

(6)



Department of State

POL 6 US/Kennedy,
Robert F.

TELEGRAM
44

UNCLASSIFIED 667

PAGE 01 062353Z

81

ACTION SS 20

INFO CPR 01,H 01,AF 06,ARA 08,EA 06,EUR 08,NEA 06,RSC 01,RSR 01,

FILE 01,SSO 00,P 03,0 01,063 W

P 062055Z JUN 68 ZEO ZFP

FM JCS

TO ALMILACT

UNCLAS ALMILACT 8/68 1834 J-3 SENDS
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION AND
STATEMENT

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE PRESIDENTIAL
PROCLAMATION CONCERNING THE DEATH OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY:

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

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

PAGE 2 RUEOJFA 0098 UNCLAS

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, PRESI-
DENT OF THE UNITED STATES, DO CALL UPON ALL
AMERICANS TO OBSERVE SUNDAY NEXT, THE NINTH
DAY OF JUNE, AS A DAY OF NATIONAL MOURNING
IN HIS MEMORY THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.
IN OUR CHURCHES, IN OUR HOMES, AND IN OUR
HEARTS LET US RESOLVE BEFORE GOD AND BEFORE
EACH OTHER THAT THE PURPOSE OF PROGRESS AND

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Joint Chiefs of Staff
6/6/68

(1)



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 062353Z

JUSTICE FOR WHICH ROBERT F. KENNEDY LIVED
SHALL ENDURE.

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

PAGE 3 RUEOJFA 0098 UNCLAS

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY
HAND THIS SIXTH DAY OF JUNE, IN THE YEAR OF
OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-EIGHT
AND OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-

SECOND. /S/ LYNDON B. JOHNSON

2. STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT:

'THIS IS A TIME OF TRAGEDY AND LOSS.

SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY IS DEAD.

ROBERT KENNEDY AFFIRMED THIS COUNTRY--

AFFIRMED THE ESSENTIAL DECENCY OF ITS

PEOPLE, THEIR LONGING FOR PEACE, THEIR

DESIRE TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR

ALL.

PAGE 4 RUEOJFA 0098 UNCLAS

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

YET HE NEVER ABANDONED HIS FAITH IN AMERICA.

HE NEVER LOST HIS CONFIDENCE IN THE SPIRITUAL

STRENGTH OF ORDINARY MEN AND WOMEN. HE

BELIEVED IN THE CAPACITY OF THE YOUNG FOR

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 03 062353Z

EXCELLENCE--AND IN THE RIGHT OF THE OLD AND
POOR TO A LIFE OF DIGNITY.
OUR PUBLIC LIFE IS DIMINISHED BY HIS LOSS.
MRS. JOHNSON AND I EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY
TO MRS. KENNDY AND HIS FAMILY. I HAVE ISSUED
A PROCLAMATION CALLING UPON OUR NATION TO
OBSERVE A DAY OF MOURNING FOR ROBERT KENNEDY.''

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POL 6 US/Kennedy,
Robert F.
Department of State
TELEGRAM

7

UNCLASSIFIED 322

PAGE 01 070646Z

22
ACTION ARA 16

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

R 060005Z JUN 68
FM TOMAS GUILLERMO ELIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC

UNCLAS

E X A C T T R A N S L A T I O N

TO HIS EXCELLENCY DEAN RUSK
SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEEPLY MOVED BY THE ATTACK AGAINST SENATOR ROBERT F.
KENNEDY, I CONVEY TO YOU MY MOST SINCERE WISHES FOR A PROMPT
RECOVERY. I RENEW TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THE ASSURANCES OF MY
MOST DISTINGUISHED CONSIDERATION.

TOMAS GUILLERMO ELIO

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BOLIVIA

Bolivia, for Minister of

UNCLASSIFIED



6

POL 6 US/Kennedy,
Robert F.
Department of State
TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED 504

PAGE 01 070914Z

20

ACTION AF 15

INFO CPR 02, GPM 04, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20, USIA 12, H 02, FILE 01,

RSR 01, SSO 00, LS 02, /074 W

R 061445Z JUN 68

FM FOREIGN/OFFICE/FORTLAMY/CHAD

TO SECSTATE/WASHDC

GRNC

UNCLAS AFF. ET. PRTO

AYANT APPRIS LA DISPARITION TRAGIQUE DU SENATEUR ROBERT KENNEDY
HONNEUR VOUS ADRESSER MES TRES VIVES CONDOLEANCES ET VOUS PRIE
D'ETRE MON INTERPRETE AUPRES DA LA FAMILLE DU DEFUNT POUR LUI
DIRE QUE JE PARTAGE PROFONDEMENT SA DOULEUR

DR JACQUES BAROUM

LE MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

Chad, Minister of
700.

Chad,
Minister of

1

UNCLASSIFIED



POL 6 US/Kennedy,
Robert F.
Department of State
TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED 605

PAGE 01 TRIPOLI 03875 061222Z

53
ACTION AF 15

INFO SS 20, H 02, PR 02, P 04, USIE 00, NSC 10, SSO 00, RSR 01, RSC 01,
CIAE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, /062 W

P R 06113Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2772
INFO AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
AMEMBASSY BAIDA

UNCLAS TRIPOLI 3875

REF: STATE 176747

JOINT STATE/USIS

SUBJ: LIBYAN REACTION ASSASSINATION SEN TOR KENNEDY.

1. IN EDITIONS PUBLISHED PRIOR TO NEWS OF SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEATH, TRIPOLI PRESS JUNE 6 DEVOTED PROMINENT FRONT PAGE COVERAGE, UNDER BANNER HEADLINES TO ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. ASIDE FROM STRAIGHT WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS OF INCIDENT AND DETAILS SENATOR'S PHYSICAL CONDITION, MANY PAPERS FOCUSED ON MYSTERIOUS ASSAILANT. AL RAA'ID, RADICAL ANTI-AMERICAN DAILY, HEADLINE READ: "TREACHEROUS ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST KENNEDY FOLLOWING SUCCESS IN CALIFORNIA PRIMARY". AL ALAM, GOVERNMENT DAILY, CARRIED HEADLINE: "STRANGE ACCOUNT ABOUT IDENTITY OF KENNEDY ASSAILANT". WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS OF INCIDENT REVEALED NAME, AGE AND BRIEF BACKGROUND DATA ON ASSAILANT, INCLUDING FACT HE HAD ONCE LIVED IN JERUSALEM, BUT ALL PAPERS AND RADIO STATED HIS NATIONALITY AS YET UNKNOWN. SOME PAPERS CARRIED REUTERS REPORT ON STATEMENT FROM AN ARAB LEADER IN "FORMER JORDANIAN SECTOR OF JERUSALEM" EXPRESSING SHOCK AT INCIDENT BUT CLAIMING NO FAMILIARITY WITH NAME "SARHAN" IN JERUSALEM.

2. AL RAA'ID ONLY PAPER TO COMMENT ON ATTACK. IN

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Tripoli 3875
6/6/68

POL 6 US/Kennedy,
Robert F.



Department of State

TELEGRAM

21

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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 03875 061222Z

VIOLENT BACK PAGE EDITORIAL, RAA'ID WRITER CLAIMED INCIDENT REVEALS "DECAY OF DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA" AND "CONTRADICTIONS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY", AND DECRIED "DOMINATION BULLETS OVER AMERICAN STREETS. PAPER ASSERTED "TRAGEDY OF NEGRO" AND INCREASING NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED AND POOR WILL ULTIMATELY LEAD TO CIVIL WAR. WRITER OBSERVED THAT ARABS SEE NO HOPE THAT ANY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WILL HELP ARABS "REGAIN LANDS" AND DECRIED INFLUENCE "JEWISH MONEY AND VOTES" ON ALL CANDIDATES. WRITER ADDED THAT "WE DO NOT SEE ROBERT KENNEDY AS SAVIOUR OR ARABS OR AS MAN WHO WOULD CHANGE AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY". WHILE DEPLORING ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. PAPER CLAIMED IT REPRESENTED DOMINANCE VIOLENCE IN AMERICAN LIFE. EDITORIAL ENJOINED AMERICANS TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM DOMINATION OF "CAPITALISM, ZIONISM, AND EXTREMEST ORGANIZATION" SO THEY CAN REGAIN CONFIDENCE OF WORLD.

