the murder of Martin Luther King Jr and the attack committed last night against the U.S. presidential candidate hopeful are scenes in the same violent drama that U.S. groups are ready to play to radically defend their power, their methods, and their interests.

"Those forces," according to the PCD, "will not relinquish their positions to take peaceful paths nor allow power to pass to the hands of those who aspire to liberal solutions even within capitalism."

COMMUNISTS COMMENT ON KENNEDY DEATH

Oggi in Italia (Clandestine) in Italian to Italy 2130 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Summary] The death of Robert Kennedy has caused deep sorrow among the Italian public and all political groups. The leadership of the Italian Communist Party states in a communique that it is an event whose significance goes well beyond the tragic fate of the victim and the mourning that has once more descended on a family so tried by fate.

Italian Communists, the communique continues, express their condolences and those of millions of workers and young men and women. Political differences, diversity of views and proposed solutions, do not prevent us from considering Robert Kennedy as the victim of and the testimony to a desire for renovation, a deep process of criticism, a policy of bloody aggression, and a society founded on injustice.

The Italian Communist Party Communique continues: It is because of this violence in America as a means of political struggle that we ask all Italians to consider the danger to our country and to peace in the world of our subordination, to the extent of complicity, to imperialist America. We invite all democratic forces to seek a new Italian foreign policy and an initiative that will represent a contribution to the return of peace in Vietnam, to the liquidation of the U.S. bases in Italy and the Mediterranean--a policy that will lead to the solution of security and disarmament problems.

LINK--Indian Magazine:

KENNEDY MURDER ATTEMPT

[LINK-Indian Newsmagazine. June 9, 1968. p. 6]

The authoritarianism of the "Free World" has been brought out again, in bold relief even before the world has reconciled itself to live without the non-violent King. The assassin's bullets, which hit Robert Kennedy in the head, on the midnight of June 5 and in the moment of his greatest political achievement so far, might keep him out of the race, even if he recovers from the murderous attack. How prophetic Kennedy was when, at Indiana, he expressed concern "about the health and the quality of our own society"; and again, when having a jab at Hubert Humphrey's 'politics of joy': "We can't say this is a time for the politics of happiness or the politics of joy..."

Senator Kennedy had won the crucial California primary with a big majority over Senator McCarthy in the ultimate test of their struggle for the Democratic nomination; he had also defeated his rivals in the South Dakota primary. This was the moment of his political triumph. His main rival for Democratic nomination was Humphrey, blessed by the Establishment and supported by party bosses. By a rapid barn storming campaigning, that only a Kennedy is capable of, Bobby had built up a national image that could draw favourable comparison only with brother Jack during the Cuban crisis.

"South Dakota," Bobby had said earlier, was "Vice-President Hubert Humphrey's native state and a major effort was made there on his behalf." In fact, "he spent more days campaigning there than I did, and one could consider the primary there along with Washington D.C. as my most direct contests with Mr. Humphrey."

"When the people have had a chance to say who should be the nominee, they have registered a strong vote against the current administration, its spokesmen and its policies." Perhaps Kennedy had never thought of danger from a lurking assassin even in the "unjust society" with all its professed abhorrence for a system that allegedly legitimised political assassination as a form of political protest. The "vote for a change" that Bobby deciphered in his primary victories, was nipped at California, at the first

sign of popular support to the 'winds of change'.

The Kennedys have been doggedly pursued by mishaps. Accidents, assaults, assassination have been part of their life. The crippled father and the aged mother saw their eldest son Joe, die in a plane crash, and also a daughter. Illustrious John was assassinated. Edward survived spine broken in plane crash. And now the murder attempt. The human tragedy for the family of Kennedys pales into insignificance in the face of the political tragedy to the millions of Kennedy admirers who have been looking forward to resuscitating the values of Jeffersonian democracy from the jungles of Vietnam and the slums of Harlem.

The crowds at the California news conference were aghast. "Oh, my God, not again," they said. Robert Kennedy's wife, Ethel, who is carrying their eleventh child, knelt beside her husband white-faced and rigid with shock. Olympic Decathlon champion Rafer Johnson grabbed the assassin in the Ambassador Hotel ballroom. Two other suspects have been taken into custody.

Jacqueline Kennedy, who was in

New York reacted with stunned shock. She was bewildered and she had more reasons to be so than anyone else. "No, it can't have happened", she cried out. She was apparently reminded of the days when Bobby was her major aid to sustain the shock of her biggest loss.

For the third time in three years American reaction will try to secure political profit out of an assassin's bullet. The first catapulted Johnson to Presidency; the second was used to draw public attention to the spurious theme of the "Great Society"—Civil Rights; the third might clear the way for Pentagon's influence on White House. No one could shout the way Bobby did: "No more Vietnam." There might not be any "change" at all from the present American position of "defending corrupt and repressive governments unable or unwilling to gain the support of their own nations".

If Kennedy dies or is incapacitated a meaningless succession from Johnson to Humphrey will be ensured. A powerful voice to challenge, to dissent, to provide a viable alternative will be stifled. But Kennedy may yet live and carry on the struggle for saner policies.

THE WEST

UNITED STATES LINK-Indian Newsmagazine.
June 16, 1968. pp. 25-28]

Kennedy's Last Question

"Kennedy is dead, Long live Kennedy!"

Five years back world newspapers carried headlines to this effect. Reaction at the popular level was similar. It was so last week again.

The two brothers were slain at a time when they were basking in the sunshine of popular support for the causes they attempted to uphold.

But in the "Free World", the popular is not always the most effective; this has been proved for the third time under the present administration. "Efficiency" is the key word; and the relentless pursuit of efficiency that characterises life in the New World has seeped into the underworld. In its unholy alliance with the underworld, American politics has gained a new weapon—assassination; but the Administration has learnt no lessons.

"No Conspiracy"? The pattern of political assassinations has all the appearance of being in tune with the needs of the present policy-makers. It also evokes a familiar response. "No conspiracy"—was the instantaneous, almost instinctive, reaction of Attorney-General Ramsey Clark, within minutes of the murder. And then stouted, the old, familiar pattern of investiga-

tion and confessions disclosing imaginary connection of the culprit with the Soviet Union or Eastern Europe, Cuba or the Arab world. It was made to appear as if nobody who is indigenous, hundred per cent American (is there any such person in America?) is capable of committing the heinous crime of political murder. Strangely, this is the lesson the Americans have been asked to draw from the series of murders that have come to characterise politics, American style.

RFK was not a Communist and, contrary to some of his opponents' descriptions, he is on record as having opposed the slogan: 'Better red than dead'. Under fire from his opponents, Robert Kennedy took considerable pains to convince the white Americans that he was not the spokesman of the Black. He only opposed all forms of extremism, as he wrote in his book, "The Pursuit of Justice," published immediately before he announced his candidature for Democratic Party nomination to the Presidency "What is objectionable," RFK wrote in his book, "what is dangerous about extremists is not that they are extreme, but that they are intolerant." He opposed violence. "Violence won't get you better housing, better jobs or better

education for your children," he told the Negroes. It is ironical that the person who made opposition to extremism and violence major creeds of his politics should be the victim of these two evils of American society.

Bobby's Outlook: Bobby was not opposed to defending the values of the 'Free World' anywhere, not even in Vietnam. "No more Vietnams"—was a critique of the means rather than the end, for, "as long as the instruments of peace are available, war is madness."

He was not opposed to free enterprise. In fact, he was one of the major beneficiaries of the system in his own country. He only stood for "eradicating free enterprise in organised crime"; he was "anti-trust, pro-business." He was opposed to "federal power" not on grounds of its incongruity with federal principles but because it led to "local poverty", and he was convinced, at least so he said, that "as long as there is plenty, poverty is evil". The fact that poverty still existed in the 'Great Society' was the responsibility of all Americans: "all of us are responsible that these conditions continue to exist". He knew "we cannot prevent this world from being a world in which children suffer. But we can reduce the number of suffering children"; and he said, "In America we already have conquered the problem of scarcity. Once that is accomplished, poverty is a problem not of production but of distribution."

Colossal Failure: These, in short, were Kennedy's philosophy of life and politics. Any assessment of his achievement, with reference to all that he stood for, is bound to lead one to the conclusion of a colossal failure with which Kennedy ended his life. Yet "Bobby" remained dear to the hearts of the downtrodden—the Negroes and the Puerto Ricans in America and the peoples of the under-developed world—and over and above that to the millions of young men and women in the USA whose aspirations, in a new world of re-emerging values, he articulated. He diagnosed and highlighted, howsoever perfunctorily, the disease of American society. That has been his achievement. Despite his optimism in deciphering a new "mood of change", he paid through his life the price for his forward-looking attitudes. In the process he underlined the hazards of reforming a society that is too deeply committed to the status quo.

There have been attempts, as was expected, to rope in the surviving scion of the illustrious Kennedy clan for Vice-Presidency under Humphrey—a gift of the "Great Society" in return for the lives of two brothers! Edward, reports indicate, has asked for a gift that may be impossible for

