

SUBJECT

DATE _____

CASE NUMBER

SIRHAN, SIRHAN BISHARA
PS 7-1
1/1/67

JORDAN-US

JACKET

No. _____

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AIRGRAM
Original to be Filed in _____ Decentralized Files.

PS 7-1 JORDAN-44
SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA
FILE DESIGNATION

UNCLASSIFIED
A-227
HANDLING INDICATOR
TO : Department of State
INFO: AMMAN JERUSALEM TEL AVIV USUN
FROM : Amembassy BEIRUT
DATE: June 9, 1969
SUBJECT : Sirhan Bishara Sirhan and the Palestine Cause
REF :

Transmitted herewith is the text of a leaflet, which the Embassy received through the mail, concerning the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan. It was signed by the "Palestine Women's Association".

The thesis of the tract is that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's action should be looked upon as a political action directly linked to the struggle of the displaced Palestinian people to regain their homeland. The writer hopes Sirhan's action will not prejudice the reaching of an understanding between the American and Palestinian peoples.

PORTER

Enclosure:
Leaflet from Palestine Women's Association

UNCLASSIFIED
FORM 10-64 DS-323
For Department Use Only
In Out
Drafted by: POL: JTMAndrew: cak
Drafting Date: Phone No.: Contents and Classification Approved by: POL: CF Jones
Clearances:

18 HB
Noted - file
NEA/ARN
6-19-69

696
JUN 11 1969
COPY

Encl. A227 Beirut

MEP

Friend,

In addressing your conscience we shall not resort to exaggeration. We shall only place before you essential facts relating to the case of a young man who is being tried in your country, America, namely Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

We are confident, while this case is being discussed by the American court, that law will prevail in the end. We agree that crime cannot solve the problems of the individual or of the community.

But the young man in question was deliberately uprooted from his homeland to face an unknown destiny which finally led him to your country while still a child. However, he was not a happy child as his memory was filled with the atrocious massacres committed by alien people in his country and against his people. You certainly agree with us that the case of a young man with such painful reminiscences of an unhappy childhood, should be treated within the framework of his people's cause.

We are aware that you must have known a lot about the cause of Palestine, the homeland of this young man. But we regret that, most probably, what you have known is widely different from the truth.

We also realise that the charge levelled at this man has created a delicate situation as regards U.S. relations with the Palestine problem raising many questions about the consequences of this incident to American and world public opinion.

The defendant, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was born in Palestine and his family was a victim of the Israeli usurpation of this Arab country as a result of which it immigrated to America. The incident was committed one year after the aggression of June 5th., 1967. This timing underlines the importance of political considerations which cannot be easily overlooked.

This young man standing before the court, moves the conscience of the world with his bitter question «where is my homeland ? Where is my people ? And where is my house ?» The answer is, «I no longer have a country or a place which I can call mine. I am sick of living in a foreign country. I want a place whose inhabitants speak my language and eat the food I like... I want my city, Jerusalem, my land Palestine and my job there.»

These words echo the feelings of many other emigrants who ask the same question. All that they want from you and your people is, understanding. Nothing can be more painful for a valiant people struggling for their rights than to find these rights wasted through deceit and facts distorted and misrepresented.

Robert F. Kennedy and Sirhan Bishara Sirhan are both victims of intertwined factors. We hope, friend, that you would realise this fact and draw the attention of your great people to it.

With best wishes for friendly ties and understanding between our two peoples.

Yours Sincerely,

Palestine Women Association

DEPT. DISTRIBUTION
ORIGIN/ACTION

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AIRGRAM
Original to be Filed in _____ Decentralized Files.

PS 7-1 JORDAN-44
SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA
FILE DESIGNATION

UNCLASSIFIED
A-227
HANDLING INDICATOR
NO.

TO : Department of State
INFO: AMMAN JERUSALEM TEL AVIV USUN

FROM : Amembassy BEIRUT
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Leaflet from Palestine Women's Association

POST ROUTING
TO: Action Info. Initials
AMB/PO
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FILE

Action Taken:

Date:
Initials:

Drafted by: POL: JTMAndrew: cak
Drafting Date: Phone No.: Contents and Classification Approved by: POL: CF Jones

FORM 10-64 DS-323
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1969 JUN 10 11 23 AM
COPY 10-64 DS-323



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 148

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02466 280623Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO OCT 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, P 04, RSC 01, RSR 01, /029 W

103139

R 271205Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7985

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 2466

USIAC

USIA FOR USINFO, IOP, DEPT FOR NEA

SUBJECT: CONTINUING PRESS SUPPORT FOR SIRHAN

REF: AMMAN 2440

1. LOCAL PRESS CONTINUING GIVE ATTENTION TO SIRHAN. IN AN EDITORIAL OF MAY 25, AD-DUSTOUR CALLS ON ARAB RESISTANCE MOVEMENT CONTACT VIET CONG AND REQUEST THEM TO OFFER TO EXCHANGE AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IF LIFE OF SIRHAN NME TAKEN. DUSTOUR FEELS VIET CONG WOULD QUOTE EARNESTLY VIEW THE MATTER, CONSIDERING UNITY OF PURPOSE AMONG RESISTING PEOPLES EVERYWHERE.... UNQUOTE DUSTOUR ALSO FEELS THAT IF VIET CONG MAKE SUCH OFFER, FAMILIES OF AMERICAN POW'S WILL BRING PRESSURE ON WASHINGTON AND SIRHAN WOULD ESCAPE GAS CHAMBER.
2. DUSTOUR RETURNED TO THE ATTACK IN ISSUE OF MAY 26 WHEN IT CHARGED THAT QUOTE SIRHAN KILLED KENNEDY BECAUSE KENNEDY WANTED GIVE ENEMY MORE ARMS TO KILL SIRHAN'S PEOPLE. THE KILLING WAS THEREFORE IN DEFENSE OF THE PEOPLE WHOM THE UNITED STATES INSISTS ON ASSASSINATING!.... SIRHAN WILL BE MENTIONED IN HISTORY ONE DAY AS ONE OF THOSE WHO HAVING DONE THEIR DUTY FACE DEATH WITH SMILE OF SATISFACTION THAT THEY GAVE THEIR LIFE FOR THEIR PEOPLE UNQUOTE.

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Amman 2466
5-27-69



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 02466 280623Z

COMMENT: IF LOCAL PRESS CONTINUES PRESENT UNSAVORY
CAMPAIGN, GOOD POSSIBILITY IT WILL SUCCEED IN CONVINCING
MANY JORDANIANS THAT CONVICTED KILLER SIRHAN IS IN FACT
HERO. THIS COULD HAVE NASTY CONSEQUENCES LOCALLY IF DEATH SENTENCE
FINALLY CARRIED OUT.

STRATMON

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 132

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02440 261433Z

47
ACTION USIA 00

INFO OCT 01, NEA 13, P 04, CIAE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, RSC 01, DODE 00, RSR 00

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091029

R 261345Z MAY 69
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7969

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 2440

USIAC

USIA FOR USINFO: IOP, IPS, IBS: DEPT FOR NEA

SUMMARY: DURING THE COURSE OF THE SIRHAN TRIAL, LOCAL MEDIA TENDED TO TAKE SOMEWHAT RELAXED ATTITUDE TOWARD SIRHAN, AND RESTRICTED COVERAGE GENERALLY TO RUNNING STORIES FROM THE COMMERCIAL WIRELESS SERVICES. SINCE THE DEATH SENTENCE WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE JURY ON APRIL 21, THE LOCAL PRESS HAS BECOME MORE SYMPATHETIC TO SIRHAN. GOVERNMENT-OWNED TV AND RADIO CONTINUE TO RESTRICT COVERAGE TO STORIES FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES BUT NEWSPAPERS NOW ATTEMPTING PORTRAY SIRHAN AS HERO WHO CONTINUES TO DESERVE SUPPORT OF ARABS.

1. PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COURT'S DECISION IN THE SIRHAN TRIAL, PRESS RADIO/TV ALL TENDED RESTRICT COVERAGE TO LENGTHY EXCERPTS FROM UPI, REUTERS, MENA, ETC. LOCAL JOURNALISTS PRIVATELY ADMITTED THAT LITTLE SYMPATHY IN JORDAN FOR KILLER OF FATHER OF TEN CHILDREN.

2. SINCE COURT'S VERDICT, PRIVATELY-OWNED PRESS SEEMS DETERMINED MAKE SIRHAN HERO. AMMAN'S WEEKLY ARABIC AL-MASA, WHICH IS LEFTIST-LEANING AND THOUGHT BY SOME OBSERVERS LOCAL SCENE TO BE IN POCKET OF RUSSIAN EMBASSY, IN STORY MAY 5 POSED QUESTION QUOTE WHEN WILL ARABS MOVE SAVE LIFE THE HERO-FEDAYEE UNQUOTE. PAPER SUGGESTED

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Amman 2440
5-26-69



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 02440 261433Z

WASHINGTON AND ITS RULERS WOULD NOT DARE TO EXECUTE SIRHAN IF HE WERE JEWISH. QUOTE BUT WASHINGTON TAKING MEASURES EXECUTE BRAVE MAN, WHOSE ONLY FAULT ATTEMPT STOP AMERICANS FROM PROVIDING ISRAEL WITH PHANTOM AIRCRAFT UNQUOTE. SAME ISSUE AL-MASA RAN ARTICLE BY WELL-KNOWN POET, AL-AFHANI, IN WHICH RINGING PHRASE QUOTE THIS HERO-S BLOOD IS ON THE ARABS UNQUOTE USED. AFHANI CONCLUDED ARTICLE SAYING QUOTE SIRHAN WILL NOT DIE..... HIS MEMORY WILL LIVE IN HEART OF HONEST STRUGGLE (JIHAD) AND IN HEARTS OF STRUGGLERS UNTIL DOOMSDAY UNQUOTE.

3. SIMILAR SENTIMENT EXPRESSED IN ARTICLE BY WELL-KNOWN JORDANIAN ANGLICAN PRIEST, REVEREND AKEL, WHO PRESENTLY HAS SMALL CHURCH IN IRBID. HIS ARTICLE PRINTED AD-DIFAA, ARABIC DAILY, MAY 14 SAID HE SENDING A QUOTE DEEPLY FELT SALUTATION TO THE SOLDIER AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTER THE SALUTE GOES TO THE LION CUB OF THE PALESTINE CATASTROPHY, SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. WE SEND IT WITH THE SOUND OF OUR FIGHTERS' SHOTS REVERBERATING ACROSS THE OCEANS, TO QUAKE THE DEATH CELL AND SHAKE AMERICA FROM THE DEPTHS UNQUOTE.

4. A MEMBER OF JORDAN'S PARLIAMENT, EMILE AL-GHOURY, DEPUTY FOR JERUSALEM, SAID ON MAY 17 IN AD-DUSTOUR, MOST WIDELY READ LOCALLY PRODUCED ARABIC DAILY, THAT QUOTE THE (SIRHAN) CASE PROVIDES FOR THE ARABS A RARE AOPPORTUNITY TO UNCOVER THE AMERICAN PREJUDICE AGAINST THE ARABS, ESPECIALLY THE PALESTINIANS, THEIR RIGHTS AND INTERESTS..... ALTHOUGH THE JURY'S VERDICT WAS DEATH...THE CASE IS NOT OVER YET.....ARABS STILL HAVE WIDE FIELD TO SAVE LIFE SIRHAN.....ARABS, OFFICIALS AND OTHERS, MUST CHANGE THEIR FORMER MISERABLE ATTITUDE, AND ADOPT EFFECTIVE DECISIVE POSITION.....ARAB LAWYERS AND BAR ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD TAKE INITIATIVE TO CONTRIBUTE SERIOUSLY IN DEFENDING SIRHAN AND PROVIDING NECESSARY FUNDS FOR APPEAL UNQUOTE.

5. RECENT EDITIONS OF ARABIC PRESS HAVE RUN PHOTOS OF CALIFORNIA'S GAS CHAMBER; SIRHAN'S MOTHER'S REACTION TO SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY'S APPEAL FOR HER SON'S LIFE TO BE SPARED; AND NOTICE TO READERS THAT UAR'S SAWT AL-ARAB IS SERIALIZING THE STORY OF SIRHAN'S LIFE FROM FIRST OCCUPATION OF PALESTINE TERRITORY UNTIL SENTENCE WAS

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 03 AMMAN 02440 261433Z

PASSED THAT SIRHAN MUST DIE IN GAS CHAMBER. STRATMON

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 7-9

PAGE 01 JIDDA 01443 281417Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,

NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01, 172 W
041441

R 281353Z APR 69
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5361
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 1443

REF: SIRHAN CASE

1. SAUDI PRESS HAS FOLLOWED SIRHAN CASE ALMOST DAILY WITH LOW KEY STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE. COMMENT OF SIRHAN'S FATHER THAT EXECUTION WILL HARM US-ARAB RELATIONS HAS ALSO BEEN CARRIED WITHOUT COMMENT. THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMENT ON COURT PROCEEDINGS.

2. FIRST EDITORIAL COMMENT SINCE VERDICT AND SENTENCING APPEARED TODAY IN UKAZ BY ALI OMAR JABR, URGING ARABS NOT TO FEEL SAD FOR SIRHAN SINCE GRIEF IS ONLY FOR THOSE WHO LOSE WAY, EDITORIALIST ARGUES SIRHAN "LIGHTING THE WAY AND DEFINING THE GOAL." HE CONCLUDES DYING IS "SIMPLEST DUTY" FOR CAUSE OF FREEDOM.

3. COMMENT: EDITORIAL IS OBVIOUS EFFORT MAKE BEST OUT OF BAD THING. FROM BEGINNING SAUDIS HAVE HAD MIXED FEELINGS ON SIRHAN'S ACT. THEY REALIZED IT WAS MISGUIDED AND HARMFUL TO OVERALL ARAB CAUSE, YET LIKE OTHER ARABS HAVE SOUGHT CONVINCE THEMSELVES THAT SIRHAN IS HERO OF FEDAYEEN TYPE NOW SO WIDELY HERALDED HERE FOR EXPLOITS AGAINST ISRAEL. THIS IS LIGHT IN WHICH BAROODY RECENTLY TRIED CAST SIRHAN AT UN. SAUDI PRESS MEDIA HAS FOUND IT SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT PORTRAY HIM AS SUCH, BUT MAY NOW BE EXPECTED TRY TO WHIP UP MORE CONVICTION ALONG THESE LINES. IF TAKEN TO LOGICAL CONCLUSION AFOREMENTIONED EDITORIAL WOULD ALMOST APPEAR BE CALLING

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4-28-69



Department of State

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 01443 281417Z

FOR POLITICAL ASSASSINATION, BUT WE DOUBT THAT EITHER WRITER OR
SAUDI READERS PREPARED READ THAT MUCH INTO IT.

