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Page 1
Enclosure No. 1Text of ad-Difaa article, June 17, 1968

SIRHAN'S FATHER IN AMMAN: A TALK TO "AD DIFAA" AT MIDNIGHT

At 2:00 p.m. yesterday, ad-Difaa learned that Mr. Bishara Sirhan, father of Sirhan Sirhan, accused of assassinating Senator Robert Kennedy, arrived in Amman from the West Bank on a permit issued by the occupation authorities. It is said that Mr. Sirhan has come to Amman to clear up certain financial matters in preparation for his departure for America. Until 10:00 p.m. ad-Difaa searched high and low for him. In what hotel was he staying? In whose house was he a guest? At last, we found him at the Hotel Continental. Our reporter, Salah Abd as-Samad, who spent over two hours with Mr. Bishara Sirhan, wrote the following interview.

Bishara Sirhan was sitting calmly and talking confidently. You could detect in his tone parental emotions. The 52-year old man said, "The murder of Senator Kennedy saddened me because he was from the Kennedy family, but the picture has a second face..."

"Which...?"

"The political face..for the Senator was also an American politician, so on this I have a view to express."

"Please..."

"I believe that the imbalance in Senator Kennedy's speeches while electioneering for the Presidency was the primary cause of what happened."

"How..?"

"He was promising certain parties to supply them with arms and aircraft with full awareness of the consequences of that promise. Its consequences would be more displacement of children, more orphans and more widows. This is in addition to the degradation of and contempt for the Arabs in his speeches, a thing that made my son Sirhan feel insulted in that society where Senator Kennedy was speaking. And this is what pushed my son to act as he did. Had the late Senator been reserved and merely called for peace in the Middle East, nothing would have happened."

"Are you furious with Sirhan?"

"In the first moments after I learned of the incident I was furious."

"And now?"

"My heart and mind are now with him. I believe that world opinion and human conscience will stand by him."

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"Why?"

"Because he is a man of good character by the testimony of his university teachers and friends. He is also a fervent Arab in every drop of his blood."

"What was the position of the Israeli authorities toward you?"

"At 4:30 a.m. of the day following the news, an Israeli military car parked in front of my house. I was then taken to the Military Governor's office in Ramallah. An Israeli officer asked about my life, that of Sirhan, and the family..."

"And the Israeli intelligence agency?"

"It also interrogated me and wrote down information similar to that which I gave at the Governor's office."

"And what is the latest news about Sirhan?"

"I learned that he told the investigators he refuses to be tried in the USA, and wants to be tried elsewhere."

"What is his pretext for that?"

"He is not American. I am not either. None of my sons got naturalized."

"What else?"

"Two Lebanese lawyers and a Swedish lawyer have volunteered to defend my son."

"What do you imagine will be the sentence against Sirhan?"

"I believe there are in the world people of free conscience. I believe world public opinion will be on my son's side because Sirhan was a model boy and did not commit his action except to prevent further tragedy and further displacement of children from their homes. Sirhan imagined that Senator Kennedy would add to those tragedies. For all that, I hope that people of conscience in the whole world will stand by my son."

"I only wish the Los Angeles Court, and the American people and members of the Kennedy family would imitate me..."

"In what?"

"In my toleration. My son Munir was killed in Jerusalem in 1946 after a car ran over him. But I pardoned the culprit and gave up my rights, even the amount given to me as compensation, 500 dinars. I donated it to mosques and churches and to the poor. I only hope that toleration will be observed by all during the trial of Sirhan."

"Did you do anything to explain your views in defense of Sirhan?"

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Enclosure No. 1

"Yes, I sent appeals to President Johnson, the Pope and to U Thant. I appealed to them to work for peace in the Middle East and Vietnam so that the tragedy of Sirhan and Robert Kennedy would not be repeated."

"When do you leave for America to attend the trial?"

"I am studying the matter from all angles, including the financial one and the question of my safety while there."

"That means you are afraid?"

"No. I am not afraid. The matter really requires careful study."

"Your style of talking indicates you are a lawyer?"

"I am a mechanic. The credit for that belongs to the holy books: the Quran, the New Testament and the Old Testament. I studied them all and have them in my house side by side."

"And if I request you to offer a last opinion in this interview...?"

"I say I hope the Arabs will unite."

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Page 1
Enclosure No. 2Excerpts from ad-Dustour's Interview with Sirhan

(1) "Bishara Sirhan, 52, is the father of five children and was in charge of a water section under the British Mandate Government in Palestine until 1948. He then came to Amman and worked on various water and mechanics projects until 1957 when he emigrated to the United States with his five children, Sharif, Sa'dallah, Adel, Sirhan, and Munir. Three years ago, he returned alone to his native town, Tayybeh, in the Ramallah area."

(2) "At dawn on June sixth while still asleep, I felt heavy footsteps on the stairs of my house. I awoke and heard the 'moukhtar' (elder) of the village, Fayez Ma'addi, knocking and saying, 'Open the door, Abu Sharif. Don't be afraid. It's Fayez.' I opened the door and Fayez entered with two Israeli soldiers and three civilians, one of whom began to question me in English, which I know well, about my identity and the history of my family and my son, Sirhan. I asked, 'why all these questions?' He answered that he was a correspondent of the NEW YORK TIMES and said, 'Did you hear about Robert Kennedy?' 'Yes,' I said, 'yesterday I heard that someone fired at him in Los Angeles.' The reporter then said, 'Didn't you know it was your son Sirhan who shot him?' I said, 'What do you say? My son killed Kennedy? I think that most unlikely.' When he affirmed the news to me, it was a violent shock. I was furious and sad. The reporter asked, 'what is your opinion on the matter? Do you know anything?' I answered, 'here I am asleep in Tayybeh, a village over 12,000 miles from Los Angeles. Of course I do not know anything. It is an unpleasant, stunning, shocking surprise.' The reporter asked, 'what is your feeling?' I replied, 'If the report is correct, I am sorry for Kennedy and deeply regret the incident and am grieved that this has happened to my son.'"

(3) "As I said before, there is no enmity between the Kennedy and Sirhan families. I want both Arab and American opinion to listen to this statement. Senator Kennedy had two personalities: first, he was a member of the American Kennedy family; second, he was a great American statesman. On the personal level, I am grieved by his death and shall continue to be so. As for Robert Kennedy the politician, that is a different matter. He stated time after time that he wanted certain nations to get stronger and certain nations to get weaker. This, in my opinion, was a great error. I believe thoughtful men all over the world will agree. As a statesman, Kennedy ought to have been balanced in his statements and speeches and ought to have avoided saying things liable to kindle hatred in the Middle East. As a statesman he ought to have supported peace, right and justice in the Middle East without favoring Israel."

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Page 2
Enclosure No. 2

(4) "I still believe my son is innocent despite the accusations. But even if we suppose he did it, we must examine the motives and reasons that led him to such an act. His love for his homeland and religion must have overcome everything else and incited him to act. I do not support violence or political assassination. But Kennedy was rash in his statements. I say also that the conscience of America, and its courts, and world public opinion will stand by Sirhan."

(5) "Sirhan has seen destruction and death in his own country, which last suffered war in 1967. In spite of the fact that Sirhan left for America in 1957, and lived over ten years in American society, his religion and homeland were constantly on his mind. The late Senator Kennedy was the man who lit the fuse of the mine inside my son Sirhan."

(6) "What is the program of your visit to Jordan?"

"I arrived in Amman today with a one week permit. I want to see to my account in Intra Bank, where I had some money before June 1967. After that I will return to Tayybeh."

"Do you want to go to the United States?"

"I am considering the matter in detail. I intend to hire lawyers to defend my son, but have not yet decided whether I personally will go to America to be with Sirhan during his trial."