LINK

JUNE 16, 1968



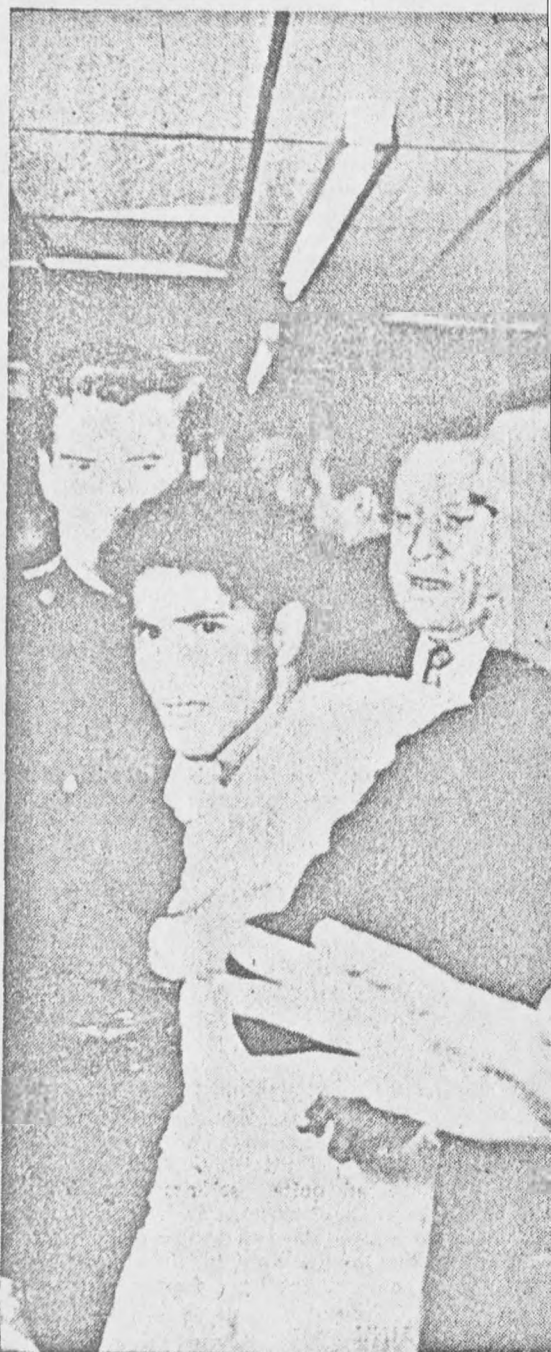
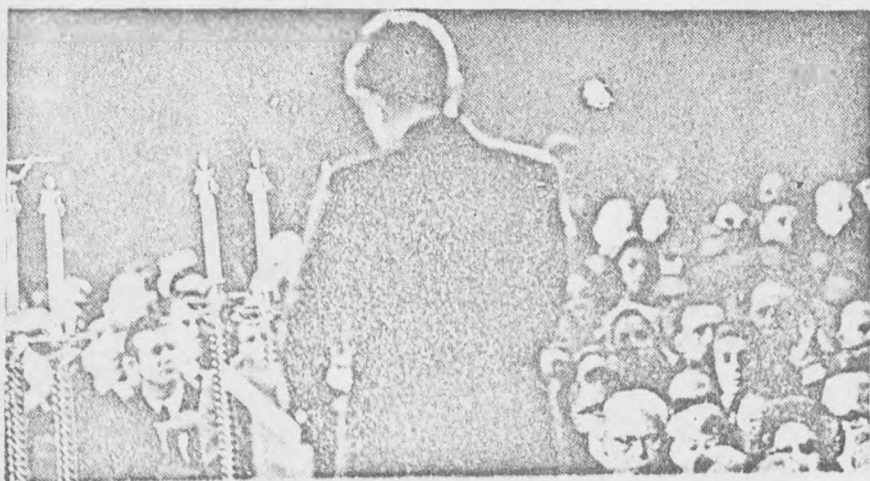
Newest Victim of 'Great Society'

Above: Senator Robert Kennedy talking to a newsmen on telephone just before he was shot at in the Ambassador Hotel. Below: Wounded, Bobby lies on the floor of the hotel. Below, right: Clutching a rosary beads. Right: Sorrowing wife Ethel Kennedy accompanies her husband to the hospital in an ambulance.





Left (from top): Grieving wife Ethel Kennedy supported by brother Senator Edward Kennedy at Los Angeles airport looking at the casket containing the body of Robert Kennedy before it was lifted into a Presidential jetliner bound for New York. The casket is carried into St. Patrick's Cathedral. Among the pallbearers are two of Robert Kennedy's sons and Senator Edward Kennedy. Edward Kennedy pays a tribute to his assassinated brother at the mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral.



Below: The suspected assassin is hustled out of the Ambassador Hotel.

the present administration to offer—
an assurance that his brothers "have
not died in vain."

Next time, the American leaders
pontificate on "making the world safe
for democracy" they must answer the
last question asked by Robert Ken-
nedy before he died: "Is everybody
safe?"

[LINK--Indian Neswmagazine. June 23, 1968]

LETTERS

Murderous System

Killing a Kennedy seems to be a favourite annual sport in America. The shots that eliminated one Presidential candidate questioned all the values for which Kennedy stood.

The murder of Robert Kennedy, as "Izvestia" has rightly pointed out, has the same roots as the murder of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King and Malcolm and has provided new elements for a serious rethinking about the American society. The Western press tries to depict the Communist system as "Prometheus Bound" thus deliberately misinterpreting Revolutionary Monism as Bureaucratic Totalitarianism. The symphony of buzzing bullets reminds us that even the most prosperous capitalist society after a hundred years of uninterrupted consolidation is under infinitely greater strain than any Communist society, so that any slightly jarring note in this society leads inevitably to a blood-stained carpet. All the notable Americans assassinated had some liberal mission: Lincoln wanted to liberate the Negroes; Roosevelt wanted to put through 'New Deal' and establish a new relationship with the USSR; J. F.

Kennedy believed in civil rights and Robert Kennedy in peace for Vietnam. But John Foster Dulles, John McCarthy and Edgar Hoover can live in peace. Martin Luther King had to die in America, but nobody has ever heard any attempt on the life of any Klu Klux Klan leader. In a society where, in the words of Gorky, the bankers beget bandits, it is never the revolution first but the counter-revolution that comes out of the barrel of the gun; and, the revolution needs a gun only to counter-act in self-defence.

Howard Fast wrote that a society based on the denial of human rights at home could not serve the cause of human rights abroad. But this is equally true in the reverse. A nation involved in mass massacre outside cannot live in peace at home. The upheaval in France could not shake the Vietnam negotiations in Paris; revolution never endangers peace. But the shot fired in Los Angeles would have a stupendous echo in Paris. With the removal of Westmoreland from the East and withdrawal of Johnson from Washington the stage seemed to have been made clear for the East Wind

breezing over the West Wind, but now it is clear, that winter is yet to pass and the spring is far behind.

ARUN KUMAR ROY, MLA
Sindri

ARAB REACTIONGeneral Reports:

Reaction Roundup

Paris AFP in Spanish 1223 GMT 6 Jun 68 C

[By Gabriel Durdaud]

[Excerpts] Beirut--The first reactions of the Arab world to the murder of the U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy by a Palestine Arab reflect extreme embarrassment. This embarrassment has increased because the murder was committed on the very day that the first anniversary of the June 1967 6-day war was marked in all Arab countries.

Furthermore, Muhammad Madhi, the Action Committee for U.S.-Arab Relations secretary general, stated in New York that Kennedy's assassin could have been influenced by statements made by the New York senator during a televised debate last Saturday with his rival Senator Eugene McCarthy.

In Damascus, the Syrian capital, the dailies AL-BATH and AL-THAWRAH did not reveal to their readers the name or origin of the murderer. Radio Damascus has also maintained absolute silence on this aspect of the matter.

In Amman, the dailies AD-DIFA and AD-DUSTUR devoted their entire front pages, to demonstrations connected with the anniversary of the war with Israel and to the protest made by Jordan at the Security Council over an attack on Irbid. Details on Kennedy's murder were published on inside pages in small print.

Dailies are not published today in Baghdad. Radio Baghdad's first broadcast merely carried alarming news about Kennedy's condition but did not mention the attacker.

Saudi Arabia radio's newscast reported briefly on the murder attempt in Los Angeles and said it would only benefit the Jews and Zionists in their propaganda against the Arab nations.

The Cairo Voice of the Arabs radio heard this morning in Lebanon did not mention the murderer's name nor his Palestine origin. It only carried details about the murder attempt. However, the Lebanese press published the name of young Arab Sirhan Bishara Sirhan in bold type and stressed that he came from Jerusalem. Nevertheless, the daily AL-MUHARRIR writes: The inhabitants of Jerusalem claim not to know the Arab who is accused of firing on Kennedy. The daily AN-NAHAR carries the following bold type headlines: A Palestinian Fires at Kennedy. Lebanese Doctor Baz Gives Wounded Senator First Aid.

Lebanese press editorials also mention opposing conjectures dealing with a crime which threatens to strengthen the Western world pro-Israeli sentiment. AL-KIFAH denounces the murder attempt against Kennedy as a Zionist conspiracy to prevent the New York senator from reaching the White House from where he would certainly discover that the U.S. Jews are responsible for the murder of his brother John Kennedy. The daily asks if Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is not a traitor in the pay of Israel and concludes: In any event, the crime perpetrated in Los Angeles, which can be attributed to a Palestine Arab, is directly contrary to all the interests of the Arab world and as such must be condemned by all responsible Arabs.

AL-BAYRAK says: It seems that Kennedy was destined to pay with his life for the attempt by U.S. politicians to obtain the Jewish vote even though Kennedy was the presidential candidate which best understood the Palestine question. The world has shrunk. A short distance separates Jerusalem from Los Angeles. It may be that Kennedy is the last of the U.S. politicians that can be held responsible for the Palestine drama. The Arab world cannot accept the reasons given for this murder. However, the world has developed to such an extent that neither the United States nor any other world power can set a part [of the world] on fire without burning themselves.

Kennedy, U.S. PolicyINITIAL ARAB REACTION DEPLORES ATTEMPT
ON KENNEDY'S LIFE, BUT REFLECTION ON
U.S. POLICY ON PALESTINE PROBLEM NOTED

[ARAB WORLD. June 6, 1968]

The name "Sirhan Bishara Sirhan" was today splashed across the front-pages of Beirut newspapers. This was the name of the youngman who yesterday shot and critically wounded Senator Robert Kennedy, a U.S. Presidential candidate, at Los Angeles, California.

The attempt has had profound and special interest for the Arab world and the Middle East as a whole. The 24-year-old Bishara was said to be a Palestinian Arab who was born in Jerusalem, and who came to the U.S. 11 years ago to live with his brothers at Pasadena, California. The man was reported to have said after shooting Senator Kennedy: "I did it for my country." Agencies reported that the man appeared to have been angered by recent statements by Kennedy in which he, among other things, said that "Jordan should stop its aggression against Israel", and that the U.S. should supply Israel with Phantom fighter planes.

Initial Arab reaction was to deplore the attempt, noting that Mr Kennedy did not deserve it. Newspapers, however, noted the reflection of the attempt on U.S. policy on the Palestine question, and the Middle East situation as a whole. One paper went as far as to see an Israeli plot aimed to discredit the Arabs in eyes of the American people.

Editorials thus far have come only from the Lebanese press, as newspapers in other Arab countries, though giving news of the attempt leading coverage, abstained from comment so far. RADIO VOICE OF THE ARABS from Cairo, in its newscast this morning, did not mention name of the gunman or his origin, in its coverage of the bid on Mr Kennedy's life.

