



Department of State

TELEGRAM

25

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 29359 071427Z

KENNEDY TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM IN VIETNAM. UNQUOTE.
BUNKER

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Department of State

POL 645/Kennedy,
Robert F.
TELEGRAM

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 174

PAGE 01 LISBON 01542 071526Z

50

ACTION EUR 20

INFO SS 20,H 02,CPR 02,P 04,USIE 00,RSR 01,RSC 01,NSC 10,1060

R 071505Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2155
INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO UNN
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 1542

SUBJ: FURTHER REACTIONS TO ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR KENNEDY

REF: LISBON 1539

PASS USIA

1. CABLE FROM FONMIN FRANCO NOGUEIRA TO SECSTATE
FRONT-PAGED IN MOST LISBON DAILIES AS FOLLOWS:
"HAVING JUST RECEIVED NEWS OF DEATH OF SENATOR ROBERT
KENNEDY OCCURRING IN TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES, I WISH TO
EXPRESS MY PROFOUND SORROW AT THE GRIEF WHICH ENTIRE
AMERICAN NATION FEELS BEFORE THE VIOLENT CRIME WHICH
MERITS CONDEMNATION OF ALL MEN. I WOULD APPRECIATE
YOUR KINDNESS IN TRANSMITTING TO MRS. KENNEDY AND
HER FAMILY MY CONDOLENCES.

2. LISBON PRESS CONTINUES TO BE DOMINATED BY NEWS OF
KENNEDY ASSASSINATION. COVERAGE IS EXTENSIVE AND
GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC, WHICH IS NOTABLE SINCE SENATOR
WAS NOT A GOP FAVORITE AND FULL PLAY OF NEWS PRESUMABLY
BEING AUTHORIZED BY GOVT CENSOR. EDITORIAL COMMENT,
ON OTHER HAND, CONTINUES AT HIGHLY ANTI-AMERICAN PITCH
WITH EMPHASIS ON RACISM, FAR WEST TRADITION OF VIOLENCE
AND "GANGSTERISM" IN US, FALL OF AMERICAN PRESTIGE
OVERSEAS, CONSEQUENCES OF DECADENT DEMOCRACY AND
EFFECTS OF HIGHLY MATERIALISTIC TECHNOLOGICALLY
ADVANCED SOCIETY ON SPIRIT OF MAN.

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3. IT WOULD BE NATURAL TO ASSUME THERE IS TIME LAG IN EDITORIAL COMMENT POSSIBLY DRAFTED DURING INITIAL PERIOD OF SHOCK WHEN IT MAY HAVE BEEN ASSUMED THAT ASSASSINATION WAS CONSEQUENCE OF DOMESTIC US ISSUES. HOWEVER, OFFICIAL GOP THESIS THAT BY COMPARISON THEIR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO SHOCKS AND INSTABILITY OF FORCES AFFECTING WESTERN SOCIETY IS EASILY DISCERNIBLE IN PRESS COMMENTS.

4. POPULAR REACTION: LARGE NUMBER EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY RECEIVED IN PERSON, BY TELEPHONE AND IN WRITING AND COMMENTS RECEIVED BY EMBASSY OFFICERS FROM VARIED GROUP OF PERSONS DEMONSTRATE SYMPATHETIC REACTION TO BEREAVEMENT OF SENATOR'S FAMILY AND THE AMERICAN NATION AND PROFOUND IMPRESSION MADE BY HIS DEATH.

WELLMAN

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57 Pol. 6 U.S./Kennedy,
Robert F
Department of State **TELEGRAM**
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PAGE 01 SANTO 02766 071246Z

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ACTION ARA 16

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

RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, SA 01, AID 28, PC 04, NIC 01, RSR 01,

/116 W

R 070025Z JUN 68 ZFG
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5409
INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS UNN

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 2766

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT REACTION TO SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEATH

1. JUNE 6 STATEMENT BY BALAGUER CALLED KENNEDY "REPRESENTATIVE LEADER OF HIS GENERATION'S POLITICAL IDEALS" AND "ACTIVE DEFENDER OF SOCIAL PROGRESS OF PEOPLE WHO FIGHT FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT IN EVERY CLASS. HIS TRAGIC DEATH IS A PAINFUL SYMBOL OF THE VIOLENCE WHICH DRAGS HUMANITY DOWN A DARK PATH."

2. PRESIDENT SENT MRS. KENNEDY CABLE CONDOLENCE IN PART DESCRIBING LATE HUSBAND AS "AUTHENTIC CHAMPION OF THE MOST NOBLE AND JUST CAUSES."

3. PALACE ANNOUNCED DAY NATIONAL MOURNING TO COINCIDE WITH BURIAL DAY. CRIMMINS

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2766
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59 Fol 6 US/Kennedy, Robert F
Department of State
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PAGE 01 SANTO 02772 071806Z

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ACTION ARA 16

INFO USIE 00,INS 03,VO 02,SCA 02,SSO 00,RSR 01,NSCE 00,CPR 02,GPM 04,
H 02,NSC 10,0 02,OPR 02,P 04,RSC 01,SS 20,SY 03,/074 W

O 071800Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5415
AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 2772

SUBJECT: PRD DELEGATION TO KENNEDY FUNERAL
REF: SD 2762

1. FOURTH PRD LEADER, SENATOR PABLO RAFAEL CASIMIRO CASTRO,
JOINING THREE OTHERS (REFTEL) GOING NY FOR KENNEDY FUNERAL.

2. REPEAT REQUEST DEPT URGENTLY INFORM INS ORDER TO
FACILITATE ENTRY NEW YORK.

EXEMPT
CRIMMINS

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Santo Domingo
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Department of State

Pol 6 US/Kennedy,
Robert F
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ACTION ARA 16

INFO RSR 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10,

P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, SAH 03, /113 W
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R 070025Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5410

INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS UNN

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 2767

SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION TO SENATOR KENNEDY SHOOTING

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 2739

1. NACIONAL PUBLISHED EXTRA NOON EDITION JUNE 5 WITH FRONT PAGE FULL WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. REGULAR EDITION MAINTAINED HEAVY COVERAGE PLUS RESPONSES INCLUDING PCO ("LIBERAL PATH IN THE US WILL NOT OPEN WHILE THE NORTHAMERICAN TERRORISTS CONTROL THAT COUNTRY") AND RAHINTEL RADIO-TV STATION ("VICTIM OF A NEW ATTEMPT WHICH TRIES TO CLOSE THE PASSAGE TO MEN OF HUMANIST CHARACTER AND FUTURIST VISION"). SANTIAGO'S AFTERNOON INFORMATION HEADLINED ATTACK AND FOLLOWED UP WITH UPI ACCOUNTS.