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AIRGRAM

Feb 6 45/Kennedy
Robert F
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OSD USIA NSA

A-665

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUN 20 9 45 AM '68

FROM : AmEmbassy ANKARA

DATE: JUNE 18, 1968

SUBJECT: Memorial Arrangements Death of Senator Kennedy

REF : STATE 177570, STATE 178273

Memorial services for Senator Robert Kennedy were arranged by the Embassy in Ankara and the Consular posts at Adana and Istanbul. The service in Istanbul was held at the TUSLOG Chapel on June 7 with Consul-General Collins and his staff attending. A similar service was held at the Base Chapel in Adana on June 9. A Requiem Mass was said at the JUSMMAT auditorium in Ankara on June 9 with the Ambassador delivering the eulogy.

Embassy personnel and other members of the American mission in Ankara have received numerous letters, telegrams, and telephone calls transmitting expressions of sorrow and grief. Most members of the Diplomatic Corps here have written or telephoned personally to the Ambassador or signed the Book of Condolence placed in the Embassy rotunda. Spontaneous gestures of sorrow were made before the fact of Senator Kennedy's death was known, including that of the Minister-Counselor of Iran, Mr. Hamayoun Ardalan, who proposed a minute of silence at the meeting of the CENTO Budget Committee on June 6. A warm eulogy was delivered in the Grand National Assembly on June 10 by the Honorable Kasim Gulek, Deputy for Adana. There were also instances of individuals expressing the condolences of schools, such as the Yenimahalle Girls' Institute. Only a few letters received here were markedly belligerent or hostile.

The following are representative excerpts from letters, telegrams, and inscriptions in the Book of Condolence:

"The Turkish press shares the deep sorrow felt in your country and throughout the world over the assassination of your valuable statesman and member of the Senate, Robert Kennedy..."Telegram, Burhan Felek, President of Association of Journalists, Istanbul

FORM DS-323

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Drafted by:

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

CONS:REP:Taylor

DOM:WCBurdett

JUN 20 AM 10 54

CJ FILE FOR

"I was shocked on hearing of the disgusting assault on the person of the Honorable Senator Robert Kennedy, which unfortunately resulted in the death of this champion of peace and liberty. Words fail to express my profound sorrow." Letter, Hajime Chori, Capt., Japanese Navy, Japanese Defense Attache

"In the short time of life given to him, Senator Kennedy had become one of the most outstanding personalities in the political life of his country, and millions of people in the United States and all over the world looked upon him with sympathy and with hope. For his family and for the American nation his death is a loss that words cannot express." Letter, Hon. Horst Groepper, Ambassador of West Germany

"The death of Mr. Robert Kennedy, the protector of peace and democracy, made us very unhappy as well as the American people." Inscription in Book of Condolence, Student, Middle East Technical University

"Our grief for the loss of Robert Kennedy is unlimited... I am extending my condolences not only to the people of the United States but also to all men - whatever race, color, or creed - who are the members of the human family and love to live in peace and freedom..." Inscription in Book, Cemal Ertan, Maj. Gen. (Ret.), Turkish Air Force

"Dear Robert Kennedy,

Your wonderful doctrine of freedom, humanity, and courage, like your older brother, is the main enemy of Communism. Kennedys and Turks join in the same goal and same objective. This is the great reason why Turks love Kennedys and cry for them...You must believe that you are resting in the hearts of most Turks..." Inscription in Book, Sukru Erdiren, Col. (Ret.), Turkish Army

"I am so unhappy that I cannot write much because I am very, very sorry." Inscription in Book, Vecdi Kopralu, Turkish citizen

"Dear R.F. Kennedy,

You and your excellent ideas for all will live in our hearts everlasting." Inscription in Book, Ahmed Kubulay, Turkish citizen

"Quelle tragedie antique!" Inscription in Book, Hon. Robert Fenaux, Ambassador of Belgium

The following is the text of Ambassador Hart's eulogy given at the memorial service in the JUSMMAT auditorium on June 9:

"We are gathered in grief once more. We mourn a man whose name in his own time was deeply etched in our history, whose loss is a loss to all nations.

"Robert Francis Kennedy was the third son to his parents. He was the second brother to be struck down by hate; and in this tragic decade a hundred years after our fratricidal war, the brothers from New England have been joined by Martin Luther King as martyrs to divisiveness.

"We were not all disciples of Robert Kennedy while he lived, but all of us share a common sense of deprivation at his passing - an almost desperate desire to give vent to our feelings of loss.

"The Senator was a generous man, a loving father. He could slip so easily out of himself to join his audience and laugh with them at his own public figure and that of his family. But, it is another side of Robert Kennedy which concerns us now, his commitment to justice, to essential human values. He didn't have to care. No one would have criticized or even remarked if he had pursued a private, comfortable life. John Kennedy did not have to go to West Virginia mine towns and Robert was not pushed into Bedford-Stuyvesant and Watts. But they did care and they did go and in the end they were one with the people there.

"In life and death a man is measured by the principles he keeps. Eulogies soften the sharper spurs of a man's character, but for Robert Kennedy it would be wrong to do so. Let us remember he was a flinty man who shot out sparks. Let us not forget his toughness and his temper. Let all our people see now, let us not hide from the world the fire that leaped from his soul to burn away injustice.

"Our nation is a poorer place with the death of Senator Kennedy. Yet if this terrible event ignites a spark of awareness that violence is purposeless, if it provokes an increased willingness to adjust inequities in our nation, perhaps he will have served his country in death as well as he did in life.

"Our hearts and prayers go out to his family which has been so cruelly bereaved. Our hopes and efforts are bent to assure that his death does not signal the passing of what he so courageously stood for.

"Therefore, let us unite, as we recall the words of President Johnson's proclamation of this day of national mourning:

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

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

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

'Throughout the United States, in our churches, in our homes, and in our hearts let us resolve before God and before each other that the purpose of progress and justice for which Robert F. Kennedy lived shall endure.' "

The following is the text of the eulogy given by the Honorable Kasim Gulek, Deputy for Adana, at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey on June 10, 1968:

"Honorable friends; I come before you to honor the memory of Senator Robert F. Kennedy of the United States, our friend and ally, who lost his life suddenly in the line of duty.

"Senator Kennedy's assassination is a tragedy in so many ways. The eldest son in this family, Joseph Kennedy, was killed while a Reserve Air Force Lieutenant during a bombing mission in World War II. A second son, John Kennedy, was killed while President.

"Now, the third son is also the victim of cruel fate. It is a human tragedy that three members of the same family all died in the name of duty. The whole world was distressed at the horrible death of Robert Kennedy, who was killed before the eyes of his wife, expecting her eleventh child.

"Robert Kennedy was the champion of the people, a fighter against poverty, want, and backwardness. He had dedicated his life to noble ideals. Those ideals for which he fought were human dignity, freedom, social justice, and racial equality. The Negro question,

one of America's greatest problems, found in him a spirit of determination for change and equity. The Negroes saw Robert Kennedy as a kind of saviour in the struggle to obtain equal rights. He often repeated these words: "Views on race, religion, politics should not be causes for enmity."

"He was a brave man, far-sighted and understanding. He had on many occasions proven these qualities. When his brother was President, he became Attorney General. He was a close adviser to his brother. The recommendations he made during the Cuban crisis showed his brother, the President, a clear course to follow. He was able to find a way out of that conflict with courage and dignity. Robert Kennedy, who died at an early age, had many, long years before him in which to serve his country and mankind. He did not always approve of the policy that his party followed. At times he criticized and openly expressed his differences publicly. He made his criticisms sincerely.