Appeal To Arab Leaders. Beirut's daily AL KIFAH, published by Press Association President Riyadh Taha, editorially appealed to King Hussein and other Arab heads of state to hurry in condemning the attempt by sending letters and cables to the American people. "Perhaps this can expose the game of fire which the devils and plotters against the American and Arab people are playing, and this perhaps would burn their fingers", the paper said.

Furthermore, AL KIFAH expressed the opinion that the attempt on Kennedy's life was a Zionist conspiracy to stop the Senator from reaching the White House because, it said, he would then discover that the Jews in the U.S. were behind the 1963 assassination of his brother, the late President John F. Kennedy. The paper said that Sirhan could be a traitor, and noted that he would not be the first Palestinian traitor to cooperate with the Israelis. "At any rate", the paper said, "we have a practical proposal to make: There is no doubt that the crime committed in Los Angeles and for which a Palestinian Arab has been blamed, is an action against the Arab interest... The crime must be condemned (by the Arabs), and an announcement must be made that the Arabs are not responsible for it." It was at this point that the paper made the appeal to Arab heads of state to deplore the crime.

Daily AL HADAF, published by former Press Association President Zuheir Osseiran, wrote: "The Palestinian who was said to have shot Robert Kennedy is either a crank or has been put up to do it. It would not be strange if Zionist organs have used him for this purpose. This is because a Palestinian who would want to do such a thing, would not choose Kennedy as target for his bullets. Robert Kennedy, like other US Presidential candidates, seeks the support of the Jews (in the U.S) because of their votes and their financial potential, which is an octopus in America.

"Therefore, no sane Palestinian, genuinely prompted by nationalistic motives, could have done it. This is because Palestinians have sufficient traditional enmity from the American governments, and can do without hostility from the American people." The paper continued:

"At any rate, the mad attempt (on Kennedy's life) carries within itself a reflection which U.S. policy has left behind in the Middle East, namely, that it (policy) has made the commission of such a mad action possible. This policy has also provided the possibility that the entire Palestinian people, who have been harmed more than any other people in the world, might become a destructive force full of hatred for the world. Regardless of who the assassin may be, the tragic incident ought to serve as a warning to American politicians, and as evidence of the increasing effect which U.S. policy is having the world."

"Palestine In America." This was the headline of the editorial in AL NAHAR, independent right-wing, by columnist Michel Abu Jawdeh, who noted: "How can the murder of the Palestinian Arab home be conveyed to the White House, and from there to the mind and heart of every American? Throughout the past twenty years, Palestinians, and Arabs in general, have failed to find an answer to this question. The White House, under four Presidents (since the Palestine problem began in 1948), continued to see the Palestine tragedy through Israel only. This was also the case with all candidates to the presidency, and with U.S. information media. A considerable part of the world saw it in the same way, because the rest of the world would have changed its outlook if America had changed hers..."

"The situation has grown worse... after the June war (of last year), because repercussions of the war have been tied to a great extent with the U.S.... The U.S. President and Presidential

aspirants had refused, and still refuse, to cast a fair and just look at the Arab-Israeli conflict, as if the Palestinian homeland and the Arab homeland does not exist. Israel only, and nothing but Israel.

"The whole world now believes, with the Arabs, that the U.S. can, for example, make Israel carry out the resolution of the Security Council (of last November). The world, and Arabs know that the U.S. does not do it because the President, the Vice President, and all the Presidential candidates do not want to pressure Israel, due to election considerations... There was, in fact, vocal competition between candidates of both parties in the U.S. in expressing support for Israel and in calling that it be supplied with American arms, heedless of existence of the Arab side. This was an indication that the U.S. will continue (on Palestine) what it had been doing for the past 20 years... U.S. leaders are once again called upon to cast a fair and just look at the Palestine question, so that they may see something else other than Israel."

U.S. Cannot Escape Repercussions of Its Policy. AL BAYRAQ, a daily published by Mr Milhem Karam, President of the Lebanese Reporters Association, said: "If the pot boils in Vietnam, the Middle East or any other part of the world, it must also boil in the U.S... Senator Kennedy appears to have been destined to pay the price for the eagerness by American politicians to seek votes of American Jews ---even though Kennedy was the candidate who understood the Palestine question the most..."

"The U.S. has begun to suffer, internally, the reflections of her foreign policy. The U.S. can no longer play with the destiny of the Palestinian homeland in favour of the Jews... without this causing repercussions, wrong as they may be, at the hands of one of the people of this Palestinian homeland. The world has become very small, and the distance between Jerusalem and Los Angeles is very short. The incident at Los Angeles calls for sorrow, because Kennedy is perhaps the least American politician responsible for the Palestine problem, and because the Arab people cannot accept the reasons given for his assassination. But the world has developed to the extent that the U.S., or any other world power, can no longer set fire in any part of the world without also getting her fingers burned."

Jordan Premier, Cairo Press

London REUTERS in English 0247 OMT 7 Jun 68 X

[Text] Cairo--Jordanian Premier Bahjat Talhuni was quoted here today as denying that Senator Robert Kennedy's suspected assassin was of Jordanian origin. The Amman correspondent of the Cairo daily AL-JUMHURIYAH said that the Premier had denied that the suspect, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, was a native of Jordan born in Jerusalem, as claimed by the California police. The paper declared that world Zionism and its allies are attempting to exploit the assassination to slander the Arabs.

Another paper, AL-AKHBAR, said that certain circles in the United States, including the CIA and world Zionism, had an interest in eliminating Kennedy.

The authoritative daily AL-AHRAM described the assassination as a painful incident and said the senator would have made an ideal president had he adopted as fair an attitude toward the Palestine issue as he did toward Vietnam. However, Kennedy followed the general trend of trying to gain American Jewish votes, AL-AHRAM asserted.

ARAB CONDEMNATION OF ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR KENNEDY INCREASING: JORDANIAN
PAPER COUNSELS U.S. NOT TO FALL IN TRAP

[ARAB WORLD. June 7, 1968]

Arab condemnation of the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy increased today after he died yesterday suffering of the head wounds inflicted on him by the assassin, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

In the Arab press today, there appeared to be unanimity that Kennedy's assassination was definitely not in interest of the Arabs. Beirut's AL KIFAH, independent, said in its editorial today that the assassination is a "disaster" for the Arabs. In Amman this morning, semi-official AL DASTOUR, quoted by AMMAN RADIO, counselled the American people not to fall in the "trap" laid by those who seek to "widen the estrangement between the Arabs and the U.S." It expressed its belief that "criminal Zionism" is the only winner from Kennedy's assassination.

Cairo newspapers, as well as several papers here, today highlighted agency reports from Washington quoting official quarters that the fact that Sirhan is from Arab Palestinian origin will not affect American-Arab relations. AL AHRAM, said to reflect views of President Nasser, said that two points must be made in considering the assassination of the US Senator: 1. Sirhan "is the product of the current wave of violence sweeping the U.S."; the paper noted that Sirhan has been living in America for the past 11 years. "This means that he was only 13 when he arrived in the U.S." The following 11 years, it said, were crucial in moulding his mentality and way of thinking. 2. U.S. "prejudice against the Arabs is turning into a pressure weighing on people's nerves, especially those who had emigrated from the Arab area to the United States." AL AHRAM, however, said that just the sa-

me Kennedy's assassination was an "appalling tragedy". The paper noted that Kennedy had not only become a figure of extensive world stature, but that, like his late brother, John F. Kennedy, he was becoming an attraction for the new American generation.

Israel's Exploitation. Newspapers here, and in Cairo, this morning, also noted that Israel was trying to exploit the assassination for propaganda against the Arabs in the U.S. They said that reaction from Tel Aviv showed that the Israelis were trying to hold Arab commandos responsible for the assassination.

Al Fatah, the major Palestinian commando organization, in a commentary from its radio station, yesterday condemned political assassination. Assassination, the broadcast said, was not acceptable "to the human conscience."

Statements By Arab Leaders. King Hussein of Jordan yesterday deplored the assassination in cables he sent to President Johnson and to Mrs. Kennedy, RADIO AMMAN reported. In his cable to Mrs. Kennedy, the King said he was deeply pained by the assassination. In the cable to Johnson, he said that the assassination was "particularly painful to me (in Jordan)." He also prayed to God that "we will be able to overcome violence and crime."

Lebanese Premier Abdullah Yafi condemned the assassination, and said that fate has been particularly hard on the Kennedy family. He said that "our religions reject assassination." Another Lebanese official, Information Minister Jean Aziz, in a radio and television statement expressed Lebanon's regret over the assassination and sympathy to the Kennedy family. He said that the many Lebanese emigrants in the U.S. have always been loyal to America.

Leftists Deplore Assassination, See Plot. Arab leftists and nationalists have condemned the assassination, and some of them saw a plot against the Arabs.

In AL ANWAR, pro-UAR, columnist Ghassan Kanafani said that the bullets fired at Mr Kennedy "by a man who had come from the occupied West Bank (of Jordan)", have "nothing to do with a people (Palestinians) who have rejected assassination and condemned it." He said that Arabs are "sincere" in their condemnation of the assassination, and, referring to the reflection of the murder on the Middle East question, Kanafani said: "Our conflict with Israel goes beyond getting rid of individuals. This is a fact which the Arabs comprehend now more than at any other time before, and in its light they evaluate the impact of the action (Kennedy's assassination) on their cause. It is an action that falls short of stopping the foolish American support to Israel. It is an action that does not serve their current information campaign aimed at winning world public opinion over to the Arab side."

[REUTER from London reported last night that a Jordan refugee rally, planned for Trafalgar Square on Sunday, was cancelled by organizers last night because of Senator Kennedy's death].

CIA Plot! In AL MOHARRER, leftist columnist Amin Awar expressed the belief that the assassination was a conspiracy concocted by the Central Intelligence Agency, and Jewish financial houses in the U.S. The writer said that CIA wanted to stop Senator Kennedy from reaching the White House because then he would expose CIA's alleged part in the assassination of his brother in 1963. As to the Jewish financial houses, he said that these were strong rivals of the Kennedy business enterprises.

The writer, at the same time, noted that to the Arabs, Kennedy was regarded as more understanding of the Arab cause than other U.S. leaders. Awar said that the picture of the late Senator

Kennedy put up at Ein Mir'ayseh across the U.S. Embassy here was "in defiance" of President Johnson's photos hung inside the Embassy.

