



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

~~SECRET~~

8802

RS/R FILES

Attention *Mullett*
Keep this study together.

June 14, 1968

34
COPIES TO:
S/S:RF
ARA
ARA/CENMEMORANDUM FOR MR. WALT W. ROSTOW
THE WHITE HOUSESubject: Condolences from the Council of State of
Guatemala to the President on the Death
of Senator Kennedy

The enclosed message of condolence was received from the Council of State of Guatemala. The Council is an advisory body of prominent citizens whose influence has generally been used to discourage needed reforms.

The Department recommends that, instead of sending a direct reply signed by the President, the American Embassy in Guatemala City be instructed to make an appropriate acknowledgement on the President's behalf.

Benjamin H. Read
Benjamin H. Read
Executive Secretary

Enclosure:.

Translation of message of condolence from
Guatemalan Council of State

Pol 6 US/Kennedy, Robert F.

ARA/CEN/G:GAWiggins:tp:6/13/68
x3024

CLEARANCES:
ARA/CEN-Amb. C.R. Burrows
ARA - Miss Eltz
S/S - Mr. Parker

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OUT

1968 JUN 14 PM 7 42

000 JUN 9 11 10 23

XITT-1 JUNE 9 1968

GUATEMALA VIA GUATEL 19 8 1101

LT

LYNDON B JOHNSON WASHINGTONDC

PARTICIPAMOS GRAN PESAR MUERTE SENADOR KENNEDY CON USTEDES

AMERICA LLENASE LUTO

³ CONSEJO ESTADO GUATEMALA

LS NO. 2546-d

XITT-1 JUNE 9, 1968

GUATEMALA VIA GUATEL 19 8 1101

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WE SHARE WITH ALL OF YOU THE DEEP SORROW FOR THE DEATH OF SENATOR KENNEDY.
AMERICA IS FILLED WITH MOURNING.

COUNCIL OF STATE OF GUATEMALA



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

CONFIDENTIAL 360

PAGE 01 LONDON 9887 140634Z

21
ACTION NEA 15

INFO EUR 15,SY 03,SS 20,NSC 10,RSR 01,H 02,CIAE 00,DODE 00,INR 07,
NSAE 00,P 04,RSC 01,USIA 12,1090 W

P 140615Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4169
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 9887

SUBJ: KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

REF: STATE 182627

1. ASSUME REUTERS ITEM BASED ON KIMCHE STORY REPORTED OUR 9869
WHICH DEPT. MAY WISH REPEAT TELEGRAPHICALLY TO ADDITIONAL POSTS.

2. WE SHALL TRY SOUND OUT KIMCHE AFTER HE ARISES TODAY, BUT IN
PAST HE HAS BEEN UNCOOPERATIVE ABOUT REVEALING HIS "SOURCES"
TO USG OFFICIALS.

GP-4
BRUCE

1

London 9887
6-14-68

CONFIDENTIAL



59 Fol 6 US/Kennedy, Robert F.
Department of State
TELEGRAM
25

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 487

PAGE 01 LONDON 09924 141817Z

43
ACTION SY 03

INFO EUR 15,SS 20,NSC 10,RSC 01,RSR 01,SSO 00,1050 W
.....

P 141710Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4194

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 9924

SUBJECT: KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

REF: STATE 183194; LONDON 9887

KIMCHE JUST POSTPONED UNTIL SATURDAY NOON SESSION WITH EMBOFF
WHICH HAD BEEN SET FOR THIS EVENING.

EXEMPT.

BRUCE

*London 9924
6-14-68*

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

TELEGRAM

PS 7-1 JORDAN-US/SIRHAN

SIRHAN
BISHARA

CONFIDENTIAL 537

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04128 140856Z

12
ACTION NEA 15

INFO EUR 15, SS 20, SY 03, USIE 00, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, P 04,

RSC 01, RSR 01, /066 W

P R 140840Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4044
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4128

JOINT STATE/USIS MESSAGE

REF: STATE 182627; LONDON 9869

UPI'S TEL AVIV CORRESPONDENT SIMON TELLS US HE HAS JUST
FILED STORY ON TALK WITH SIRHAN'S FATHER WHICH EFFECTIVELY
SHOOTS DOWN KIMCHE STORY (LONDON REFTEL). BOTH SIRHAN'S
FATHER AND A FORMER SCHOOL TEACHER OF HIS DENY SIRHAN EVER
MARRIED AND STATE OTHER DETAILS VERY IMPROBABLE. SIMON
SPECULATES KIMCHE MAY HAVE GOTTEN HIS STORY FROM BEIRUT
SOURCES AND POINTS OUT THERE VERY WELL MAY BE ANOTHER
SIRHAN WHO HAS PERSONAL HISTORY ALONG LINES REPORTED BY
KIMCHE.

GP-3. BARBOUR

2

CONFIDENTIAL

21

POL 6 45 / Kennedy
183412
Robert F.
A

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

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Classification

FOR OC/T USE ONLY

14 JUN 68 20 112

Origin

ACTION: AmConsul, FLORENCE

Info:

INFO: AmEmbassy, ROME

STATE

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO FEDERICO BIGI,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO:

1. QTE Thank you for your thoughtful message of condolence
on the tragic death of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Your sympathy
at this time of national sorrow is deeply appreciated. Sincerely,
Dean Rusk, UNQTE

2. Department does not plan to release message, but has no
objection to release by Bigi.

3. Following, FYI, is English translation of Bigi's message
to the Secretary.

QTE The new, terrible act of violence that has afflicted
the United States and ruthlessly snuffed out the generous life
of Robert Kennedy, taking away from all free men and free people
a vallant and noble champion of the ideals of freedom, justice,
and democracy, deeply moves the Government of the Republic of
San Marino, which joins in the sorrow of the American Government.

Please convey

Drafted by:

EUR/AIS:RWTaylor, Jr:ld 6/13/68

Tel. Ext.

4537

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

EUR - RM Beaudry

Clearances:

EUR/AIS - Mr. Stabler

S/S - AParker

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Classification

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Please convey these sentiments to your government, adding the expressions of my personal heartfelt condolences. FEDERICO BIGI, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. UNQTE

END

RUSK

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Pol 6 US/Kennedy, Robert F
Department of State

TELEGRAM

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CONFIDENTIAL 111

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00010 141419Z

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO EUR 15, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSC 10, P 04,

RSC 01, SP 0, SS 20, USIA 12, SY 03, FBI 01, RSR 01, /100 W

R 141227Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5378
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 10148

REF: STATE 182627: LONDON 9869

1. BEIRUT PRESS JUNE 14 CARRIED WIRESERVICE REPORT MCCLOSKEY STATEMENT THAT DEPT HAS NOT RPT NOT INFORMATION THAT SIRHAM HAD LEFT US SUBSEQUENT 1957 AND RETURNED. PRESS CITES EXCERPTS JON KIMCHE ARTICLE FROM LONDON EVENING STANDARD STATING REAL NAME ASSASSIN ABU KHATER, THAT HE MARRIED LEILA MIKHAEL IN SALT 1957 AND THAT HE MADE TWO TRIPS TO MIDDLE EAST SPENDING FOUR MONTHS IN DAMASCUS 1964 AND FIVE MONTHS IN CAIRO LATE 1966 EARLY 1967. STORY CLEARLY BASED TEXT CONTAINED LONDON'S 9869.

2. KIMCHE ARTICLE APPARENTLY CARRIED ALL MAJOR WIRE SERVICES.

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW WHERE KIMCHE OBTAINED MATERIAL UPON WHICH HE BASED HIS ARTICLE AND IS UNABLE COMMENT VERACITY ON STORY. WE HAVE NO REASON BELIEVE KIMCHE IS REFERRING TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AS ONE WHICH "DEVELOPED STARTLING INFO." PORTER

CONFIDENTIAL

MICROFILMED BY USR

Count 10148
6/14/68

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

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

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Classification

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14 JUN 68 18 46z

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Origin

ACTION: Amembassy LIMA

Info:

STATE

PLEASS PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT BELAUNDE:

1. QTE. The tragic and untimely death of Senator Robert F. Kennedy has come as a great shock to all Americans. On behalf of the people of the United States, I express my deepest appreciation for your words of sympathy. UNQTE.
2. QTE. The knowledge that your countrymen share our grief is a source of great comfort and consolation. I shall transmit your message to Mrs. Kennedy and members of the Senator's family. Lyndon B. Johnson UNQTE.
3. White House does not plan to release message, but has no objection to release by President Belaunde.
4. Following, FYI, is English text of President Belaunde's message to the President:

QTE. I wish to express to Your Excellency our deep consternation over the death of the illustrious Senator,

Drafted by:

ARA:EP/P: PESchraud:jr:6/12/68

Tel. Ext.