2. MORNING PRESS JUNE 6 SATURATED WITH WIRE AND LOCAL COVERAGE OF SHOOTING (PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF NEWS OF DEATH OF SENATOR KENNEDY). FRONT PAGES CARIBE AND LISTIN ALMOST COMPLETELY DEVOTED NEWS, REACTION AND PHOTOS. RIGHTIST EL TIEMPO FRONT-PAGED EDITORIAL TITLED "VIOLENCE DOES NOT SOLVE PROBLEMS" (LEAD EDITORIAL DAY BEFORE HAD BEEN "A DANGEROUS CANDIDATE"). CARIBE VIEW, TITLED HORROR! WAS THAT US NEEDS "SERIOUS EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE" WHILE LISTIN SHARED "GRIEF OF THE UNITED STATES PEOPLE." BOTH PRAISED KENNEDY'S SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING LATIN AMERICA, WHILE LISTIN STATED THAT "IT COULD BE SAID WITH TRUTH THAT SENATOR KENNEDY IS THE LATIN AMERICAN CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY."

3. PRESS REPORTED WIDESPREAD LOCAL COMMENTS. SENATE ADOPTED RESOLUTION JUNE 5 CONDEMNING "MONSTROUS AND CRIMINAL PUR-

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POSE". AFTER VOTING DOWN PRD MOTION ABANDON SESSION. SANTO DOMINGO COUNCILMEN APPROVED TELEGRAM CONDOLENCE MRS. KENNEDY. MAYOR BAEZ ACOSTA SPOKE AT LENGTH ON SHOOTING ASKING HOW COULD PRESIDENT JOHNSON SEND US TROOPS SAID "TO PROTECT LIVES" TO "TRAMPLE OUR LAND AND KILL DOMINICANS WHEN... IN HIS OWN COUNTRY A MR. KENNEDY AND A MR. KING COULD NOT BE SAVED." DEPUTY CHAMBER PRESIDENT BADIA LARA (ONE OF SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN WHO EXPRESSED SORROW TO CARIBE) HOPED KENNEDY COULD RECOVER AND BE PRESIDENT. PRSC EX-CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR HERE FELO FLORES SAID HE WAS "DISTRESSED BEYOND MEASURE" AND FORMER COUNCIL OF STATE PRESIDENT RAFAEL BONNELLY SAID "IT IS SIMPLY SOMETHING WHICH HORRIFIES." FOR MIN AMIAMA TIO "DEEPLY" LA- MENTED ATTACK BY "BLIND FORCES" ON KENNEDY "WHO BELONGS TO A NOBLE ELITE OF NORTHAMERICAN POLITICANS." MPD BLAMED "WARLIKE MONOPOLIES" IN US WHERE "A MAN REPRESENTING KENNEDY'S IDEAS WILL NOT ATTAIN POWER". CRIMMINS

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AIRGRAM

POL 6 US/

KENNEDY ROBERT F

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ARMY	REP	AF
ARA	EUR	FE
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AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMR	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
OSD	USIA	NSA

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A-459

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NO.

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

FROM : Amembassy ALGIERS

DATE: June 7, 1968

SUBJECT: Algerian Reaction to the Assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy

REF

The Algerian press has fully reported the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Although banner headlines have not been used, ample coverage has appeared on inside pages. All the enclosed clippings appeared in the semi-official Algiers daily El Moudjahid.

Enclosure No. 1: Editorial entitled "Robert Kennedy and Zionism", which appeared on May 28th and helps to explain subsequent Algerian reaction to the assassination.

Enclosure No. 2: Report of the assassination attempt and editorial query why Los Angeles police claim Sirhan is an Arab after first saying he was Jamaican, then Cuban. (June 6, 1968).

Enclosure No. 3: Report of death from front page of El Moudjahid, (June 7, 1968).

Enclosure No. 4: Words of Arthur Schlesinger deploring American acts of motive, (June 7, 1968).

Enclosure No. 5: Full report on Senator's death, President Johnson's declaration, and information on Sirhan, (June 7, 1968).

Enclosures: 7

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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Drafted by:

POL:FERondon/jt

6/7/68

Contents and Classification Approved by:

CHARGE:LHoffacker

Clearances:

POL:FJGalanto; USIS:RHBentens

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Enclosure No. 6: Algeria Presse Service editorial: "Who armed the assassin?" (June 7, 1968).

Enclosure No. 7: Statement issued by Palestine liberation movement "El Feth" in Algiers, (June 7, 1968).

HOFFACKER

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Robert Kennedy et le sionisme

La campagne électorale bat son plein aux Etats-Unis. Les différents candidats à la présidence font feu de tout bois pour gagner les bulletins du corps électoral américain.

Les uns ont leur propagande sur le Vietnam, d'autres sur le problème des Noirs. Robert Kennedy pour sa part, a fait acte de foi sioniste devant la communauté juive de Portland (Oregon).

Ressortant le cliché écoulé du mythe dépassé d'« Israël — petit pays pacifique » le candidat aux élections présidentielles de novembre a déclaré : « Nous nous sommes engagés à faire survivre Israël, nous devons maintenant la sécurité d'Israël contre toute agression extérieure, par les armes si c'est nécessaire ».

Point n'est besoin pour nous de souligner le caractère ridicule des affirmations du sénateur américain quant à « l'agression extérieure qui menacerait Israël. L'Histoire a démontré et notamment les événements depuis le 5 juin dernier, de quel côté se situe l'agression et le mépris des Nations unies. L'occupation de vastes portions de territoires, l'annexion de Jérusalem, la répression sanglante qui suit contre des populations civiles ne sont pas, à ce qu'on sache, le fait des Arabes.