"I met Robert Kennedy personally at the time we worked together on the Political Committee of the North Atlantic Assembly. He was an energetic, brave, and honest man. At the same time, there was a sensitive, shy, and retiring side to his nature.

"The ideals for which Robert Kennedy fought and died and was buried yesterday at Arlington National Cemetery beside the grave of his brother, are the ideals of all mankind. These ideals will live on, will find new Robert Kennedy's to carry their torch forward. With Robert Kennedy's death our friend, the American nation, has lost a valuable son and the world a great man. May the Almighty bless his soul." (Applause)

The Embassy proposes that its Condolence Book be forwarded to the Kennedy family through Senator Edward Kennedy.

HART

Enclosure: Condolence Book

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POL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F
 Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 05356 171114Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO AF 09, EUR 15, RSR 01, FBI 01, SY 03, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02,

INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20, USIA 12, /107 W

 P R 171005Z JUN 68
 FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5769
 INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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 AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 5356

SUBJ: KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

REF: LONDON 9869

EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED THROUGH JORDANIAN SECURITY OFFICIALS INFORMATION WHICH EFFECTIVELY REFUTES INFORMATION IN KIMCHE ARTICLE TO EFFECT THAT ACCUSED ASSASSIN'S FAMILY NAME WAS ABU KHADER AND THAT HE WAS MARRIED IN SALT. LIKEWISE, JORDANIANS HAVE NO RPT NO INFO THAT SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN VISITED JORDAN AFTER 1957 EMIGRATION TO US. ACCORDING THIS INFO KIMCHE SOURCE HAS CONFUSED SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN WITH ONE SIRHAN SALIM SIRHAN ABU KHADER. LATTER, AT AGE 22, MARRIED IN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN SALT ON MAY 27, 1957 LILLY YUSSUF MIKHAIL ABU KHADER. LILLY WAS THEN ATTENDING ORTHODOX CHURCH SCHOOL IN SALT. HER MOTHER IS HILLALA AWAD SIRHAN. HILLALA AND HER HUSBAND, YUSSUF, PRESENTLY LIVE IN ZERKA, TOWN 15 KILOMETERS NORTH OF AMMAN WHERE HE WORKS IN STONE QUARRY. SIRHAN SALIM AND WIFE LILLY ARE BELIEVED NOW LIVING IN DETROIT. THE ABU KHADER FAMILY WAS ORIGINALLY FROM TAIBEH IN PALESTINE, BUT, UNTIL RECENT MOVE TO ZERKA, HAD LIVED IN SALT FOR LAST SIXTY YEARS. THERE IS APPARENTLY

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Department of State

TELEGRAM
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 05356 171114Z

DISTANT FAMILY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAMILY OF SIRHAN BISHARA
IBIRHAN AND FAMILY OF SIRHAN SALIM SIRHAN ABU KHADER.
EMBASSY HAS CLASSIFIED THIS MESSAGE BUT PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION
TO ITS RELEASE AS DEPARTMENT DEEMS APPROPRIATE.
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59 Pol 6265/Kennedy,
Department of State
Robert F
TELEGRAM
44

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PAGE 01 LONDON 10004 171855Z

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ACTION EUR 20

INFO AF 09, NEA 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00,
NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01, SY 03, FBI 01, /112W

P R 171812Z JUN 68
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4235
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AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI UNN

UNCLAS LONDON 10004

SUBJECT: KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

REF: LONDON 9869.

FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY JON KIMCHE QUOTED IN TOTO FROM JUNE 17
EVENING STANDARD. ENTITLED FBI PROBE MIDDLE EAST TRAVELS.

QUOTE: THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AT HOME AND UNITED STATES OFFICIALS ABROAD HAVE BEEN ACTIVE OVER THE WEEKEND IN SEEKING TO PENETRATE THE SICKENING SMOKE SCREEN WHICH IS SETTLING ON THE ROBERT KENNEDY ASSASSINATION--ESPECIALLY OVER SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN'S IMMEDIATE PAST. THEY HAVE BEEN PROBING NEW INFORMATION COVERING AT LEAST FOUR FOREIGN COUNTRIES CONCERNING SIRHAN'S MOVEMENTS. IN DOING SO THEY ARE SATISFIED THAT SIRHAN'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOR A FAIR TRIAL WILL NOT BE JEOPARDISED. ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS THOUGHT THAT TIMELY ACTION AND REVELATION MAY PROTECT HIS LIFE MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN FORMALISTIC SILENCE--ESPECIALLY IF SIRHAN SHOWS ANY INCLINATION TO TALK FREELY. NEW INFORMATION WHICH HAS REACHED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CLAIMS TO GIVE DETAILS OF SIRHAN'S JOURNEY TO SYRIA IN 1964, THE TIME HE WENT, WHERE HE WENT, HOW HE WENT, AND WHAT HE DID. UNQUOTE.

BRUCE.

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PO / BUS Kennedy, Robert F
Department of State **TELEGRAM**
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CONFIDENTIAL 266

PAGE 01 RABAT 04731 171639Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO AF 09,SY 03,SS 20,CIAE 00,DODE 00,INR 07,P 04,RSC 01,USIA 12,

NSA 02,H 02,RSR 01, /076 W

R 171610Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4731

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4731

REF: SECSTATE 182627

REUTERS ITEM ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION CITED REFTEL HAS
NOT BEEN REPORTED BY LOCAL NEWS MEDIA.

GP-4. TASCA

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CONFIDENTIAL

Rabat 4731

9/17/68

AIRGRAM

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM : Amembassy TUNIS

DATE: June 17, 1968

SUBJECT : Commemoration of Robert Kennedy

REF :

A low requiem mass for the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy, organized by the Embassy under the sponsorship of the Ambassador, was held at the Roman Catholic Cathedral at Tunis on Saturday, June 8. The mass was attended by approximately 600 people including 15 Ambassadors and representatives of about 27 other diplomatic missions and the Tunisian government, members of the American community in Tunisia, and a number of Tunisian citizens.

The mass was said in English by the Reverend Father Laurence Smith, a British subject and chaplain to the English-speaking Catholic community in Tunisia, assisted by the French Administrator of the Cathedral, Reverend Father Massisien. The Archbishop of Tunis, Monsignor Michel Callens, presided. The DCM, Edward W. Mulcahy, and an American Catholic layman served as acolytes. Seated inside the sanctuary were two visiting dignitaries of the Anglican Communion, the Right Reverend Lane Barton, Episcopal Bishop of Eastern Oregon, and the Venerable Archdeacon Dunbar, formerly Vicar of St. George's (Anglican) Church, Tunis. Bishop Barton spoke briefly and led the congregation in prayer for Senator Kennedy and his family. Archbishop Callens delivered a eulogy and conducted the traditional absolution prayers at the end of the mass in French. The Cathedral organist rendered appropriate selections during the mass. Officers of the Embassy, USIS, and USAID served as ushers.

The ecumenical aspect of the service is believed to have set a precedent in Tunis.

The Embassy encloses, for such disposition as the Department may wish, the condolence book for Senator Kennedy which was placed in the Chancery foyer from June 6-10.

Enclosure: Condolence Book

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FORM 4-62 D5-323

Drafted by:

Contents and Classification Approved by:

POL:FHSacksteder/EJalexander; ecg 6/18/68

DCM:EWMulcahy

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Pol 6 21.5/Kennedy, Robert F.
FILE DESIGNATION

UNCLASSIFIED	
HANDLING INDICATOR	
TO	:Department of State
FROM	:Amembassy LUSAKA
SUBJECT	:President Kaunda's Speech on Senator Robert F. Kennedy's Assassination
REF	:

A-461
RECEIVED
JUN 21 4 49 PM '68
RS/R file

Following is the full verbatim text of President Kenneth Kaunda's remarks about the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy as recorded by the Zambia Information Services during the President's speech at Lusaka International Airport on June 7, 1968. An official summary of the speech was previously submitted as Enclosure No. 6 of Lusaka A-456.