3. RAA'ID ONLY PAPER TO STATE IT BELIEVED ASSAILANT HAD ACCOMPLICES ALTHOUGH OTHER PAPERS PUBLISHED DETAILS RAISING SUSPICION OF CONSPIRACY. NEWSOM

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*Pol 6 US/Kennedy,
Robert F.*
Department of State
TELEGRAM
43

UNCLASSIFIED 570

PAGE 01 KINGST 02559 052122Z

89

ACTION ARA 16

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

R 052052Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2481

UNCLAS KINGSTON 2559

SIR ALEXANDER BUSTAMANTE HAS REQUESTED ME TO TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT: "I AM SHOCKED AND HORRIFIED AT THE TRAGIC NEWS OF THE SHOOTING OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY. THIS IS ANOTHER BLOT ON CIVILIZATION. I EXTEND TO YOU, THE PEOPLE OF THE USA AND THE KENNEDY FAMILY MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY. IT IS A A SHAME SUCH SAVAGERY CONTINUES. BUSTAMANTE" TOBRINER

*Kingston 2559
6/5/68*

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POL 6 US/Kennedy,
Robert F.
Department of State
TELEGRAM

7

UNCLASSIFIED 326

PAGE 01 070645Z

18
ACTION ARA 16

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

R 051110Z JUN 68
FM MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ECUADOR
TO SECSTATE WASH D.C.

UNCLAS

E X A C T T R A N S L A T I O N

HIS EXCELLENCY
DEAN RUSK
SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

90 I AM HORROR-STRICKEN AND GREATLY CONCERNED OVER THE RECENT
ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY. I RESPECTFULLY
ASK YOU TO CONVEY TO THE KENNEDY FAMILY MY SINCERE WISHES FOR
HIS PROMPT RECOVERY.

GUSTAVO LARREA CORDOVA

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ECUADOR

Ecuador, Minister of

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1

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01363 051052Z

18
ACTION AF 15

INFO SSO 00, GPM 04, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01, H 02, 1069 W

P R 050932Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1693
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 1363

PRES BONGO AS WELL FRENCH AMB HAVE TELEPHONED EXPRESS THEIR DEEP SHOCK, DISTRESS AND REGRET OVER ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT SENATOR KENNEDY AND TO EXPRESS HOPE HIS RECOVERY. I HAVE TOLD BONGO I WOULD CONVEY SUCH INFO AS I RECEIVE ON SENATOR KENNEDY AND STATE HIS HEALTH AS SOON AS RECEIVED.
BANE

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63 Pol 6 US/Kennedy, Robert F
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

Pol 23-8 The Congo

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 147

PAGE 01 KINSHA 09589 051804Z

43
ACTION AF 15

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04,
RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, SCS 04, SCA 02, O 02, SY 03,
FBO 01, PER 02, OPR 02, OC 06, CCO 00, RSR 01, SSO 00, SAH 03, ACDA 16,
/150 W

R 051600Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8164
INFO AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
STATESGRNC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 9589

1. EMBASSY DOES NOT FORESEE ANY LOCAL SECURITY PROBLEMS ARISING FROM TRAGIC SHOOTING OF SENATOR KENNEDY, BUT WE HAVE TAKEN NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS JUST IN CASE. KENNEDY NAME IS EXTREMELY POPULAR AMONG CONGOLESE, AND THERE IS STILL SOME PENT UP EMOTION FROM MARTIN LUTHER KING'S ASSASSINATION.
2. SQUAD OF POLICEMEN APPEARED AT CHANCERY WEDNESDAY AFTER-NOON WITH INSTRUCTIONS FROM CITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS TO PROTECT EMBASSY. WE FOUND OUT LATER THAT TOP RANKING POLICE OFFICIAL HAD HEARD RUMORS THERE MIGHT BE DEMONSTRATIONS AND HE SENT POLICEMEN ON HIS OWN COMMENDABLE INITIATIVE. WE STILL TRYING TO TRACE THESE RUMORS TO THEIR SOURCE AND WILL KEEP ALERT FOR AS LONG AS NECESSARY.
3. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE ARE ALL HORRIFIED AND DEEPLY SADDENED BY SHOOTING. EMBASSY SWITCHBOARD FLOODED BY ANXIOUS INQUIRIES. MCGUIRE

(2)

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RECEIVED 17 JUN 68

37

POL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F.
177068

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

5 JUN 68 22 24z

FOR OCIT USE ONLY

Origin
Info:

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN IMMEDIATE
Amconsul JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
INFO: USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE
Amembassy BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
" JIDDA IMMEDIATE
" KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
" ADEN IMMEDIATE
" ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
" RABAT IMMEDIATE
" TUNIS IMMEDIATE
" TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
" KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
" LONDON IMMEDIATE
" BENGHAZI IMMEDIATE
" BAIDA IMMEDIATE
Amconsul DHAMRAN IMMEDIATE
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

LIMDIS

STATE

Re DEPTTEL 176785

Person in custody Los Angeles police now further identified as SIRHAN

BISHARA SIRHAN born [redacted] Jerusalem. Visa issued Amman

P11

September 24, 1956. Application number I-1130888. Visa number 1669.

Non-quota under PL 203-4-(a)(14). Came to US on mother's passport.

Mother's name MARY BISHARA SARHAN RPT SARHAN. Mother's passport issued

by Jordan Government July 2, 1956, number 142026. Father's last known

address Bishara Sarhan, P.O. 4079, Jerusalem. Sirhan believed to have

aunt named Elen Hadawwar whose last known address was care House of

There should be no public release of foregoing

Shaikh Yasin, Jerusalem. ~~There should be no public release of foregoing info.~~

info / unless otherwise notified. USIA cable following with publicly

releasable biographic data.

END

GP-3

Drafted by: L/NEA - Donald Wehmeyer:bw 6/5/68

Tel. Ext.

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by: NEA - Lucius D. Battle

Clearances:

NEA - Mr. Rockwell SY/PRS - Mr. Lynch VO - Mr. Owens

NEA/ARN - Mr. Houghton

AFN - Mr. Lloyd

USIA-ACarter

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification



63 Pol 6 US/ Kennedy, Robert F
Department of State **TELEGRAM**
41

UNCLASSIFIED 248

PAGE 01 RABAT 04545 051924Z

53

ACTION H 02

INFO AF 09, SS 20, CPR 02, P 04, USIA 12, NSC 10, SSO 00, RSR 01, RSC 01,

/061 W

R 051842Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4514

UNCLAS RABAT 4545

SUBJ: MOROCCAN REACTION TO KENNEDY ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF STATEMENT MADE JUNE 5 BY
FONMIN SPOKESMAN:

"THE GOVERNMENT OF H.M. THE KING WAS STRONGLY AFFECTED BY THE
ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY. IN EXPRESSING
ITS REGRETS MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT RESTATES ITS DISAPPROVAL OF THE
UTILIZATION OF FORCE AND VIOLENCE IN DIFFERENT SPHERES --
PARTICULARLY
THAT OF POLITICS."

2. FONMIN LARAKI ADDITIONALLY SENT FOLLOWING TO MRS. KENNEDY
ON BEHALF OF KING:

"HIS MAJESTY THE KING RECEIVED WITH INDIGNATION THE NEWS OF THE
ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF YOUR HUSBAND SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY. HE
HAS ASKED TO EXTEND HIS SYMPATHY AND HIS FERVENT WISHES FOR AN
EARLY RECOVERY." TASCA

4
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(21)



Department of State

POL 6 45/Kennedy,
TELEGRAM
Robert F. ²⁷

UNCLASSIFIED 141

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 07040 051804Z

50
ACTION EUR 20

INFO SS 20, H 02, CPR 02, P 04, USIA 12, NSC 10, RSR 01, 071 W

R 051728Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6586

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 7040

SUBJECT: KENNEDY SHOOTING

1. FORMIN HARMEL MADE RADIO STATEMENT TODAY REGARDING
ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR KENNEDY. TRANSLATION
FOLLOWS:

2. THE CRIMINAL ATTEMPT WHICH THE BROTHER OF THE
ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT HAS JUST BEEN THE VICTIM IS STAGGERING.