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

Classification

FLASH

ACTION: Amembassy BONN

STATE

TOSEC 67

FROM ACTING SECRETARY
EXDIS

1. Today's Washington Post (Feb. 26) carries a Frank Mankiewicz and Tom Braden article entitled "Rogers Backed but Judge Rejected Sirhan Guilty Plea for Life Term." Following are some of pertinent quotations from article.

2. "The State Department specifically approved an agreement reached here last week by which Sirhan Sirhan would change his plea to 'guilty' in exchange for a sentence of life imprisonment."

3. "Los Angeles District Attorney Evelle Younger advised Secretary ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ of State William P. Rogers in Washington of these possibilities in the bargaining between his office and the Sirhan defense staff and received approval from Rogers for the plan."

4. "In conversations with Secretary Rogers, he was advised that the State Department--as a matter of U.S. foreign

Drafted by:

S/S:RLBrown:al

2/26/69

Tel. Ext.

6033

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

S/S - John P. Walsh

Clearances:

S - Mr. Moffat

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Classification

policy--would find the proposed deal acceptable. If Sirhan were to plead guilty and receive life imprisonment, the reasoning went, it could only have a beneficial effect as far as the fierce and violent Middle East passions were concerned."

5. "Armed with Rogers' approval, Younger returned to the scene of the trial here and approved the bargain."

6. Full text of article being sent by unclassified septel.

7. It can be expected Department's press spokesman will be asked to comment on the accuracy of this report. Until and unless we hear from you otherwise, he will say that he knows nothing about it.

~~XIII~~

END

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		Defense	
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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN,
BISHARA

Department of State

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 00074 070901Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO H 02, L 03, P 04, USIA 12, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, SY 03, FBI 01, JUS 02,

RSR 01, RSC 01, /053 W

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R 070829Z JAN 69
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2076
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 0074

REF: STATE 1200 ps 74

DEPUTY PRIMIN AHMAD TOUGAN AFFIRMED DEC 6 THAT GOJ HAS NO RPT NO INTENTION SEND OFFICIAL OBSERVER TO OBSERVE SIRHAN TRIAL. ALSO TO BEST HIS KNOWLEDGE NO PRIVATE JORDANIAN LAWYERS ARE PLANNING ATTEND. TOUGAN RECALLED GOJ HAS QUIETLY DISCOURAGED INITIATIVE BY JORDANIAN LAWYERS IN JUNE 1968 (AMMAN 5439 AND AMMAN 5402) AND POSITION GOJ OPPOSING SUCH PRIVATE REPRESENTATION IS UNCHANGED. SYMMES

Amman 74
1-7-69

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN

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3 JAN 69 23

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

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Classification

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN

Info:

INFO: Amembassy BEIRUT
Amconsul JERUSALEM

STATE

SUBJECT: Sirhan Trial

1. In reply query Jordanian Ambassador Sharaf has informed Dept that to best his knowledge GOJ does not rpt not plan send special reps or one of Embassy officers to observe Sirhan trial due beginning Jan 7 at Los Angeles. Sharaf stated Jordanian representation will be handled by Honorary Consul George Zureiqat (US citizen), who will be available observe certain sessions as necessary. He thought it unlikely Zureiqat plans sit through entire proceeding.
2. Recalling reports several months ago that head Jordanian Bar Association might attend trial, Dept would appreciate Embassy discreetly confirming that GOJ has decided not send official observer.
3. Please advise also if ~~XXXX~~ you aware any private Arab lawyers who may be planning attend trial in unofficial capacity.

END

RUSK

Drafted by:

NEA/ARN:PJGriffin:dmg 1/3/69

Tel. Ext.

3235

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by: NEA/ARN - Talcott W. Seelye

Clearances:

L/NEA - Mr. Neuman

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Department of State^{XR} **TELEGRAM**

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,

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SIRHAN BISHARA

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00026 030854Z

22
ACTION 10 15

INFO NEA 13, NSA 02, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NS 10,

P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01, 096 W
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R 030805Z JAN 69
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4748
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 26/SIRHAN

SUBJ: BAROODY

REF: USUN 05 - UN 22-2 SAUDI
PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN

1. BELIEVE REPRESENTATION TO SAG RE BAROODY'S STATEMENT QUITE IN ORDER AND PREPARED TAKE UP MATTER WITH FONOFF WITH REQUEST IT BE BROUGHT TO KING'S ATTENTION. AM CONFIDENT FAISAL DISAPPROVES THIS KIND OF STATEMENT.

2. SUGGEST CARE BE TAKEN AVOID CHALLENGING BAROODY PUBLICLY. USG REPUTATION HERE THESE DAYS IS SUCH THAT DOING SO WILL ONLY MAKE HERO OF HIM LOCALLY AND MAKE HIM MORE DIFFICULT CURB. REGRETTABLE FACT IS THAT MANY SAUDIS HAVE COME TO VIEW SIRHAN ACTION PRECISELY IN LIGHT IN WHICH BAROODY HAS SOUGHT TO CAST IT. GP-4.

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State SIRHAN BISHARA

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2 DEC 68 16 46Z

Origin

ACTION: Amconsul JERUSALEM

Info:

INFO: Amembassy TEL AVIV
" AMMAN

STATE:

SUBJ: Investigation of Robert Kennedy Assassination

REF: Jerusalem 1841 / PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA

1. DEPT has passed INFO contained REFTEL to Los Angeles Police Department as well as interested Washington agencies.
 2. DEPT notes (PARA 1 REFTEL) that Congen Off did not inform Bishara Sirhan that questions originated with Los Angeles police. We believe that in future Congen and other posts that may receive requests for assistance of this nature from Los Angeles Police Department should inform person being questioned of origin of inquiry.
- DEPT has requested Los Angeles Police Department to forward any further inquiries to DEPT for transmission to posts. END.

GP-3

RUSK

Drafted by:

12/2/68
L/NEA:RHNeuman:eg /

Tel. Ext.
5895

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

L/NEA - Robert H. Neuman

Clearances:

NEA/IAI - Mr. Sterner

NEA/ARAN- Mr. Paganelli

Justice - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
(Copy)

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Classification

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
Department of State SIRHAN BISHARA
TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 214

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ACTION L 03

INFO NEA 13, JUS 02, SY 03, FBI 01, SS 25, GPM 04, NSC 10, INR 07, CIAE 00,

NSA 02, RSC 01, RSR 01, /072 W

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R 300810Z NOV 68
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2067
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1841

INVESTIGATION OF ROBERT KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

FOR L/NEA NEUMAN

REF: AMMAN 7593; STATE 278136

1. CONGENOFF AND SENIOR LOCAL EMPLOYEE INTERVIEWED BISHARA SIRHAN EVENING NOV 29. SIRHAN FRIENDLY, MILD, APPARENTLY COOPERATIVE, BUT VAGUE ON DATES AND NAMES. CONGENOFF DID NOT RPT NOT INFORM HIM QUESTIONS ORIGINATED WITH LOS ANGELES POLICE. NO ONE ELSE WAS PRESENT. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOLLOWED TWENTY MINUTE CONVERSATION ABOUT SIRHAN'S RECENT TRAVELS AND HIS VIEWS,

2. SIRHAN SAID HE LIVED ABOUT TEN MONTHS IN PASADENA IN 1957 BUT WAS OFTEN IN NEW YORK. HE THEN SHIFTED RESIDENCE TO 156 ALLEN STREET, NEW YORK CITY, WHICH REMAINED HIS ADDRESS DURING PERIODS IN UNITED STATES DOWN TO HIS LATEST DEPARTURE MARCH 1966. SIRHAN SAID HE WORKED "FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS" STARTING 1959 FOR WELBILT CORPORATION (PERHAPS WELLBUILT CORP) WHICH HE SAID WAS CONSTRUCTING STORES AND OTHER BUILDINGS. HE DID NOT GIVE WELBILT ADDRESS. SIRHAN DESCRIBED HIS JOB AS "DRILLER", EXPLAINING HE USED VARIOUS HAND TOOLS AND MACHINERY.