A moins que M. Kennedy ne soit mal informé ou aveugle pour ignorer des réalités connues de tous.

En vérité, il n'est ni l'un ni l'autre. Le sénateur n'exprime que l'opinion du « système américain » et confirme ainsi ce que nous avons toujours dénoncé ici à savoir qu'Israël n'est qu'une base de l'impérialisme au Moyen-Orient.

S'agissant du sionisme et de la lutte contre le mouvement de libération arabe, la « Sainte Alliance » se fait rapidement aux Etats-Unis. « Kennedy-le-Libéral » emboîte le pas à Johnson et fait lui aussi de la « sécurité d'Israël », son cheval de bataille.

Ces prises de position n'étonnent guère du reste les Arabes, pour qui l'extirpation du sionisme du Moyen-Orient reste le devoir le plus sacré, n'en déplaise à M. Kennedy et consorts.

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5/28/68

Algers, El Moudjahid
June 6, 1968

ROBERT KENNEDY VICTIME D'UN ATTENTAT A LOS ANGELES

« Etat extrême-
ment critique,
il pourrait bien
y rester »
disent
ses médecins
- 250 000 dollars
de caution pour
l'agresseur
Sirhan Sirhan



ROBERT Kenne-
dy, frère du
président as-
sassiné, 43 ans, séna-
teur de l'Etat de New
York, candidat démo-
crate aux élections pré-
sidentielles de novembre
prochain a été l'objet
hier matin à Los Ange-
lès, d'un attentat. Le
sénateur venait de ter-
miner un discours où il
annonçait sa victoire
électorale en Californie.

Atteint de plusieurs
balles, dont deux dans
la tête, il a été immé-
diatement opéré. A
l'heure où nous mettons
sous presse, son état est
jugé extrêmement criti-
que par ses médecins.
« Il a, disent-ils, une
toute petite chance de
s'en sortir. »

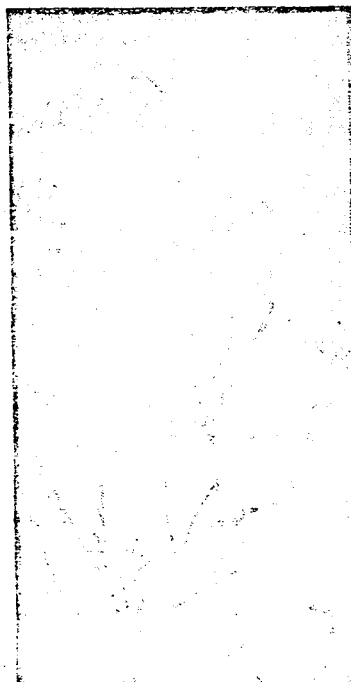
Son présumé agres-
seur, Sirhan Sirhan, âgé
de 23 ans, est arrêté.
Les autorités de Los
Angeles après avoir dit
qu'il s'agissait soit d'un
Jamaïcain, soit d'un
Cubain laissent mainte-
nant entendre qu'il est
d'origine arabe. On
peut se poser des ques-
tions sur les véritables
motifs de telles insinua-
tions.
(Lire nos informations
en page 6)

Algers, El Moudjahid June 7, 1968.
ALGERIA ET L'AFRIQUE DU NORD

ROBERT KENNEDY a succombé à ses blessures

DIMANCHE, DEUIL NATIONAL AUX ETATS-UNIS

ROBERT Kennedy
est mort
hier matin à
l'hôpital du Bon
Samaritain de
Los Angeles.
Maintenant
tous les regards
se tournent
vers l'homme
accusé de cet
assassinat, Sir-
han Sirhan.
Son interroga-
toire se pour-
suit, mais sans
succès car jus-
qu'à présent
Sirhan Sirhan
n'a pas parlé.
Après les ru-
meurs répandues par les
autorités de Ca-
lifornie sur une
prétendue ori-
gine jordanien-
ne de l'assassin,
Sirhan a dé-
claré, par la
voix de son
Premier minis-
tre qu'il n'exis-
tait aucun Jor-
darien de ce
nom. Après la
mort de Ro-
bert Kennedy
on enregistrera
dans le monde
de nombreuses
réactions.



Enclosures 2-4
Algers A-459

NOUS SOMMES MARQUES PAR LA VIOLENCE

LES Américains sont
le peuple le plus
effrayant de la
planète », a déclaré, mer-
credi soir, M. Arthur
Schlesinger, conseiller de
l'ancien président Kenne-
dy, puis de son frère Ro-
bert, au cours d'une allo-
cution qu'il prononçait à
l'occasion d'une remise de
diplômes à 38 étudiants
de City College, à New-
York.

Emu au point d'en-
lacher des larmes, M. Schlesinger a
ajouté : « Depuis trois
ans, nous tuons des gens
de l'autre côté du monde.
Nous avons déjà assassi-
né deux citoyens qui per-
sonnifiaient l'idéalisme
américain à l'étranger et
hier nous avons tenté d'en
assassiner un troisième.
Ces actes de violence ne
sont pas des accidents.
Ils ont leur origine
dans notre passé
national. » Ces actes, a
poursuivi M. Schlesinger,
ont commencé lorsque
l'homme blanc s'est mis
à assassiner les Indiens
et à faire des esclaves de
ceux qu'il considérait
comme ses inférieurs à
cause de la couleur de
leur peau. « Nous som-
mes marqués par notre
société d'un droit inné
à la violence qui apparaît
dans le rôle que nous met-
tons à poursuivre une
guerre irrationnelle au
Vietnam qui suppose une
poussée intérieure de ha-
ine et de violence », a con-
clu M. Schlesinger.

Après 24 heures d'agonie, Robert Kennedy succombe à ses blessures

DIMANCHE JOURNEE DE DEUIL AUX ETATS-UNIS

Robert Kennedy est mort hier matin à 1 h. 14 (heure de Los Angeles) soit 9 h. 03 GMT. Le sénateur n'avait pas repris connaissance depuis son transfert, moins de 21 heures avant à l'hôpital. Après une intervention chirurgicale qui a duré près de quatre heures, les bulletins de santé successifs publiés

dans la journée à l'hôpital du Bon Samaritain, n'indiquaient aucune amélioration. L'état du sénateur restait toujours extrêmement critique.