3. POLITICAL MURDER IS ALWAYS A COWARDLY ACT. EVERY BELGIAN
AND I AM SURE OF BEING THEIR SPOKESMAN, WHO RESPECTS AMERICAN
DEMOCRACY, EXPRESSED THE UNANIMOUS WISH FOR THE RETURN TO
HEALTH OF THE ONE WHO HAS JUST BEEN THE VICTIM OF AN
ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION. KNIGHT

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6/5/68
B
Brussels
7040

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

ZFF-6
POL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT
POL 7 DEF 19-19 US
AID(US) 8
5 JUN 68 20 322
176785
FOR OC/T USE ONLY

Origin
Info.

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN IMMEDIATE
USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE
Amembassy BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
Amembassy JIDDA IMMEDIATE
Amembassy KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
Amconsul DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
Amconsul JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
Amembassy ADEN IMMEDIATE
Amembassy ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
Amembassy RABAT IMMEDIATE
Amembassy TUNIS IMMEDIATE
Amembassy TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
Amembassy KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
Amembassy LONDON IMMEDIATE
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

ACTION:

Amembassy BENGHAZI IMMEDIATE
Amembassy BAIDA IMMEDIATE

INFO.: Amembassy TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
White House, DOB, CIA

STATE

1. Person currently held by Los Angeles police connection Kennedy shooting now tentatively identified as Sharif Bishary Sirhan AKA Sirhan ~~Bix~~ Bihara Shirhan. Born in Jordan PII permanent resident U.S., having entered port of New York January 12, 1957. INS Number A-10-711-881. Sirhan believed to have four brothers: Munir, ~~XXXX~~ Adel, Saidalah, ~~Sharif~~ Sharif.
2. All posts should institute maximum security ~~XXXX~~ precautions, refrain from any comment to press or anyone else with respect likely guilt or political implications incident. If Embassies aware nationals country to which accredited who may be visiting U.S. to whom special security precautions would be advisable, please advise immediately.

Drafted by:

NEA:LDBattle:lab 6/5/68

Tel. Ext.

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

NEA - Lucius D. Battle

Clearances:

O/SY - Mr. Grignon (draft)
~~XXXXXX~~ O/SY/PRS - Mr. Lynch
(draft)
IO - Mr. Sisco

AFN - Mr. Lloyd
U - Mr. Katzenbach
CIA - Mr. Critchfield (notified)
L/NEA - Mr. Nehmeyer

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

DISSEMINATED BY NSA

176785

[Handwritten signature]

(21)

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

3. Any info available any post with respect to relationship suspect to any organization or group requested urgently.
4. USUN requested advise Police Department New York, PERM REPS, and request protection staffs Arab missions.
5. In event any posts queried by governments to which accredited re facts in case, suggest only statement that suspect tentatively identified ^{by name given above} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ without any comment with respect guilt, or political implications.
6. Addressees requested report anticipated local reactions when identity person in custody becomes publicly known.

END

GP-3

RUSK

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

37. PCL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F.

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

177238

5 JUN 68 23 32Z

FOR OC/T USE ONLY

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN IMMEDIATE

Info:

STATE

REF: STATE 176785

L I M D I S

TO BE DELIVERED TO THE ACTION OFFICER OPENING OF BUSINESS JUNE 6

1. Jordan Ambassador Abdul Hamid Sharaf called on Assistant

Secretary Battle this afternoon to express his regrets and

inform the Department that he had been instructed by King

Hussein to go immediately to California to express Hussein's

regrets to the Kennedy family over the assassination attempt

on Senator Robert Kennedy. Battle expressed appreciation

for the Ambassador's sentiments but suggested that now was

perhaps not the time for such a message to be delivered

orally to the Kennedy family. He informed the Ambassador

that the Under Secretary would be pleased to pass the message

on personally to the family and suggested that perhaps the

King would wish to send a written message to the family also.

2. Battle told the Ambassador that he was advising him as

friend but if the Ambassador insisted on going to California

Drafted by:

NEA/ARN:RBHoughton, dmg 6/5/68

Tel. Ext.

5617

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

NEA - Lucius D. Battle

Clearances:

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Classification

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he of course was free to do so. He also emphasized that his reasons for giving this advice had nothing to do with security. Battle added that it might be appropriate at a later time for him to personally express regret on behalf of his government. He indicated to the Ambassador that we would be in close touch with him on developments.

3. Battle also gave the Ambassador what information he had concerning the alleged assailant as given in STATE 176785.

4. Sharaf thanked Battle and said that he would inform his government of our advice and in the meantime would not go to California.

5. FYI. The Ambassador was concerned that there be no misunderstanding in Amman over the reasons for his failure to carry out the King's instructions. END FYI.

GP-3

END

RUSK

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification



59
Pol 6 US/Kennedy,
Robert F.
Department of State

TELEGRAM

50

UNCLASSIFIED 417

PAGE 01 SANTO 02739 052217Z

89

ACTION ARA 16

INFO RSR 01, SS 20, H 02, NSC 10, P 04, USIA 12, CPR 02, SSO 00, RSC 01, 0068 W

P R 052125Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5389

INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 2739

SUBJECT: POLITICAL LEADERS COMMENT ON SENATOR KENNEDY SHOOTING

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ON SENATOR KENNEDY SHOOTING CARRIED
OVER LOCAL RADIO STATIONS THIS AFTERNOON:

A. PRESIDENT BALAGUER CALLED SHOOTING "AN EXECRABLE ACT
WHICH I AND DOMINICAN PEOPLE PROFOUNDLY LAMENT". PRESIDENT
ADDED INCIDENT WAS MANIFESTATION OF VIOLENCE ABROAD IN WORLD
WHICH ALL MUST FACE, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN PUBLIC OFFICE.
B. PRD SECGEN PENA GOMEZ SAID SHOOTING WAS HARD BLOW TO
MILLIONS OF NORTHAMERICAN WHITES AND NEGROES WHO HAD HOPED
KENNEDY'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY WOULD BRING A NEW ERA OF
UNDERSTANDING, PEACE AND FRATERNITY TO ALL AMERICANS. STATED
THIS "CRIMINAL ACT ALSO CAUSED DEEP WOUND IN LATIN AMERICA" FOR
WHICH KENNEDY HAS PROFOUND RESPECT AND ADMIRATION, AND WHICH
ALSO BELIEVED HIS CANDIDACY WOULD USHER IN PERIOD OF NEW US
POLICY AND OPEN NEW ERA OF RESPECT FOR LA SELF-DETERMINATION,
NOW SO BLATANTLY IGNORED BY (PRESIDENT) JOHNSON. PRD IS
DEEPLY CONSTERNATED BY BRUTAL ATTACK WHICH ABRUPTLY CUTS OFF
HOPES OF ALL OF WORLD'S EXPLOITED FOR REDEMPTION. PENA GOMEZ
ADDED WISHES FOR SENATOR KENNEDY'S SPEEDY RECOVERY AND EXTENDED
PRD'S CONDOLENCES TO KENNEDY FAMILY "AND TO ALL US LIBERALS,
WITH WHOM PRD IDEOLOGICALLY IDENTIFIES."