4806

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

~~Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 08-22-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526~~
~~ARA - Mr. Searge~~

Clearances:

ARA - R. Eltz
S/S - AParker

ARA-LA/EP - Mr. Berlin

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Robert Kennedy. His death, resulting from violence in social and political affairs, prompts us to condemn such methods that attack human liberty and dignity, which have always been the tradition of the people of the United States and the foundation of their political institutions. Senator Kennedy's death is especially deplored in Peru since, during his tour of this continent, he revealed to us his noble political ideas, directed toward a better understanding of the problems facing our countries in order to achieve close and just cooperation between the Latin American republics and the United States.

Reiterating to Your Excellency the sorrow of the people and Government of Peru, I have the honor of renewing to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest personal consideration. Fernando Belaunde Terry, Constitutional President of Peru. UNQTE.

End.

RUSK



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Department of State

Pol/6us/Kennedy, Robert F
TELEGRAM
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 874

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02080 141158Z

47

ACTION AF 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, RSR 01, /083 W

R 141024Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2875

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 2080

SUBJECT: PROTESTING ASSASSINATION REACTIONS

REF: LUSAKA 2079

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER AMBASSADOR GOOD SENT ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER REUBEN KAMANGA ON JUNE 9 TAKING VIGOROUS EXCEPTION TO STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTER OF STATE PETER CHANDA AND MINISTER W/O PORTFOLIO MAINZA CHONA (LUSAKA 2022 AND ENCLOSURE 3 PAGE 3 OF LUSAKA A-456) IMPLICATING "THOSE IN POWER" IN KENNEDY AND KING ASSASSINATIONS. LETTER EXPLAINS AND ASKS UNDERSTANDING OF FORCES AT WORK IN AMERICA AND EXPRESSES UNDERSTANDING OF DEEP EMOTIONS CAUSED BY ASSASSINATION BUT CATEGORICALLY REFUSES ACCEPT DIABOLICAL ASSERTIONS THAT "THOSE IN POWER" IN AMERICA TODAY SOMEHOW PERPETRATED KENNEDY'S DEATH OR THAT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS IN HANDS OF A "THUG." THIS IS LETTER THAT EVOKED KAMANGA PRESS STORY REPORTED REFTEL. EMBASSY COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW IN SEPTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT (UNESSENTIAL WORDS OMITTED): MY DEAR MR. MINISTER: I MUST TAKE MOST VIGOROUS EXCEPTION TO RECENT STATEMENTS BY SENIOR MEMBERS OF ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT, AS REPORTED IN PRESS, THAT ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY WAS "SCHEMED BY THOSE IN POWER," THAT HE WAS KILLED BY A "MERCENARY" (BY IMPLICATION, A "MERCENARY" OF THOSE IN POWER), AND THAT "TO SURVIVE AS PRESIDENT IN AMERICA TODAY ONE HAS TO BE A THUG."

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 02080 141158Z

3. AMERICA HAS LOST ONE OF HER NOBLEST SONS AT HANDS, NOT OF AN AMERICAN BUT (IF ACCUSED IS FOUND GUILTY) A FOREIGNER EVIDENTLY DERANGED BY AN ISSUE HAVING NOTHING TO DO WHATSOEVER WITH AMERICAN DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. IT IS MATTER TO ME OF OFFICIAL CONCERN AND PERSONAL SORROW THAT IN THESE SAD CIRCUMSTANCES I, MY COUNTRY AND GOVERNMENT I REPRESENT HAVE BEEN MADE OBJECT OF ABUSE--MUCH OF WHICH WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE ONLY FOR GOVERNMENTS STANDING IN AN ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIP.

4. I CAN UNDERSTAND DEEP EMOTIONS WHICH HAVE WELLED UP IN ZAMBIA FOLLOWING THIS APPALLING EVENT, FOR THESE EMOTIONS AND SENTIMENTS, I CAN ASSURE YOU, ARE MORE PROFOUND BY FAR IN AMERICA AND TO HUMANE IDEALS (IDEALS WHICH ALAS WE, AS PERHAPS ALL NATIONS, FALL FAR SHORT OF REALIZING) AND ACKNOWLEDGED BY MOST AMERICANS, EVEN THOSE WHO DID NOT AGREE WITH HIM, AS YOUNG LEADER OF VISION AND DEDICATION.

5. I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR ABHORRENCE OF BLIND HATE AND VIOLENCE, FOR TODAY THIS ABHORRENCE IS ALMOST AN OBSESSION AMONG AMERICANS WHO HAVE BEEN CAUGHT AGAIN INTO NATIONAL MOURNING AND PERSONAL GRIEF BY A VIOLENT ACT. I CAN ONLY INVITE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF VAST FORCES WHICH HISTORY HAS UNLEASHED IN AMERICA AND WITH WHICH WE NOW ARE GRAPPLING--PROBLEMS OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS AS WE PURSUE OUR REVOLUTION FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN OUR HETEROGENEOUS, MELTING-POT SOCIETY; PROBLEMS OF ACUTE URBANIZATION WHICH HAVE DEPERSONALIZED OUR CITIES; PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY WHICH BRING TO OUR VERY DOORSTEP EVERY CONTENTIOUS ISSUE WHICH UNSETTLES OUR TROUBLED WORLD--ALL OF WHICH CAN BE, HAVE BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE PRODUCTIVE OF VIOLENT REACTIONS WITHIN MY COUNTRY.

7. I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR SHOCK AT WHAT MUST APPEAR TO BE AMERICA'S RECKLESSNESS WITH LIVES OF ITS EMINENT MEN. WE AMERICANS ARE SHOCKED THREE-FOLD--AND DEEPLY PERPLEXED. WE HAVE RIGHTLY

BEEN ACCUSED OF LAX GUN-CONTROL LAWS WHICH NOW, THANK GOD, ARE AT LAST BEING RECTIFIED. BUT TIGHTEST CONTROLS THAT CAN BE DEvised WILL NOT PREVENT A MAD MAN FROM ILLEGALLY OBTAINING A LETHAL WEAPON, AND BEST SECRET SERVICE IN THE WORLD DID NOT SAVE JOHN KENNEDY WHEN HE INSISTED ON RIDING IN OPEN CAR. OUR TRADITION, OF WHICH WE ARE RIGHTLY

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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 02080 141158Z

PROUD, IS OPEN POLITICAL COMPETITION WITH TOTAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC. BOB KENNEDY HIMSELF WAS RECENTLY ASKED ABOUT DANGER OF ASSASSINATION AND REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO WAY TO PROTECT CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENCY SINCE HE MUST GIVE HIMSELF TO THE PEOPLE. CLEARLY WE WILL HAVE TO DO BETTER, FOR PRICE WE HAVE PAID IS INTOLERABLE--BUT THE PROBLEM, OBJECTIVELY CONSIDERED, IS GREAT. NO CANDIDATE FOR MAJOR OFFICE IN AMERICA WELCOMES CONSTRAINT OF SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION.

8. THESE VARIOUS EMOTIONS AND VIEWS I CAN UNDERSTAND, EVEN AS I INVITE YOU TO A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF ENVIRONMENT IN AMERICA WHICH HAS PRODUCED THEM. WHAT I CAN NEITHER UNDERSTAND NOR ACCEPT, MR. MINISTER, IS NOTION THAT "THOSE IN POWER" IN AMERICA TODAY HAVE SOMEHOW PERPETRATED SENATOR KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION OR THAT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS IN HANDS OF A "THUG." THEY ARE TRULY DIABOLICAL ASSERTIONS-- AND CONSTITUTE AN UNWITTING, BUT I BELIEVE OPEN INVITATION TO "HATE AMERICA," AN ATTITUDE WHICH IS LIKELY IF PERPETUATED TO CONTRIBUTE TO, RATHER THAN DIMINISH, THOSE TERRIBLE AND SENSELESS FORCES OF IRRATIONALITY WHICH ARE COMMON ENEMY OF US ALL. YOURS SINCERELY, ROBERT C. GOOD. END TEXT. DECONTROL AT DEPT DISCRETION. EDMONDSON

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Department of State

Pol/Bus/Kennedy, Robert F
TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02085 141448Z

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ACTION AF 15

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 24, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04,

RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, RSR 01, /081 W

P R 141358Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2877
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2085

DAR ES SALAAM FOR AMB GOOD

SUBJECT: PROTESTING ASSASSINATION REACTIONS; COMMENTS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: LUSAKA 2079 AND 2080

1. KAMANGA HAS ADDED INSULT TO INJURY BY COMMENTING TO PRESS ON AMBASSADOR'S LETTER WITHOUT EVEN REPLYING TO EMBASSY. THEN WHILE DENYING ANY INTENT BLAME USG AND IGNORING PREVIOUS CHARGES THAT ASSASSINATION WAS MASTERMINDED BY "THOSE IN POWER," HE NEVERTHELESS CHARACTERIZES US SYSTEM AS "POLITICS OF GUNPOWDER" AND IMPLIES RECENT ASSASSINATION MUST BE PART OF PLOT.