C'est M. Mankiewicz, son attaché de presse qui a annoncé la nouvelle de la mort de Robert Kennedy.

Quelques instants plus tard, ans et Robert Jr. 13 ans, se détails suivants : les trois aînés des dix enfants Kennedy Joseph, 16 ans, Kathleen 17 ans et Robert Jr. 13 ans, se trouvaient à l'hôpital au moment du décès, mais il n'a pu dire s'ils avaient vu leur père avant sa mort. La dépouille de M. Robert Kennedy devait être transportée dans la matinée de jeudi soit à Washington soit à New York. La Maison Blanche a été prévenue. M. Mankiewicz a encore précisé que la mort du sénateur avait été provoquée par la blessure reçue dans la nuit de mardi à mercredi et qu'il n'avait pas pu surmonter le traumatisme.

L'annonce faite par M. Mankiewicz n'a provoqué aucune surprise parmi les journalistes présents dans la salle de presse. Chacun savait en effet depuis la fin de l'après-midi, que tout espoir était perdu et que le sénateur était dans le coma. Il semble que ce soit entre 17 heures et 17 h. 30 (heure du Pacifique) que l'agonie se soit précipitée. En effet, M. Mankiewicz avait à 17 heures (locales) donné rendez-vous à la presse pour jeudi matin. Un peu plus tard, il leur avait conseillé de rester sur place dans l'attente d'une nouvelle annonce. Seul un public très clairsemé stationnait encore devant l'hôpital.

Des l'annonce du décès, le président Lyndon Johnson adressait un message de condoléances à la famille du sénateur et déclarait que dimanche prochain, sera journée de deuil national ; à ce moment, sur tous les bâtiments publics, et les navires de la marine de guerre américaine, le pavillon étoilé était mis en berne pour y rester jusqu'après les funérailles du sénateur.

Celles-ci auront lieu à New York et à Washington ; la dépouille mortelle du sénateur sera transportée dans quelques heures par avion spécial, de Los Angeles à New York, où, après avoir été exposée pendant toute la journée de vendredi, une messe sera dite samedi matin à la cathédrale St. Patrick au cœur même de la Grande Métropole. Puis, par train, le corps du sénateur sera transporté à Washington, où il sera inhumé samedi dans la journée au cimetière national d'Arlington aux côtés de la dépouille du président John Kennedy qui y repose depuis sa mort.

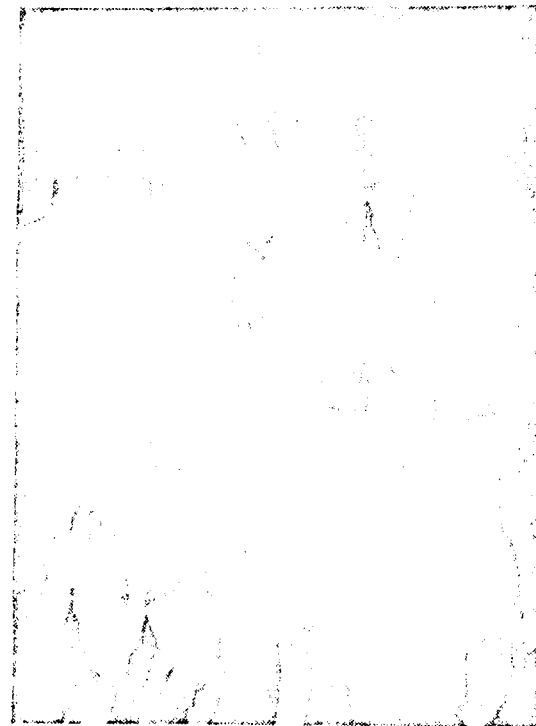
DECLARATION DU PRESIDENT JOHNSON

Peu après l'annonce de la mort du sénateur Kennedy, le président Johnson a fait la déclaration suivante :

« Nous contrainsons à cette heure une perte et une heure tragique. Le sénateur Robert F. Kennedy est mort. »

« Robert Kennedy était une affirmation du pays, une affirmation de l'honnêteté intrinsèque du pays, un désir de paix, de son désir de voir les conditions de vie s'améliorer pour tous. »

« Au cours de sa vie, il a connu beaucoup plus que sa part de tragédie. »



Robert Kennedy au cours d'un meeting électoral à New-York avec à ses côtés sa femme Ethel.

« Il n'a pourtant jamais abandonné sa loi en l'Amérique. Il n'a jamais perdu sa confiance dans la force spirituelle des hommes et des femmes. »

« Il croyait en l'aptitude des jeunes à se parfaire et au droit des plus âgés et des pauvres à vivre dans la dignité. »

« Sa perte amoindrit notre vie publique. »

« Mme Johnson et moi-même exprimons notre profonde sympathie à Mme Kennedy et à sa famille. »

« Je viens de signer une proclamation demandant à notre nation d'observer une journée de deuil pour Robert Kennedy. »

« Notre pays est malade », a déclaré dans la soirée de mercredi le président américain en lançant un appel au pays pour qu'il « renonce à la violence ». Il a annoncé la création d'une commission qui va « commencer immédiatement un examen des causes de cette tragédie » comme de tous les actes de violence qui ensanglantent le pays depuis l'assassinat de John Kennedy. Il y a quatre ans et demi.

L'attentat commis contre le sénateur Kennedy, de même que l'assassinat du pasteur King, montre que « la violence peut abattre les meilleurs d'entre nous », a poursuivi M. Johnson.

« Nous ne pouvons tolérer la domination d'hommes violents parmi nous », a-t-il dit. « Nous ne pouvons tolérer

l'appel à la violence, quelle que soit sa cause », a-t-il ajouté, soulignant qu'un grand pays ne peut garantir la liberté des citoyens que « dans le respect de la loi ». »

Le chef de l'Exécutif a demandé au Congrès d'adopter le plus rapidement possible des mesures législatives pour arrêter « le trafic insensé des armes » aux Etats-Unis. Il a enfin demandé à chaque Américain de commencer dès ce soir à faire preuve de modération et d'oublier la violence. »

Le projet législatif de lutte contre la criminalité, prévoyant de sévères restrictions à la vente des armes à feu et des munitions, libre jusqu'à présent aux Etats-Unis, pourrait être débattu dès jeudi à la Chambre des représentants, estime-t-on à Washington.