3. WHEN SIRHAN RETURNED TO UNITED STATES IN 1964 HE WAS REEMPLOYED BY WELBILT CORP AND CONTINUED RESIDE AT 156 ALLEN STREET. HE STATED THAT "FOR A LITTLE WHILE" HE WORKED AS A PLUMBER BUT CANNOT REMEMBER CIRCUMSTANCES THIS EMPLOYMENT. HE PROUDLY DISPLAYED

CONFIDENTIAL

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Received
11-30-68
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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JERUSA 01841 300923Z

CERTIFICATES AND COMMENDATIONS FROM BRITISH MANDATE OFFICIALS REGARDING HIS FORMER WORK AS PIPE FITTER IN JERUSALEM, REINFORCING CLAIM HE LOYAL, SKILLED WORKER.

4. CONGENOFF ASKED SIRHAN IF HE COULD REMEMBER NAMES OF ANY CLOSE FRIENDS FROM HIS YEARS IN NEW YORK. SIRHAN SAID TO CONTACT WEIBILT WHERE "THE ENGINEERS, FOREMEN, AND ESPECIALLY THE PERSONNEL OFFICE KNOW ME WELL."

5 COMMENT: SIRHAN SEEMED FLATTERED AT CONSUL'S VISIT AND SPOKE AT LENGTH OF HIS CHRISTIAN BELIEFS AND THE NEED FOR USG TO BRING PEACE TO MIDDLE EAST AND RESTORE REFUGEES TO HOMES. HE SAID NOTHING BITTER OR VIOLENT SUCH AS SOME PRESS ACCOUNTS HAD ASCRIBED TO HIM DURING RECENT TOUR OF ARAB CAPITALS. HE SAID HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO GO TO UNITED STATES TO BE WITH SON AND HELP HIM BUT HE LACKS SUFFICIENT FUNDS. CONGEN LOCAL WHO VISITED SIRHAN FIVE MONTHS AGO IN CONNECTION EARLIER DEPT QUERY, NOTES SIRHAN HAS APPARENTLY SPENT ABOUT 2000 DOLLARS ON IMPROVEMENTS TO HIS HOME SINCE THEN.

GP-3 CAMPBELL

CONFIDENTIAL

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37



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 893

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06123 160953Z

20
ACTION NEA 15

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

SS 25, USIA 12, NSA 02, RSR 01, /088 W

036924

R 160925Z NOV 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5028
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 6123

SUBJECT: BISHARA SIRHAN. LETTER TO AMBASSADOR

1. ON NOVEMBER 15 AMBASSADOR RECEIVED LETTER FROM BISHARA SIRHAN FATHER OF ACCUSED ASSASSIN SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. ELDER SIRHAN INVEIGHS AGAINST ALLEGED HARSH IMPRISONMENT HIS "HEROIC" SON. HE WONDER WHY AMERICANS, WHO UPHELD HONOR AND DIGNITY OWN COUNTRY BY KILLING INDIANS, BOMBING HIROSHIMA AND NORTH VIETNAM ETC. ARE CONSIDERED HEROES WHILE HIS SON WHO UPHELD HONOR ARAB NATION IMPRISONED. SIRHAN ENDS DIATRIBE WITH CALL FOR RELEASE OF SON.

2. EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF LETTER REPORTED IN NOVEMBER 13 JERUSALEM POST ARTICLE NOTING SIRHAN'S RETURN FROM MONTH VISIT TO JORDAN, LEBANON, SYRIA AND KUWAIT IN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT RAIEL FUNDS TRAVEL WTO SONS TRIAL.

3. EMBASSY NOT REPEAT NOT PLANNING REPLY LETTER. COPY AND IN-

FORMAL TRANSLATION OF WHICH WILL BE POUCHED DEPARTMENT (NEA/IAI). BARBOUR

Tel Aviv 6123
11-16-68

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11

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,

278136

SIRHAN BISHARA

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

FOR OC/T USE ONLY

26 Nov 68 23 01z

Origin

ACTION: Amconsul JERUSALEM PRIORITY

Info:

INFO: : Amembassy AMMAN
" TEL AVIV

STATE:

REF: Jerusalem 1831; Amman 7593

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,

DEPT has no objection CONGEN interviewing Bishara Sirhan as proposed reftel. Request, however, that you forward results of interview to DEPT attention L/NEA Neuman rather than sending response directly to Chief Reddin. FYI: DEPT wishes to consult with Justice Department on all ~~are~~ aspects this and related inquiries. END FYI.

END

RUSK

RECORDED BY 15/A

3

Drafted by:

L/NEA:RHNeuman:eg / 11/26/68

Tel. Ext.

5895

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

L/NEA - Robert H. Neuman

Clearances:

NEA/ARN - Mr. Paganelli Justice Department - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.

NEA/IAI - Mr. Sterner

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX(info.)

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Classification



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 387

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01831 261001Z

22
ACTION NEA 15

INFO SY 03, FBI 01, CIAE 00, INR 07, RSC 01, NSA 02, L 03, SS 25, GPM 04,

NSC 10, RSR 01, /072 W

089317

R 260830Z NOV 68
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2057
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1831

INVESTIGATION OF ROBERT KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

AMMAN 7593 —

ASSUMING DEPT HAS NO OBJECTIONS, SENIOR CONGENOFF WILL SEEK
INTERVIEW BISHARA SIRHAN RE LOS ANGELES POLICE QUERY REFTEL AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.

EXEMPT CAMPBELL

MICROFILMED BY RS, B

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Jerusalem 1831
11-26-68

(11)



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM

POSSIBLE DUPLICATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 885

PAGE 01 AMMAN 07593 251220Z

19

ACTION NEA 15

INFO SY 03, FBI 01, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, L 03, SS 25, GPM 04, NSC 10,

RSR 01, RSC 01, /072 W

091474

R 251030Z NOV 68

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6810

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 7593

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF ROBERT KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED LETTER FROM ROBERT A. HOUGHTON, DEPUTY CHIEF, DEPT POLICE, LOS ANGELES, REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN INTERVIEWING BISHARA SALAMEH GHATTAS SIRHAN, EL BATEH, RAMALLAH (FATHER OF ACCUSED). LETTER STATES QUOTE WE WISH TO ASCERTAIN HIS RESIDENCES, EMPLOYMENT(S) AND ACQUAINTANCES DURING THE PERIODS OF TIME THAT HE LIVED IN THE UNITED STATES. THE DATES IN QUESTION ARE MAY 14, 1959, UNTIL MAY 27, 1963, AND MAY 5, 1964, UNTIL MARCH 11, 1966. THIS INFORMATION IS VERY PERTINENT TO OUR INVESTIGATION, AND AN EARLY REPLY WOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE. UNQUOTE.