BEGIN TEXT: I come to what I think is a very sad matter and I will end on this note. You all know that during my absence, this world, in many ways, the sad world has lost one of this generation's outstanding, dynamic and young leaders in the person of late Robert Kennedy. This is a very sad thing. I think we must make our views known to the American Government that we fail to understand that leaders of that type--first was John Kennedy, second, Martin Luther King, and now Bobby Kennedy. We seem to see a very strange pattern here where leaders, such outstanding men, who have a lot to contribute to this world can only be protected when they are dead. We think this very strange indeed. I hear that there were 500 police officers at the airport--but this was to receive a dead body. How does this happen?

We have a right to complain because we believe that in the person of John Kennedy we lost a man who can never ever be replaced at all. And now John Kennedy--I mean Robert Kennedy--again the same pattern; protection was

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given after the assassination had been committed. This is very difficult to understand and I think we have a right as citizens of this world to protest to the American Government. They have got to do something more. If they understand their society, they know that obviously something ought to be done. We think this is shameful, very shameful indeed. As I say we cannot understand this at all. Now obviously, we can't see what part the Kennedy family is going to play in the politics of the United States.

There is only one young man now left in that family. How can it be? In the short space of five years. I repeat, we have a right to protest to that Government. We feel strongly about this. We are internationalists and people who liked John Kennedy, Martin Luther King, people like Bobby Kennedy, who stand to strike at the call of the international problem of poverty. I think we have a right to regard them as our friends.

Well, however, tomorrow--I would like to ask all of you--those of us who go to churches, to remember the Kennedy family in our prayers; to remember this young man that we have just lost. And indeed, I now order that the Commissioner of Police should send Police messages throughout the country. For broadcast, Radio Zambia should help us and broadcast this message that tomorrow we will be mourning Bobby Kennedy and all flags should fly at half mast.

As we remember this young man tomorrow in our prayers, wherever we are, let it be understood that all we have about this young man shows clearly that he was one of the few American leaders who identified themselves with the poor whether they were black, white or Mexican, Puerto Ricans, whatever they were, he was advancing their cause. And indeed the society in which he was found when he was shot, as we well know, is a society of the poor. It is a very, very great achievement, we must all accept. For a very rich man to genuinely come down and speak the voice of the poor is not an easy thing to achieve and, therefore, in Bobby Kennedy just like in his brother, just like in Martin Luther King, we have lost a sincere friend and it is our duty to show and demonstrate that by observing tomorrow as our national day of mourning for this young man. Prayers will be conducted on Sunday. END TEXT.



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POL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F.
 Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 807

PAGE 01 AMMAN 05355 171118Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO VO 02, SCA 02, CIAE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, RSC 01, SY 03, SS 20, JUS 02,

P 04, USIA 12, L 03, NSC 10, RSR 01, /082 W

P R 171000Z JUN 68
 FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5768
 INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
 AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
 AMEMBASSY NICOSI

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 5355

SUBJ: KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

REF: STATE 184216

1. BISHARA SIRHAN, FATHER OF SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, IS NOW IN AMMAN AND INTERVIEW WITH HIM CARRIED IN "AD DUSTOUR" OF JUNE 17. ARTICLE STATES BISHARA IS CONSIDERING APPLYING FOR VISA TO US. SEPARATE MESSAGE WILL DEAL IN DETAIL WITH PRESS TREATMENT.

2. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO APPROPRIATE JORDANIAN OFFICIALS RE RECOMMENDATION THAT BISHARA SIRHAN AVOID STATEMENTS WHICH COULD PREJUDICE CASE OF SON WHEN HE COMES FOR TRIAL. ADVICE CONTAINED PARA FOUR REFTEL WILL BE PASSED TO BISHARA SIRHAN BY JORDANIAN OFFICIALS WITHOUT USG ATTRIBUTION.

SYMME

Amman
 5355
 6-17-68

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CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

*File
Pol 6 US/Kennedy,
Robert F.*

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RM/R 1	REP	AF
ARA 10	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR 8
E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID
<i>S/CPR 1</i>	<i>S/P 1</i>	<i>S/S 10</i>
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA 20	NAVY
OSD	USIA 10	NSA

A-190

UNCLASSIFIED

NO.

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

FROM : Amembassy BRIDGETOWN

DATE: June 17, 1968

SUBJECT : Senator Kennedy's Death: A Tribute to the Late
Senator Robert Kennedy by the Honorable J. Cameron
REF : Tudor, Barbados' Minister of State for Caribbean
and Latin American Affairs

Forwarded at the request of Mr. J. Cameron Tudor, Barbados
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Caribbean and
Latin American Affairs, are copies of a radio address which he
gave in tribute to the late Senator Robert Kennedy. Mr. Tudor
has requested that these be made available to the Kennedy
family.

OK
TORREY

*Message to family
transmitted 6/20,
JE Briggs, H*

att
Enclosures:
Tribute to Senator
Kennedy (4 copies)

UNCLASSIFIED

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☒ In ☐ Out

Drafted by: DCM:CPTorrey/aeh 6/17/68

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

229

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR CONGRESSIONAL
RELATIONS

1968 JUN 19 PM 4 17

37

RS HR

June 17, 1968

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

The tragic and untimely death of Senator Robert F. Kennedy has come as a great shock to all Americans. I have been asked to express deepest appreciation on behalf of the Secretary of State and the people of the United States for the words of sympathy which you conveyed from the Government and people of South Africa.

The knowledge that your countrymen share our distress is a source of great comfort and consolation.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas H.E. Quimby
Acting Assistant Secretary
for African Affairs

His Excellency
H.L.T. Taswell,
Ambassador of South Africa,
3051 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20008

AF:AFS:GGay:jmb:mb:bjr 6/14/68
6/17/68 retyped

Clearances:
AFS-Mr. Campbell
S/S-Mr. Parker

POL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT
X-POL 6-2 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT
V/BCC (copy)
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RECORDED & INDEXED

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EMBASSY OF SOUTH AFRICA
AMBASSADE VAN SUID-AFRIKA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

5th June, 1968.

ACTION
is assigned to

AF

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I have been asked by my Government
to inform you of the profound feelings of shock,
distress and sympathy with which the news of
the cowardly attempt on the life of Senator
Robert F. Kennedy was received by them and the
people of South Africa.

I enclose a copy of a letter which
I have today sent to Mrs. Kennedy, offering
our best wishes for her husband's rapid and
complete recovery.

Sincerely yours,

H.L.T. Taswell

H.L.T. Taswell
Ambassador

The Honourable
Dean Rusk,
Secretary of State,
United States Department of State,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

①
Enc. ✓

6/6/68

12949

Pol
6
US/Kennedy, Robert F.

5th June, 1968.

Dear Mrs. Kennedy,

I have been asked to express to you the profound feelings of shock, distress and sympathy with which the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa learned of the cowardly attack on your husband and to convey their best wishes for his rapid and complete recovery.

The thoughts of my wife and myself and all at this Embassy are very much with you and your children at this time.

Sincerely yours,

H.L.T. Taswell
Ambassador

Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy,
c/o The Personal Secretary to
Senator Robert F. Kennedy,
New Senate Office Building,
WASHINGTON, D.C.