En effet, la commission de procédure de la Chambre s'est prononcée, douze heures après l'attentat commis contre le sénateur Kennedy, pour l'ouverture de ce débat que le gouvernement réclamait depuis longtemps.

QUI EST SIRHAN ?

L'auteur de l'attentat contre le sénateur Robert Kennedy a été identifié mercredi au début d'après-midi. Il s'agit d'un nommé Sirhan Berhara Sirhan, né le 16 mars 1944 à Jérusalem, demeurant depuis peu à Pasadena, en Californie, avec l'un de ses frères dit « Joé », employé dans un grand magasin de Pasadena.

Au cours d'une conférence

de presse, le maire de Los Angeles, M. Samuel Yorty, et le chef de la police de la ville, M. Thomas Reddin, ont déclaré qu'ils avaient pu remonter la filière grâce aux empreintes digitales relevées sur l'arme de l'agresseur, un pistolet de calibre 22. L'arme portait d'autres empreintes, dont celles d'un autre frère de l'agresseur, prénommé Adel.

L'identification a été confirmée par les empreintes digitales du suspect prises à l'occasion d'une demande d'emploi qu'il avait faite auprès de la direction d'un champ de courses hippiques à Hollywood. Cette demande d'emploi avait été remplie il y a quelque temps alors que Sirhan était élève au collège John Muir de Pasadena.

Il a été transféré mercredi après-midi du quartier général de la police de Los Angeles à l'infirmerie de la prison du Comté, à laquelle un porte-parole de la police.

Sirhan Sirhan, y est soigné, a-t-il précisé, pour un doigt cassé et des contusions à une jambe.

Le porte-parole a refusé de dire si le prisonnier avait été blessé au cours de la lutte qui suivit immédiatement l'attentat, avant qu'il n'ait été maîtrisé par les gardes du corps du sénateur Kennedy, ou plus tard dans les locaux de la police.

M. Thomas Reddin, chef de la police de Los Angeles, a refusé mercredi soir, au cours d'une conférence de presse, de donner des détails sur les documents découverts plus tôt dans la journée au domicile de Sirhan Sirhan.

En refusant de donner des précisions sur la nature exacte de ces documents, M. Reddin a déclaré qu'à l'heure actuelle des révélations de ce genre ne pourraient que porter préjudice au déroulement au procès de l'accusé.

M. Reddin a répété aux journalistes que rien de concret pour l'instant ne permettrait d'étayer la thèse « d'une sinistre conspiration internationale » dans cette affaire. Il a ajouté que l'accusé, autant que l'on sache, n'appartenait pas à une organisation politique extrémiste.

Le chef de la police a donné quelques détails supplémentaires sur la famille de l'accusé :

Sirhan Sirhan est arrivé en 1957 aux Etats-Unis venant de Jérusalem avec son père, sa mère, une sœur qui est décédée depuis, et quatre frères. Le père dont le prénom n'est pas connu, a quitté la famille peu après son arrivée à Pasadena et a réintégré ensuite le pays. On ne sait pas où il résiderait actuellement.

Deux frères, Adel et Nakhir, vivent encore avec leur mère à Pasadena. Les deux autres, Said Allah et Samir, ont quitté le domicile maternel et on ne sait pas où ils sont actuellement.

Seules cinq ou six personnes parmi lesquelles les deux frères, Adel et Nakhir, se sont présentées à la police pour fournir des renseignements sur l'accusé, qui observe toujours un mutisme total.

QUI A ARMÉ LA MAIN DE L'ASSASSIN ?

L'assassin du sénateur américain, Robert Kennedy, candidat aux prochaines élections présidentielles des Etats-Unis, a-t-il en commettant son acte agi de son propre chef, par « idéalisme » par besoin de publicité autour de sa personne, par « fanatisme » ou bien pour le seul désir de tuer ? Quelle est la véritable personnalité de Sirhan Sirhan, quelles sont ses idées vis-à-vis d'un problème politique donné comme celui par exemple du Moyen-Orient ? Le meurtrier n'aurait-il pas été armé intentionnellement par un tiers ? Dans l'affirmative, qui avait le plus intérêt à voir disparaître Robert Kennedy et pourquoi avait-il intérêt à ce qu'il disparaisse ? Autant de mystères, autant d'hypothèses à travers lesquels il est encore bien difficile de voir clair. On annonce déjà qu'il s'agit là d'un acte profondément « isolé ». Va-t-il être dit une nouvelle fois que les raisons qui ont amené la mort de Robert Kennedy resteront dans l'ombre comme sont restées dans l'ombre celles intéressant la mort de son frère, le président John Kennedy et celle encore toute récente intéressant l'assassinat du Pasteur intégrationniste noir, Martin Luther King ?

Rien, si ce n'est le nom et l'origine de l'assassin n'a pour le moment filtré de l'enquête menée actuellement par la police autour de cette affaire. Cependant, plusieurs agences et radios étrangères certainement « bien intentionnées » ont commencé à émettre des suppositions les plus abracadabrantes quant aux raisons qui ont amené Sirhan à assassiner le sénateur Robert Kennedy. Certaines radios périphériques européennes dont l'attitude

anti-arabe au lendemain de l'agression sioniste du 5 juin n'est plus à démontrer, vont jusqu'à souligner la nationalité « arabe » de l'assassin, son « fanatisme arabe » tout cela avec bien entendu, un sous-joint des plus albus. En les entendant, on serait tenté de dire qu'elles ne vont pas tarder à parler d'une véritable conspiration des Arabes contre un homme politique qui n'a jamais caché toutes les sympathies qu'il éprouvait pour l'Etat sioniste installé en territoire arabe occupé au détriment de toute autre considération.

N'est-ce pas éloigner le problème de son contexte purement américain que de vouloir le rattacher intentionnellement ou non au problème du Moyen-Orient, à un moment justement où toute la Nation arabe se remémore douloureusement, la lâche agression sioniste du 5 juin 1967.