2. OUR REPLY TO LETTER NOTES AREA IN QUESTION UNDER ISRAELI OCCUPATION AND STATES REQUEST FORWARDED TO CONGEN JERUSALEM AND EMBASSY TEL AVIV FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION AND REPLY THROUGH SECSTATE.
SYMME

Amman 7593
11-25-68

(1)

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN
 SIRHAN, BISHARA
 Department of State **TELEGRAM**

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 602

PAGE 01 LONDON 13547 161952Z

82
 ACTION NEA 15

INFO EUR 15, GPM 04, H 02, NSC 10, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, P 04, RSC 01,

USIA 12, NSA 02, SY 03, RSR 01, /076 W

125373

R 161708Z OCT 68
 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6682
 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
 AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 AMEMBASSY JIDDA
 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
 AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 13547

SUBJ: TRAVELS OF BISHARA SIRHAN

REF: AMMAN 6876; STATE 251743 NOTAL.

1. WE INFORMED FONOFF ARABIAN DEPT OF BISHARA SIRHAN'S PLANNED TRAVEL IN GULF AREA LAST WEEK WHEN INFORMATION RECEIVED.

2. MCCARTHY, ARABIAN DEPT. HEAD, TOLD EMBOFF YESTERDAY THAT FONOFF HAS RECEIVED NO RPT NO REPORTS OF ANY KIND RE SIRHAN'S VISIT. BRUCE

RECORDED 10 OCT 68

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,

SIRHAN BISHARA

Department of State

TELEGRAM

7

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405

PAGE 01 DHAHRA 01169 080659Z

16

ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 25, NSC 10, CIA 04, NSA 02, INR 07, P 04, USIA 12, H 02, L 03, SCA 02,

VO 02, SY 03, JUS 02, RSR 01, RSC 01, EUR 15, /110 W

074110

R 080625Z OCT 68

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 893

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DHAHRAN 1169

REF: AMMAN 6876

IF SIRHAN IS TO VISIT GULF STATES BRITISH POL AGENTS MAY
BE CONSULTED BY RULERS. SUGGEST REFTEL BE REPEATED
LONDON ASKING EMBASSY DRAW FONOFF'S ATTENTION TO SIRHAN'S
PLANS.

EXEMPT. DINSMORE

DHAHRAN

10/8/68

1169

(1)

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN-

SIRHAN, BISHARA

251743

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Classification

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8 OCT 68 20 38z

Origin

ACTION: AmEmbassy LONDON

Info:

STATE

REF: Amman's 6876 (rptd London)

SUBJECT: Bishara Sirhan

Embassy should inform Foreign Office of Sirhan's planned visit to Gulf States.

END

MICROFILMED 11/6/84

KATZENBACH

①

Drafted by: NEA/ARP:JNGatch:rf:10/8/68	Tel. Ext. 5655	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: NEA/ARP - William D. Brewer
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Clearances:
EUR/BMI - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Mr. William Waller

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(16)



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM
27

CONFIDENTIAL 854

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01709 041607Z

47
ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 25,L 03,H 02,NSC 10,P 04,USIA 12,INR 07,CIAE 00,NSA 02,RS 01
RSC 01,1082 W

R 051427Z OCT 68
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1979
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

057302

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1709

SUBJECT: SIRHAN TRIAL

REF: AMMAN 5402 —

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, BISHARA

MAYOR NADIM ZARU OF NABLUS INFORMED CONGENOFF OCT 3 THAT
BISHARA SIRHAN, FATHER OF ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF ROBERT KENNEDY
HAD WRITTEN LETTER "MONTH AGO" (PRESUMABLE SENT BEIRUT) ASKING
MUSA ALAMI AND HENRI KATAN (REFTEL) TO DEFEND HIS SON AT UPCOMING
TRIAL IN LOS ANGELES. NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND MAYOR ASSUMED
LETTER NEVER REACHED ITS DESTINATION.

GP-3 CAMPBELL

RECEIVED BY 32.4

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Jerusalem 1709
10-5-68

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN
BISHARA

Department of State

TELEGRAM



CONFIDENTIAL 387

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01707 041017Z

19
ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 25, NSC 10, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, P 04, USIA 12, L 03, H 02, VO 01

SY 03, JUS 02, (RSR 01, RSC 01, SCA 02, /091 W

055322

R 040915Z OCT 68
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1977
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1707

SUBJECT: TRAVELS OF BISHARA SIRHAN

REF: AMMAN 6876

1. RE REPORTS MP ABDUL SALEM AL-URI JOINING BISHARA SIRHAN IN PROPOSED FUND-RAISING TOUR (REFTEL). MAYOR ZARU AND OTHER RAMALLAH CONTACTS SAY AL-URI REAL LIGHTWEIGHT. HE HAD BEEN CLERK IN JORDANIAN TAX OFFICE UNTIL DISMISSAL, TRIAL AND CONVICTION ON EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGES. THROUGH FAMILY INFLUENCE (AND PROBABLE BRIBERY) HE WAS RELEASED AFTER TWO MONTHS. IN USUAL INCOMPREHENSIBLE WORKING OF LOCAL JORDANIAN POLITICS, AL-URI BECAME PROTEGE OF MP ALI RAMAHI AND RAN WITH HIM DURING APRIL 1967 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. HE WAS UNOPPOSED AND THUS GAINED SEAT. CATEGORIZING HIM AS "WORTHLESS", RAMALLAHANS SHRUG OFF OBVIOUS QUESTION OF WHY THEY ELECTED SUCH MAN TO REPRESENT THEM.

2. ZARU SAID SIRHAN HAD VISITED HIM TWO WEEKS AGO TO ARRANGE PERMIT FROM OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES FOR TRAVEL TO AMMAN. SIRHAN SAID HE HOPED GET BANK LOAN IN AMMAN FOR TRAVEL TO US SINCE OWN MEANS INSUFFICIENT.

GP-3 CAMPBELL

CONFIDENTIAL

Jerusalem 1707
10-4-68

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN BISHARA

Department of State TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 06876 021215Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 25, NSC 10, CIAE 00, INR 07, NSA 02, P 04, USIA 12, L 03, H 02, SCA 02,

VO 02, SY 03, JUS 02, RSR 01, RSC 01, /091 W

041939

R 021150Z OCT 68
 FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6883
 INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
 AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 AMEMBASSY JIDDA
 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
 AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 6876

SUBJ: TRAVELS OF BISHARA SIRHAN

REF: BEIRUT 13004, 12899

1. AMMAN PRESS (OCTOBER 1) REPORTED RETURN OF SIRHAN FROM BEIRUT AND (OCTOBER 2) HAS PLANNED DEPARTURE WITHIN NEXT TWO DAYS FOR KUWAIT AND GULF STATES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR DEFENSE OF HIS SON.

2. PRESS ADDS THAT JORDANIAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM RAMALLAH, ABDUL SALEM AL-'URI, WILL ACCOMPANY SIRHAN. HE PROBABLY EXPECTS TO CAPITALIZE ON PUBLICITY SURROUNDING VISIT AND MAY, IN TURN, LEND IT AN AIR OF OFFICIAL SANCTION. AL-'URI IS ALSO A KNOWN FATAH SYMPATHIZER.