63 Po/6 us/Kennedy, Robert F
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 496

PAGE 01 ADEN 01437 161101Z

12
ACTION NEA 15

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

SS 20, USIA 12, PSR 01, /081 W

R 160940Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY ADEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1644

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADEN 1437

1. ADEN'S DAILY NEWSPAPER, "14 OCTOBER", CARRIED EDITORIAL COMMENT JUNE 16 RE ROBERT KENNEDY. LINE WAS THAT ASSASSINATION WAS NOT MORE HORRIBLE THAN ELIMINATION OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ARABS ESPECIALLY THOSE "6"ADICATED BY MODERN AMERICAN ARMS." KENNEDY WAS DESCRIBED AS "VICTIM OF HIS OWN ARROGANCE AND HIS BLIND FANATICISM FOR ISRAEL" WHILE SIRHAN WAS ONE OF THE THOUSANDS OF PALESTINIAN YOUTHS PAINED TO SEE THEIR LAND OCCUPIED WHEN AMERICAN JUSTICE LENDS NO EARS TO THEIR DEMANDS TO LIVE. ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT "WE DO NOT APPROVE OF INDIVIDUAL ASSASSINATION WHICH IS NOT TRUE SOLUTION TO OUR JUST CAUSES BUT AT SAME TIME WE DO NOT LIKE RASH ACCUSATION BECAUSE THERE ARE ENOUGH TRAGEDIES IN OUR OCCUPIED LANDS TO PRODUCE THOUSANDS OF YOUTHS LIKE SIRHAN."

2. ABOVE COMMENT REPRESENTS SECOND LOOK SOME LOCAL ARAB NATIONALISTS ARE TAKING FOLLOWING THEIR EARLIER SHOCK, REGRET AND GENERALIZED CONDEMNATION OF KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION. EAGLETON

RECEIVED BY NS/R

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59 Pol 6 US/Kennedy
Robert F.
Department of State **TELEGRAM**
22

CONFIDENTIAL 531

PAGE 01 LONDON 9947 161819Z

50
ACTION SY 03

INFO EUR 15, NEA 13, SS 20, NSC 10, RSC 01, RSR 01, SSO 00, NSCE 00, /063

O P 161750Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4209
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONGEN JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 9947

SUBJ: KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

REF: STATE 183194; LONDON 9945, 9946.

1. JON KIMCHE PROVIDED EMBOFF FOL. ADDITIONAL INFO FROM HIS
SOURCE EVENING JUNE 16.

A. ON ONE TRIP TO EAR EAST SIRHAN SAILED FROM NEW YORK
AS CREW MEMBER. ON ANOTHER HE TRANSITED CANADA.

B. SIRHAN REPORTEDLY WAS AT QATANA TRAINING CENTER NEAR DAMASCUS
JUNE-SEPT. 1964.

C. IN FEB. 1966 SIRHAN WENT TO BEIRUT AND STAYED WITH A
PALESTINIAN CHRISTIAN FAMILY AT AL HAMA. THEN HE SPENT THREE
MONTHS AT MA'ADI TRAINING CENTER, CAIRO, AND TWO MONTHS IN
GAZA STRIP.

D. SIRHAN'S FATHER NOW HAS LARGE SUM OF MONEY FOR LEGAL
ASSISTANCE. FALSE REPORT ALLEGING RECORD OF PREVIOUS
MENTAL INSTABILITY AND PERIOD IN MENTAL HOSPITAL BEING
PREPARED.

2. KIMCHE NOTED IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CHECK SOURCE'S INFO
THAT SIRHAN AWAY FROM U.S. FOR TWO PERIODS OF MONTHS.

3. EMBOFF ASKED HOW SOURCE REACTED TO IDEA HIS MIGHT BE

CONFIDENTIAL

London-9947
6-16-68



Department of State

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PAGE 02 LONDON 09947 161819Z

DIFFERENT SIRHAN THAN THE ONE BEING HELD IN CONNECTION ASSASSINATION. KIMCHE SAID SOURCE CLAIMS HE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN OF HIS INFO. KIMCHE THINKS SOURCE PLAYING FAIR WITH HIM, AND HAS ACCESS TO INSIDE FATAH INFO.

4. HOWEVER, IN FURTHER EXCHANGE KIMCHE GAVE FIRST INDICATION OF UNCERTAINTY. HE ACKNOWLEDGED POSSIBILITY OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY. AND HE SAID, "I CAN'T GUARANTEE THIS, BUT THERE IT IS."

GP-3 BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL



59 Tol 6 to US/Kennedy
Robert F
Department of State
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22

CONFIDENTIAL 498

PAGE 01 LONDON 9946 161103Z

12

ACTION SY 03

INFO EUR 15, NEA 13, SS 20, NSC 10, RSC 01, RSR 01, /063 W
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P R 161032Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4208
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONGEN JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 9946

SUBJECT: KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

REF: LONDON 9945; STATE 183194

1. QUESTION OF JON KIMCHE'S RELIABILITY AROSE IN EMBOFF EXCHANGE WITH ISRAEL FIRST SEC YEHUDA TAGGAR EVENING JUNE 15. (EMBOFF DID NOT MENTION HIS EARLIER EXCHANGE WITH KIMCHE.) TAGGAR SAID WHEN HE ARRIVED LONDON ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO HE MADE SPECIAL EFFORT CULTIVATE KIMCHE BECAUSE OF THEIR MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP WITH FON- MINISTRY ADVISER EZRA DANIN. AFTER OBSERVING HOW OFTEN KIMCHE WAS PROVED WRONG, AND IN VIEW KIMCHE'S REFUSAL NAME SUCH SOURCES AS HIS "CORRESPONDENT IN CAIRO", TAGGAR GAVE HIM UP. WHEN ASKED, ISRAEL EMBASSY HERE ON BACKGROUND BASIS STRESSES KIMCHE'S LACK OF CONNECTION WITH GOI AND HIS "GENERAL UNRELIABILITY" AS JOURNALIST.

2. TAGGAR ALSO VOLUNTEERED THAT KIMCHE GLOATED TO HIM RE UK MOD OFFICIAL MCGUIRE'S CONGRATULATIONS ABOUT MAY 7 ARTICLE (PARA 4B LONDON REFTEL).

3. COMMENT: IN RECENT YEARS KIMCHE HAS CONSISTENTLY EVINCED LOW OPINION OF ISRAELI PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS, AND THEY OF HIM. HIS PRIMARY GOI CONTACTS HAVE BEEN MOSTLY WITH IDF INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER OFFICERS. HE WAS REPUTEDLY CLOSE TO FORMER DEPUTY MINDEF PERES. YESTERDAY HE SPOKE WARMLY OF AMB TO ITALY AVRIEL, AND INDICATED ONLY CIVILIAN "ESTABLISHMENT" OFFICIAL HE RESPECTS IS YARACOV HERZOG OF PRIMIN ESHKOL'S OFFICE.

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London 6-16-68
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Department of State

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PAGE 02 LONDON 9946 161103Z

GP 30

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HANDLING INDICATOR

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NO.

INFO: AmCon ASMARA

DATE: June 15, 1968

REF :

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following 6/15/69

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FORM **DS-323**

Drafted by: POL:RJGross:cer:6/14/68

Contents and Classification Approved by:
ADCM- William A. Stoltzfus

Clearances:

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"The Shots in Los Angeles" by V. Ardatovsky, Novosti Press Agency,
printed as lead story in Soviet Daily News, June 7, 1968

"The United States has once again covered itself with disgrace. It is difficult to call a country a civilized state in which hired assassins the day before yesterday shot President Kennedy, yesterday Luther King, the progressive leader, and today Senator Robert Kennedy.