Another pro-UAR paper, BEIRUT AL MASSA, wrote: "If it is true that Sirhan Sirhan shot Senator Kennedy because the latter had made pro-Israel statements, then we say that we (Arabs) cannot win America over to our side through assassinations." The paper also noted that Zionism can now exploit the assassination against the Arabs.

Cranks. AL AMAL, organ of the Phalangist Party, said that "the heart of humanity bleeds today" over the assassination of Mr Kennedy. The paper referred to murderers of the Senator, his brother the late President Kennedy, of Martin Luther King and other prominent world figures as "these insignificant unsuccessful persons" seeking to deprive humanity of its leaders. The same can be said of the man who a week ago tried to assassinate Lebanon's former President Camille Chamoun, the paper said.

In AL SAFA, conservative right-wing, columnist Hilmi Maalouf observed that the Kennedy assassination reflected "the tragedy of the U.S. society, which has symbolized hopes of the new world when it established a magnificent democratic system upholding freedoms and human dignity." But, the writer noted, "the U.S. society, or any other developed society, cannot enjoy prosperity, security, freedom and justice before the other societies in the world do too..." The U.S. has an historic role in developing world societies, "and the tragedy of the assassination of Robert Kennedy is part of the price the U.S. society has to pay in playing this role," he said.

U.S. And Palestine. In AL NAHAR, independent right-wing, columnist Michel Abu Jaudeh expressed the belief that "the U.S. today has an historic chance --indeed an historic duty-- to reopen the file of the Palestine tragedy." He added: "American political leaders should be warned that the case of the Arab-Israeli conflict is the Palestinian homeland and the Palestinian people. This people (Palestinians) exists, but its homeland does not. Part of these people live in other homelands, including the American homeland, which is sending its sons out to die for Vietnam. If the American loves his homeland to the extent of dying for it, so does the Palestinian..."

"The U.S. should make a deep study of why the Arabs accept the UN (Security Council) resolution (of last November), but refuse to negotiate with Israel or conclude peace with her... This is because the Palestinian people rejects negotiations and peace with Israel... The Palestinian people, including those living in America, regards the U.S. as important as the Arab states in the role they play in determining the fate of the (Palestinian) homeland. Therefore, Palestinians place U.S. politicians at the same level of importance as Arab leaders (in as far as the Palestine question is concerned)... From here stems the need to call again on the U.S. and its political leaders to recognize the existence of the Palestinian people, and to seize on this historic occasion to reopen the Palestine file."

In its editorial, SAWT AL URUBA, organ of the Najjada Party, blamed the U.S. "wrong policy" not only for Kennedy's assassination but also for that of Martin Luther King. "The wave of violence which has been sweeping America since the assassination of John Kennedy...is a natural result of the error in U.S. policy, which trespasses over people's rights and international principles. The course now taken by the U.S. would push the awakened elements among its people to demand policy changes, as was reflected in the violent demonstrations that have taken place in many American cities..."

Syrian Cartoon. A cartoon in Syrian official daily AL THAWRA held President Johnson responsible for the Kennedy assassination. It showed Kennedy falling in a hole in the ground after Johnson pressed a button on his desk which opened the hole under Kennedy. Johnson was seen also pointing at the rest of the U.S. Presidential candidates, as if saying: "Who's next."

This was the only Syrian comment so far on the assassination of Senator Kennedy. In Baghdad, the press, in its coverage of the murder, said that the assassination took place under "mysterious circumstances." And in as far as could be told of the Iraqi press review given by RADIO BAGHDAD this morning, there was no editorial comment yet on the assassination.

Others Involved? Newspapers throughout the Arab world today also highlighted: 1) announcement that a nation-wide hunt was now going on in the U.S. for a white woman who was said to have been with Sirhan before he did the shooting, and who shouted after the shooting took place: "We shot him, we shot him;" 2) statements by Los Angeles Mayor Samuel W. Yorty blaming communists for inflaming Sirhan and pushing him to carry out the crime. He said that Sirhan had been in contact with Communist or communist-dominated organizations; and 3) statements by Jim Garrison, Attorney General of New Orleans, that Robert Kennedy was killed by the same people who had assassinated his President brother in 1963.

Mideast Mirror

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June 8, 1968

ARABS CONDEMN ASSASSINATION
OF SENATOR KENNEDY

Many Messages of Sympathy Sent to U.S.

[MIDEAST MIRROR. June 8, 1968]

TEL AVIV — The assassination of United States Senator Robert Kennedy was given wide coverage and universally condemned in the Arab press.

The man accused of the senator's shooting is a 24-year-old Jordanian — descent immigrant, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, said to have been born in the former Jordanian sector of Jerusalem, now controlled by Israel.

King Hussein of Jordan sent a cable of condolence to President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Jordanian monarch offered heartfelt sympathy for the "irreparable loss" on his personal behalf and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government.

King Hussein sent a similar cable to Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, Senator Kennedy's widow.

Egypt's official government spokesman said the killing must be condemned — whatever the nationality of the assassin may be.

"We don't accept violence under any circumstances", said Mr. Hassan El-Zayyat, adding, "of course we are distressed. All our sympathies are with Mrs. Kennedy and the people of the United States."

In Khartoum, a government spokesman said Sudan condemned the killing and hoped that whatever the assassin's nationality the "investigation shall find the real hands behind the crime."

Dr. Abdullah Al-Yafi, Lebanon's Prime Minister, expressed sorrow for the death of Senator Kennedy. "We feel pain because fate has been so cruel to the Kennedy family." He expressed his condolences to the Kennedy family for its "great loss." Deploing the assassination, Dr. Yafi said, "We are against all acts of violence."

Moroccan Monarch Cable

King Hassan Two of Morocco cabled President Johnson saying he was "profoundly afflicted by the news of the death of Senator Robert Kennedy, victim of an odious outrage."

Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba sent condolences to President Johnson and said the assassination had "profoundly moved all Tunisians."

The father of the alleged gunman had returned from the United States and was traced to a small village, Taiyiba, near Jerusalem. Bishara Salame Sirhan, 52, told reporters, "I am shocked by the action of my son."

He said he could not believe that his son — who was so intelligent — had sunk so low. Bishara Sirhan said he was grieved about the shooting of Senator Kennedy and was an admirer of the late President John Kennedy.

Wearing a white Arab kefiyia headdress and a black suit, he told reporters he emigrated to the United States with his family in 1957 because of his poor economic circumstances. But he could not settle down there and returned to his home in Taiyiba.

Bishara Sirhan was pale and tense when he received reporters at his white-stone two-storey home. Speaking halting English, he said, "Sirhan was such a good pupil. His teacher had only praise for him."

Bishara has built himself the house where he lives with his aged mother. His wife, Mary, stayed in the United States.

KENNEDY ASSASSINATION STILL MAJOR STORY IN ARAB
PRESS AS FEAR EXPRESSED OF ZIONIST PROPAGANDA

Kennedy

[ARAB WORLD. June 10, 1968]

Weekend newspapers continued to give prominence to the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy last week and the significance of charges that an Arab emigrant from Jerusalem had killed him. While press editorials emphatically denounced the assassination as an intolerable act of violence, fears were expressed that Israeli and Zionist propaganda might capitalize on the incident and exploit it for their own interests. The editorials condemned violence and political assassinations but emphasized the need for United States policy-makers to reconsider American policy toward the Palestine question. Arab newspapers and radios over the weekend also highlighted a report from New York saying that U.S. chief delegate at the United Nations had assured Arab delegates that there was no evidence to prove involvement of any foreign country in the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy. However, few Beirut newspapers went to the far end of criticizing the United States' policy in the Middle East and blamed the American society itself for the cold-blooded assassination of Senator Kennedy.

A Foreign Issue. Columnist Michel Abu Jawdeh, of the daily right-wing AL NAHAR, said in his column over the weekend that the only minority group in the United States that brings us a "non-American" issue in the presidential election battle is the Jewish-Zionist community which always stresses the cause of Israel. He wondered how American presidential candidates would permit themselves to bring up the case of Israel, "a non-American" issue, in their election campaigns side by side with purely American issues like the race issue and the Vietnam war. The columnist said it would have been reasonable and acceptable if the Jewish-Zionist community was putting forth its grievances inside the U.S. such as whatever complaints they might have in the field of education, social treatment or religion. It would also have been acceptable if the presidential candidates raced to the support of Israel after it is accepted in the (Middle East) region as an independent state. The columnist went on to explain that as the presidential candidates emphasize an end to the war in Vietnam and an end to racial violence on the grounds that these are two purely major American issues in which American voters are interested, competition for the support of Israel; "a non-American" issue, is only intended to seek the votes of the Jewish-Zionist minority in the United States. These Zionists, according to Abu Jawdeh, are not concerned about America as much as they are about Israel. He said that a candidate to the American Presidency ought to be unbiased for he expects to be the head of the American State which is not only responsible for the security and peace in the world but also for right and justice through its role at the United Nations.

"Useless Legislation". Beirut's pro-UAR daily SAWT AL URUBA, organ of the Moslem Najjada Party, said over the weekend that legislation promised by President Johnson to combat the wave of violence sweeping the United States "will not be useful in putting an end to the complaints of the American society." It said: "Legislation does not make new men and barbed wire does not

prevent looting. It is the live conscience, high ethics and adherence to moral values which would prevent violations." Referring to American role in world affairs, the paper said that the United States is following "a policy which is hostile to the peoples and human principles in general." It accused the U.S. of "tolerating" racial discrimination and indulging in wars thousands of miles away from its own borders. It added that the U.S. "has decided to forget the existence of 100 million Arabs under pressure from the Zionists... Even Robert Kennedy (the late Senator) had once said that America must support Israel as if the Arabs did not exist."

Communist Comment. The daily communist organ, AL NIDA, has blamed the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy on the "evils" of American society itself. It said: "The assassination of Robert Kennedy is not something unique and unexpected. It is a ring in a chain of criminal acts taking place in the shadow of imperialism and its dark rule." The paper went on to say that present American society is "based on fear, anxiety and restlessness. It is a society full of evils, and it is natural that this society should breed thieves and killers who take violence as their profession."

Egyptian Comment. The authoritative Cairo daily newspaper AL AHRAM over the weekend described the assassination of Senator Kennedy as "a painful incident." It said the Senator would have been an ideal presidential candidate had he adopted as fair an attitude toward the Palestine issue as he did toward Vietnam.