2. WHILE EMBASSY SEES NO PURPOSE TO BE ACHIEVED IN ENGAGING IN FURTHER DIALOGUE ON THIS EMOTION-LADEN SUBJECT, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION KNOWN BOTH PUBLICLY (A-456 ENCL. 8) AND BY AMBASSADOR'S UNPUBLISHED LETTER (LUSAKA 2079) WE ARE TRULY DISTURBED BY GRZ'S UNDIPLOMATIC BEHAVIOR IN ONCE MORE TAKING MATTER TO PRESS AND MAKING OFFICIAL PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT OUR DOMESTIC POLITICS. THUS WHILE WISHING AMBASSADOR'S EXCELLENT LETTER COULD BE READ BY THOSE WHO READ KAMANGA'S ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST OUR SOCIETY, WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD ONLY STIR UP MORE CONTROVERSY. AT SAME TIME, ALTHOUGH TEMPTED BY EASY COURSE OF LETTING MATTER DROP IN HOPES IT WILL NOT BE BELABORED MORE, WE QUESTION WHETHER WE SHOULD ALLOW GRZ TO THINK WE ACCEPT THIS BIZARRE

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Lusaka 2085
6/14/68



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TREATMENT WITHOUT PROTEST (ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF ZAMBIAN TENDENCY TO ASSUME THAT SILENCE IMPLIES ACCEPTANCE). EMBASSY THEREFORE BELIEVES SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE TO REGISTER OUR DISSATISFACTION WITHOUT REOPENING SUBSTANCE OF MATTER OR EXACERBATING FEELINGS ANY MORE THAN NECESSARY. ACCORDINGLY, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT COMMENTS OR INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING COURSE OF ACTION RECOMMENDED BELOW.

3. SUGGEST CHARGE SIGN FIRST PERSON FORMAL NOTE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES TO FOREIGN MINISTER DELIVERING IT PERSONALLY TO MFA PERMANENT SECRETARY MULIKITA WITH BRIEF ORAL EXPLANATION OF OUR HOPE THAT EXCHANGES OF THIS NATURE COULD BE KEPT WITHIN PROPER BOUNDS OF CANDID BUT QUIET DIPLOMACY.

A. BEGIN TEXT. EXCELLENCY: I HAVE HONOR TO REFER TO ARTICLE ENTITLED "KAMANGA REPLIES TO US PROTEST" APPEARING PAGE 5 OF ZAMBIA MAIL JUNE 14, 1968 AND TO EXPRESS MY SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT THAT AN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM AMBASSADOR OF UNITED STATES SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN PUBLIC PRESS RATHER THAN THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS OF DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.

B. AMBASSADOR'S LETTER OF JUNE 9 WAS INTENDED TO POINT OUT HARMFULNESS OF AND TOTAL LACK OF FOUNDATION FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS MADE BY SOME SENIOR MEMBERS OF ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT DOMESTIC POLITICS OF UNITED STATES.

C. AMBASSADOR HAD EARLIER BEEN ASKED BY PRESS FOR HIS REACTION TO SUCH ALLEGATIONS BUT CONFINED HIS REPLY TO SUBSTANCE OF MATTER WITHOUT IDENTIFYING SOURCES OF SUCH ALLEGATIONS OR COMMENTING ON PROPRIETY OF THEIR BEING DIRECTED BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA AGAINST GOVERNMENT ("THOSE IN POWER") AND PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES.

D. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS MOST REGRETTABLE THAT DOMESTIC POLITICS OF UNITED STATES WHICH FALL SOLELY WITHIN JURISDICTION OF USG HAVE BEEN MADE TO APPEAR A MATTER OF PUBLIC CONTENTION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

E. ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, ETC. END TEXT.

4. WOULD ALSO PROPOSE PROVIDE COPIES THIS AND PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE TO PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ASSISTANT MARK CHONA WHO WE BELIEVE CAPABLE OF SEEING OUR VIEWPOINT OBJECTIVELY.

5. FINALLY SUGGEST AFSE COUNTRY DIRECTOR CALL AMBASSADOR BANDA IN TO EXPRESS CONCERN AT WAY IN WHICH GRZ HAS DEALT

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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 02085 141448Z

WITH MATTER. NOTE IN PARA 3 ABOVE COULD ALSO BE
STRENGTHENED BY AUTHORIZING CHARGE TO STATE IN FIRST PARA
(1A) THAT HE INSTRUCTED BY DEPT TO "EXPRESS SURPRISE AND
DISAPPOINTMENT" ETC.

6. REQUEST DEPT REPLY BY IMMEDIATE IF SENT OVER WEEKEND.
GP-3
EDMONDSON

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Department of State

Pol & us/Kennedy, Robert F

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02079 141150Z

47

ACTION AF 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,RSR 01,1083 W

R 141002Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WACHDC 2874
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2079
DAR ES SALAAM FOR AMBASSADOR GOOD

SUBJECT: PROTESTING ASSASSINATION REACTIONS

1. SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER KAMANGA HAS REPLIED THROUGH THE PRESS TODAY (BUT SO FAR NOT TO THE EMBASSY) TO LETTER AMB GOOD SENT HIM JUNE 9 TAKING EXCEPTION TO STATEMENTS BY SENIOR GRZ OFFICIAL SAYING THAT ASSASSINATION TO SENATOR KENNEDY WAS "SCHEMED BY THOSE IN POWER" AND THAT TO "SURVIVE AS PRESIDENT IN AMERICA TODAY ONE HAS TO BE A THUG." KAMANGA, WHILE DENYING TO PRESS THAT ZAMBIA BLAMED SENATOR'S DEATH ON USG, NEVERTHELESS WENT ON TO SAY IT DIFFICULT BELIEVE DEATH OF SENATOR KENNEDY--OR OF HIS BROTHER AND MARTIN LUTHER KING--COULD BE WORK OF MADMAN AND EVEN THEN "A MADMAN CAN BE USED AS AND INSTRUMENT." HE ASKED "WHY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY SUPPLY THE [WAR] MATERIALS LEFT UNTOUCHED? WE DON'T KNOW WHO HAS BEEN COMMITTING THE MURDERS BUT THERE HAS DEFINITELY BEEN SOME CAREFUL PLANNING." FOLLOWING GIVES FULLTEXT. TEXT OF AMBASSADOR'S LETTER AND COMMENTS BEING SENT SEPTELS. END SUMMARY.

2. ARTICLE BELOW APPEARED ON P. 5 OF GRZ-OWNED AMBIA MAIL JUNE 14 UNDER HEADLINE "KAMANGA REPLIES TO US PROTEST" UNESSENTIAL WORDS OMITTED.

3. REGIN DEYT. LUSAKA, THURSDAY-- THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY HERE HAS PROTESTED AGAINST ZAMBIA'S REACTION TO ASSASSINATION LAST WEEK OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY. THE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. REUBEN KAMANGA, SAID PROTEST NOTE IMPLIED THAT ZAMBIA BLAMED SENATOR'S DEATH ON US GOVERNMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

2079/14/68
Lusaka



Department of State

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 02079 141150Z

4. BUT MR. KAMANGA EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS MISUNDERSTANDING OF ZAMBIA'S VIEW WHICH WAS OUTLINED BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON HIS RETURN FROM VISIT KENYA AND UGANDA LAST WEEK.

5. MR. KAMANGA SAID: "THIS IS NOT WHAT PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA ARE SAYING. WHAT THEY ARE SAYING IS THAT AMERICAN POLITICS HAVE BECOME POLITICS OF GUNPOWDER--WHETHER THEY ADMIT IT OR NOT."

6. THE MINISTER, WHO ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON HIS EAST AFRICAN TOUR, SAID NOTE WAS HANDED IN BY US AMBASSADOR, MR. ROBERT GOOD--WHO WAS AMONG FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WHO WELCOMED PRESIDENT KAUNDA AT LUSAKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON HIS RETURN.

7. MR. KAMANGA SAID: "IT IS NOT GOOD TO HIDE SOMETHING BAD-- IT MUST BE CONDEMNED FOR WHAT IT IS. AMERICAN PEOPLE MUST PROVE THEY ARE DECENT AND DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM THIS VERY BAD THING WHICH HAS OCCURRED SO FREQUENTLY IN RECENT YEARS."

8. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT DEATH OF SENATOR KENNEDY, OR THAT OF HIS BROTHER PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY AND CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, COULD BE WORK OF MAD MEN. EVEN THEN, "A MAD MEN CAN BE USED AS AN INSTRUMENT", MINISTER POINTED OUT.

9. MR. KAMANGA SAID IT WAS "FAR-FETCHED" TO SUGGEST THAT "SENATOR KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED BECAUSE OF PRO-ISRAEL REMARKS HE HAD MADE SOMETIME BACK ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION."

10. "COULD HE HAVE DIED JUST FOR THIS?" MR. KAMANGA ASKED. WHY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY SUPPLY THE (WAR) MATERIALS LEFT UNTOUCHED? WE DON'T KNOW WHO HAS BEEN COMMITTING THE MURDERS BUT THERE HAS DEFINITELY BEEN SOME CAREFUL PLANNING."

11. ZAMBIA WANTED FRIENDSHIP WITH AMERICA LIKE OTHER COUNTRIES BUT THIS DID NOT MEAN FEARING TO SPEAK OUT ON SUCH IMPORTANT, INTERNATIONAL MATTERS AS POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS, MINISTER SAID.

12. ON HIS RETURN FROM EAST AFRICA, PRESIDENT KAUNDA COMMENTED ON DEATH OF THE KENNEDYS AND DR. KING: "WE MUST MAKE OUR VIEW KNOWN TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. WE FAIL TO UNDER STAND THAT

CONFIDENTIAL



Department of State

TELEGRAM

20

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 02079 141150Z

LEADERS OF THAT TYPE...CAN BE ASSASSINATED AT ALL."

13. PRESIDENT CRITICISED WHAT HE CALLED "A VERY STRANGE PATTERN" WHERE OUTSTANDING LEADERS COULD ONLY BE PROTECTED WHEN THEY WERE DEAD. HE SAID 500 POLICE OFFICERS HAD BEEN AT NEW YORK AIRPORT ONLY TO RECEIVE ROBERT KENNEDY'S DEAD BODY.

14. PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID: "WE REGARD THOSE PEOPLE WHO STRIKE AT INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS AS OUR FRIENDS. BOBBY KENNEDY WAS ONE OF FEW AMERICAN LEADERS WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF WITH POOR. FOR A RICH MAN TO COME DOWN AND SPEAK VOICE OF THE POOR," HE DECLARED, "IS NOT AN EASY THING TO ACHIEVE." END TEXT.

15. TEXT OF AMBASSADOR'S LETTER AND COMMENTS FOLLOW.

GP-4

EDMONDSON

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPT. DISTRIBUTION
ORIGIN/ACTION
AF-5

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AIRGRAM
Original to be Filed in *encl reprod* Decentralized Files.

PO4 6 US/KENNEDY,
ROBERT F.
FILE DESIGNATION

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UNCLASSIFIED
A-267
HANDLING INDICATOR
TO : Department of State
FROM : Amconsul SALISBURY
SUBJECT : Death of Senator Robert Kennedy
REF : Salisbury 969
DATE: June 14, 1968
RECEIVED
JUN 15 1968
AF/R

Initial reactions in Rhodesia to the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy were summarized in the referenced telegram. After the first day, when we received a heavy volume of telephone calls, including a few from Africans, there was a sharp fall-off in calls to the Consulate General expressing distress and offering condolences. A small volume of letters has been received mostly from moderate Europeans. The more significant or interesting ones are being sent separately for possible forwarding to the Kennedy family. All have been acknowledged.

The tiny American Men's Club, with assistance from the post, organized a memorial service on Monday, June 10. (The church was not available on the 9th.) Attendance was only fair. It had been expected that there would be more local liberal-moderates present than was actually the case. On the whole, however, considering the unpopularity of Senator Kennedy's views among white Rhodesians, there was a great deal of shock and concern expressed.

Editorials appeared in the "Rhodesia Herald" and Bulawayo "Chronicle" for June 6 and in the "Sunday News" (Bulawayo) for June 9 (copies enclosed). Extracts from the first two were contained in our 969.

O'NEILL
Enclosure:
1. Newspaper articles (3).
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Drafted by: WPO'Neill:bb	Drafting Date: 6/13/68	Phone No.:	Contents and Classification Approved by: W. Paul O'Neill, Jr.
Clearances:			

The Rhodesia Herald

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1968

SHALL THE ASSASSIN RULE?

"... We wish that the general indignation would give way to the will to banish from ourselves the methods of violence and crime."—The Pope, in his statement deploring the shooting of Senator Robert Kennedy.

THERE were cries of "Kill him—lynch him!" before the suspect was taken away in the protective custody of the Los Angeles police; the context in which the Pope spoke is very real.

In effect he was pointing out that the situation is not changed by rage. Those who express indignation may be the same stuff as the killer they denounce. Another way to put it would be to say that America's killers are part of American society and American society should cleanse itself.

But how? It is not for people outside America to say; and it is not as though Americans are not trying.

Most citizens of the United States are law-abiding and deeply sensitive to behaviour. Yet their society is streaked with private aggression and violence—marred by them as perhaps the life of no other sophisticated nation is.

American national life did not begin in the womb of a new civilization, as national life did in Europe, but rather in a kind of vacuum; and it passed through its formative stages in an unnaturally short space of time. As far as moral values go all Europe and America seem to be living on their capital, but America did not have nearly so long to accumulate hers.

American plays and films show an unceasing search for an ethic of living in society. If the search has not succeeded in America neither has it in much of Europe. But there seem to be a greater number of violent public tragedies in America; at this rate public life is becoming dramatically unsafe, and good men contemplating an entry into politics may be reluctant to risk the fate of a Kennedy or a Luther King.

The American people are not faced merely with the horror of violence and personal tragedy; they are faced with a terrible threat to the character of politics itself.

Politics as the West knows them cannot co-exist for long with the assassin: in a conflict between the two is the assassin to rule the field? The weapons at his disposal are much easier to use than the dagger and the poisoned cup. And if he does rule, what happens to the nature of government?

The Chronicle

Thursday, June 6, 1968

THIS DREADFUL ACT

EXACTLY three months ago today we wrote in this column: "Shock. Grief. Shame. These words express reaction to the brutal, senseless murder of Dr. Martin Luther King."

It is with horror that we have to repeat them today because of the brutal, senseless shooting of Robert Kennedy.

It is an appalling indictment of the American society. America bills itself as the "greatest democracy on earth". Yet its citizens refuse to settle their political differences in a civilised way.

Time and again they have resorted instead to the ways of the jungle — the twentieth century "jungle" of a great technocracy and the deadly weapons it has used its skills to produce.

It is an added indictment that the so-called "gun lobby" abuses the freedom which its members enjoy as citizens of a great democracy to frustrate all moves to control efficiently the sale and use of these weapons—that it is prepared instead to be an accessory to murder and assassination (for that is what it amounts to) rather than have its thriving business curtailed.

America—and Americans—should hang their heads while this is allowed to persist.

Whatever one may think of the Kennedys, they are a remarkable family of extraordinary energy and ability. Two of their number have been gunned down—one while President and the other an aspirant President.

The same can be said of Dr. Martin Luther King—and of the other great Americans, including Abraham Lincoln, whose death has come through violence.

Southern Africa, for all the abuse hurled at it (by Americans among others) can thank God that this is one charge that cannot be made against it up to now — though the United Nations, in its latest resolutions, would appear to be bent on giving "moral and material aid" to those bent on this course.

The Chronicle agrees with the Vice-President of Nigeria, Mr. Durosin Lamina, who said: "The Town of Robert Kennedy's shooting."

"It is a tragedy because it is another futile example of the horror of violence. Violence of this sort can only be a curse to mankind."

And we join with Vice-President Hubert Humphrey in saying (in the name, we are sure, of all our readers) that "our hopes and prayers are with Senator Kennedy and those others who have been the victims of this dreadful act . . . it is a terrible thing that has happened. Our thoughts go out to Mrs. Kennedy and the children and families of the other wounded."

June 2.

The Sunday News

1968

MANY MORE

THE hand which held the gun that struck down Robert Kennedy last week triggered shock, horror and anger not only in one country and not alone among his fellow Americans. This duplication of the tragic conclusion to his even more famous brother's career has very properly aroused the deepest sympathy and most sincere concern of many peoples in many lands — Rhodesians and South Africans among them.

In the manner in which an end has been put to a public figure's life — taken cold-bloodedly, deliberately, neither prompted by personal hatred, nor conceived in the turmoil of war and battle — there is a reflection of all those other instances when men have resorted, and still resort, deliberately to murder as an instrument of politics, substituting bullets for ballots and violence for reasoning.