"The shots in Dallas, in Memphis and in Los Angeles are links in the chain in which political gangsterism has enmeshed the United States. To ascribe the crimes to maniacs who act on their own, as has been the case and which undoubtedly will also be undertaken in the future, means to lie. The situation within the country and its foreign policy, which concentrates on the war in Vietnam, has made all forms of terror against progressive forces and political leaders who uphold different views, a regularity.

"It is by no means accidental that the crime in Los Angeles was perpetrated immediately following Robert Kennedy's obvious victory in the primaries in such a key state as California. His political opponents could not but experience anxiety due to the fact that the next step towards the White House was made by a person who sharply criticises Washington's Vietnam policy, by an adherent of radical transformations in the sphere of combatting racial discrimination and of other changes in the country's domestic and foreign policy.

"In awakening America, which is starting to seriously think about its destiny and its place in the world, the rise in the authority of such people as Robert Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy is an irreversible phenomenon. And once again the Ultras, basing themselves apparently on most influential quarters, decided to resort to gangster methods: otherwise, they could not count on 'removing' either Luther King, or Robert Kennedy.

"In the Soviet Union the news about the crime in Los Angeles was received with deep sorrow. The name of the talented young American statesman is widely known. The stand taken by Robert Kennedy on many questions, in particular his role in the struggle for ending the war in Vietnam and for the rights of the Negro population is regarded here with respect. Soviet people are sincerely indignant over the fact that today in 1968, acts of crude political gangsterism are possible. Present-day America will for long, for very long indeed, have to wash off the disgrace with which it has covered itself in recent years."

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"Where Does The Policy of War and Racism Lead To?",
printed in middle of Page 2, Soviet Daily News, June 11, 1968

"The terror campaign in the United States is directed against those public figures who keep, in one form or other, to the position spear-headed against extreme militarism and racism, says a statement of the U.S. Community Party issued in connection with the murder of Robert Kennedy.

"Such murders, of which numerous examples could be cited, reflect the violence, brutality and the devaluation of human values which are a result of the policy of aggressive wars and racism, the statement continues. The predominance of the military-industrial complex gives birth to an atmosphere of violence and extreme-rightist fascist-like movements. Such acts of brutality are the reverse side of the vindictive imperialist aggression against Vietnam, which is tantamount to genocide."

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RESEARCH CENTER

1968 JUL 18 PM 4 49



Department of State

TELEGRAM

DECLASSIFIED

Authority:

NW 88872

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 3966 151224Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO AF 09, EUR 15, SY 03, SS 20, NSC 10, INR 07, P 04, H 02, USIA 12, CIAE 00,
NSAE 00, DOD 00, RSR 01, RSC 01, /099 W

P R 151138Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2816
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY ADEN
AMEMBASSY JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
AMEMBASSY BAIDA

STATE DEPARTMENT SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

☐ Retain class'n ☐ Change/classify to
☒ Declassify with concurrence of CIA

EO 12958, 25X

FPC/HDR by JB Date: 4/16/96

Withdrawal No. 154-2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ TRIPOLI 3966

DEPT PASS CAIRO

REF: STATE 182627

SUBJ: REUTERS REPORT RE STARTLING INFORMATION
ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

1. BOTH CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF STATE SECURITY ADMINIS-
TRATION HAVE INDEPENDENTLY INFORMED CAS THAT UNIDENTIFIED
ARAB COUNTRY POSSESSING INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO FBI
IS NOT RPT NOT LIBYA. IN ADDITION, ACTING COMMANDING
GENERAL TRIPOLITANIAN SECURIT FORCES MADE NO MENTION
THIS TOPIC DURING INTERVIEW MORNING JUNE 15.

2. TO DATE, REUTERS STORY HAS NOT RPT NOT APPEARED IN
TRIPOLI PRESS. GP-4. NEWSOM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*Tripoli 3966
6/15/68*

Reyes/Kennedy, Robert F.

DISCONTINUED BY DS-8

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AIRGRAM

POL 6 US/KENNEDY,
ROBERT F.
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OSD	USIA	NSA
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A-320
NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : Amembassy, PARIS
Amembassy, BATHURST

RECEIVED
JUN 16 7 12 AM '68

RS/R
Jelle

FROM : American Embassy, Dakar

DATE: June 15, 1968

SUBJECT: Reactions to Senator Robert F. Kennedy's Death in Senegal

REF :

The Senegalese were deeply shocked by the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy. The Kennedy name has been a household word to many Senegalese, and ever since President Kennedy's death, the Senegalese have followed closely the activities of the rest of the family. Press coverage on Senator Kennedy's assassination was sympathetic, accurate and friendly.

Dakar-Matin, Senegal's only daily newspaper, covered all aspects of the assassination and funeral in great detail. Radio Senegal put together an extremely moving half hour program on the life of Robert Kennedy, which was repeated a number of times. Reports from French radio correspondents in the United States were also used extensively on Radio Senegal. President Senghor sent three messages: first to Mrs. Kennedy while the Senator was still living, and then again to her and President Johnson after news was received of his death. (Copies attached)

So far, 285 people have come to sign the book in the Embassy although many signed for their families, schools and professional organizations. These have included Senegalese from all walks of life, members of the Diplomatic Corps and a great many Frenchmen resident in Dakar. Curiously enough, many of the French have taken this opportunity to tell us how they still consider themselves to be close friends of the United States and how much affection there is in France for the Kennedy family. The radio quoted several times what Senator Kennedy had said last year after a visit to General de Gaulle: that peace was not possible in Vietnam without the cooperation of France.

A memorial service was conducted Saturday, June 9th, at the Eglise du Sacré Coeur in Dakar. This was conducted in French by the Vicar General, as the archbishop was unable to be present himself. The Papal Nuncio,

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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Drafted by: DCM:AWLukens:asr

6/12/68

Contents and Classification Approved by: AMB:JDBrown

Clearances:

JUN 16 6: 9 25

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Dakar
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-2-

Monsignor Mariani, celebrated the requiem mass. The eulogy delivered by Père Courier was most impressive and expressed the ideals for which the Kennedy brothers had stood. The service was attended by several hundred people -- Senegalese, French and Diplomatic Corps.

On Sunday, June 10th, an English-speaking service was held in the French Protestant Church, conducted by the Bishop of The Gambia and the Rio Pongas, The Rt. Reverend T.O. Olufosoye. This was attended by a number of English-speaking Africans, many diplomats, including the Dean of the Corps, French Ambassador Lagarde, and most of the American colony, including a large number of Peace Corps volunteers. Ambassador Kwesi Brew of Ghana read the lesson and Ambassador Brown read President Johnson's proclamation.

Attached are some of the more moving comments written in the Embassy's book, as well as excerpts from some of the letters received by the Ambassador.

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Enclosure
Desp.
Dakar A-320

Telegrams from President Léopold Senghor to Mrs. Robert Kennedy before and after the death of Senator Kennedy (translation from French)

"In the cruel blow which has struck your whole family, I would ask you to accept the expression of all my sympathy."

* * * * *

"I have just heard that Senator Kennedy is no more. Your sorrow is our sorrow, because Robert Kennedy always defended the liberty and dignity of the Blacks. The Senegalese people and their Government join me in sending our deepest sympathy."

Telegram from President Senghor to President Johnson

"The tragedy that has once more put the United States in mourning with the horrible outrage committed upon Robert Kennedy has dismayed all Senegalese. In these sad circumstances I send you expression of our deep emotion and our sympathies. Highest regard."

Telegram from Alphone N'Diaye, Governor of Thiès to Ambassador Brown

"Having learned with consternation of the cruel loss afflicting your country and the entire world in the loss of Senator Kennedy, the Region of Thiès joins me in presenting our deepest sympathy."

Sikhé Camara, Ambassador of Guinea

"..... Senator Kennedy was a great man because of his family, his personality and the outstanding social and political action he led so rapidly and generously in favor of the entire American nation."