EXEMPT. SYMMES

Amman 6876
 10-2-68

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
Department of State SIRHAN BISHARA
TELEGRAM

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Jerusalem 1704
10-1-68

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 812

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01704 010831Z

18
ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 25, NSC 10, P 04, USIA 12, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, VO 02, SCA 02,
L 03, H 02, RSC 01, RSR 01, EUR 15, /101 W

R 010800Z OCT 68
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1976
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1704

SUBJECT: BISHARA SIRHAN VISA

REF: BEIRUT 13004, STATE 184216 (NOTAL)

RE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED BISHARA SIRHAN IN BEIRUT PRESS CON-
FERENCE SEPT 26 (BEIRUT REFTEL) THAT "US EMBASSY TEL AVIV INFORMED
HIM HE COULD OBTAIN VISA WHENEVER HE APPLIED", WE HAVE
CHECKED WITH CONSULAR SECTION AT EMBASSY AND REVIEWED CONTENT
TWO CONVERSATIONS SIRHAN HAD WITH CONGENOFF AND AGREE NO RPT
NO SUCH ASSURANCES GIVEN BY EITHER OF THESE OFFICES. IF HE
APPLIES HERE, WE PREPARED ISSUE WITHIN TERMS STATE REFTEL
PARA ONE.

EXEMPT CAMPBELL

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN, SIRHAN BISHARA

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13004 271724Z

47

ACTION NEA 15

INFO SS 25, NSC 10, P 04, USIA 12, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, VO 02, SC& 02,

L 03, H 02, RSR 01, RSC 01, /086 W

R 271544Z SEP 68
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6085
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 13004

SUBJ: BISHARA SIRHAN'S ACTIVITIES

REF: BEIRUT'S 12899

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY SIRHAN BEIRUT SEPT 26. IN PREPARED STATEMENT, SIRHAN SAID SON WANTED TO KILL PRO-ISRAELI POLICY KENNEDY HAD BEEN ADVOCATING, NOT KENNEDY THE MAN. HOWEVER, SHOCK OF JUNE 67 WAR HAD PROVOKED HIM TO ASSASSINATION.

2. ALSO SAID: ARAB GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE SHOULD HELP SAVE SON'S LIFE, INCLUDING INTERCESSION WITH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES; HE WILL GO FROM LEBANON TO SYRIA AND KUWAIT; IF FUNDS AVAILABLE, LAWYERS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES, FRANCE, AND GERMANY WILL BE HIRED TO DEFEND HIS SON; US EMBASSY TEL AVIV INFORMED HIM HE COULD OBTAIN VISA WHENEVER HE APPLIED. PORTER

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Beirut 13004
9-27-68

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PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
Department of State
TELEGRAM
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CONFIDENTIAL 971

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01554 250941Z

17-11

ACTION NEA 15

INFO L 03, JUS 02, SY 03, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, RSR 01, RSC 01, /034 W

R 250750Z SEP 68

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1828

STAK GRNC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1554

REF: BEIRUT 12899 —

IF BISHARA SIRHAN SHOULD VISIT KUWAIT PER REFTEL
WILL WE NEED INSTRUCTIONS STATE 184216 WHICH NOT
SENT KUWAIT?

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN

Kuwait 1554
9-25-68

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 747

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 12899 241721Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO VO 02, SCA 02, SY 03, IO 13, SS 25, NSC 10, L 03, JUS 02, NSA 02, CIAE 00,

DODE 00, INR 07, P 04, RSC 01, USIA 12, GPM 04, RSR 01, 106 W

R 241526Z SEP 68
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6064
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12899

SUBJ: ACTIVITIES OF BISHARA SIRHAN

REF: STATE 184218 (NOTAL)

1. BISHARA SIRHAN, FATHER OF ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY, PRESENTLY VISITING BEIRUT TO GAIN "MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT" FOR HIS SON'S CASE. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS INDICATE BISHARA SIRHAN INTENDS VISIT NUMBER OF OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES FOR SAME PURPOSE. REPORTEDLY, HE WILL VISIT KUWAIT NEXT. HE TOLD LEBANESE PRESS SEPT 23 THAT IT DUTY OF EVERY ARAB TO HELP HIS SON BECAUSE THIS WAS "ARAB CAUSE." MAIN THESIS SIRHAN PROPAGATING IS THAT HIS SON ACTED TO SERVE "PALESTINIAN CAUSE" AND THAT SIRHAN SIRHAN IS "THE SON AND THE BROTHER OF EVERY ARAB." ALSO STATED THAT DETAILED REPORT ABOUT MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL SITUATION FORWARDED TO HIS SON'S ATTORNEY IN US SO THAT LATTER WILL BE FULLY ACQUAINTED WITH POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MOTIVATED SIRHAN SIRHAN TO KILL SENATOR KENNEDY. BISHARA SIRHAN PLANS TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE SOME TIME DURING HIS STAY IN BEIRUT.

2. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS ALSO INDICATE THAT BISHARA SIRHAN PLANS VISIT NY AS PART OF "A PALESTINIAN DELEGATION" (PRESUMABLY TO UNGA).

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Beirut 12899
9-24-68

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Department of State

TELEGRAM
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 12899 241721Z

3. TO DATE BISHARA SIRHAN NOT RPT NOT APPLIED FOR US VISA. EMBASSY WILL PROCEED PER INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED.

GP-3.

PORTER

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ORIGINAL ACTION		
RM/R	REP	AF
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID
VO	SCA	
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
OSD	USIA	NSA
JOS		

AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US
SIRHAN BIS HARA
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A-464
NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : Jerusalem

FROM : Amembassy AMMAN

DATE: September 16, 1968

SUBJECT : Inquiry from Los Angeles Police Department Concerning
Past Residences of the Sirhan Family

REF :

A letter (Enclosure No. 1), dated August 21, from the Chief of Police of the City of Los Angeles to Ambassador Symmes asked the Embassy to forward to the Director General of Jordan's Public Security Forces a request for information concerning events which took place in the areas of the known residences of the Sirhan Family in the 1940-1957 period, during the time of their residence in each area. The purpose of the inquiry was to obtain information for use in connection with a possible defense in the Sirhan trial based on the theory of a diminished capacity of the accused to form intent caused by accumulated traumatic experiences during his childhood.

The Embassy's interim reply (Enclosure No. 2), dated August 31, informed the Los Angeles Police Department that the area of the Sirhan family's former residences was now under Israeli control and that an inquiry addressed to the Jordanian authorities would not, in the Embassy's opinion, prove productive. The Embassy proposed, as an initial alternative, to gather what information it could through discreet inquiry and forward it to Los Angeles.

Enclosures: (Unclassified when detached from covering communication)

1. Letter of August 21 from Los Angeles Chief of Police
2. Embassy's interim reply of August 31
3. Memorandum with appended map of Jerusalem - results of Embassy's preliminary inquiry

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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(UNCLASSIFIED ENCLOSURES)

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OFFICE OF SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES

Drafted by: POL:RHPelletreau/clc 9/14/68

Content and Classification Approved by:

Clearances: POL:MDraper

DCM:ESDuncan

SEP 19 1968

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Handwritten notes:
etc. Sirhan &...
Los Angeles 9/23/68
Please...
LINEA PAN
file

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A memorandum with appended map of Jerusalem (Enclosure No. 3) sets forth the results of the Embassy's preliminary inquiry which included several books, personal knowledge of officers at the American Embassy in Amman and the American Consulate in Jerusalem, and conversations with local employees from the Jerusalem area. Conversations with other than official Americans were restricted to discussion of events without reference to the Sirhan case. Any effort on the part of the Embassy to relate the events described to particular members of the Sirhan family would have required direct questioning of persons acquainted with the family and living in the specific area at the time. A detailed inquiry of this nature would necessitate a considerable expenditure of time and effort by Embassy personnel as well as bringing Jordanian, and perhaps Israeli authorities into the matter, all of which the Embassy would be reluctant to do in the light of present tensions in the area.