Such methods are claiming their victims everywhere, but because the majority do not live in the limelight of international affairs few but their own immediate circles mourn them. None the less they are equally the targets of political terrorism — and in Africa alone the toll in the past decade has reached terrible proportions.

And that figure will grow — in Africa and elsewhere. Not only are there still men who are ready to use this weapon, but what is worse there are others, organisations and individuals (such as the U.N. Security Council and its members) prepared to condone such actions when it suits their purpose.

Assassins who gun down the leaders of nations are no more despicable than those whose victims are comparative nonentities, but the acts of the former bring home to a hitherto complacent public the enormity of such crimes.

It is saddening that prominent men must fall before the consciences of their fellows are stirred . . . it is also a bitter commentary on world trends.

ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

pol 6 US/KENNEDY,
ROBERT F.

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A-282

UNCLASSIFIED

NO.

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

RECEIVED
JUN 19 12 10 PM '68

FROM : Amconsul, SUVA

DATE: June 14, 1968

SUBJECT : Death of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

REF :

1. The Consulate has received twenty-eight telegrams and letters of condolence from foreign organizations and persons in Fiji and elsewhere on the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, as well as an official call on the Consul by the Chief Minister of Fiji, Ratu K. K. T. Mara, to express his personal sympathy and that of the people of Fiji on the death of Senator Kennedy. A list of those persons and organizations who have formally written to the Consulate is attached as an enclosure to this airgram, should any acknowledgment of the writers' expressions of sympathy for Mrs. Kennedy be contemplated. Members of the Consulate staff have of course received numerous personal expressions of regret and condolences for Mrs. Kennedy from the Suva community.
2. A letter from the Consul has already been sent to the Department for forwarding to Mrs. Kennedy conveying the sympathies expressed by the Premier of Tonga and the Governor of Fiji and informing Mrs. Kennedy of Ratu Mara's call on the Consul.
3. A Requiem Mass for Senator Kennedy was said by the Archbishop of Suva, the Most Rev. George Pearce, in the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Suva on June 11. The Chief Minister, Ratu Mara, and the Consul attended.
4. Press and editorial comment on the Senator's assassination has been extensive in Fiji, but has been factual and restrained. Some criticism of U.S. gun laws has been expressed.

LINK

Enclosure:

1. List of Names.

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Drafter by: PSMaher:ac

6/14/68

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Page 1 of 2 pages
Enclosure No. 1
Suva A-282

1. H.R.H. Prince Tu'ipelenhake, Premier of Tonga, Nuku'alofa.
Telegram: "... all Tonga received the sad news with profound regret and sorrow ... may God's peace be with her during her time of trial."
2. H.E. Sir Derek Jakeway, Governor of Fiji, Suva.
Letter: "I write to express my deep sense of outrage at the tragic and senseless assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy All in Fiji will, I know, share my feeling that the world, as well as the U.S., has lost a citizen of incalculable value, and will wish to be associated in sympathy with your country and the Kennedy family in this global bereavement."
3. The Hon. Ratu K. K. T. Mara, Chief Minister of Fiji, Suva.
Personal call.
4. The Hon. H. Ritchie, Minister of Finance, Government of Fiji, Suva.
Letter.
5. Robert N. Birch, Australian Commissioner in Fiji, Suva.
Letter.
6. Frederick F. Davis, Consular Agent of France, Suva.
Letter.
7. Supt. James H. Hempstead, M.B.E., for Fiji Police Band, Suva.
Letter.
8. B. S. Seeto, Chairman, for Kuo Min Tang and Chinese Community in Fiji.
Letter.
9. K. C. Ramrakha, Assistant Secretary, for Federation Party, Suva.
Letter.
10. The Ven. J. L. Bryce, for Diocese of Polynesia, Suva.
Letter.
11. Rev. E. E. Samusamuvodre, Tavua, Fiji (Methodist).
Letter.
12. Mr. Hari Prasad, Nandi Airport Post Office, Nandi, Fiji.
Letter.
13. Mr. Y. P. Reddy, G.P.O. Box 80, Suva.
Letter.
14. Mr. Ramanlal P. Gandhi, G.P.O. Box 151, Suva.
Letter.

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Page 2 of 2 pages
Enclosure No. 1
Suva A-282

15. Mr. D. Parshotam, for Parshotam Brothers, Ltd., G.P.O. Box 131, Suva.
Letter.
16. Mr. I. D. Kapadia, for Suva Retailers' Association, G.P.O. Box 624,
Suva. (Letter)
17. Miss Indra Sen, 37 Haon Street, Toorak, Suva, Fiji.
Letter.
18. Xavier College, from Principal and staff, Ba, Fiji.
Telegram.
19. Mr. John Rao, Suva, Fiji.
Telegram.
20. Garage Staff, Public Works Department, Lautoka, Fiji.
Letter - multiple signatures.
21. Mr. C. L. Cheng, Joong Hing Loong Co. Ltd., Suva.
Letter.
22. Mr. P. Salyan, President, for Lautoka City-Trade Leaders' Association,
Lautoka, Fiji. (Letter)
23. Mr. Navwarlal P. Gandhi, Manager Fiji Breeze (newspaper), Suva
Letter.
24. Fiji Bharatiya Kavi Samiti (Indian religious group), P. O. Box 156,
Nandi, Fiji. (Letter signed by Secretary).
25. Mr. K. R. Jogia, Cumming Street, Suva.
Letter.
26. Mr. Kikoo J. Kapadia, President, for Suva Indian Chamber of Commerce,
G.P.O. Box 347, Suva. (Letter)
27. Mr. A. J. Patel, Manager, for New India Assurance Co., Ltd.,
P. O. Box 71, Suva. (Letter)
28. G. Deoki, for Girl Guides Association, Suva.
Letter.
29. Mr. Manilal K. Jogia, President, for Suva Indians, Suva.
Letter.

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645/Kennedy,
ROBERT F

FILE DESIGNATION

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : OTTAWA, QUEBEC

FROM : Amconsul MONTREAL

SUBJECT : Montrealers, Too, Mourned for Senator Kennedy

REF :

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A-210

NO.

DATE: June 14, 1968

Montrealers seemed to be as horrified, as sorrowful, and as bewildered by the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy as their American cousins; their grief seemed to be as deep and their involvement as great; in large numbers also they watched television, listened to car radios, and read the broad coverage supplied by their newspapers. And like Americans they waited in lines and they prayed.

They came to the Consulate General to inscribe their messages of condolences before it was announced that a book of condolence would be displayed. They formed a line that was to continue moving for eight and one half hours daily from Thursday through Monday. Some merely wrote their names; others added prayers or told of their regard for the man. There was an inscription in Vietnamese among the hundreds in English or French. Their signatures filled four books.

Flags throughout the city were lowered to half staff on Friday and continued so through Canada's official day of mourning on Sunday.

Telephone messages and telegrams of sympathy from friends and strangers began to be received early on Thursday morning, to be followed by scores of cards and letters from consular representatives, local officials, and the public.

Mayor Drapeau's expression of sympathy included the observation that "Senator Kennedy, father of a large family, will remain one of the most striking symbols of this generation of men who want to create a new world, one based on the principles of order, love, and peace."

Enclosure:
Montreal Press Reaction to the assassination of U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy

FORM 10-64 DS-323

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Drafting Date: 6/13/68

Phone No.:

Contents and Classification Approved by:

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BUREAU
OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Archbishop Gregoire celebrated a memorial mass at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral in mid-Montreal at noon on Friday. As part of the service an organist played a funeral march by André MATHIEU, a noted Quebec composer, who had died twelve hours before Senator Kennedy. The Archbishop and Auxiliary Bishop Cihmichella (whose beautiful tribute in French and English will be forwarded as part of the memorabilia) joined the congregation for a moment following the service to express their personal condolences to the Acting Principal Officer of this Consulate General. The Mayor and members of his Executive Council and the Dean of the Montreal Consular Corps were among those attending the memorial service. Numerous other religious observances have also commemorated the tragedy.

Press, radio, and television coverage of the events of June 6-9, in both English and French, was vast; editorial reaction was generally sympathetic (see enclosure).

HAWKINS

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Page 1 of 5
Enclosure to
Montreal's A-210

MONTREAL PRESS REACTION TO THE ASSASSINATION OF
UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

Excerpts from Editorials in The Montreal Star:

June 5. "THE TRAGEDY OF ROBERT KENNEDY. Where does it end? ... Our system...is, for all its obvious strengths, a fragile political mechanism...There is no simple answer to what is happening. But, without a return to law and order, using both as shields not weapons, we are heading swiftly towards disaster...The alternative is Dallas, Memphis, Los Angeles, again and again and again. And with it, for a certainty, a frightened reaction by the great body of ordinary men and women which can lead somewhere close to tyranny."