C. PRSC PRESIDENT CAONABO JAVIER CASTILLO SAID "SAVAGE
ATTACK WAS MANIFESTATION OF PRESENT STATE OF STRUCTURAL DE-
COMPOSITION AFFECTING US. IT INCREDIBLE THAT WEST'S MOST
POWERFUL NATION CANNOT EVEN ALLOW FREE FLOW OF MOST ELEMENTAL
DEMOCRATIC IDEAS." JAVIER ATTRIBUTED ATTACK TO UNIDENTIFIED
ECONOMIC AND OTHER VESTED INTERESTS IN US WHO ALLEGEDLY

UNCLASSIFIED

Handwritten:
Santo Domingo
2739
6-5-68



Department of State

TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTO 02739 052217Z

DEDICATED TO PREVENTING CHANGE AND TO FORECLOSING CONTINUED
US MORAL LEADERSHIP IN WORLD. CRIMMINS

UNCLASSIFIED



Pol-6 US/Kennedy
Department of State

TELEGRAM

43

UNCLASSIFIED 545

PAGE 01 CARACA 06113 052334Z

89

ACTION ARA 16

INFO (RSR) 01, SS 20, H 02, NSC 10, P 04, USIE 00, CPR 02, SSO 00, RSC 01, /050 W

P 052215Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4619

UNCLAS CARACAS 6113

JOINT EMBASSY/USIA MESSAGE

REF: CARACAS 6098

1. REACTION TO ATTEMPT ON SENATOR KENNEDY CONTINUES STRONG THIS AFTERNOON. LEADING CARACAS MORNINGER, INDEPENDENT, LEFT OF CENTER EL NACIONAL (CIRCULATION 105,000) APPEARED ON STREETS AT 1415 LOCAL TIME WITH 8-PAGE SPECIAL EDITION DEVOTED TO KENNEDY. FRONT PAGE BANNERED QUOTE ATTEMPTED R. KENNEDY UNQUOTE OVER THREE-QUARTER PAGE AP RADIOPHOTO OF SENATOR ON FLOOR OF AMBASSADOR HOTEL SECONDS AFTER SHOOTING. BACK PAGE HEADLINED QUOTE KENNEDY IN CRITICAL STATE AFTER OPERATION UNQUOTE AND CARRIES ADDITIONAL PICTURES OF KENNEDY WOUNDED AND ONE OF WOULD-BE ASSASSIN.

2. INSIDE PAGE FEATURES STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT LEONI AS FOLLOWS QUOTE IT IS DIFFICULT TO GIVE AN OPINION ABOUT THE TRUE NATURE OF THE ATTEMPT CARRIED OUT ON THE LIFE OF THE WELL-KNOWN DEMOCRATIC CHAMPION, SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY BEFORE KNOWING DETAILS WHICH SO FAR HAVE NOT COME TO LIGHT. BUT THE ACT IN ITSELF IS UNNATURAL. IT PRODUCES INDIGNATION AND ALARM ALL OVER THE WORLD AND AROUSES FEELINGS OF INDIGNATION AND REVULSION... I PRAY FERVENTLY FOR THE RECOVERY

OF SENATOR KENNEDY AND THAT THIS ACT WILL NOT LEAD TO INTERNAL DISTURBANCE CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY UNQUOTE.

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Caracas
6/1/68
6/5/68



Department of State

TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 06113 052334Z

3. SAME PAGE CARRIES STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR, AS RELEASED TO PRESS AND REPORTED ON JOINT EMBASSY/USIA TELEGRAM 6089, PLUS BRIEF INTERVIEW GIVEN TO EL NACIONAL REPORTER. PAPER ALSO CARRIES STATEMENTS BY CARDINAL QUINTERO, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS AND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES OR LEADERS OF AD, MEP, COPEI, FND, FDP, UPA AND URD.

4. GONZALO BARRIOS (AD), AFTER EXPRESSING HIS SHOCK AT THE ATTEMPT AND SAYING HE COULD NOT GIVE AN OPINION ABOUT THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ACT BECAUSE HE DID NOT YET KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WENT ON TO STATE QUOTE NEVERTHELESS, THE ACT ITSELF STRENGTHENS THE EXISTING IMPRESSION ABOUT THE ANOMALIES OCCURRING IN TODAY'S AMERICAN SOCIETY WHICH ARE GIVING RISE TO SERIOUS WORRIES UNQUOTE.

5. CALDERA (COPEI), SAID THE ENTIRE WORLD MUST BE AGHAST AT THIS MOSTROUS CRIME WHICH BEARS THE SAME MARK AS THE ASSASSINATIONS OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING. CONTINUING, THE COPEI CANDIDATE SAID QUOTE I BELIEVE THAT THIS HAS DONE MORE DAMAGE TO US PRESTIGE THAT ALL ITS DIPLOMATIC ERRORS AND HAS ENDANGERED THE PEOPLE'S FAITH IN DEMOCRACY TO A MORE ACUTE DEGREE THAT THE FREQUENT DISTURBANCES IN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES...I HOPE THAT SENATOR KENNEDY, WHOSE STATURE IS GROWING IN THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, WILL RECOVER AND CONTINUE HIS CAMPAIGN SO THAT WE MAY SEE THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS "MAFFIA" WHICH ELIMINATED HIS BROTHER AND REVEREND LUTHER KING AND WHOSE PERSISTENCE IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE DIGNITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND WITH THE PRINCIPLES WHICH SUPPORT DEMOCRACY ON THE AMERICAN CONTINENT UNQUOTE.

6. LUIS BELTRAN PRIETO (MEP) STATED QUOTE THE ATTEMPT AGAINST SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY IS A LAMENTABLE EVENT RESULTING FROM THE AGGRESSIVENESS AND ANOMALIES PROVOKED BY

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CARACA 06113 052334Z

US POLICY. IS IS ALARMING THAT IN A CIVILIZED PEOPLE THERE CAN OCCUR SUCH HAPPENINGS AS THE ASSASSINATION OF LUTHER KING, BEFORE THAT THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, AND NOW THE ATTEMPT ON HIS BROTHER, BOB KENNEDY. IS IS THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE IN THE MIDST OF CIVILIZATION. AND THAT INDICATES A STATE OF DEGENERATION WHICH HAS NO RESPECT FOR THE LIVES OF ILLUSTRIOUS PERSONS AND TAKES NO ACCOUNT OF ANY WORK FOR THE COLLECTIVE GOOD. HOPEFULLY, THE BAD EXAMPLE OF THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT SPREAD AMONG OUR UNDERDEVELOPED PEOPLES OR AMONG THOSE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT UNQUOTE.

2. THE CAPITAL'S AFTERNOONERS DEVOTED LARGE PROPORTION OF THEIR COLUMNS TO KENNEDY. CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENT LA VERDAD (15,000) GAVE OVER HALF OF FRONT PAGE TO UPI RADIOPHOTO OF SENATOR AFTER SHOOTING UNDER 5-INCH HEAD QUOTE KENNEDY DYING UNQUOTE FLANKED BY GOOD INFORMAL SHOT OF HEALTHY KENNEDY. REST OF FRONT PAGE DEVOTED TO UPI STORIES ON SHOOTING AND FEATURE DESCRIBING AUTHOR'S PERSONAL REMINISCENCES OF KENNEDY VISIT TO VENEZUELA. BACK PAGE CARRIES ADDITIONAL PICTURE OF KENNEDY AFTER SHOOTING AND ONE OF ASSASSIN UNDER BANNER HEAD QUOTE CONSPIRACY OF TERROR UNQUOTE. INSIDE PAGES FULL OF PICTURES OF KENNEDY IN VENEZUELA AND CAMPAIGN PICTURES. ONE PAGE HEADLINED QUOTE CONSTERNATION IN WORLD UNQUOTE, FEATURES STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON, THE POPE, DE GAULLE, KIESINGER, SARAGAT AND U.S. OFFICIALS. ANOTHER PAGE FEATURES STATEMENTS OF SOME OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENTIAL CONDIDATES ALREADY MENTIONED.

BERNBAUM

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Department of State

POL 6 US/KENNEDY
ROBERT F
TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 718

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05140 051350Z

53
ACTION H 02

INFO NEA 13,SS 20,CPR 02,P 04,USIA 12,NSC 10,SSO 00,RSR 01,RSC 01,
/065 W

R 051310Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5981

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEHRAN 5140

SUBJECT: ATTEMPT ON SENATOR KENNEDY'S LIFE

1. DURING POLCOUNS CALL ON FONOFF UNDERSECRETARY
KHALATBARI ON OTHER MATTERS, HE INDICATED KNOWLEDGE
OF ATTEMPT ON SENATOR KENNEDY'S LIFE AND PERSONALLY
EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET AND SYMPATHY.