The semi-official daily AL GUMHOURIA said world Zionism and its allies were attempting to exploit the assassination to slander the Arabs. Referring to the alleged killer's Arab descent, it said Arabs did not agree with the principle of political assassination regardless of differences with others. Another daily newspaper in Cairo, mass-circulation AL AKHBAR, said that some American quarters including "war merchants --the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and world Zionism had had an interest in eliminating Kennedy."

The weekly AKHBAR AL YOM said that Israel and "its masters" in the United States are now concentrating attention on the fact that the alleged killer of Senator Kennedy is an Arab. The aim of this attempt, said the paper, is to link "this individual and personally-motivated act" to certain Arab countries and organizations such as Al Fatah, the Palestine underground organization that has been claiming credit for the majority of commando operations against Israel.

However, said the paper, these Israeli and Zionist attempts are being encountered by clear-cut official statements from the United States authorities and investigators in charge of the assassination case emphasizing that the slaying of Senator Kennedy was an "individual act of violence that has no connection with any Arab country or organization."

Define Arab Views. Iraqi newspapers over the weekend urged the various Arab governments "to explain their views in connection with the assassination of Robert Kennedy so that Zionist propaganda would not exploit the incident." The semi-official daily AL JUMHOURIA, which often reflects the views of Iraqi President Abdel Rahman Aref, said that there was no doubt that Senator Kennedy was assassinated by an irresponsible youth. In the first commentary to appear in Iraq

newspapers, it said: "Arab states which have condemned the killing as a matter of principle must explain this Arab view before Zionism exploits the incident to its advantage."

The paper said the assassination of Senator Kennedy was no less important than the assassination of his brother, the late President John Kennedy "and its repercussions on Middle East affairs may go deeper."

Another Iraq paper, AL SHAAB, said that if Sirhan Bishara Sirhan (the man accused of killing Senator Kennedy) killed the Senator because of his feelings as an Arab, "he must have acted according to his own logic." It added: "Sirhan was a child when he saw members of his family tortured and killed at the hands of America's allies (the Israelis) and he wanted revenge." It said: "Instead of allowing time to cool his grudge, America stirred his wound every day and developed his determination for vengeance. Day after day, America showed him that its hands were stained with our, Sirhan's and his family's blood.... We regret what Sirhan has done. We regret it for him as an Arab and we regret the method he used because it gives the wrong impression about us. We also regret that Kennedy died in this manner at the hands of an Arab."

AL FATAH'S STATEMENT. In the wake of reports emanating from Israel that the assassin of Senator Kennedy might be a member of one of the Palestinian commando organizations operating against Israel, a statement denying this allegation was issued by the most prominent of these organizations, Al Fatah, over the weekend. The statement was issued by Al Fatah's office in Algiers and reported by the Agence France Presse. It said: "All allegations made about the nationality of the assassin are only cheap Machiavellian maneuvers. No matter what the assassin may be, he could only be a tool in the hands of international Zionism, capitalism and American intelligence." The statement emphasized that Al Fatah can never believe in political assassination. "It is not of the ethics and traditions of the Arabs to attack civilian enemies. The commandos of Al Fatah attack only Israeli forces and military installations." The statement concluded by saying that it is not possible for only one person to undertake such a serious mission.

ARABS ASSURED. Most of Beirut newspapers yesterday gave prominence to an agency dispatch from New York saying that U.S. chief delegate to the United Nations, Arthur Goldberg, had assured Arab U.N. ambassadors that the United States did not hold Senator Robert Kennedy's assassination against their governments, even though the suspected assassin is an Arab.

The dispatch said that Goldberg had met with Arab representatives Thursday and read to them a statement from the State Department on the assassination. "The Department of State," it said, "has absolutely no evidence that any foreign government is involved, or has been involved, in this tragic incident." The report said that some Arab diplomats in Washington had shown concern lest the assassin's identification with the case would turn Americans against Arabs generally.

REUTER reported Saturday that Arab embassies in Washington had been placed under special police guard since the assassination of Senator Kennedy.

[ARAB WORLD * June 11*, 1968]

SIRHAN'S MOTIVES. Columnist Ghassan Kanafani of Beirut's pro-UAR AL ANWAR today warned Arab information media against prejudging or creating suspicion about the motives of Sirhan Sirhan, Senator Kennedy's alleged assassin. "No matter what we think of the crime which took the life of Robert Kennedy, it is not wise to give initial objection or create suspicion about the motives of Sirhan Sirhan, to the extent of saying that these motives were 'dirty,'" he said, adding: "Sirhan's bullets have a logical, and even strong, explanation...If American law has given Sirhan the chance to defend himself without advance pre-judgement, Arab conscience should do the same.

"We can say that, barring any surprises, Sirhan can turn his trial into a trial of official America, and carry to the court-room a verdict of guilt for America, through the verdict to be pronounced on him.

"Regardless of everything, Sirhan's blood-stained bullets has carried Palestine into every American home. The act may be illegal, the price high and the assassination unethical. But American deafness is also illegal, unethical and with a high price indeed..."

Don't Blame Arabs. A number of newspapers here today highlighted reports from New York reproducing the letter published in the NEW YORK TIMES yesterday by Hugh D. Auchincloss Jr., President of the Holy Land Centre, Inc., of New York, and step-brother of Mrs. John F. Kennedy, in which he warned that only "greater tragedy" could result from blaming the Arab world for the assassination of Senator Kennedy.

[ARAB WORLD. June 14, 1968]

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SYMPATHY FOR SIRHAN. Two Beirut publications, both pro-UAR, today expressed sympathy for Sirhan Sirhan, alleged assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy. AL SHAAB, in a front-page editorial, urged Arab lawyers to rush to Sirhan's defense, and Arab financiers to provide the money for enlisting services of attorneys to defend the 22-year old Palestinian who allegedly shot and killed Senator Kennedy on June 5th.

Weekly AL HAWADITH recalled the pro-Israel and anti-Arab statements made by Senator Kennedy during his election campaign, and expressed the belief that these statements provoked Sirhan into killing the Senator. The weekly said that at one time, Kennedy was so abusive to the Arabs that he told an audience: "Forgive me for being late; I just had some Arabic coffee, and I had to rinse my mouth off the taste." In Kennedy, Sirhan, the weekly said, saw the "Zionist flag" about to enter the White House, and decided to bring this flag down on June 5th, anniversary of the Arab-Israeli war. AL HAWADITH voiced indirect criticism of the Arabs who attacked Sirhan, and said:

"Those who are unable to understand Sirhan's case, which is their own case, are undoubtedly unable to make the world understand their (Palestinian) cause." It said that certain Arab commentators saw only the tragedy of the Kennedy family in the assassination, and failed to see the cause which prompted Sirhan to assassinate the Senator. The weekly called Sirhan: "The refugee who has imposed the case of his country by the force of bullets."

[ARAB WORLD. June 18, 1968]

SIRHAN SIRHAN. The Jordanian Bar Association yesterday appointed four lawyers to go to Los Angeles to defend Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, alleged assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy, it was reported from Amman last night. AL NAHAR quoted Bishara Sirhan, father of Sirhan who is now in Amman, as appealing to world conscience and Pope Paul to see to it that his son will get a fair trial. He said that he was convinced his son committed the assassination on his own.

THE CASE FOR SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN AND
REFLECTIONS ON THE PALESTINE QUESTION

Sirhan

[ARAB WORLD. June 19, 1968]

When Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the 22-year old Palestinian emigrant, shot and killed Senator Robert Kennedy last June 5th, he presented the Arabs with one of the most difficult moral ordeals they had to face in many years. Arab condemnation of the crime was unanimous, but the difficulty arose in whether or not they should also condemn the motive. Sirhan is known to have said after the assassination that he did it "for my country." Presumably, he was alluding to Palestine, from where he emigrated to the U.S. in 1957.

As effects of the immediate shock are wearing off, Arab heart-searching has begun. It appears to be arising from several factors: Sirhan is Arab and Palestinian, the assassination is connected, whether the Arabs like it or not, with the Arab world's most vital and sensitive problem, and, as more is known about Sirhan, it turned out that he is not a crank, and that even though he had left Palestine when he was only 13 years old, he was always emotionally and mentally deeply influenced by the Palestine question.

The Defense. Out of all this arose the feeling that Arabs were duty bound to see to it that Sirhan got adequate defense and a fair trial. The feeling was accelerated by the fact that Sirhan's father, Bishara Sirhan, led a one-man campaign to ensure defense for his son. The old man, who had been living at his village of Attaybeh near Jerusalem in the occupied West Bank, is now in Amman on a seven-day permit extended by the Israeli authorities. He said he wanted to draw whatever little money he had in banks in Amman in efforts to pay for expenses of attorneys for his son. He told reporters that he did not decide yet whether he will go to the U.S. or not.

Old man Sirhan, shocked by magnitude of the Kennedy assassination, at the beginning said that his son should be executed, but later, as he thought things over, he came to the conclusion that his son had done it out of nationalistic feeling and that, above all, his son was entitled to a fair trial.

It was announced in Amman Monday that the Jordanian Bar Association has selected four lawyers who will go to Los Angeles to take part in Sirhan's defense. Reports said that lawyers from other parts of the Arab world will do the same.

Planning The Defense. But appointing attorneys to defend Sirhan was only the simple aspect of defense. The difficult part is in planning the defense, and in deciding what approach to take. This is because of the political aspects of the case, and because it puts on trial not only Sirhan the man, but also the Arabs, the Palestine question, and even U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Certain Beirut editorialists had suggested that through Sirhan, the Arabs should put the U.S. and its "unjust policy" on the Palestine question on trial.

In fact, arguing the Sirhan defense has been one of the most debated subjects in Arab quarters in general, and in Palestinian quarters in particular. Some Palestinians apparently feel that the Arabs have been provided with the best chance they ever had to defend their case before the U.S. public opinion. Others feel that on the contrary, the Palestine question should be kept out of it, because discussing the issue in the light of assassination would harm rather than help the Palestine cause in the U.S. Apparently certain Arab emigrants in the U.S., some of them attorneys, agree with the second view, and say that if the Arab cause is emphasized too much at Sirhan's trial, the word "Arab" would become synonymous with the word "assassin" in eyes of the American public. Advocates of the first view say the American public had to be jarred into realizing the injustice done to the Arabs in Palestine.