June 6. "...To the white man Kennedy might have appeared shrewd and calculating -- too much a politician -- but to the Negro he was the only white man who spoke a language that could be considered sincere...We pray that this latest tragedy may yet be translated into meaning by shocking all men into acceptance of the values Senator Kennedy demanded at home and overseas...Perhaps a new generation may discover that positive values are obtainable without turmoil...There is nothing to say that tighter controls would have prevented his shooting; but they might have helped."

June 7. "...No wrongs have ever been righted by acts of violence, but the opposite is equally true - that insensitivity to the needs of a society inevitably breeds its own anarchy. We have not yet generated the heat of passion in this country which is sweeping over the American nation, but we can achieve a formidable temperature unless those who govern and those with power are as quick to remedy real and imagined injustice as they are to repress its surface manifestations."

"...The assassination of Senator Kennedy has brought the inevitable sermons on violence, including one from President Johnson. Yet the grossest example of violence in the world today is Viet Nam..."

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Page 2 of 5
Enclosure to
Montreal's A-210

June 8. "...We are tired of hearing the pat reply: 'It is people who kill, not guns.' Nonsense; people with guns can kill. The gun lobbyists have no reason to be proud of their position, and Canada cannot afford to succumb to their propaganda barrage."

June 10. "...Robert Kennedy's death will not be avenged in the punishment of his murderer but in the enactment of legislation he sought, to raise people above the hopelessness of social and economic deprivation and elevate every man to his rightful place in the sun. And in the sorrow of last weekend, there was also hope that at last a nation and its government would respond."

Excerpts from Editorials in The Gazette:

June 6. "...While the United States does well to search its own soul, what nation can justify any haste in hurling the first stones? Violence is all over the world. It is even here in Canada, that moderate country of other years. It has practically dissolved the government of France. It is now eroding the government of Italy. It characterizes the campuses of most universities...The law is not a menu, from which any citizen may pick and choose the items that happen to be most pleasing to his palate...The shots fired at Robert F. Kennedy were not fired by one man's finger on the trigger. They were triggered by a country, and by a world, that is tolerating anarchy's return..."

John Collins' cartoon captioned "American Gothic," after the well-known Grant Wood's painting, caricatures the farmer as "Violence" and his wife as "Hate," their faces distorted by these passions, one holding a smoking gun and the other a revolver.

June 7. "...In Robert Kennedy's view, the tasks to which he had dedicated himself, as his brother had dedicated himself, were too important to count the possible costs to himself...There is no question, however, that the nation has lost a most valuable son..."

John Collins' cartoon captioned "The Tarnished Stars" depicts the stars and stripes of the flag of the United States being partly obscured by the smoke from the muzzle of a gun called "Violence." The smoke is labeled "John F. Kennedy - Martin Luther King - Robert F. Kennedy."

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Page 3 of 5
Enclosure to
Montreal's A-210

June 10. "In a world that seems to be turning, more and more, toward brutality and violence, riot and discord, Canadians have all the more reason to value their own tradition of moderation, and to cling to it ...Canada has plenty of scope for hate, and its own potential for violence. It may only be hoped that the heritage of moderation will be valued beyond any temptation to join the viciousness and hate, the law-scorning and law-breaking that have turned so much of the world into a downward path..."

Translation of Extracts from Editorials in
French-Language Press of Montreal

Le Devoir

June 6 (Claude Ryan). "...Assassinations like those of John Kennedy and Martin Luther King, a crime like that of Tuesday night, cannot be attributed solely to solitary madmen. The authors of these acts are also, in a certain sense, the expression of the society in which they live. They are perhaps, in short, the inevitable fruit of the climate of psychological violence which in recent years has been beclouding the political dialogue. And this climate is perhaps, in turn, the symptom of a society whose moral foundations are in the process of breaking up...The crime in Los Angeles marks another chapter of the upsetting history, worthy of the high Greek tragedies, of the Kennedy family...Robert Kennedy has already embodied, through his audacity, what is most powerful in the tradition of his country. He will embody in future, through the price which he has been called to pay... the never-ending effort to civilize that dynamic force which is at the heart of the American soul, to place it at the service of the values of freedom and peace. The tragedy of Los Angeles reminds men of all countries that violence threatens at all times to unleash itself on the world and that the most dangerous forms are those that attack not the body but the spirit of civilization. What honest man would dare, in this regard, to throw the first stone at his neighbor?"

June 7 (Paul Sauriol). "The death of Senator Robert Kennedy will apparently give rise in the United States to more energetic measures of protection against recourse to violence...the creation of a commission of inquiry charged with studying the phenomenon of violence... [and] a bill to restrict the sale of arms..."

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Page 4 of 5
Enclosure to
Montreal's A-210

Montréal-Matin

June 6 (Lucien Langlois). "...What motivated this young man [Sirhan] who seems to have premeditated his act, taken pleasure in it, and accomplished it with all logic - his logic?...This man is the very antithesis of a Robert Kennedy. Compassion is foreign to him. He has no respect for others. He is a barbarian with the appearance of a civilized person. In our day, civilized barbarians appear to be taking the upper hand."

June 7 (Lucien Langlois). "...The Kennedy family is great and admirable because of the example that it gives to the world. It accepts the test and does not rebel because it is more sorely tried than others. It will not retreat. It will offer itself again to its country. America is not decadent. It will never be so as long as there are Americans of the Kennedy character."

La Presse

June 6 (Renaude Lapointe). "...In that great republic, as elsewhere, it is a minority of extremists who scorn the rights of other men, who sow hatred and terror, who make the law of the revolver rule. It is much too early, however, to dance on the tomb of American democracy, as Eastern European countries are hastening to do. We believe rather, as a Geneva clergyman has hoped, that this third test will require of the whole of American society a new commitment with regard to civic justice and order. And that this commitment will be undertaken."

June 7 (Guy Cormier). "...The administration has announced a great inquiry on violence. But will anything be discovered that has not already been known?...Monotony also permeates the proposal of the Attorney General of the United States, Mr. Clark, who hastens to discount the hypothesis of a conspiracy before having made the inquiry which, moreover, he almost excuses himself for undertaking ... If it was demonstrated that Robert Kennedy had 'fallen for Israel' ... the average American could quickly become convinced that paying such an exorbitant price for such a far-off cause was madness... In the end, isolationism, always latent, would profit by these bloody disappointments. Any clear explanation of the drama - and there is none so far - would be better than the feeling of collective guilt that might penetrate the soul of every citizen of the United States...The elections will take place in November...Will Mr. Johnson decide to seek another term despite his proposal to the contrary last March? The disappearance of Robert Kennedy changes the scenario...It is too early to entertain the least

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Page 5 of 5
Enclosure to
Montreal's A-210

certainty on that point. It is Senator McCarthy, on the other hand, who may, in the course of the coming weeks, appear as the new heir of the late Robert Kennedy. What is certain, however, is that television is going to play a still greater role in the course of this campaign, the street and the crowd having become too murderous."

June 8 (Roger Champoux). "...The entire world which today is looking at the casket of Robert Kennedy and is rising up against the bestial cruelty which has fathered such an abominable crime, in a few days will look to Washington. If the American legislature does not pass a law that will become a world standard, then there is no hope, and civilization will have to admit rebuff...Above all, let us [Canadians] not say 'It can't happen here!' This would mean they have a short memory. Violence and fanaticism have been the weapons of individuals in this very city. Neither you nor I nor anyone wishes to live through days and nights of the fury of the FLQ..."

Translation of Extracts from Editorials
in La Tribune, Sherbrooke, Province of Quebec

June 6 (Louis-C. O'Neil). "...As a marginal note, there are raised questions for the most important political personages in the United States to answer...'What sort of nation are we? We regard ourselves as a civilized people, but is that the case? Are these actions symptomatic of what we really are? Similar dramas are surprising when they take place elsewhere, but when they occur here, it is time to take action. Is this the result of a plot or the action of a solitary murderer?...'"

June 7 (Louis-C. O'Neil). "...This political murder, the second in the same family in less than five years, ought to make people reflect - on both sides of the border!"