2. MANY EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN AND SYMPATHY BEING
RECEIVED. EMBASSY/USIS INDICATING WE HAVE NO OFFICIAL
REPORTS BUT CONVEYING ON STRICTLY FACTUAL BASIS INFO
AS RECEIVED ON TICKER. HARLAN

RECEIVED BY 15/8

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE



59

POL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F.

Department of State

TELEGRAM

68

UNCLASSIFIED 421

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00457 052219Z

80

ACTION USIE 00

INFO ARA 08, RSR 01, RSC 01, /010 W

P R 052039Z JUN 68

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 718

UNCLAS BELIZE 457

FOR USIS

PLEASE FORWARD OPEN AIR MAIL SOONEST AND MATERIAL ON
SENATOR ROBERT KEEN. KENNEDY

BELIZE

S-503

457

MICROFILMED BY 65/A

(1)

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6



Pol 6 US/Kennedy,
Robert F.
Department of State

TELEGRAM

29

UNCLASSIFIED 209

PAGE 01 CARACA 06098 051900Z

53

ACTION H 02

INFO ARA 08, SS 20, CPR 02, P 04, USIE 00, NSC 10, SSO 00, RSR 01, RSC 01,

/048 W

0 051842Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4609

UNCLAS CARACAS 6098

JOINT EMBASSY/USIA MESSAGE

1. NEWS OF ATTACK ON SENATOR KENNEDY WAS FLASHED OVER LOCAL RADIO STATIONS AROUND 6:45 A.M. LOCAL TIME. FROM THAT MOMENT ON EMBASSY, AMBASSADOR AND INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS RECEIVED MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED CALLS FROM VENEZUELAN OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE EXPRESSING THEIR SYMPATHY.

2. AMBASSADOR ISSUED FOLLOWING STATE: "I HAVE LEARNED WITH THE DEEPEST SHOCK OF THE COWARDLY ATTACK MADE ON SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THIS MORNING. I UNDERSTAND THAT DOCTORS ARE NOW PERFORMING AN EXTREMELY DELICATE OPERATION IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE HIS LIFE. ON BEHALF OF MYSELF, THE STAFF OF THE EMBASSY AND THE ENTIRE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN VENEZUELA I EXTEND DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO MRS. KENNEDY AND HER CHILDREN IN THIS HOUR OF TRAGEDY AND TO EXPRESS A HEARTFELT PRAYER THAT SENATOR KENNEDY'S LIFE MAY BE SAVED."

3. STATEMENT WAS GIVEN HEAVY PLAY OVER RADIO AND TV.

4. AMONG CALLERS WERE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PASSING ON TO AMBASSADOR PRESIDENT LEONI'S SYMPATHY. OTHER CALLERS INCLUDED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS, DIPLOMATIC CORPS, REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN COMMUNITIES IN CARACAS. PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY WERE EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY AND SOLIDARITY OF MANY AVERAGE VENEZUELAN CITIZENS.

5. EL NACIONAL, LEADING CARACAS DAILY, PLANS SPECIAL EDITION

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Caracas 6098
6/5/68

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Department of State

TELEGRAM
29

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PAGE 02 CARACA 06098 051900Z

FOR AFTERNOON. PRESS, RADIO, AND TV REPORTERS AND CAMERAMEN
HAVE BEEN COVERING EMBASSY SINCE EARLY MORNING.

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34



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

50

UNCLASSIFIED 353

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 04775 052140Z

89

ACTION ARA 16

INFO RSR 01, SS 20, H 02, NSC 10, P 04, USIE 00, CPR 02, SSO 00, RSC 01, /056 W

P 052100Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4745

UNCLAS LA PAZ 4775

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO ATTEMPT ON SENATOR KENNEDY'S LIFE

1. PRESIDENT BARRIENTOS, VICE PRESIDENT SILES, FOREIGN MINISTER ELIO AND LA PAZ ARCHBISHOP MANRIQUE HAVE ISSUED PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF SORROW AT KENNEDY TRAGEDY IN CALIFORNIA. ARCHBISHOP HELD NOON PRAYER SERVICE AT LA PAZ CATHEDRAL FOR SENATOR KENNEDY. ALTHOUGH NOTICE SHORT, SERVICE WAS WELL ATTENDED.

2. VICE PRESIDENT SILES AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER COMMISSION OF FOREIGN RELATIONS ONDARZA, PAID PERSONAL CALLS ON AMBASSADOR TO EXPRESS CONDOLENCES AT TRAGEDY. LIKewise RECENTLY ARRIVED FRENCH AMBASSADOR JOSEPH LAMBORSCHINI VISITED AMBASSADOR TO EXPRESS PERSONAL SENTIMENTS OF GRIEF. AMBASSADOR LAMBORSCHINI, FORMERLY FRENCH CHARGE AT SAIGON, RECALLS WITH APPRECIATION KINDNESS ACCORDED HIM BY SENATOR KENNEDY DURING LATTER'S VISITS TO SOUTH VIETNAM.

HENDERSON

DECLASSIFIED BY 103/A

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for PAZ 4775-
 6/5/68

Pol 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F.
 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
 NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
 MESSAGE CENTER

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6-5-68

BONN - UNN

UNCLAS USINFO WASHINGTON FOR IAE, IRS/AF, IRS AND IPS, REPEAT
 FC/STRICKER, NEW YORK; SECSTATE FOR GER; DOD/ISA FOR ILN;
 PASS STATE AND WHITE HOUSE; USIS BONN
 BONN, JUNE 5 --- CONSTERNATION, SHOCK, DISBELIEF WERE THE REACTION
 OF NUMEROUS CALLERS WHO INQUIRED AT THE EMBASSY ABOUT THE SHOOTING
 OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY.
 FIRST OFFICIAL REACTION CAME FROM FOREIGN MINISTER WILLY BRANDT
 WHO OPENED A NEWS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO
 PARTY MATTERS WITH THE WORDS, A DEEP SHOCK HAS GONE THROUGH THE
 FEDERAL REPUBLIC AT THE NEWS OF THE SHOOTING OF SENATOR KENNEDY,
 THE DEEPEST SYMPATHIES OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND MINE PERSONALLY, GO
 TO THE KENNEDY FAMILY, AND ESPECIALLY TO SENATOR KENNEDY'S WIFE,
 ETHEL, TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND THE U.S. SENATE, IT IS A
 TRAGEDY LIKE IN ANTIQUE (GREEK) TIMES,
 GERMAN TELEVISION, MEANWHILE, IS SCHEDULING A SPECIAL EUROVISION
 SATELLITE BROADCAST AT 12:45 LOCAL TIME, TO PICK UP U.S. TELEVISION
 COVERAGE OF THE SHOOTING.

BT
 NNNN

ACT: ASD/ISA-9

INFO: CJCS-1 DJS-3 SJCS-1 J3-8 J5-2 SACSA-3 NMCC-1 ASD/ADM-4
 ASD/PA-1 W/H-4 STATE-1 DIA-15 CSA-1 CNO-2 CSAF-1 CMC-3
 FILE 1(65) HAT/JR

PAGE 1 OF 1

37

POL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F.

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN FLASH

5 JUN 68 19 15z

Info:

Person currently held as suspect assassination attempt
Robert Kennedy tentatively identified as Sharif Bishary Sirhan.
Born in Jordan [] and now in US as permanent PII
resident under INS number A-10-711-881.

In your discretion inform King or senior government
official foregoing but withholding any comment with respect
to guilt, political implications. Further details follow.

You should make no public comment.

RUSK

Drafted by:

NEA:LDBattle:fc 6/5

Tel. Ext.