Another view still was that the case can be presented from a humanitarian point of view, by showing that Sirhan reflected the sense of injustice felt by thousands of Palestinian Arabs who have been displaced so that Jewish emigrants from various parts of the world may take their place, property and homes.

There has yet been no report as to the approach Arab, or American, attorneys will take in presenting Sirhan's case --since thus far, Sirhan has refused to accept any attorneys, and as according to some speculations, he intends to present his own case to the court. Involved in the issue of defense is this: should the goal be to get Sirhan personally off the hook, and bring him a prison rather than a death sentence, or to make his trial a political one. There is not any information available yet as to the way the prosecution will present its case. Some feel that the Federal Government, through the U.S. State Department, will try to prevail over the prosecution to get as less politics into the case as possible.

Sirhan's Personality. Reports in the Arab press now indicate that Sirhan, far from being a crank, was well-educated, well-behaved, and very intelligent. He also was engaged in the Palestine case throughout the 11 years he spent in the U.S.

A report in Beirut's AL ANWAR, pro-UAR, yesterday quoted the headmaster of the Lutheran school in Jerusalem, where Sirhan spent his seven years of primary education, as saying that Sirhan was a model and "A student." His marks in the scholastic year of 1955 showed that he was excellent in all subjects, with the exception of arithmetic, in which he was "fair", and in painting. The headmaster said that Sirhan was a pious boy, and that he always attended Sunday school.

But the most revealing report about Sirhan's personality appeared in the afternoon Beirut daily AL YOM last week, and was reproduced by LISAN AL HAL, another afternoon daily. The report covered an interview with a Lebanese engineer who was in the same university as Sirhan, and who knew him well. Name of the engineer in question was not disclosed by the paper, however.

The engineer said that Sirhan was always disappointed in the American public because Americans did not care to acquaint themselves with the facts about the Palestine question. He said that when Sirhan talked about the Palestine question, he always talked with excitement, and that his colleagues used to advise him against this way of discussion with the Americans.

The engineers said that Sirhan was sincere, and that he had for several years been struggling for the Palestine question. "He had succeeded in winning many Americans over to the Palestine case", the engineer said, adding that Sirhan always provided all the facts pertaining to the Palestine question, and that he was convinced that the question can be solved only by violence. He always advocated that Arabs and Palestinians "should use force", and that he stood against those who advocated peaceful solutions. In reply to a question, the engineer said that he never heard Sirhan talk about his intention to kill U.S. leaders. Asked why he chose Kennedy, he said if given the choice, Sirhan would have assassinated any U.S. Presidential candidate, because they all stood against the Arab case in Palestine. The engineer added: "I believe that Sirhan felt that assassination of a presidential candidate would focus the spotlight on him, and that he would use the court of his trial to explain the Palestine question...I believe that he intends to plead his own case. He may be his best lawyer, because he is fluent, clear in his thinking and knows the American law..."

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[ARAB WORLD* June 20, 1968]
SIRHAN'S ARAB LAWYERS DROP OUT. A team of six Arab Lawyers --four Palestinians, one Jordanian and one Libyan-- who had planned to assist at the defense of Sirhan Sirhan, alleged assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy, have decided to drop out and shelve the project, it was reported. It was also noted that the decision followed a meeting in Amman yesterday between the lawyers and Jordanian Premier Bahjat Talhouni. AFP from Amman said that the decision not to participate in Sirhan's trial was taken for fear this may strain the relations between the U.S. and Jordan.

Fatah PLO Statements:

REACTION TO KENNEDY ASSASSINATION REPORTED

PLO Communique

Paris AFP in French 1734 GMT 6 Jun 68 C

[Text] Beirut--The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) declares in a communique that it energetically condemns the political assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy. The communique adds: The PLO is convinced that political assassination in no way serves the Palestinian cause, but if it is a fact that Robert Kennedy's aggressor is a Palestinian, the motive for his action must be taken into account: the permanent support given by the United States to Israel.

Fatah Statement From Algiers

Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Statement on the Robert Kennedy assassination by the Algiers office of the Palestinian liberation movement, Fatah, issued on 6 June]

[Excerpts] Following the cheap, treacherous attack that led to the death of Senator Robert Kennedy, news agencies reported that the culprit might be of Arab origin and from a place in the vicinity of Jerusalem. In view of the seriousness of the situation resulting from Zionist opportunist methods of spreading and distorting news, and confronted by certain insinuations that the crime is connected with Senator Kennedy's statements in the course of his election campaign favoring Israel, the Algiers office of the Palestinian liberation movement, Fatah, states the following:

The attack that led to the death of Senator Kennedy, especially after his election statements about the Palestinian problem, have, in our view, grave implications. We must bear in mind world Zionism and its propaganda methods of falsifying the truth about the Palestine cause and the Palestine revolution, and particularly in view of the almost worldwide support that our revolution in our occupied homeland, Palestine, has begun to enjoy. Add to this the fact that Senator Kennedy was one of a number of candidates for the presidential election, all of whom are competing to win Zionist votes in their election campaigns. Here we wish to stress before the world public the fact that the attempt to emphasize the identity of the culprit and connect him to Palestine is nothing but a Zionist devilish game carried out for certain aims.

We declare before the world public that the Palestinian liberation movement, Fatah, while conducting today the noblest, most honorable, and fiercest battle against the Zionist enemy in Palestine, categorically condemns any person who would use this weapon in a foreign country against a foreign citizen because of political differences. Let it also be known that in spite of the great persecution of our Palestinian people at the hands of the Zionists in occupied Palestine, our movement has issued more than one statement confirming its principles of refraining from attacking even enemy civilians as a retaliatory measure. Our battle is merely for liberation; our bullets are directed against the enemy as represented in the Zionist military gang ruling in our occupied territory, and against its military and economic bases.

A few years ago the late President John Kennedy was assassinated, and today his brother is killed. Is it logical that one individual could alone carry out this dangerous role? The question is more dangerous than this. We believe that the internal situation in the United States, in addition to the defeats suffered by U.S. foreign policy in countries in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa, and its repercussions on American society itself--all this has had a hand in the matter. If it is established after investigation that the killer is an Arab national, in this case he must have been a tool employed by world Zionism and those with similar political interests, as well as the CIA with all its might and wealth and power which are used for low and cheap political purposes.

CAIRO RADIO, PRESS COMMENT ON KENNEDY DEATH

Fatah Radio

Cairo Voice of Fatah in Arabic to the Arab World 1730 GMT 6 Jun 68 M

[Excerpts] World agencies today reported the death of U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy, candidate in the U.S. presidential elections. In describing the incident which led to Kennedy's death, the news agencies said that eight shots were fired at him from a 22-caliber revolver by a certain Sirhan Bishara Sirhan described as a 24-year-old Arab born in At-Tayyibah in Ramallah district.

The world's free and revolutionary people reject the principle of political assassination. The human conscience does not accept it. We herewith stress that we reject the method of political assassination. We do not believe in it, because it contradicts the principles of our national revolution against the Zionist presence, of our struggle to liquidate all its military, political, social, and economic establishments, and of our struggle for right, justice, and peace.

FATAH SPOKESMAN VIEWS ASSASSINATION, ZIONISM

Cairo Voice of Fatah in Arabic to the Arab World 1730 GMT 17 Jun 68 M

[Palestinian National Liberation Movement official spokesman's interview with Yugoslav journalist (Eleanora Stradilova) published by Beirut magazine AL-LIWA]

[Excerpts] Question: At this time, reports on the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy fill the world. The person accused of the assassination is a Palestinian, and the matter has aroused great interest in the cause of the Palestinian people and in the Palestinian National Liberation Movement. May I ask for your opinion on this?

Answer: We in Fatah, as a national liberation movement, declare that we oppose individual political assassination as a principle or means of settling world liberation problems. The behavior of imperialism prompts assassinations. It also encourages some people to commit political murder.

However, Fatah, as a liberation movement, does not approve of such a course of action. The incident itself had its origin in the painful reality manifested in the expulsion of the Palestinian people and their replacement by foreigners. This situation, which has continued for more than 20 years, has had profound effects on the youth of this displaced people.

In my opinion this youth acted under psychological pressure caused by the distress of vagrancy resulting from the continued Zionist aggression against his homeland. It appears that this youth suddenly discovered that this method--settling political problems by killing--was the one to be followed. It is a solution, as you are undoubtedly aware, which is welcomed and encouraged by many prominent American leaders.

Question: Fatah has sent many delegations to such West European capitals as London, Paris, and Rome. Fatah had not taken this step before, as far as I know. Is it possible for me to learn the objectives of this activity?

Answer: We consider our question a world national liberation question. Therefore, we cannot live isolated from honorable peoples or nations which support our question and other liberation questions.

Question: The first anniversary of the June defeat, represented in the Zionist aggression against the Arab countries, passed recently. The Arab territories are still under occupation and the refugees still far from their homeland, Palestine. How does your movement assess these conditions, and what is Fatah's role in this respect?

Answer: The same thing happened after 5 June 1967 that occurred after 1948: Zionism, supported by imperialist forces, directed all its attention to expelling our people from their land and setting up an aggressive Zionist presence in the Arab East. The Zionist entity today resembles the British East India Company in India in the 18th century. It protects and serves imperialist interests in the area. The Zionist expansion attained by the 5 June aggression, undoubtedly, was basically due to American and imperialist support.

As a national liberation movement, and by virtue of the fact that we represent the vanguard of the Palestinian people and are supported in our revolution by all our struggling and loyal brothers, it is important for us that it be clear that there is no solution for our nation's and countries' problems other than increased armed struggle in the occupied territory against the forces of occupation.

Algeria:

EL MOUDJAHID NOTES R. KENNEDY'S ISRAELI STAND

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 28 May 68 X

[Editorial: "Robert Kennedy and Zionism"]

[Text] The electoral campaign in the United States is in full swing. The various candidates for the presidency are doing everything to win the votes of the American electors. Some are basing their propaganda on Vietnam, others on the Negro problem. Robert Kennedy for his part has made a profession of faith in Zionism before the Jewish community of Portland, Oregon. Voicing the worn-out cliché of the defunct myth of "Israel--small peaceful nation" the candidate for the presidential election in November stated: "We have committed ourselves to the survival of Israel, we must maintain the security of Israel against all foreign aggression, by arms if necessary."