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RA EUR FE 10 5 2			RECEIVED JUN 16 5 29 AM 1968 JUN 16 1968			FOR RM USE ONLY <i>Polb-2 US/ Kennedy, Robert F.</i> HANDLING INDICATOR		
NEA CU INR 5 2 1			TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE			DATE: June 14, 1968		
E P IO 2 1 1			FROM : AmEmbassy CARACAS			SUBJECT : Caracas Municipal Council Pays Last Respects to Senator Kennedy		
L FBO AID 10 10 1			REF : None			The President, Secretary and three members of the Caracas Municipal Council called on Ambassador Bernbaum June 11, to present their condolences for the death of Senator Robert Kennedy.		
GR COM FRB 10 10 1			After the usual introductions, the Secretary read a proclamation which included the following remarks:			"Considering that the lamentable death (of Kennedy) produced an obvious crisis in the US political and cultural life, and that violence in the US and the world has been causing deaths of illustrious persons, social disorders, international hatred, and the persecution and destruction of people;		
NT LAB TAR 20 10 3			(the Council) Agrees to Condemn emphatically, in the name of the people of Caracas, the assassination of this distinguished North American citizen;			(and) Manifests that In the opinion of the Municipal Council the death of Kennedy is an expression of a state of violence supported by forces which aspire to halt and detain the development and exercise of freedom among all the world's people."		
RMY CIA NAVY 20 10 3			The Ambassador thanked the Delegation for their expression of sympathy, but pointed out that the death of Kennedy, a cruel and meaningless act, could not in fairness be said to reflect US society. This terrible deed, condemned throughout the world, was apparently the work of one demented individual. When the Delegation reiterated some statements made in their declaration, the Ambassador repeated that it is neither just nor reasonable to condemn a whole people or to charge a whole society is sick because of a reprehensible act which could have occurred anywhere.			LIMITED OFFICIAL USE		
SD USA NSA 10 3 6			FORM 4-62 DS-323			FOR DEPT. USE ONLY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In <input type="checkbox"/> Out		
17			Prepared by: USIS/GRCallaway:ejd			Contents and Classification Approved by: USIS/ESchechter		
17			Clearances: POL/KBJenkins (draft)			17		

COMMENT:

The attitudes expressed by the distinguished members of the Municipal Council unfortunately reflect the visceral reactions of many Venezuelans, both friends and foes of the US. (See A-919, June 7, 1968.) Despite careful and frequent repetition of the Ambassador's remarks by many members of the Country Team, a great number of Venezuelans persist in linking the Kennedy assassination to an overall condemnation of the US.

BERNBAUM

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Enclosure: The proclamation is enclosed for presentation at the Department's discretion to the Kennedy family.

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ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

Pol 6 US / Kennedy,
Robert F.

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XR Pol 6-2 US / Kennedy,
Robert F.

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM : Amembassy LIMA

DATE: June 14, 1968

SUBJECT: Reaction in Peru to Death of Senator Kennedy

REF :

SUMMARY

The grief and consternation in Peru at the death of Senator Kennedy, who was widely admired in this country and well-known from his successful 1965 visit here, was deep, widespread and heartfelt, almost identical in tone and scarcely smaller in degree to the reaction following the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963. The upwelling of emotion in Peru occasioned by Senator Kennedy's tragic death underscored not only Peru's feeling for the Senator and his family but also the fundamental warmth and community of interests underlying US-Peruvian relations.

* * * * *

The November 10-13, 1965 visit to Peru by Senator Robert F. KENNEDY and Mrs. Kennedy was very successful. The crowds surrounding them both in Lima and in Cuzco during their visit were heavy and very friendly, and the Senator made a most favorable impression on Peruvians of all levels of society. Thus Senator Robert Kennedy was well-known and highly esteemed in Peru. News of his assassination therefore caused a wide and deep impression among Peruvians, many of whom regarded him not only as a rising U.S. political leader carrying on in the tradition of his late brother the President, but as a friend of Peru who shared many of the hopes and aspirations widely cherished by most Peruvians.

FORM
4-62 DS-323

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Drafted by:

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR CONGRESSIONAL
RELATIONS

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On the morning of June 5 radio and television newscasts in Lima were overwhelmingly dominated by news of the shooting, and the afternoon papers front paged the story under huge red headlines. The Chargé d'Affaires ad interim issued a statement deploring "this horrible and senseless assassination attempt" and stating that, "as expressed previously by President JOHNSON, we can do no more at this time than pray for Senator Kennedy's recovery and for the recovery of the other victims of the shooting." This statement, together with President Johnson's, were widely carried by radio and television in Lima. President Fernando BELAUNDE Terry sent a personal message of regret to the Kennedy family, and the Peruvian Government's press spokesmen declared that the news of the shooting had "produced a mournful impact in the Presidential Palace." Declarations of horror and sadness were made by Peru's Primate, Juan Cardinal LANDAZURI Ricketts, and by spokesmen of the major political parties. Prime and Foreign Minister Oswaldo HERCELLES telephoned the Embassy to voice regret, as did the President of the Chamber of Deputies, the Chief of Protocol, and representative First Vice President Edgardo SEOANE and Finance Minister Manuel ULLOA, besides political leaders, other personalities and ordinary Peruvian citizens. During the Prime and Foreign Minister's meeting with the Diplomatic Corps later in the day he expressed to the Chargé his profound sorrow, personally and for his Government, over the attack on Senator Kennedy.

On June 6 the news of Senator Kennedy's death caused great sorrow and consternation, with opinions ranging from simple expressions of sympathy to suggestions of the existence in the United States of a criminal conspiracy to silence voices of progress. President Belaúnde sent a message of condolence to Mrs. Kennedy, and Cardinal Landazuri made a public statement pointing out that "crime and violence do not produce anything positive but rather negate human rights, the basis for all democracy and social progress." Press coverage continued to be very great. Several Lima newspapers, notably El Comercio, editorially called for an end to hatred and the "reestablishment of reason" in the United States, while Expreso blamed the assassination on "powerful mafias" as well as psychological factors produced by three wars.

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The Embassy opened a book of condolences in the Embassy lobby on June 6, and from the opening of business through the following three days many persons of all stations in life called at the Embassy to leave cards and to sign the book, which ultimately received 223 signatures. This book of condolences and the cards will be transmitted to the Department separately. The Embassy also received during the next three days about 50 letters and 25 telegrams from Peruvians regretting the Senator's death.

Two Cabinet Ministers, First Vice President Edgardo SEOANE, the father of President Belaúnde, Peruvian Senators and Deputies and Chiefs of Mission and other dignitaries called at the Embassy on June 6, several of them personally expressing to the Chargé their sorrow and sympathy. The Chargé prepared for the Embassy's staff bulletin a special statement on the Senator's death (text contained in Enclosure No. 1) which he later taped in Spanish for radio and television at the latter's request, and which was widely broadcast.

On June 7, the day after the Senator's death, the Lima press, radio and television continued to devote vast amounts of time and space to the assassination with the press editorializing about the deed and publishing wire service accounts covering all conceivable aspects of the crime. An editorial in Correo listed a number of world leaders who have been assassinated, pointing out that this type of crime was not confined to the United States. El Comercio expressed hope that the tragedies suffered by the Kennedy family were now ended. The President of the Chamber of Deputies, Armando VILLANUEVA del Campo, sent messages of condolence to Mrs. Kennedy, to Senator Kennedy's father Ambassador Kennedy, and to Vice President HUMPHREY. Both the Peruvian Senate and the Chamber of Deputies had adjourned June 6 in respect to the memory of the Senator.

Because of the profound effect caused in Peru by the Senator's death the Embassy took the initiative to organize a requiem mass in the church of Santa María Reina, where a mass had been celebrated in November 1963 in memory of President John F. KENNEDY. An American priest, the Rev. Fr. Robert HIELE, officiated, assisted

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by a Peruvian and a Spanish priest to symbolize, according to Fr. Hiele, the international citizenship of Robert Kennedy. The Papal Nuncio, Msgr. Rómulo CARBONI, was also a participant on the altar. The service, held at 10:00 a.m. on June 8, the hour fixed for the funeral services in New York, was conducted in Spanish, although Fr. Hiele's sermon was in English. His theme was peace, which he felt was Senator Kennedy's quest, and he chose green vestments for the concelebrants to serve as a symbol of hope. The Embassy sent special notification of the mass to the President, the Cabinet, the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Diplomatic Corps, and also invited the American community and Peruvians at large by public notification.

The church was entirely filled during the service, with an estimated 500 persons in attendance. President Belaúnde, who was prevented from attending due to his receiving the credentials of two new Chiefs of Mission, was represented by an Aide. Among the dignitaries present were First Vice President Seoane, the President of the Supreme Court, the Presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, the Ministers of Finance, Labor, and Development, the leader of the Christian Democratic Party, a number of Senators, Deputies and former Ministers. Many Ministers who could not attend in person sent representatives, as did the Chiefs of the Armed Forces. The Diplomatic Corps was almost entirely represented by Ambassadors or Chargés. Officers of the various American community organizations were present as were a great number of Peruvians of all stations in life. One public school sent a color guard of about 15 boys, all in uniform. The occasion was in every way solemn and fitting, and the service and the representation it evoked testified not only to Peruvian feeling for Senator Kennedy and for his family, but also to the fundamental warmth and community of interest which underlies U.S. and Peruvian relations.