The memorandum and map are forwarded to SCS for review and transmittal to the City of Los Angeles Police Department.

SYMES



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CITY OF LOS ANGELES

California

Department of
Police

Ref. No. 6.24

August 21, 1968

The Honorable Harrison M. Symmes
The United States Ambassador
United States Embassy
Amman, Jordan

This department is conducting a thorough investigation of the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy on June 5, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California.

A very important phase of the investigation is a complete background coverage of the suspect, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, from the date of his birth to the date of the assassination. Considerable documented background information has been gathered on the Sirhan family. The recent plea of "Not Guilty" by Sirhan indicates a possible defense based on the theory of a diminished capacity to form intent which was caused by accumulated traumatic experiences. This necessitates a history of said experiences for study and evaluation by the psychiatrist assigned to the prosecution.

The Sirhan family has alleged that as a child the accused was exposed to many bombings, strafings and possible death in the streets while living in New and Old Jerusalem. Our historical research indicates that many bombings and strafings occurred in the Jerusalem, Palestine area from 1944 through 1948. There is further indication that there were occasional incidents of that nature from 1948 through 1957 in Jerusalem, Jordan. In view of the above it is imperative to the medical rebuttal that it be determined if Sirhan, in fact, actually experienced such incidents.

Immigration data, known former residences of the Sirhan family and a list of questions are enclosed. Pursuant to advice received from Mr. Byron Engle,

Director,

UNCLASSIFIED

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United States Embassy
August 21, 1968
Page 2

Director, Office of Public Safety, Agency for International Development,
Washington, D.C., it is requested that this information be forwarded to
the Director General, Jordanian Security Force, for investigation.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

THOMAS REDDIN
Chief of Police

/s/ R. A. Houghton

ROBERT A. HOUGHTON, Deputy Chief
Commander, Detective Bureau

Enclosures

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Enclosure No. 1

Page 3

Questions:

1. What was the extent of bombings, strafings and/or terrorist activities during 1944 through 1957, in the areas encompassing the residences of the Sirhan family indicated in the enclosed list?
2. Describe if possible the extent of structural damage, loss of life and injuries etc., caused by this activity in the areas and period of years indicated.
3. Describe if possible the general living conditions in the refugee villages in Jerusalem, Jordan during years 1948 - 1957.

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KNOWN RESIDENCES OF SIRHAN FAMILY IN NEW AND OLD JERUSALEM

- 1940 - 1942 El Quatamon (Unknown Address)
Jerusalem, Palestine
- 1943 - 1944 Beit Safafa (Unknown Address)
Jerusalem, Palestine
- 1944 - 1946 Tabah off Rumalla Rd. (Unknown Address)
Jerusalem, Palestine
- 1946 - 1948 Marbullis (phonetic) Street or Saint Paul Street
near Saint George School, English Commissioners Building
and a radio broadcasting station. The family also lived
on Murara Street and Mimilla Road (Unknown Addresses)
Jerusalem, Palestine
- 1948 - 1957 Moved inside wall to Old Jerusalem, Jordan. The family
states they lived in a refugee village, which was one
of fifteen in the area. Housing was composed of tents,
some buildings and caves. Food and water were allegedly
scarce.

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August 31, 1968

Dear Chief Reddin:

I have your letter of August 21, Ref. No. 6.24, regarding Sirhan Bishara Sirhan and certain background information you seek concerning areas in which he reportedly lived.

As the area of what was formerly Palestine in which Sirhan resided is now under Israeli control and Jordanian authorities do not have access to all of their records on the West Bank, we do not believe it would be too productive to ask the Jordanian security authorities to try to compile the information you have requested. We propose, therefore, initially to seek to answer your questions as completely as we can, both through our own knowledge and through discreet inquiry by Embassy personnel. We are also exploring the subject through the Consul General in Jerusalem. We will further consider the prospects of obtaining from the Government of Jordan a statement on events in the areas concerned; however, we would appreciate your views on the usefulness of material developed entirely by the Embassy.

We hope to forward a report to you within the next ten days. This, therefore, should be considered an interim reply.

Sincerely,

Harrison M. Symmes
American AmbassadorThomas Reddin, Chief of Police
City of Los Angeles
150 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

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MEMORANDUM

This memorandum describes events which took place in the area of the known residence of the Sirhan Family during the period of their residence. Sources include several books recording events of the time, personal knowledge of officers of the American Consulate in Jerusalem and the American Embassy at Amman, and conversations with natives of Jerusalem. A map of Jerusalem, printed in 1952, is attached.

Much has been written on Jerusalem during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, particularly from the Jewish side. The following references are suggested:

Barnett Litvinoff, Road to Jerusalem, Weidenfeld and Nicolson,
London 1965
Harry Levin, I Saw the Battle of Jerusalem, New York 1950
Dov Joseph, The Faithful City, New York 1960
Zeev Sharef, Three Days, New York 1962
Harry Sacher, Israel, the Establishment of a State, Weidenfeld
and Nicolson, London 1952
Jacques de Reynier, A Jerusalem un drapeau flottait sur la ligne de feu,
Histoire et Societe d'Aujourd'hui, Geneva 1950
Jon and David Kimche, Both Sides of the Hill, Secker and Warburg,
London 1960
J.C. Hurewitz, The Struggle for Palestine, W. W. Norton and Co.,
New York 1950
Christopher Sykes, Cross Roads to Israel, Collins, London 1965

1940-1942 El Qatamon, Jerusalem, Palestine

El Qatamon, or Katamon, is a residential district on the southwestern outskirts of Jerusalem which, prior to the 1948 Arab-Israel war, was largely inhabited by upper-middle class Christian Arabs. 1940-1942 was a period of prosperity in El Qatamon, during which no fighting or disturbances on a significant scale are known to have taken place.

1943-1944 Beit Safafa, Jerusalem, Palestine

Beit Safafa is an Arab village on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv rail line, situated to the southwest of Jerusalem about one mile beyond El Qatamon. Although in 1944 fighting did break out against the British in some parts of Palestine, to the best of our knowledge no fighting occurred in Beit Safafa in the 1943-1944 period.

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1944-1946 Tabah (off Ramallah Road), Jerusalem, Palestine

Tabah may be either Tibeh or Taibeh, birthplace and current residence of the father of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan. Taibeh is a Christian Arab village, located about 8 miles northeast of the town of Ramallah. So far as the Embassy is aware, no fighting on a major scale took place in the Ramallah-Taibeh area during 1944-1946. The period did witness much fighting in other areas of Palestine, however, including the blowing up of Jerusalem's King David Hotel in July 1946.