There is no need for us to stress the ridiculous character of the statements of the American senator regarding "the foreign aggression which might threaten Israel." History has proven, especially the events since 5 June last year, on which side aggression and contempt for the United Nations is located. The occupation of vast portions of land, the annexation of Jerusalem, and the bloody repression inflicted on the civilian inhabitants are not, as we know, the doing of the Arabs. Mister Kennedy would have to be poorly informed or blind to ignore these realities known to everyone. In truth, he is neither one nor the other. The senator is only expressing the opinion of the "American system" and thereby confirming what we have always denounced here, namely, that Israel is only a base for imperialism in the Middle East.

Regarding Zionism and the struggle against the Arab liberation movement, the "Holy Alliance" is rapidly taking place in the United States. "Kennedy-the-liberal" is falling in the footsteps of Johnson and, he too, is making the "security of Israel" his battlehorse. This stand does not in the least astonish, for that matter, the Arabs for whom the eradication of Zionism from the Middle East remains the most sacred duty, with all due deference to Mister Kennedy and his associates.

LA REPUBLIQUE EDITORIAL ON U.S. ASSASSINATIONS

Algiers LA REPUBLIQUE in French 6 Jun 68 X

[Text] Will the attempt against Senator Robert Kennedy be shrouded with the same mystery that surrounds the assassination of his brother, John Kennedy, in 1963 in Dallas, and the assassination of Dr Martin Luther King last April? Today any assumption is possible, with the growing doubts over the circumstances surrounding the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr King.

The intrigue surrounding the deaths of these two public figures becomes even more unbearable after the tragic events of yesterday morning. Will we ever know if two of the three attempts--even all three--are connected? Will we ever know who is responsible and the reason for this or these conspiracies? Or will we see the same procession of unseen powers march on, trampling investigations, eliminating witnesses, dividing public opinion and submerging the truth? The assassin or one of the principals in this attempt has been arrested. But how far will an investigation lead, and what will be the outcome this time?

COMMENTARY ON ARAB QUESTION IN ASSASSINATION

Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Excerpts] Now one can ask: Did the killer of Robert Kennedy commit his crime of his own free will or because of a hidden purpose or to obtain personal fame; or was he motivated by fanaticism and the mere desire to kill? What is the real identity of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, Kennedy's assailant, and what are his thoughts on certain political problems. For example, the Middle East problem? Can it not be that there is another person, one who armed the killer specifically to commit this crime? And, whom would the assassination of Robert Kennedy serve? All these questions still remain unanswered.

It has been declared and alleged that the crime was an act of one individual. Does this mean that the reason that led to the assassination of Robert Kennedy would remain hidden, like those that led to the the assassination of his brother John Kennedy and those that led to the assassination of the Negro leader Martin Luther King? The public knows nothing about the killer, except for his name and origin as recorded by the police investigation. But some of the European radios known for their antagonism toward the Arabs, especially after the Zionist aggression on the Arab nation on 5 June 1967 have begun to stress the Arab nationality of the killer and his Arab fanaticism. These radios, of course, couch their comments with a sense of contempt to such a degree that one imagines, while listening to these radios, that the assassination is really an Arab plot against a political personality who had never hidden his sympathy for the Zionist state that occupies Arab territory.

Are not all these allegations intended to remove the incident from its pure American framework, and to try to link it, deliberately or not, with the Middle East problem at a time when the whole Arab nation is observing the painful anniversary of the treacherous Israeli aggression?

There are other attempts to make the killer appear as a fanatic patriot. But could not Sirhan be a professional killer financed and armed by the Zionists in an attempt to stir up world public opinion against the Arabs and to give rise to hysteria in the United States against the Arabs? These are the arguments put forward today by Arab observers who pointed out that this action would benefit no one but the Zionists.

LETTER HINTS ISRAEL BEHIND KENNEDY MURDER

Paris L'ALGERIEN EN EUROPE in French 15 Jun 68 p 2 X

[Letter by Hans (Jean) Katzer: "Who Killed Robert Kennedy?" in "Letters from the Readers" section]

[Text] This crime arouses horror and indignation in any reasonable man. The whole world shares the sorrow of the Kennedy family, even more since some tragic hand seems to be working against the family now that Robert Kennedy has just suffered the same fate as his brother.

We must control our grief and emotions and examine the situation coldbloodedly, because only by doing so can we arrive at an objective, valid conclusion. An international commission should be entrusted with the investigation in Cis-Jordan and not the Israeli police who, according to LE MONDE of 8 June, "since Thursday evening have subjected the inhabitants to closed interrogations. The investigators used forcible means to extract statements from them that would establish some connection between Fatah and Sirhan." We can trust them. With little to go on, the Israeli authorities will certainly present a detailed report showing that a conspiracy exists.

Unfortunately, violence has not just been born; political assassins have been around long before our time. When a Russian Jew, Schwarzbard, assassinated Petljora, a Ukrainian officer in charge of pogroms in Paris, he was acquitted in the assize court. When Grynspan, a young Polish Jew, assassinated Vom Rath, an advisor at the Germany Embassy in Paris in 1939, public opinion was unanimous: "This is no assassin; his victim was guilty," after the affair drew attention to the disastrous condition of Polish Jews expelled from Germany and refused admittance back into Poland. Grynspan's comment was: "At least a German has been made to pay." After 1918 the Yugoslav Government erected a monument in memory of Princip, assassin of Austria's Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife. Princip was considered a "liberator."

A psychiatrist would certainly find analogies between the behaviors of Sirhan, Grynspan, and Princip. As a matter of fact, if the United States had not given Israel the green light, the 6-day war would not have occurred; if the United States had not supported Israel, the Security Council would have taken effective measures to force Israel's evacuation of the occupied territories.

Here is what must be taken into consideration in examining the American-Israeli thesis that Sirhan is, supposedly, a Palestinian "terrorist": a century-old doctrine says, "The guilty is he who profits from the crime."

A LE MONDE article of 5 June, under the heading "The Israeli Are Worried About American Intentions Toward Them," deals with the furnishing of arms to Jordan. Israeli Information Minister Galili stated that the Israeli people must prepare to cope with pressures that could affect their standard of living. Galili added that he had in mind the pressures that might come from friendly countries who might be led to reconsider the delivery of essential products if their demands were not met.

It is really hard to believe that a Palestinian, acting alone or under the orders of some political organization, would have chosen for his crime the exact moment when the United States was furnishing arms to an Arab country and when it was beginning to revise its unconditionally pro-Israeli attitude.

In contrast, for Israel this crime is "a gift of God" if it sparks an anti-Arab trend throughout the world. The pro-Israeli press already cries "It was Fatah," but what if it were the Irgouan??? It is well known that the question of a man's life raises no scruples in these men. Lord Moyne, Count Bernadotte, the bombing of the King David Hotel, Dayv Yassin, etc.... (excuse me for mentioning these things once more, but they can never be repeated often enough).

According to LE MONDE, France has increased its aid to the Palestinian refugees from 1 to 5 million francs. This represents for 50 million Frenchmen exactly 10 centimes each. On the other hand, France is going to finance the destruction of 80,000 tons of surplus Brittany potatoes. Would it not be more humane and logical to take the money necessary to destroy the potatoes and with it pay for sending them to Palestinian refugee camps and to donate a little more than 10 centimes [each] for these people by paying the farmers of Brittany compensation for their potatoes?

Everyone is justifiably outraged by the assassination, but no one finds the destruction of surplus food revolting at a time when thousands and thousands of human beings are starving to death.

Iraq:

NEWSPAPERS DISCUSS KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

AL-JUMHURIYAH Commentary

Beirut RNS in Arabic 2110 GMT 8 Jun 68 M

[Text] Baghdad--AL-JUMHURIYAH says today that Senator Robert Kennedy's assassination is doubtless an act carried out by an irresponsible young man working alone. In the first commentary on the incident by Iraqi newspapers, AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that the Arab states, which have expressed their condemnation of the incident in principle, should explain the Arab viewpoint before Zionism exploits the incident to its own ends. The paper says that Senator Kennedy's assassination is as important as the assassination of his brother, the late President John Kennedy, and its effects on Middle East events may be more far-reaching.

ASH-SHAB says that if Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the young Arab accused of assassinating Senator Kennedy, killed Kennedy on the impulse of his feelings as an Arab, "he acted according to his personal logic." The paper adds: "Sirhan was still a child when he saw members of his family being tortured and killed at the hands of the Israelis--U.S. allies. Sirhan wanted to avenge his family. The passage of time did not extinguish his rancor and the United States increased his desire for revenge as it proved to him day after day that its hands are stained with our blood and the blood of Sirhan and his family." The paper concludes: "We are sorry for what Sirhan has done. We are sorry for him as an Arab. We are sorry for the method he used to take revenge, and we are sorry for the wrong impression he created about us. And we are sorry because Kennedy died as he did by an Arab hand."

SIRHAN'S BROTHER ARRESTED AS SPY MONTHS AGO

Baghdad MENA in Arabic to MENA Cairo 1145 GMT 8 Jun 68 M

[Text] Baghdad--Well-informed sources in Baghdad have revealed to a MENA correspondent that several months ago the Iraqi authorities arrested the brother of Robert Kennedy's assassin on the charge of spying for Israel. Those sources have stated that the brother of Robert Kennedy's assassin is named Sulayman Bisharah Sirhan, that he was apprehended in the K-2 area near the Jordanian border, and that several maps of Iraqi military airfields were seized with him.

The brother of Robert Kennedy's assassin--an engineer employed by the private sector--was working in his capacity and held a Jordanian passport. The sources also said that the Iraqi authorities handed Sulayman Sirhan to the Jordanian authorities in view of his connection with a spy network unearthed in Jordan long before the assassination of Robert Kennedy.

Iraqi authorities had discovered in Baghdad five espionage networks operating for Israel. Sentences ranging between 3 and 15 years imprisonment have already been handed down in three of these cases. Investigations are still in progress in the most important of these networks, in which the brother of Robert Kennedy's assassin had operated. This network, which includes a number of nationals of some Arab states, was using London as its headquarters.

AL-MUWATIN Remarks

Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Jun 68 M

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Commenting on the murder of Robert Kennedy, the Iraqi, paper AL-MUWATIN says: Zionism is trying, in its unethical way, to exploit the Arab origin of the man accused of killing Robert Kennedy. The purpose is to stir up U.S. public opinion against the Arabs and to give the wrong impression that the killing took place because of Arab fanaticism against the United States and because of Senator Kennedy's statements in support of Zionism.