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

NEA:LDBattle

Clearances:

SY/prs - Mr. Lynch (Draft)

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification



POL 6 US/KENNEDY ROBERT F

Department of State

TELEGRAM

43

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 322

PAGE 01 CAPE T 01437 052047Z

92

ACTION AF 15

INFO SS 20, NSC 10, P 04, USIE 00, CIAE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, RSC 01, RSR 01

1058 W

P 051540Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1109
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCOMSUL CAPE TOWN UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 1437

SUBJECT: KENNEDY ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT: REACTIONS

JOINT EMB-CONGEN-USIS MESSAGE

1. NEWS OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT SUBJECT OF SPECIAL EDITIONS AND VERY WIDE COVERAGE IN SA PRESS AND ON RADIO. REACTION APPEARS UNIFORMLY ONE OF SHOCK AND DISMAY AT LATEST MANIFESTATION OF VIOLENCE.

2. SPECIAL INTEREST OF SA IN SEN KENNEDY, OWING TO HIS CONTROVERSIAL VISIT HERE IN 1966, WIDELY NOTED. THUS SOME REACTIONS PRECEDED BY DISAVOWAL OF AGREEMENT WITH HIS POLITICAL VIEWS, AND CONCENTRATE ON REVULSION AT WHAT IS SEEN AS CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE IN US.

3. PRIMIN, WHO INFORMED WHILE IN CABINET MEETING, LATER SAID (AS REPORTED IN ARGUS): "THE INCIDENT IS MORE THAN SHOCKING. OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO MRS. KENNEDY, THE CHILDREN AND THE FAMILY". IN TEXT OBTAINED BY PHONE FROM SAPA, PRIMIN ADDED FOLLOWING: WHICH WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN IN PRESS: "IT MUST GIVE DEEP CAUSE FOR THOUGHT, BECAUSE IT IS THE OUTCOME OF A SPIRIT OF LAWLESSNESS, Nihilism AND ANARCHY WHICH IS RIFE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND WHICH IS OFTEN OPENLY ENCOURAGED OR CONDONED".

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6-5-68

Handwritten note: 6-5-68

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TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 CAPE T 01437 052047Z

4. NEW EVOKED NUMBER OF STATEMENTS FROM LEADING PARLIAMEN-
TARIANS:.

A. OPPOSITION LEADER GRAAFF EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH
FAMILY OVER "WANTON ACT", AND OBSERVED THAT "WE SAFRICANS
CAN SAY WITH DEEP FEELING THAT THIS IS NOT WAY TO SETTLE
POLITICAL ARGUMENTS".

B. PROGRESSIVE MP SUZMAN CALLED ACT "HORRIFYING...FURTHER
EXAMPLE OF GHASTLY UNDERCURRENT OF VIOLENCE THAT SEEMS TO
BE ONE OF HAZARDS OF PUBLIC OFFICE IN AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE".

C. NP PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEADER PAUL VAN DER
MERWE EXPRESSED "EXTREME SORROW...EVERY CIVILIZED PERSON
THROUGHOUT WORLD WILL BE FILLED WITH REPUGNANCE".

5. SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF CALLS RECEIVED, BY EMBASSY, CONGEN
AND USIS, INQUIRING ABOUT SENATOR'S CONDITION AND EXPRESSING
SYMPATHY. AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS AS FOLLOWS QUOTED IN
ARGUS: "US AMBASSADOR TO SA (MR. WILLIAM ROUNTREE) SAID HE
WAS DEEPLY SHOCKED AND DISTRESSED BY THE NEWS OF 'THIS
TRAGIC AND SENSELESS SHOOTING OF ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST
OUTSTANDING STATESMEN, AND THE OTHERS WHO WERE INJURED'".

6 FOR SA POSTS: REPORT LOCAL REACTION DIRECTLY BUT BRIEFLY.
ROUNTREE

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37



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

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 325

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 03318 051028Z

20
ACTION AF 15

INFO SS 20, GPM 04, P 04, USIE 00, SSO 00, NSCE 00, CCO 00, NSC 10, RSR 01,

RSC 01, /055 W

O 051020Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2502

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 3318

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MSG

DEEP CONCERN EXPRESSED PRESIDENCY AND FORNOFF REPORTED
ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT SENATOR KENNEDY. VIEW CONFLICTING NEWS
STORIES WOULD APPRECIATE BEST AVAILABLE REPORT. MORGAN

Abidjan 3318
6-5-68

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TELEGRAM

29

UNCLASSIFIED 767

PAGE 01 ADDIS 04187 051448Z

43
ACTION H 02

INFO AF 09, SS 20, NSC 10, CPR 02, P 04, USIA 12, RSC 01, RSR 01, SSO 00,

/061 W

P 051410Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5857

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 4187

SUBJECT: KENNEDY ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

1. FOLLOWING TWO MESSAGES FROM EMPEROR JUST RELEASED BY
ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY ALREADY TRANSMITTED BY VOA VIA TELEX
AS USINFO:

A. MRS. ETHEL R. KENNEDY, C/O SECRETARY OF THE U.S. SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. IT IS WITH DEEP GRIEF THAT WE HAVE LEARNT THE
SHOCKING NEWS OF THE MISHAP WHICH BEFELL YOUR HUSBAND WHO HAS
FAITHFULLY FOLLOWED THE EXEMPLARY PATH OF HIS BROTHER, THE
LATE JOHN F. KENNEDY, IN HIS STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND
JUSTICE. WE PRAY THAT THE ALMIGHTY GOD WILL SPARE YOUR
HUSBAND'S LIFE SO THAT HE WILL CARRY ON THE WORK WHICH
HE HAS SET TO ACCOMPLISH FOR THE CAUSE OF HUMAN UNDERSTANDING
AND THE GREAT CAUSE OF WORLD PEACE. MAY THE ALMIGHTY ALSO
GIVE YOU STRENGTH AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT WHICH SHALL ALSO
BE A GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOUR HUSBAND.

HAILE SELASSIE, EMPEROR

B. MR. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, HYANNISPORT, MASS.
WE WERE DEEPLY DISMAYED AT THE VERY SAD AND SHOCKING NEWS
OF THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF YOUR SON,
SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY. WE BESEECH THE ALMIGHTY TO
SPARE YOUR SON'S LIFE AND TO GIVE YOU STRENGTH AT THIS
HOUR OF TRIBULATION.

HAILE SELASSIE, EMPEROR

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*Adia Ababa 4/187
6-5-68*

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61



Department of State

TELEGRAM
29

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 04187 051448Z

2. PALACE, FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND BRITISH, FRENCH AND
GERMAN AMBASSADORS SO FAR EXPRESSED CONCERN AND SYMPATHY.

HALL

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

CONFIDENTIAL 540

PAGE 01 ADDIS 04190 052323Z

82

ACTION NEA 15

INFO AF 09, CPR 02, GPM 04, H 02, NSC 10, O 02, OPR 02, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20,

SY 03, USIA 12, EUR 15, INR 07, SSC 00, RSR 01, / 109 W
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P R 052229Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5859

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4190

1. COMMGHORE#PRINCE DESTA AND IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ON BEHALF OF
EMPEROR AND THE SHAH CALLED ME THIS EVENING TO EXPRESS PROFOUND
REGRET OVER ATTACK ON SENATOR KENNEDY. BOTH ASKED THAT I RELAY
AT ONCE TO HIM AND SHAH ANY REPORT WE RECEIVE ON SENATOR KENNEDY'S
CONDITION AS WELL AS ANY INFO ON IDENTIFICATION OF GUNMAN. PRINCE
DESTA ASKED THAT CONCERN AND SYMPATHY OF ETHIOPIAN ROYAL FAMILY
BE CONVEYED TO BOTH MRS ROBERT KENNEDY AND MRS JOHN KENNEDY.
I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S PASSING THESE MESSAGES IN APPRO-
PRIATE MANNER. IN RESPONSE THESE AND MANY OTHER IN-
QUIRIES HERE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD BE ADVISED CURRENTLY
ON SENATOR'S CONDITION AND EFFORTS IDENTIFY HIS ATTACKER.

2. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME SHAH'S FUTURE TRAVEL PLANS MAY BE
CHANGED TO VISIT MOROCCO BEFORE ROME AND U.S. HE WILL ADVISE
ME DEFINITELY TOMORROW MORNING. HALL

CONFIDENTIAL

43
Addis Ababa
6-5-68
4190

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37



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

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 491

PAGE 01 AMMAN 05193 051145Z

42

ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 20,H 02,CPR 02,P 04,USIA 12,NSC 10,SSO 00,AS 01,RSR 01,RSC 0

1068 W

R 051130Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5692

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 5193

DEPUTY PRIN MIN TOUQAN HAS JUST TELEPHONED TO EXPRESS
REGRETS AT NEWS OF SHOOTING OF SENATOR KENNEDY.
SYMME

Amman 5193
6-5-68

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Department of State

POL 6- US/KENNEDY

ROBERT F

TELEGRAM

42

CONFIDENTIAL 226

PAGE 01 THE HA 05574 051902Z

42

ACTION EUR 24

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

NSC 10,P 04,RSC 01,SP 02,SS 20,USIA 12,NIC 01,RSR 01,089 W

R 051500Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2569

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5574

1. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO EXAGGERATE THE SENSE OF SHOCK AND CONSTERNATION WHICH HAS ENGULFED EVERYONE WITH WHOM I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT SINCE THE NEWS BROKE OF THE ATTACK ON SENATOR KENNEDY.

2. I ATTENDED A RECEPTION AT NOON FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION AND THEIR WIVES FOR OPENING NEWLY RESTORED GERMAN EMBASSY BUILDING, AND EVERY AMBASSADOR AS WELL AS DUTCH NATIONAL PRESENT REFLECTED SAME MOOD AND ATTITUDE. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOOK ME ASIDE AND WAS AT PARTICULAR PAINS CONVEY HIS SYMPATHY: QUOTE THIS IS VERY BAD NEWS FOR ALL OF US, UNQUOTE HE SAID. TYLER

The Hague 5574
6.5.68

CONFIDENTIAL



Department of State

TELEGRAM

POB 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F.

UNCLASSIFIED 703

PAGE 01 VIENNA 04659 051347Z

47

ACTION EUR 20

INFO SS 20, H 02, CPR 02, P 04, USIA 12, NSC 10, RSR 01, RSC 01, /072 W

R 051303Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4273

UNCLAS VIENNA 4659

SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR KLAUS STATEMENT RE ATTACK
ON SENATOR KENNEDY

CHANCELLOR KLAUS RELEASED FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO
AUSTRIAN PRESS AGENCY AT 11:05 AM: QTE THE NEWS
OF THE TERRIBLE ATTEMPT ON SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY'S
LIFE HAS SHOCKED AND BEWILDERED THE WORLD. ON MY
OWN BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
AND THE ENTIRE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE I AM EXPRESSING
REGRET AND GRIEF AT THIS EVIL DEED. HOWEVER HARD
POLITICAL DIFFERENCES MAY CLASH, PHYSICAL ANNILATION
OF THE POLITICAL ADVERSARY IS WHOLLY UNJUSTIFIABLE.
OUR THOUGHTS IN THESE HOURS ARE WITH THE FAMILY OF
THE SENATOR AND DEEPLY AFFLICTED AMERICAN PEOPLE. UNQTE
IRVING

VIENNA-4659
6-5-68

UNCLASSIFIED

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Classification

Origin

ACTION: ~~PRIORITY~~ CIRCULAR PRIORITY

Info:

STATE

1. The following guidance has been transmitted to USIA media:
2. All strata of American society are shocked and horrified by the Kennedy shooting. From the President and his official family to the lowliest members of the national community, all share the deepest compassion for the Kennedy family. In the words of President Johnson, we all pray for the Senator's recovery.
3. It can be expected that once the initial statements of shock, horror and grief have been made, there may be a flurry of extremist and intemperate statements, statements critical of "a sick society" which can generate such assassinations. These should be used only in direct ratio to the importance of their authors.
4. As in the death of John Kennedy, many in the world again will regard today's tragic shooting in terms of a conspiracy. We cannot and should not be in a position of adding to, or assessing in any way, this kind of theorizing. We should stick strictly with official comments by the police and other law enforcement agencies. For the time being, avoid picking up non-official comments on this subject from whatever source.

Drafted by:

USIA:IOP/G - MSorkin

Tel. Ext.

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

EUR/EX:HRMills (per M Remick)

Clearances:

USIA/I - Mr. Chernoff

USIA/IOP - Miss White

IAS:MRemick

EUR/EE:Mr. McKisson

EUR/SOV:Mr. Malone

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Classification

OUTGOING
MESSAGE
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Classification

5. In view of the events surrounding the killing of President Kennedy's assassin five years ago, we should watch for and use any details on the legal rights being afforded the man under arrest in today's shooting. He has been offered the opportunity to have a lawyer, informed of other rights, etc.
6. On the basis of descriptions of the alleged assailant, some news itmes speculate that he might be a Latin American, Mexican-American, Eurasian, etc. We should not use any of these reports pending official confirmation of the man's identity.
7. Also sent all principal USIS posts.

Exempt

SENT TO: BUCHAREST
BUDAPEST
MOSCOW
PRAGUE
SOFIA
WARSAW

RUSK

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Classification

(52)

POL 6 215 / Kennedy, Robert F.
76747

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Classification

Origin

ACTION: ALL AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IN AFRICA

Info:

~~TOP SECRET~~

"INFORM CONSULS"

SUBJECT: Classification of reporting on reaction to Robert F. Kennedy

~~Assassination attempt~~

1. Report reactions to Senator Kennedy assassination attempt via unclassified messages to extent discretion permits.
2. Without delaying reporting, avoid unnecessary mixing of unclassified and classified matter in same message. Where separation of classified and unclassified content impractical in initial telegraphic reporting, effect separation in subsequent prompt airgrams.
3. Purpose is to permit Americans, especially serious scholars in history, biography, political science, and other behavioral and social sciences, prompt access to full, complete, and authoritative information.
4. FYI ~~AF:AF/P:RJP~~
predominantly
Mixing small proportion of classified comment with/~~unclassified~~ unclassified factual content and tendency of some posts to overclassify reduced usefulness of much otherwise valuable reporting on reactions to Martin Luther King assassination. End FYI.

End

RUSK

Drafted by: AF:AF/P:RJPeltier:mb 6/5/68

Tel. Ext. 2166

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

AF/P:RJP Perkins

Clearances:

P/HO - Mr. Franklin
USIA/IOP - Mr. Peterson

AF - Mr. Westerfield
P - Mr. Phillips

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Classification

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Classification

POL 6 US/Kennedy,

176846

Robert F.

5 JUN 68 20 54z

FOR OC/T USE ONLY

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy KINGSTON

Info:

STATE:

1. On instructions from Prime Minister and Minister External Affairs Jamaican Chargé Smith called on Department (Long) afternoon June 5 to complain about late morning radio broadcasts quoting LA police chief to effect that Kennedy assailant's manner of speech identified him as coming from Cuba or Jamaica. Smith claimed this meant that Jamaica was being "unjustly judged" and that speculation of this sort was "abridgement of judicial process". Was told that later radio info made no reference to Jamaican aspect, that press media were reporting every scrap of information or rumor available, that media did not speak for USG, and that while appreciating reason we regretted GOJ's over-reaction based on fragmentary information.
2. Comment: Smith appeared somewhat embarrassed and emphasized he was acting under instructions from his highest level.

EXEMPT

Drafted by:

ARA:CAR:ETLong:jr 6/5/68

Tel. Ext.

5528

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by: ARA:CAR:Edward T. Long

Clearances:

RUSK

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Classification



P&L 6 US/Kennedy,
Robert F.
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

7

UNCLASSIFIED 328

PAGE 01 070647Z

14
ACTION AF 15

INFO CPR 02, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20, USIA 12, NSCE 00, H 02, FILE 01,

RSR 01, SSO 00, /068 W

R 051710Z JUN 68

FM S.E. GENERAL ETIENNE EYADEMA PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC TOGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC UNN

UNCLAS

PASS TO WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON

E X A C T T R A N S L A T I O N

QUOTE TO HIS EXCELLENCY MR. JOHNSON
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WASHINGTON

361/T/PR/AE WE WERE DEEPLY AFFECTED BY THE NEWS OF THE
DASTARDLY ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY.
PLEASE CONVEY TO HIM AND TO HIS FAMILY OUR VERY SINCERE
WISHES FOR A PROMPT RECOVERY. VERY HIGH CONSIDERATION.