1946-1948 Mar Boulos (Saint Paul) Road, near the Saint George School, the British Commissioner's Building and the radio station. Also Murara Street and Mamilla Road, Jerusalem, Palestine

Saint Paul's Road and Mamilla Road (EF-3 and DEF-4 on the appended map) are main thoroughfares in the area of Jerusalem west of the Old City and east of King George Avenue. Murara Street is located in the Mahne Yehuda district (BC-2, 3). Fighting began between Arabs and Jews in November 1947 and intensified with the termination of the British Mandate on May 15, 1948. Heavy fighting and much destruction took place in the vicinity of the radio station, just west of St. George's School and Saint Paul's Road in 1948. Many of the houses destroyed in this area have never been rebuilt. Sniping and terrorist activity took place at the same time in the vicinities of Murara Street and Mamilla Road.

A chaotic situation prevailed in the Jerusalem area of Palestine in 1947-1948. The massacre of some 250 Arabs, including women and children, in the Jerusalem suburb of Deir Yassin in April 1948 by the Irgun, a Jewish terrorist organization, had a profound effect on the Arab community and stimulated the flight of many Arabs from Jewish-controlled or disputed areas.

1948-1957 In a refugee village inside the Old City

During and after the 1948 fighting, many Arabs from West Jerusalem took refuge in the Old City. For the most part they were taken into the homes of friends and relatives or allowed to live in church buildings rent free. Some may have slept in caves. There was no "refugee village" as such, but many refugees established themselves in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City where a large number of buildings had been destroyed during the fighting. Initially, they lived in tents or temporary shelters built of rubble, until 1954-1955 when more permanent shelters of stone or mud with corrugated roofs were built. Food was apparently not particularly scarce, but water was rationed by the Old City authorities during the 1948 fighting owing to the fact that Jewish forces had closed off outside water sources and the city had to rely on internal supplies.

Attachment: Map of Jerusalem (1952)

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AIRGRAM

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INT	LAB	TAR
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ARMY	CIA	NAVY
OSD	USIA	NSA
NSC		

HANDLING INDICATOR

INFO : Jerusalem

DATE: August 16, 1968

SUBJECT: Sirhan Trial Receives Close Attention in Amman

REF :

The trial of the accused assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, continues to receive wide press coverage in Jordan. The reporting generally is straightforward and detailed. Editorials have been sparse. The following editorial from the sensationalist Amman weekly Akhbar al-'Usbou on August ninth, entitled "Sirhan and the Palestine Problem", provides an example of some of the more extreme opinions:

"As a result of the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy, Sirhan is standing trial in an American court. His only defense is that he killed Kennedy for the sake of his country.

"Three important points are raised by this case:

"1. Sirhan is not a criminal, but rather a man of principle.

"2. The bullet that shot Kennedy was an inevitable necessity because Zionism has succeeded in attracting bigoted Christians in America into an unholy alliance by convincing them that the Palestine problem is a dispute between Moslems and Jews, and that it is a Christian duty to support the Jews. Sirhan killed Kennedy because he is an Arab first and a Christian second. He killed Kennedy for the sake of his homeland which was usurped by the Jews with the help of the Americans. Living in this atmosphere of direct challenge, Sirhan discovered the necessity for this bullet.

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References:

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"Kennedy's assassination has raised many questions in America, such as: What has this Christian to do with it? Are the Arab Christians with the Moslems? For whose sake did Sirhan shoot Kennedy? It is sufficient that Sirhan's bullet has raised such questions among Americans.

"3. Arabs everywhere have denied responsibility for this assassination and have avoided comment on the virtues of political assassination. This attitude of the Arabs toward Sirhan is similar to the attitude of Pilatus toward Christ.

"Will Sirhan's trial be able to melt the indifference and passivity of the Arabs toward this Arab patriot in a foreign land?"

SYMES



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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/
SIRHAN, SIRHAN BISHARA

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AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
OSD	USIA	NSA
HSC		

A-438

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NO.

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : Beirut

FROM : Amembassy AMMAN

DATE: August 16, 1968

SUBJECT : Embassy Receives Cut-Outs Requesting Fair Trial for Sirhan

REF :

In the past two weeks, the Embassy has received about a dozen cut-outs which reportedly appeared in one of the Beirut newspapers and which read as follows:

"FOR SIRHAN SIRHAN

"For the sake of a fair trial for Sirhan Sirhan...this announcement should be cut out and sent to the American Embassies in the Arab countries.

"The Embassy of the United States of America

"City.....

"Country

"We ask that the trial of Sirhan Sirhan be just and in accordance with the law, taking into consideration the honorable motive which drove a noble youth to sacrifice his personal freedom to elevate the cause of his people above the cheap bargaining in the marketplace of the American elections.

Signature".

A copy of the original cut-out in Arabic is enclosed.

SYMES

Enclosure: as stated.

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Drafted by:

POL:RHPelletreau/clc 8/14/68

Contents and Classification Approved by:

DCM:ESDuncan

Clearances:

POL:MDraper

Encl - A438 Amman 11EA
8/11/68

الحب سرحات سرحات

من أجل محاكمة صحيفة سرحات سرحات . . . المطلوب
نزع هذه القسيمة وإرسالها إلى سفارات الولايات المتحدة
الأمريكية في البلدان العربية .



سفارة الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية

المدينة : عمان
القطر : الأردن

محاكمة الشاب العربي سرحات سرحات نريدها صفة
ومنسجمة مع روح القانون الذي يعدل أراء الحافظ الشريف
الذي دفع ثلثا نبلا لان يضمني بحريته من أجل أن ترفع قضية
شعبه فوق المزايدات الرخيصة في بورصة الانتخابات الأمريكية .
التوقيع



PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA
Department of State
TELEGRAM

22

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ACTION NEA 15

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

SS 20,USIA 12,NSA 02,VO 02,SCA 02,SY 03,FBI 01,INS 03,RSR 01,

/094 W.

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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BISHARA SIRHAN

JERUSALEM 1449

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN,
SIRHAN BISHARA

1. JERUSALEM POST REPORTER ANAN SAFADI, INTERVIEWING FATHER OF SUSPECTED KENNEDY SLAYER SIRHAN SIRHAN AFTER NEWS OF ATTACK ON SA'DALLAH SIRHAN BECAME KNOWN, SAYS IN JULY 5 NEWS STORY THAT BISHARA SIRHAN WANTS TO BRING WIFE AND CHILDREN HOME FROM STATES BECAUSE HE FEELS "THEY ARE UNSAFE THERE." SAID SIRHAN PLANNED APPEAL TO US AMBASSADOR TEL AVIV "TO URGE GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON TO DO ITS UTMOST FOR MY FAMILY'S PROTECTION."

2. REACTING TO NEWS OF ATTEMPT ON SECOND SON, SIRHAN QUOTED AS SAYING "WHY DO THEY HUNT US NOW? WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO DO WITH THE INCIDENT." HE TOLD SAFADA THAT ON LEARNING OF THAT NEWS, HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO SEE RAMALLAH MILGOV BUT WAS REFUSED AN INTERVIEW. SAID HE WAS CONCERNED WITH "MY OWN SELF-PROTECTION. I ALSO FEEL UNSAFE," AND ADDED "NOBODY KNOWS WHAT KIND OF PERSON ATTEMPTED KILL MY OTHER SON."

3. IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION, SIRHAN SAID HE HAD CHANGED MIND ABOUT GOING TO US. SAID HE HAD WITHDRAWN ALL HIS MONEY FROM AMMAN BANK BUT HAD FOUND IT NOT ENOUGH TO COVER EXPENSES OF

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Department of State

TELEGRAM
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