French Ambassador, Jean Vyau de la Garde

"Mr. Ambassador and dear colleague, I cannot tell you how sorry I am of the passing away of Senator Robert Kennedy. The monstrosity and the stupidity of this murder have everyone flabbergasted. It is a great loss not only for the United States, but for the world, for we need men like the Kennedys. As a friend of your country, let me tell you all my sympathy."

Letter from Ambassador of the U.A.R., Yehia Hassan (This is first communication from U.A.R. Embassy since the break in relations one year ago)

"It is with the greatest grief that I learned the tragic news of the death of Senator Robert Kennedy as a result of the hateful attack of which he was the victim. May I present to you in my name as well in the names of all my colleagues at the Embassy our sincerest sympathy."

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Enclosure
Desp.
Dakar A-320

-2-

Henri Gallenca, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Dakar

".... These two illustrious leaders (John and Robert Kennedy) by their sacrifice for the ideals which they upheld, honor the virtues of the nation to which they belonged and of which they represented the most noble qualities. May their sacrifice not have been in vain and may it contribute to the necessary reconciliation across your great country and throughout the world."

Jhonny Seck, President of the John F. Kennedy Club

"The President and members of the John F. Kennedy Cultural Club pay their final respects to a valiant champion of Peace. With our sincere wishes of condolence."

Vladimir Stanimirovic, Yugoslav Embassy

"The death of Robert Kennedy is a great misfortune not only for the American people, but also for the entire world."

H. N'Diaye, Air France

"Robert F. Kennedy was the very symbol of courage in politics..."

Jean Masseron, Inspector General at the Presidency

"Your grief is also ours."

H. Thiandoum, Archbishop of Dakar

"In pain and sadness we are one with the American people in asking God to accept the sacrifice of the noble Senator R.F. Kennedy."

Ibrahima Sylla, student

"Robert Kennedy, who died defending peace in Vietnam, racial equality in his own country, and happiness for all men, was the very incarnation of 20th century man."

Pinto-Bull, President of FLING (Portuguese Guinea refugee organization)

"FLING was deeply grieved by the cowardly and tragic assassination of Robert Kennedy, a man who had captured the admiration of the whole world".

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Enclosure
Desp.
Dakar A-320

-3-

Ismaila Camara, postal worker

"The whole world -- especially Africans -- are grieved at the death of this great apostle of liberty and brotherhood."

Ibrahima Ly, student

"May the Lord keep him and his brother John together in Paradise."

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1968 JAN 11 PM 4 50

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

POL 6 US/KENNEDY,
ROBERT F.
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RM/R	REP	AF
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OSD	USIA	NSA
34	10	3
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		6

20

A-723

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : LISBON, LONDON, PARIS

FROM : Amembassy MADRID

DATE: June 15, 1968

SUBJECT : Spanish Opposition Leaders Sponsor
Memorial Mass

REF :

Following the model they established after the assassination of President Kennedy, leaders of the Spanish democratic opposition joined together to arrange a memorial mass on June 12 for the repose of the souls of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Robert F. Kennedy. Without identifying themselves by name, they placed paid advertisements in three Madrid dailies inviting Spaniards who shared the ideals for which the three men gave their lives to join them at the parish of the Sacred Hearts (los Sagrados Corazones, near the Bernabeu Stadium) for the funeral mass.

The liberal monarchist Joaquín SATRUSTEGUI personally invited the Embassy to send representatives. Five Embassy officers (Administrative Counselor, acting Chief of the Political Section, Labor Attaché, a political officer and the Student Affairs Officer in the Cultural Section) were placed by Satrustegui in the front pews of the Church. Embassy officers were seated on either side of the senior Spanish participant, Christian Democratic leader José María GIL ROBLES.

An estimated 1500 persons attended the Mass, but a certain number seemed to have come for the Mass regularly said at the church at that hour. The church porch and the rear of the church were patrolled by a half-dozen Armed Police in uniform; a station wagon with two officers in civilian clothes and a uniformed driver was parked in front of the church; and the Embassy learned that reinforcements were present behind the Church. None of them was needed.

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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1700 JUN 19 AM 11 01

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They did not interfere in any way with the greetings and conversation that went on before and after the ceremony.

The celebrant said pointedly at the beginning of his sermon that the ceremony had no political purpose. He referred to the concern that the Kennedy brothers and King had shown for political, racial and social equality, for reducing the gap between the privileged and the unprivileged, and for advancing peace and understanding in the U.S. and between nations.

ABC and Ya carried articles on June 13 describing the ceremony and listing those present in places of honor. El Alcazar published a photograph with caption showing Gil Robles and the Embassy representatives.

Those familiar with the Spanish opposition will see that a good cross-section of the Spanish opposition was present. A partial list follows:

Joaquín SATRUSTEGUI

José María GIL ROBLES and his son Alvaro

José María AREILZA, Conde de MOTRICO

Professors Enrique TIerno GALVAN,

Carlos OLLERO,

Leonardo PRIETO Castro,

Jesus PRADOS Arrarte,

José Luis L. ARANGUREN, and

Antonio TRUYOL

Juan BECERRIL, Magistrate of the Supreme Court

Luis Maria ANSON

Jaime CORTEZO

Pablo MARTI Zaro

Vicente PINIES (brother of Spain's Chargé at
the UN)

Pedro ALTARES

Carlos BRU

Fernando ALVAREZ de Miranda

Jesús BARROS DE LIS Gaspar

Raul MORODO

WALKER


ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

POL 6 US/KENNEDY,
ROBERT F.

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RM/R	REP	AF
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E	P	IO
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L	FBO	AID
SP	S/P	S/PR
10	1	1
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
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OSD	USIA	NSA
34	10	3
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A-724

UNCLASSIFIED

NO.

TO : Department of State

RECEIVED

HANDLING INDICATOR

JUN 17 11 02 AM 1968

FROM : Amembassy MADRID

DATE: June 15, 1968

SUBJECT: Spanish Reaction to Kennedy Assassination

REF :

Ordinary Spaniards reacted with shocked disbelief and genuine grief to the assassination of Robert Kennedy. Young people, students and lower class Spaniards seemed especially concerned. Many, helped along by the story treatment of local radio, television, and newspapers, generally identified the killing of the Senator with that of his brother and Martin Luther King, creating a merged image of the forces for constructive change in the U.S. being violently eliminated. A belief in conspiracy was evident in conversations with all Spaniards from the most sophisticated to the most humble.

Shortly after Robert Kennedy's death had been confirmed on June 6, the Charge saw the large number of reporters and photographers who had gathered at the Chancery and read to them a statement stressing the sorrow of this mission and our determination to carry on the ideals of Robert Kennedy. (enclosed).

Spaniards flowed into the Embassy beginning at noon on June 6 to sign the book of condolence. At this writing over 6,200 signatures have been placed in the books and over 2,200 pieces of correspondence, including calling cards, telegrams, and letters, have been received by the Embassy. All four consulates report corresponding interest and a large volume of signatures and mail.

Masses have been celebrated throughout Spain for the repose of Robert Kennedy's soul and sometimes prayers

Enclosure:

Statement to UNCLASSIFIED

FORM 4-62 DS-323

Press.

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Clearances:

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

were included for the souls of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King. The Embassy worked with the Jesuit Fathers at the Church of Saint Francis Borgia, across the street from the Chancery, to arrange a requiem mass celebrated by the Papal Nuncio (Monsignor Luigi Dadaglio). The Mass, celebrated at twelve noon on June 8, was attended by over 2,000 persons. The Charge attended as the official U.S. representative and the Under Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ramon SEDO) as the representative of the Government of Spain.