GENERAL ETIENNE EYADEMA

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO LOME UNQUOTE RUSK

Joseph, President of

1

UNCLASSIFIED



POL 6 US/Kennedy, Robert F.
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

UNCLASSIFIED 427

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 03873 061029Z

16
ACTION AF 15

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

O R 060923Z ZFFI
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2771
INFO AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY BAIDA

UNCLAS TRIPOLI 3873

SUBJ: GOL PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON KENNEDY
SHOOTING.

ACCORDING TO LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY, LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER
BAKKUUSH MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AT A NEWS CONFERENCE
IN RABAT JUNE 5, DURING BAKKUUSH'S CURRENT OFFICIAL
VISIT TO MOROCCO, ABOUT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON
SENATOR KENNEDY. LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY STATED THAT PRIME
MINISTER BAKKUUSH "DESCRIBED THE SHOOTING OF SENATOR
KENNEDY AS 'A GROSSLY SHOCKING AND REGRETTABLE ACT
AGAINST A CAPABLE MAN TRYING TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY.
I WISH HIM A SPEEDY RECOVERY'". STATEMENT HAS NOT
YET APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS. NEWSOM

UNCLASSIFIED

Tripoli 3873 6/5/68

POL 6 US/Kennedy, Robert F.

1



59
Department of State

Pol 6 U.S./Kennedy
Robert F.
TELEGRAM
43

UNCLASSIFIED 626

PAGE 01 SANTIAGO 03929 052227Z

80

ACTION ARA 16

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

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

R 052133Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5813

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 3929

SUBJ: RFK

1. ATTACK ON SENATOR KENNEDY HAD IMMEDIATE AND POWERFUL IMPACT ALL LEVELS CHILEAN SOCIETY. REFLECTING THIS NATIONAL MOOD AND HIS OWN SENTIMENTS, PRES. FREI CALLED EARLIER TODAY TO EXPRESS CONCERN AND SYMPATHY. MINISTERS, TECHNICIANS, PRIVATE CITIZENS, DIPLOMATS, EXPRESSED SIMILAR SENTIMENTS TO EMBASSY AND TO PRESS.

2. EXPECTEDLY, CONCERN AND SYMPATHY MIXED INITIALLY WITH RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLIER ASSASSINATIONS, PROVOKING REFLECTIONS ABOUT U.S. VALUES. HOWEVER, LATE NEWS CONCERNING IDENTITY OF ATTACKER SHOULD PUT END TO THIS FORM OF SINCERE QUESTIONING.

3. PRESS REACTION SEPTEL.
KORRY

*Santiago - 3929
C-568*

UNCLASSIFIED

44



POL 6 U.S. / KENNEDY,
ROBERT F.
Department of State

TELEGRAM

22

UNCLASSIFIED 556

PAGE 01 TOKYO 08960 051237Z

44

ACTION EA 15

INFO SS 20, H 02, CPR 02, P 04, USIA 12, NSC 10, CIAE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00,

RSC 01, SSO 00, RSR 01, DODE 00, /074 W

P 051215Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0752

UNCLAS TOKYO 896

SUBJECT: KENNEDY SHOOTING

NEWS OF KENNEDY SHOOTING HAS SHOCKED, SADDENED AND BEWEILDERED JAPANESE, WHO STRONGLY IDENTIFY HIM WITH LATE PRESIDENT. IN FIRST REACTION HERE OF ANY LENGTH, MAIN EVENING NEWS PROGRAM DEVOTED FIRST FIFTEEN MINUTES TO INCIDENT. FOCUS OF COVERAGE WAS MEDICAL DETAILS, CAPTURE OF ASSAILANT AND SIMILARITY OF SHOOTING WITH ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT FIVE YEARS AGO. IN DIRECT TELEPHONE REPORT FROM WASHINGTON, NHK CORRESPONDENT ISOMURA SAID SERIES OF UNFORESEEABLE EVENTS SUCH AS MARCH 31 PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT, KING ASSASSINATION, NEGRO VIOLENCE, ETC., HAS LED AMERICANS TO ASK WHAT SORT OF COUNTRY THEY LIVE IN. VIEWS BROADCAST OF JAPANESE ACADEMIC WHO SAW STRONG POSSIBILITY OF POLITICAL MOTIVATION ON PART OF ASSAILANT. YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN INTERVIEWED ON GINZA SHORTLY AFTER NEWS OF SHOOTING FLASHED GENERALLY EXPRESSED SHOCK AND DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT WITH US. OSBORN

BT

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

Takagi-8960
6-5-68

①

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: June 5, 1968

SUBJECT: 1) The Attempted Assassination of Senator Kennedy
2) Indonesia

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Yuri LENKOV - Second Secretary of the Soviet Embassy
Robert G. Rich, Jr. - Country Officer for Indonesian Affairs (EA/IND)

Place: La Provencal Restaurant, Washington, D. C.

COPIES TO:

EA/IND - 2 SY
EUR/SOV - 2 Amembassy DJAKARTA
INR/REA AmConsul MEDAN
INR/RSB - 9 AmConsul SURABAJA

Mr. Lenkov has periodically kept in touch with the Indonesian Desk, apparently having Indonesian-American relations as one of his reporting responsibilities. Since my own advent on the Desk in July 1967, however, June 5, 1968 was only the second occasion on which Mr. Lenkov had invited me to lunch for discussion of Indonesia.

On this occasion, the shocking news of the attempted assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy the previous evening dominated the first half of the luncheon. Lenkov seemed especially interested in whether this act would spark civil unrest in American cities of the type which followed the assassination of Martin Luther King. I noted that this was extremely unlikely, since the Rev. King had been the leader of a segment of the society which was largely unfamiliar with how to make its wants known and felt through the established mechanisms and therefore tended to express its anger and frustration through direct action. Senator Kennedy was the leader of no single militant group of society which saw itself as set apart from the mainstream, but on the other hand was of the main stem of American political expression itself.

Mr. Lenkov proceeded to explore the hypothetical effect of the attempt on Senator Kennedy's life on the candidacies of other major

POL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F XR POL INDON-US

RECEIVED
JUN 6 1964

ANALYSIS BRANCH

Presidential contenders, but I was of little help to him in this regard other than to belittle some of his wilder suppositions. The conversation closed on the question of gun control legislation and Lenkov noted that even in the Soviet Union national regulations made exceptions in certain instances to accommodate local tradition as, for example, in the Caucasus where the custom of carrying daggers was permitted to continue despite the prohibition against carrying concealed knives elsewhere in the USSR.

Indonesia

The main purpose for which I had been invited to lunch, of course, was to discuss Indonesian affairs. My contributions to the conversation consisted of recapitulating in standard terms the multilateral aid relationship with Indonesia and how we look to the IMF and IBRD to assist Indonesia in defining her requirements for external assistance.

Mr. Lenkov's questions revealed a specific interest in the following subjects:

1. Are U.S. relations with Indonesia "improving?"
2. What are the economic prospects for the government?
3. If the \$325 million goal for external assistance to Indonesia is not met, or if additional assistance is needed, will the U.S. make up the difference?
4. What is the danger of Indonesia moving toward a military dictatorship?

Although considerable time was spent sparring over number 1 above, Lenkov finally had to be satisfied with my statement that Indonesian-American relations were friendly and no major issues divided us, but that naturally there were matters on which we disagreed. I declined to agree that relations in 1968 were "better" than in 1967, but stressed that there had been no basic change and we expected none.

Questions 3 & 4 above seemed to be the main thrust of Lenkov's interest. It was clear that he was attempting to judge how far