Des observateurs étrangers affirmaient déjà bien avant les résultats de l'enquête policière qu'il s'agissait là d'un crime politique.

« L'assassin, ont-ils dit, est un farouche nationaliste qui a voulu marquer par son acte le premier anniversaire du conflit arabo-sioniste de juin dernier, M. Kennedy ayant préconisé une livraison immédiate d'avions américains à l'Etat sioniste ».

Pourquoi Sirhan ne serait-il pas plutôt un tueur à gages à la solde des sionistes et qui aurait été armé par eux dans le seul but de discréditer aux yeux de l'opinion internationale les Arabes et provoquer une hystérie anti-arabe aux USA ? C'est là l'argument qui a été avancé par plusieurs observateurs arabes qui estiment que cet acte peut profiter aux sionistes. (APS)

AF EL FETH

"Des manœuvres sionistes machiavéliques"

ALGER. — Après l'attentat qui a coûté la vie au sénateur Robert Kennedy, certaines agences de presse ont avancé que son auteur est un Arabe originaire de Jérusalem.

Devant la gravité de la situation et les moyens crapuleux dont use le sionisme pour dissimuler la vérité, le bureau d'Alger du mouvement de libération nationale palestinien « El-Feth » vient de rendre public la mise au point suivante :

« L'attentat qui coûta la vie au sénateur américain Kennedy après les déclarations qu'il a faites au cours de sa campagne électorale et relatives au problème palestinien, revêt pour nous une grande signification. C'est sans vergogne que le sionisme mondial commence à étaler ses moyens de propagande pour déformer la réalité quant au problème palestinien et à la Révolution palestinienne qui commence à jouer d'un grand soutien à travers le monde.

« A l'opinion publique internationale, nous disons que toutes les hypothèses avancées sur l'identité du criminel ne sont que des manœuvres machiavéliques sionistes.

« A l'opinion publique, nous disons que le mouvement de libération nationale palestinien « El-Feth », qui entreprend aujourd'hui l'un des plus nobles et durs combats contre l'ennemi sioniste en Palestine, condamne toute personne utilisant cette arme dans un pays étranger et contre un citoyen étranger pour des divergences politiques.

« Malgré l'oppression que con-

naît le peuple palestinien de la part des sionistes, notre mouvement a maintes fois affirmé sa décision de ne jamais employer de moyens de représailles contre les populations civiles de nos ennemis. Notre combat est un combat de libération et nos coups sont spécialement portés contre les hordes militaires sionistes qui occupent notre territoire.

« UN INSTRUMENT AUX MAINS DU SIONISME »

« Il y a quelques années, ajoute la déclaration, le président John Kennedy a été assassiné. Aujourd'hui c'est le tour de son frère Robert. Est-il possible qu'un seul individu puisse remplir à lui seul une mission aussi dangereuse que criminelle ? le problème est beaucoup plus complexe qu'on le pense.

« En ce qui nous concerne, nous considérons qu'en plus des échecs retentissants qu'elle a subis à l'extérieur, notamment en Europe, en Asie, en Amérique Latine, en Afrique, la politique américaine, loin de devenir vaine, a eu les influences les plus néfastes sur la société américaine et les personnalités politiques américaines elles-mêmes.

« Pour nous, même Arabe, le criminel ne peut-être qu'un instrument aux mains du sionisme mondial, du capitalisme, de la Central Intelligence Agency pour la concrétisation des plus abjectes aspirations politiques.



Pol 643/Kennedy, Robert F.
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 02031 070503Z

22
ACTION EA 15

INFO SSO 00, SS 20, H 02, CPR 02, P 04, USIA 12, NSC 10, RSR 01, RSC 01, 1067

R 070440Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1717

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 2031

SUBJECT: DEATH OF SENATOR KENNEDY

PRIME MINISTER HOLYOAKE MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO PRESS
ON LEARNING OF DEATH OF SENATOR KENNEDY:

"I AM SURE ALL NEW ZEALANDERS WILL HAVE FELT AN IMMEDIATE
SENSE OF GRIEF AT THE TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF SENATOR KENNEDY'S
DEATH. ONCE AGAIN A GREAT AMERICAN PUBLIC FIGURE HAS BEEN CUT DOWN AS
HE CARRIED OUT THE TASKS OF OPEN CONTEST AND DEBATE WHICH ARE PART
OF THE TRUE DEMOCRATIC TRADITION. HIS PASSING IS MORE POIGNANT
BECAUSE IT ECHOES THE STARK EVENTS OF DALLAS AND REMINDS US OF
THE GREAT BURDEN OF SACRIFICE ALREADY BORNE BY THE KENNEDY
FAMILY. FOR THE UNITED STATES TO LOSE ITS GIFTED MEN IN THIS
WAY IS A SAD DISTORTION OF THE FREEDOMS WHICH THEY IN TURN
HAVE FOUGHT TO PRESERVE. THE IDEALS OF PUBLIC SERVICE WHICH
SENATOR KENNEDY STROVE TO FULFIL ARE THOSE WHICH WE IN
NEW ZEALAND SHARE AND ADMIRE. FOR THIS REASON, AMERICA'S SORROW
IS OUR SORROW, AND OUR THOUGHTS GO OUT TO THE SENATOR'S CLOSE FAMILY."
HENNING

Wellington 2031
6/7/68

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PIL 6 LIS/KENNEDY, ROBERT
 Department of State
TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 09030 070745Z

14
 ACTION CPR 02

INFO EA 10, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20, USIA 12, H 02, CIAE 00, INR 07,

NSAE 00, RSR 01, SY 03, SSD 00, /072 W

P 070710Z JUN 68
 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 795

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 9030

SUBJ: KENNEDY FUNERAL - JAPANESE PARTICIPATION

REF: DEPTTEL 1787283#

1. FONOFF (NORTH AMERICA SECTION) INFORMS EMBASSY THE
 JAPANESE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AT FUNERAL OF SENATOR

ROBERT F. KENNEDY IN NEW YORK WILL BE AMB. SHIMODA AND
 CONUL GENERAL AT NEW YORK. HOWEVER, DIET MEMBER EIICHI
 NAKAO AND MR TOKUSABURO KOSAKA ALSO PLANNING GO TO US IN
 HOPES OF BEING ABLE ATTEND FUNERAL AS WELL AS INTERMENT AT
 ARLINGTON IN CAPACITY REPRESENTATIVES "ROBERT KENNEDY
 COMMITTEE," OF WHICH KOSAKA IS CHAIRMAN. EMBASSY AND FONOFF
 HAVE CAREFULLY INFORMED NAKAO OF INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL CON-
 CERNING LIMITATION OF ATTENDANCE FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES AT
 CATHEDRAL. FONOFF INDICATED JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON
 BEING INSTRUCTED APPROACH DEPT IN HOPES SECURING SPECIAL
 CONSIDERATION, AND ACKNOWLEDGED NAKAO AT LEAST BEING GIVEN
 "QUASI-OFFICIAL" REPRESENTATIVE STATUS.