On the official side, the Spanish Government was prompt in its expression of condolence. By noon on June 5, the mission had two important telephone calls, one from the Director General of American and Far East Affairs at the MFA (Nuño Aguirre de Carcer) to the Charge and the other from the Chief of the High General Staff (Captain General Agustin Muñoz Grandes) to Chief JUSMAG, both expressing concern over the shooting and hopes for recovery. On the following day, after the Senator had died, Franco sent messages to the President and Mrs. Kennedy; Foreign Minister Castiella sent a message to Mrs. Kennedy. At five p.m. on June 6, Aguirre de Carcer called on the Charge as representative of the Foreign Minister to express the Minister's condolences. Vice President Luis Carrero Blanco (by hand-written note) and five Cabinet Ministers sent written messages to the Charge. Diplomatic colleagues at all levels wrote, called, and telephoned with the French Embassy being notably prompt and numerous in its expressions of condolence.

Appearing in the morning press of June 6 was a statement by the Information Minister (Manuel FRAGA Iribarne) which tended to set the tone for coverage by the regime-oriented press - correct expressions of sadness coupled with a view of the act as justification for more authoritarian forms of government (read Franco Spain) than are permitted in a democracy. Fraga's statement said: "This occurrence is a clear demonstration that peace and liberty can only be maintained in authentic form when law and the principle of authority construct a style of citizenship in which the use of violence in political contests does not fit... for this reason we should value, as the highest obligation of politics, the maintenance of order...". A considerable number of Spanish contacts commented in unfavorable terms about the "bad taste" Fraga showed in so openly using the Kennedy assassination as a justification for rigid authoritarianism.

In the days following June 6, the Madrid press tended to divide on the responsibility of the American democratic system for the death of Robert Kennedy. Strident voices from the Movimiento press (Diario SP, Pueblo and to a lesser extent Arriba) indicted the U.S. institutions which could not eliminate the recourse to violence. The Opus Dei press (Nuevo Diario and Alcazar) stoutly

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defended democracy in the U.S.: "A people that can resolve political succession in a half hour (Kennedy to Johnson), that can maintain under civilian control the greatest military power in history, that in the midst of war can tolerate internal dissent even to the point where that dissent creates policy changes, a people, in sum, which can produce men like the Kennedys merits a vote of confidence" (Alcazar, June 6).

Figures from the opposition quickly sought to identify themselves warmly and sympathetically with their Embassy contacts in the tragic days following June 5. Monarchists, Christian Democrats, and Socialists were in evidence signing the condolence book, giving oral expressions of their sorrow and concern to the Embassy officers on duty at the book, and in attendance at the Mass on June 8. On June 12, this group sponsored a Mass of its own for the repose of the soul of Robert Kennedy, which several Embassy officers attended (separate report).

Spaniards followed the sad events of June 5 through June 8 over radio and television. Government operated Spanish television (TVE) had a sympathetic interview program on June 6 featuring government leaders including Aguirre de Carcer who reminisced about occasions on which he had talked with Robert Kennedy when Aguirre was Minister Counsellor at the Spanish Embassy in Washington. TVE also carried live portions of the Mass at St. Patricks in the afternoon of June 8 and gave live coverage to the funeral procession through Washington and burial at Arlington (12:30 a.m. - 4:00 a.m. June 9 Madrid time).

English-speaking Spaniards with FM equipment, followed Armed Forces Radio, which stayed with the story also until 4:00 a.m. June 9 and provided the audio portion of U.S. network television coverage. They could all join with ABC's Bill Downs at the grave-site who tearfully closed: "This is the second time in four and a half years we have had to do this job, and I hope I never have to do it again."

WALKER



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Madrid
6/15/17 EHK

**STATEMENT BY CHARGE WILLIAM W. WALKER, ON OCCASION
OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY'S DEATH. MADRID, JUNE
6, 1968.**

We of the United States Mission to Spain share the depths of grief that are beyond words. A senseless act has taken Senator Kennedy from us in the full flower of his vigor. Irrational violence has ended the labors of a man whose life was given to peace, a man of good will whose whole career was devoted to the cause of his fellow human beings.

Already condolences in our sorrow have begun to arrive from the people of Spain, high and low, who share - with all the world - our irreplaceable loss. To all of you, we are most profoundly grateful.

Bowed as we are with grief, it is the task of the living to carry on, to keep bright the ideals which Senator Kennedy so nobly advanced, to carry on the work which he can no longer shoulder, to advance the human condition in his name and of men of good will everywhere.

Books for those who wish to express their sentiments are available at the Embassy, Serrano 75, and the Casa Americana, Castellana 37.

A memorial service is being planned, and details will be announced.

All public and social events involving the Embassy or individual official Americans have been cancelled until further notice.

We are sending a message to the family of Senator Kennedy on behalf of all of us in this hour of tragedy.

ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

POL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F.

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A-119

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State
INFO

FROM : Amembassy NIAMEY

DATE: June 15, 1968

SUBJECT: Public Statements on Senator Kennedy's Assassination

REF : Niamey 1746^{NC} and 1790^{NC}

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

Embtels 1746 and 1790 reported on Nigerien reaction to the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy. Enclosed are the full texts, with English translations, of the two key public statements made regarding this assassination, i.e., the declarations of President Diori Hamani and National Assembly President Boubou Hama broadcast on Radio Niger on June 6.

We consider unfortunate the implication which both these declarations contain of criticism of the American political system. This implication was inherent in the references to "political assassination" and to "political adversary." President Diori subsequently made clear to Ambassador Ryan that he had intended this term to relate to a far broader context than that of the American political party system.

A third public reference to the assassination was contained in Foreign Secretary Sidikou's reply, also broadcast over Radio Niger, to Ambassador Ryan's speech on June 12 upon the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of the new American Embassy office building at Yantalla overlooking the Niger River on the outskirts of Niamey. Sidikou departed from his prepared text to make the following reference.

"It would be impossible for me to enumerate here, even briefly, all of the joint [Nigerien-American] projects which have been worked out and implemented or which are in process of being implemented. I will nonetheless point out the future bridge across

Enclosures: (1) President Diori's Speech (French), (2) Translation of President Diori's Speech, (3) President Boubou Hama's Speech (French), (4) Translation of President Boubou Hama's Speech.

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Drafted by:

DCM:DBEasum, 6/14/68

Contents and Classification Approved by:
Ambassador Robert J. Ryan

Clearances:

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the Niger River, the Kennedy Bridge, a name which alas will be doubly but cruelly dear to us as a result of unforeseeable events - this name which, as President Johnson said [is] 'henceforth linked to the history of America by a pact of blood and sacrifice obligating every thoughtful man to go back down the course of history as he recalls the implacable destiny of ancient Greek tragedy heroes'."

RYAN

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Niamey A-119

Enclosure 1

Declaration of President Diori Hamani on Niger Radio on June 6, 1968

Je dois exprimer mon indignation devant cette méthode lâche de suppression d'un adversaire politique. Ici dans le cadre du Niger comme nous l'avons réaffirmé dans OUA et l'OCAM, nous condamnons toujours l'assassinat comme moyen d'arriver à des fins politiques.

Il est vraiment dommage qu'après son frère John Kennedy que ce soit encore Robert qui soit frappé par des inconscients. Car ces pauvres types s'imaginent qu'en tuant un homme on tue une idée. L'idée lancée par les Kennedy vers la réconciliation nationale aux Etats-Unis l'égalité et la justice, cette idée fera son chemin contre vents et marées et je salue toute la famille éprouvée - c'est la raison pour laquelle au nom du Gouvernement un telegramme a été envoyé à la famille Kennedy et au Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

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