On the afternoon of June 8 the American Maryknoll priests offered a high requiem mass in the church of Santa Rosa de Lima which was crowded with Peruvians of the middle and lower-middle classes. The Embassy was represented at this mass, at which the Auxiliary Bishop of Lima officiated, by the Chargé.

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A copy of the program of this requiem mass is contained in Enclosure No. 2. On Sunday June 9, declared a day of National Mourning in the United States, the interdominational Union Church of Lima remembered Senator Kennedy in special prayers, while the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd held a memorial service. A copy of the program of this service is contained in Enclosure No. 3. The American Marianist priests at the chapel of the Santa María Reina church also offered special prayers for the Senator in the course of their regular Sunday service. Attendance at mass in Lima's churches on June 9 was unusually heavy, and prayers were offered in many of them for the repose of the soul of Senator Kennedy. Follow-on press coverage continued to be heavy for several days after June 9.

The outpouring of grief and shock was not limited to the Lima area. Provincial Peruvian radio and press organs gave very heavy coverage to the assassination, and many editorials reflecting Peru's emotions appeared in the provincial press. In Arequipa, Peru's second city, the U.S. Consul reports that the expressions of sorrow were truly impressive. On June 6 all three local newspapers devoted almost their entire front pages to the Kennedy tragedy. The Prefect of Arequipa, absent in Lima, sent a special telephone message to the U.S. Consul, who was called upon by the Sub-Prefect. The Mayor of Arequipa sent a cable message to President Johnson. The Archbishop of Arequipa, the Commanding General of the III Military Region and the Arequipa representative of the Ministry of Foreign Relations all called on the Consul and asked that their sympathies be conveyed to the Kennedy family. Political leaders telephoned the Consul or sent notes of condolence. The Consul arranged for an ecumenical prayer service to be held June 8 in the recently-restored 17th century Iglesia de la Compañia just off Arequipa's Plaza de Armas, in which an American Roman Catholic priest, an American Baptist missionary and the Consul participated. This was followed by a requiem mass celebrated by American priests from the various Roman Catholic orders active in Arequipa. On June 9 the U.S. Consul read a eulogy of Senator Kennedy at a luncheon of the Local American society.

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The Chargé has had a card printed to be sent to the persons offering their condolences and indicating their name and address in order to acknowledge and thank them. One of these cards is transmitted as Enclosure No. 4.

In summary, the reaction in Peru to the tragic death of Senator Kennedy was almost identical in tone, and only smaller in degree, to the reaction which followed the assassination of President Kennedy four and a half years previously.

WJ
Enclosures:

- No. 1- U.S. Embassy News Bulletin.
- No. 2- Program of requiem mass at church of Santa Rosa de Lima.
- No. 3- Program of service at church of the Good Shepherd.
- No. 4- Card sent by Chargé acknowledging condolences.

SIRACUSA
*[Signature]*UNCLASSIFIED

Emu 689-Lima

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Encl. 1

U. S. EMBASSY NEWS BULLETIN

L I M A

P E R U

Volume 6, No. 23

June 6, 1968



A NEWS BULLETIN BY AND FOR ALL U.S. AGENCIES IN PERU

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON

"This is a time of tragedy and loss. Senator Robert F. 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.

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 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. Kennedy and his family.

I have issued a proclamation calling upon our nation to observe a day of mourning for Robert Kennedy".

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S PROCLAMATION

"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.

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, President 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 justice for which Robert F. Kennedy lived shall endure.

(Cont'd page 3)

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6/14/68 Peter Moraga
Home Phone 21438

7/5/68 Robert York
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7/5/68 Mildred Rodstrom
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6/7/68 Charles Murphy
Paul Harris 282
San Isidro

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Chacarilla del Estanque

DUTY SECRETARIES

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Apt. 403
Residencial San Felipe

6/14/68 Haydée Quispe
General Varela 1418
Breña

6/21/68 Irma Ríos
Home Phone 36340

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S PROCLAMATION (Cont'd)

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.

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.

Lyndon B. Johnson

STATEMENT BY THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, AD INTERIM

"For all members of the American Diplomatic Mission:

Once again a great American family has been stricken by tragedy. An assassin's bullet has now ended the life of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, who might have been our President, just as the life was ended of his brother, John F. Kennedy, who was our President. We can only contemplate this terrible event with grief in our hearts; grief for this fine and vital young man now departed; grief for his widow and his children, and his child yet unborn; and grief for our nation and for the entire world which has surely been diminished by this loss.

In his ever active life, Robert Kennedy came to be known to millions of Americans and to others throughout the world. Those of us who remember his visit to Lima two and a half years ago will not forget the vibrancy of his personality, or the genuine affection with which he was greeted by Peruvians, high and low, many of whom simply called him "Bob". Nor will we forget the ever present and gracious figure of his beloved wife, Ethel Kennedy.

Senator Kennedy will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday. President Johnson has proclaimed, Sunday, June 9, a day of national mourning in his memory. Undoubtedly there will be special services, which many will wish to attend, and these will be announced.

In the meantime, and as we all mourn this tragedy in our own personal ways, we must wonder, as does the world, why our national political life has been so visited with violence; violence which is as surely unthinkable to almost all of our 200 million citizens as it is stark and terrible in the reality of its execution by that small handful which is committed to violence.

President John F. Kennedy, the Rev. Martin Luther King and now Senator Robert F. Kennedy, all men of goodwill, all cruelly assassinated. I pray, as

STATEMENT BY THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, AD INTERIM (Cont'd)

I am sure we all must, that these deaths will not have been in vain. I am confident that our nation will find answers to the terrible questions which beset it and that the causes which lead men to violence, in the measure that they may, will be removed. "

Ernest V. Siracusa
Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim

(Traducción)

DECLARACIONES DEL ENCARGADO DE NEGOCIOS AD INTERIM PARA TODOS LOS MIEMBROS DE
LA MISION DIPLOMATICA NORTEAMERICANA

Una vez más una gran familia norteamericana ha sido agobiada por la tragedia. La bala de un asesino ha puesto ahora fin a la vida del Senador Robert F. Kennedy que pudo haber sido nuestro Presidente, tal como otra lo hizo con la vida de su hermano, John F. Kennedy, quien era nuestra Presidente.

Podemos solamente contemplar este terrible evento con pena en nuestros corazones; pena para este excelente hombre joven lleno de vitalidad que ha fallecido; pena por su viuda y sus hijos y el hijo que aún está por nacer; y pena por nuestra patria y por el mundo entero que ha sufrido una pérdida con esta sensible desaparición.

Durante su vida siempre activa, millones de norteamericanos y de otras nacionalidades de todo el mundo llegaron a conocer a Robert Kennedy. Aquellos de nosotros que recordamos su visita a Lima hace dos años y medio, no olvidamos lo vibrante de su personalidad, o el sincero afecto con el cual fue recibido por los peruanos de toda condición social, muchos de quienes lo llamaban simplemente "Bob". Ni tampoco olvidaremos la siempre presente y graciosa figura de su amada esposa, Ethel Kennedy.

El Senador Kennedy será sepultado en el Cementerio Nacional de Arlington el próximo sábado. El Presidente Johnson ha proclamado en su memoria el día domingo 9 de junio como uno de duelo nacional. Sin duda habrán servicios especiales a los que muchos gustarían asistir y éstos serán anunciados oportunamente.

Mientras tanto, y al condolernos de esta tragedia en nuestra propia manera, deberemos asombrarnos, como lo hace todo el mundo, el por qué nuestra vida política nacional ha sido visitada así por la violencia; una violencia que es, de toda seguridad, increíble para casi todos nuestros 200 millones de ciudadanos, como lo es completa y terrible en la realidad de su ejecución para un pequeño puñado que está entregado a la violencia.

Presidente John F. Kennedy, Reverendo Martin Luther King y ahora, Senador Robert F. Kennedy, todos hombres de buena voluntad y todos cruelmente asesinados. Ruego - y estoy seguro que todos lo harán - que estas muertes no hayan sido en vano. Tengo la seguridad de que nuestro país encontrará las respuestas a las terribles interrogantes que lo acosan y que las causas que conducen a los hombres a la violencia, serán eliminadas en la medida en que ello sea posible.

Ernest V. Siracusa
Encargado de Negocios, ad interim