The Arabs do not believe in political assassination. They consider it proof of political and moral bankruptcy. Most Arab heads of state have denounced the ugly crime. The Fatah fedayeen organization also has denounced it. This leaves no room for doubt: The Arabs had no part in this crime.

Senator Kennedy had stated that if elected he would reopen the investigation into the murder of his brother, the late President John F. Kennedy. The whole world knows who planned that murder. The world knows that President Kennedy's widow had accused Johnson--No 1 supporter of Zionism--of her husband's murder.

If the investigation into the murder of President Kennedy had been reopened while his brother, Robert Kennedy, was in office, the dirty hands that had concocted the plot would have been exposed. The same dirty hands that planned the murder of President Kennedy also planned the killing of his brother so as not to be exposed. It is not unlikely that they deceived this thoughtless young man, Sirhan Sirhan, to evade the responsibility for the crime and to kill two birds with one stone.

Jordan:

KING CABLES PRESIDENT JOHNSON, MRS KENNEDY

Cable to Johnson

Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jun 68 M

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent the following cable to His Excellency President Lyndon Johnson expressing condolences on the death of Senator Robert Kennedy: His Excellency President Lyndon Johnson, the White House, Washington. News of the death of Senator Robert Kennedy has shocked and grieved me personally. His death is an irreparable loss suffered by the noble American people and by the Senator's many friends and admirers throughout the world. With much grief and sorrow, I express to you, the American people, and your government my deepest heartfelt sympathy and the sympathy of the Jordanian people and government. We implore Almighty God to grant us the strength and ability to end crime and violence. Again, please accept my deep respect. (Signed) Al-Husayn.

Cable to Mrs Kennedy

Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jun 68 M

[Excerpt] King Husayn has sent the following condolence cable to Mrs Robert Kennedy: Mrs Kennedy, wife of the late Senator Robert Kennedy: With much sorrow and grief, I express to you, dear lady, my deepest sympathy and condolences on the death of your dear husband. The deceased's great services for the progress of his society and for the sake of the principles of democracy and peace will make him remembered always by millions of his friends and those who loved him. We share with you and his esteemed family grief on this great loss. May God Almighty grant you strength and patience. (Signed) Al-Husayn

His Exalted Majesty also sent the following cable to Edward Kennedy, younger brother of the deceased: News of the death of your dear brother has grieved me. Recalling with appreciation your personal friendship, I express to you, my friend, deepest compassion, sympathy, and condolences on this tragic loss. (Signed) Al-Husayn

AD-DUSTUR COMMENTS ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Jun 68 M

[Text] Amman--Mahmud ash-Sharif, chief editor of Jordan's AD-DUSTUR, stated today that no sensible Arab could commit the crime of murdering U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy. He said that only the Jews and Zionists would benefit from such an action. They would exploit such a crime as a successful instrument of propaganda against the Arabs in the United States and most Western countries.

Ash-Sharif was commenting on reports that an Arab from Jerusalem named Sirhan Bisharah Sirhan, an emigrant in the United States, attempted to murder Senator Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles yesterday.

It is now believed in Arab quarters that Sirhan is only a hired murderer used by the Israeli intelligence as an instrument of venomous propaganda against the Arabs.

ISRAEL TRYING TO FIND SIRHAN-FEDAYEEN LINK

Beirut L'ORIENT in French 7 Jun 68 M

[Text] Amman--An inhabitant of At-Tayyibah, hometown of Sirhan Sirhan in the West Bank, arrived in Amman today and reported that the Israeli occupation authorities have cordoned off this town and are submitting its inhabitants to intensive questioning. The Israeli investigators are trying to prove that the Sirhan family maintains relations with fedayeen organizations. This same witness reports that the West Bank population has been disheartened by the assassination of Senator Kennedy.

AD-DUSTUR COMMENTS ON DEATH OF KENNEDY

Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 7 Jun 68 M

[Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "About Kennedy's Death," AD-DUSTUR says: In commenting on the tragic death of the young U.S. senator, one finds many questions for which no convincing answers can be found. Regardless of the causes, the perpetrator, and the instigator, the crime, in itself, causes a feeling of sorrow, grief, and revulsion. Senator, politician, and presidential candidate, Robert Kennedy was, in the eyes of the Arabs, no worse than the other U.S. leaders who adopt a policy of constant backing for Israel's existence at the expense of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

If there was any difference between Kennedy and the other U.S. leaders, it is that Kennedy was not a U.S. government official when he was assassinated. His pro-Israel statements during the elections campaign are, furthermore, the kind the Arabs do not take seriously, considering they are the price to be paid by every U.S. presidential candidate for the Jewish vote. Senator Kennedy was the strongest supporter of the rights of Negroes, who have real sympathy for Arab rights in Palestine.

Compared with McCarthy, Reagan, and the other candidates, Kennedy was progressive in his opinions and one of the strongest enthusiasts for ending the sanguinary war in Vietnam. Those Arabs who have a knowledge of the facts of U.S. domestic situation even hoped that Kennedy's victory in the presidential elections would mean a better understanding of Arab rights in Palestine during his term.

We know beforehand that the anti-Arab propaganda media in the United States will, for their own ends, try to exploit this tragic incident to the full to widen the gap of suspicion and misunderstanding between the Arab and U.S. peoples. But the U.S. people will be committing a grave mistake if they allow themselves to fall in the devilish trap being set by circles that are hostile to them and to us.

In conclusion AD-DUSTUR says: We are confident that no sensible Arab supports this crime. If it is true that an Arab youth committed this crime, the U.S. people are called on not to give heed to rancor and anger against the Arabs but to meditate and analyze the crime's motives calmly. They will then find that the killer and the killed are both victims and that the real criminal is the Zionist movement, which is conspiring against the United States and the Arabs.

KennedyBROTHER OF KENNEDY'S ASSASSIN WAS ARRESTED
IN IRAQ FOR SPYING FOR ISRAEL, REPORT STATES

[ARAB WORLD. June 10, 1968]

Suleiman Bishara Sirhan, brother of Senator Robert Kennedy's alleged assassin, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, was arrested in Iraq a few months ago on charge of spying for Israel, and was later turned over to the Jordanian authorities because he was a Jordanian citizen.

This was reported last night by MEN, the UAR official news agency, in a private dispatch from Baghdad. The agency attributed its information to "informed unofficial quarters" in the Iraqi capital. The report was given front-page attention in most newspapers here today, as press interest in the Kennedy assassination case continued to be high.

Cairo newspapers today also printed the MEN story, with reports that Sirhan's father, Bishara, who still resides at Attaybeh, a village near Jerusalem, has been questioned both by U.S. and Israeli security men regarding his son and the assassination of the American Senator.

MEN said that Suleiman Sirhan was arrested at "H-3", an IPC pumping station near the Iraqi-Jordanian border, and that he had in his possession maps of Iraqi military airports. He was also carrying a Jordanian passport when apprehended, the report said, adding that this Sirhan had been working as an engineer with a private Iraqi firm, the name of which has not been disclosed.

MEN went on to say that the Iraqi Government turned Suleiman Sirhan over to the Jordanian authorities because he was connected with a spy network which had been discovered in Jordan "not long time before Robert Kennedy was assassinated."

The UAR agency gave no further information about the net-

work² said to have been uncovered in Jordan, but recalled that five networks spying for Israel had been discovered in Iraq. It said that members of these networks received prison sentences varying between ten and fifteen years.

"Investigations are continuing with members of the network with which the brother of Senator Kennedy's assassin was connected," MEN said, adding that this network had its headquarters in London, had employed a number of citizens from the Arab states. The Second State Security Court in Baghdad is due today (Monday) to begin hearings in cases of those accused of being members of this network, MEN added.

Baghdad newspapers reported the story that Sirhan's brother had been arrested in Iraq for spying for Israel --but in as far as could be told from the press review given by RADIO BAGHDAD, they carried the MEN story with no further details of their own.

And the way Arab newspapers played up the MEN story showed the Arab tendency to blame the assassination of Senator Kennedy on a Zionist plot aimed at undermining the relations between the Arab and American people. Baghdad's AL MUWATEN, quoted by BAGHDAD RADIO, today repeated what certain other Arab newspapers had said, namely, that Robert Kennedy was killed to stop him from reaching the White House, because then he would discover the real conspirators who had been responsible for the assassination of his brother, the late John F. Kennedy, in 1963. The paper emphasized that Arabs do not approve of assassination as principle for political action, and referred to the denunciation issued of the assassination over the weekend by the Palestinian commando organization, Al Fatah (see Page 6 onwards).

SOURCES DENY REPORTS ON SIRHAN'S BROTHER

Damascus MENA in Arabic to MENA Cairo 1435 GMT 10 Jun 68 M

[Excerpt] Amman--Official Jordanian sources today denied reports that a brother of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who is accused of assassinating Senator Robert Kennedy, was arrested in Iraq on an espionage charge and handed over to Jordan. The sources said that there is no mention of this incident of Jordanian public security or other official records.

Kennedy, Sirhan

[ARAB WORLD. June 11, 1968]

AS STORY ON SIRHAN'S BROTHER IS DENIED

King Hussein Says No Conspiracy In Assassination

The Jordanian Minister of Information, Mr Salah Abu Zeid, denied yesterday a report by MEN, the UAR official news agency, that the brother of Sirhan Sirhan, alleged assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy, had been turned over to the Jordanian authorities after being arrested by Iraqi security forces as an Israeli spy (see our bulletin yesterday).

The Minister said that investigations carried out by the Jordanian Government had shown that "all the Sirhans" left the country long ago with the exception of one brother, who left in 1963.

Agency reports from Amman carried denials issued by Jordanian official sources of the MEN story. MEN, however, did not carry the denial --although the Baghdad papers today did, according to the BAGHDAD RADIO press review.

King Hussein. Meanwhile, King Hussein of Jordan has said that intensive investigations involving "all our security organizations" had uncovered no evidence that Sirhan Sirhan had been involved in a conspiracy or had any recent ties with Jordan. "To the best of our knowledge", the King said in an interview with Eric Pace, the NEW YORK TIMES correspondent, "his contact with this part of the world ended when he left here as a child." The King said that Kennedy's assassination left him "most deeply shocked", and that his investigators had "done their utmost to provide what information they could to our American friends."