2. NAKAO TOLD EMBASSY HE EXPECTS BE DESIGNATED TO PRESENT
 HIGHEST JAPANESE GOVERNMENT DECORATION GIVEN NON-JAPANESE TO
 LATE SENATOR KENNEDY. EMBASSY RECOMMENDED HE HAVE JAPANESE
 EMBASSY GET IN TOUCH WITH DEPT TO ASCERTAIN KENNEDY FAMILY
 VIEWS. NORTH AMERICAN SECTION AGREED TO THIS PROCEDURE.

3. KOSAKA AND NAKAO WERE AMONG THOSE INSTRUMENTAL IN MAKING

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 09030 070745Z

ARRANGEMENTS FOR AND HOSTING JAPAN VISITS OF LATE SENATOR AND MRS. KENNEDY IN 1961 AND 1964 AND HAVE BEEN ACTIVE SINCE THEN IN "KENNEDY COMMITTEE" AND ITS OFFSHOOT JAPAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING. BOTH ORGANIZATIONS ARE ACTIVE ON BEHALF OF US-JAPAN RELATIONS. KOSAKA IS PRESIDENT OF LARGE CHEMICAL COMPANY AND BROTHER OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER. NAKAO IS YOUNG CONSERVATIVE MEMBER HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ELECTED IN 1967.

4. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN ANY REQUEST FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BUT WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER CAN BE DONE TO ASSIST WITHIN APPROPRIATE LIMITS AND TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO KOSAKA AND NAKAO.

OSBORN

NOTE: # AS RECEIVED.

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POL 6 US/KENNEDY,
ROBERT F.

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AIRGRAM

22

A-70

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TO : Department of State
INFO : CARACAS

FROM : Amconsul MARACAIBO

DATE: June 7, 1968

SUBJECT: Reaction to the Assassination of Senator Kennedy

REF :

Maracaibo was deeply shocked and saddened by first the news of the shooting and then on June 6 the tragic death of the Senator. Expressions of grief over his loss and of condolence for his family came into the consulate and Casa Americana, the USIS branch post, by telephone, telegram, written notes and personal visits from Maracaibo residents. The murder of Senator Kennedy, from this testimony, seemed to touch everyone -- people in public life, businessmen and labor leaders, educators and students, the military, and plain citizens.

Venezuelans accustomed to thinking of our country as the model of respect for law and an ordered, secure way of life cannot understand what to many has been a rapid deterioration of America's social fabric. American residents here are similarly baffled and worried. The tragedy of Senator Kennedy, coming two months after the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King and a highly-publicized protest movement in the United States, has shaken many to the core. On everyone's mind, said a lady calling to express her ~~xxx~~ regrets who spoke the mind of many, "is the horror of seeing what is happening to a wonderful country."

King
KING

cc: Amembassy CARACAS (DCM, USIS); Department (ARA/LA/NC/V)

FORM
4-62 DS-323

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Drafted by:

JFKing;fm

Contents and Classification Approved by:

PO:JFKing

Clearances:

(21)



POL 6 US / Kennedy
Robert F. J.
Department of State

TELEGRAM

27

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 367

PAGE 01 BONN 13018 071728Z

45
ACTION CPR 02

INFO EUR 15,SSO 00,NSCE 00,CCO 00,USIE 00,H 02,CO 04,SS 20,NSC 10,

P 04,CIAE 00,INR 07,NSAE 00,RSC 01,RSR 01,1066 W

O 071700Z JUN 68 ZFF-6
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8572
INFO USMISSION BERLIN IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BONN 13018

SUBJECT: FRG REPRESENTATION FOR KENNEDY FUNERAL

REF: BONN 12979

1. MODIFYING THE REFERENCED TELEGRAM, FOREIGN OFFICE PROTOCOL CHIEF SCHWARTZMAN CALLED US TO SAY THAT AMBASSADOR KNAPPSTEIN IS THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE AT THE FUNERAL SERVICES. SENATOR SPANGENBURG IS REPRESENTING THE BERLIN SENATE AND ALSO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR KNAPPSTEIN IS THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

LODGE

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Department of State

POL 6 US / Kennedy
Robert F.
TELEGRAM
28

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PAGE 01 BONN 12979 071117Z

19
ACTION CPR 02

INFO EUR 15, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20, H 02, SY 03, SSO 00, NSCE 00,

USIE 00, CCO 00, RSR 01, /058 W

O 071110Z JUN 68 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8561

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BONN 12979

SUBJ: FRG REPRESENTATION FOR KENNEDY FUNERAL

REF: STATE 178273

THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT THE FRG IS DESIGNATING DIETRICH SPANGENBERG, BERLIN'S SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS, AS THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE KENNEDY FUNERAL. APANGENBERG IS A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF FOREIGN MINISTER BRANDT AND GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ. IT IS STILL POSSIBLE THAT THE FRG MAY DESIGNATE A SECOND REPRESENTATIVE AS WELL. LODGE

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TELEGRAM

Pol 6 US/Kennedy, Robert 43

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02578 071810Z

91
ACTION ARA 16

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

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

R 071715Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2712

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 2578

1. THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF ROBERT KENNEDY HAS SHOCKED HONDURAS AND DOMINATED ITS NEWS MEDIA. MANY COMMENTATORS SAY HIS DEATH INDICATES THAT SOMETHING IS SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH AMERICA AND SPECULATE THAT THE SHOOTING IS THE RESULT OF A RIGHTIST CONSPIRACY.

2. EL CRONISTA WHICH CALLED KENNEDY THE "MOST RECENT HOPE OF LATIN AMERICA" SAW HIM AS "THE VICTIM OF REACTIONARY PLOTTERS, THE KLU KLUX KLAN, AND THE COSA NOSTRA," AND SAID "THE BULLET WHICH KILLED ROBERT KENNEDY WAS DIRECTED INTELLECTUALLY BY THE SAME DIABOLICAL MINDS WHICH KILLED JOHN KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING."

3. LIBERAL LA PRENSA OF SAN PEDRO SULA SAID THE MURDERS OF BOTH KENNEDYS AND MARTIN LUTHER KING WERE "ORGANIZED BY THOSE WHO DO NOT WANT AMERICAN SOCIETY RADICALLY CHANGED" BUT PERDICTED THAT THESE CRIMES "CANNOT PREVENT THIS CHANGE TO A NEW AND BETTER SOCIETY."

4. EL PUEBLO, LIBERAL PARTY ORGAN, WHICH THREE WEEKS AGO HAD EDITORIALY CALLED ROBERT KENNEDY "THE BEST HOPE OF THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES OF LATIN AMERICA" SAID THER IS NO DOUBT THAT HE WAS KILLED BECAUSE HE FAVORED "CLOSING THE GAP WHICH SEPARATES THE NEGROES FROM WHITE, RICH FROM POOR, ONE GENERATION FROM ANOTHER." IT LINKED THE MURDERS OF THE KENNEDYS AND MARTIN LUTHER KING AS PART OF A STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE FORCES OF GOOD AND EVIL IN THE U.S.

5. THE GOVERNMENT'S DIARIO DEL NORTE, LAMENTED KENNEDY'S SHOOTING AND SAID THE US IS UNDERGOING AN "ACUTE INTERNAL

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 02578 071810Z

CRISIS" AND "MANIFESTING SIGNS OF SOCIAL DISINTEGRATION" WITH AN "INCREASE IN ANARCHY, RACIAL HATRED AND CRIME OF ALL KINDS."

6. CONSERVATIVE EL DIA CALLED THE LOSS OF THE "HEIR AND APOSTLE OF THE NEW FRONTIER" IRREPARABLE.

7. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY INCLUDING ONE FROM PRESIDENT LOPEZ, TEXT OF WHICH TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY. PLEASE PASS TO WIDOW OF SENATOR KENNEDY AND KENNEDY FAMILY.

WILKOWSKI

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59 POL 6 US/KENNEDY, ROBERT F.

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 PORT A 00927 072201Z

88
ACTION ARA 16

INFO CIAE 00,DODE 00,GPM 04,H 02,INR 07,L 03,NSAE 00,NSC 10,P 04
RSC 01,SP 02,SS 20,USIA 12,NIC 01,AID 28,RSR 01,III W

R 072139Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1595

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 927

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 919

1. CONTINUING EDITORIAL REACTION ON SENATOR KENNEDY MIXED. LE MATIN PRAISED HIM AS ANOTHER MARTYR TO CAUSE OF PROGRESSIVE POLICIES WHICH HAVE CREATED HOPE FOR ALL WHO SUFFER AND ASPIRE TO WELL-BEING. PARTICULAR SORROW EXPRESSED THAT CRIME COMMITTED BY NON-AMERICAN ON U S SOIL AGAINST A PEOPLE "WE LOVE FOR NUMEROUS NOBLE ACTS AND GENEROSITIES TOWARD OTHER COUNTRIES DURING THEIR UNHAPPY DAYS."

2. LE NOUVEAU MONDE CHARACTERIZED KENNEDY AS AMBITIOUS, RUTHLESS, CYNICAL AND DANGEROUS FOR AMERICAN NATION. EDITORIAL BLAMED AMERICAN CIVILIZATION FOR DELUDING KENNEDY INTO BELIEVING HIS FORTUNE MADE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE INCLUDING "SECOND PURCHASE OF WHITE HOUSE."

3. ONLY OFFICIAL CONDOLENCE THUS FAR IS TELEGRAM FROM PRESIDENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO PRESIDENT U S SENATE, TEXT OF WHICH PUBLISHED NOUVEAU MONDE TODAY. AFTER EXPRESSING "INDIGNATION AT THIS CRIME," TELEGRAM ADDS AMBIGUOUSLY THAT "THESE ACTS OF VIOLENCE FREELY PREACHED AND PRACTISED HAVE AN ELOQUENCE IN AN ADVANCED DEMOCRACY WHICH RELIEVES ONE OF NEED OF ANY COMMENTARY." EXEMPT ROSS

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PORT AU PRINCE

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AIRGRAM⁴⁹POL 6 US/KENNEDY,
ROBERT F.

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OSD	USIA	NSA
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5 JUL 3 AM 61168

A-103

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NO.

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : OTTAWA

FROM : Amconsul HALIFAX

DATE: June 7, 1968

SUBJECT : Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Reaction to Senator Kennedy's Death

REF :

Reaction in this consular district to the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy was almost completely one of horror, sorrow and disbelief. Maritimers have close ties with New England and there has always been a particular interest in the Kennedy family in this district. There were many expressions of Canadian sympathy to American citizens.

There have been, and will be, many church services for Senator Kennedy. Among those who signed the Consulate General's condolence book were the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia (the ranking official of the province), provincial cabinet members, members of the provincial legislative assembly and the recently dissolved Federal parliament and representatives of all walks of life. Impressively, many teenagers came in to sign the book.

There was concern about violence in American life. "What's gone wrong there in the States?" said a garage attendant to the Reporting Officer.

The Halifax Chronicle-Herald accurately expressed sentiment in the district when it said, "the facts of American life, the tradition of violence, the ease with which anyone, upright citizen and paranoid madman, can possess firearms and use them with relative impunity, and the continuing myth that every American has the right to 'bear arms', make political and public service more physically hazardous in the United States than in most other civilized countries . . . Americans can surely best assuage their anger at this dreadful deed by determining to remove the cancer of violence that besets their society. As a start, they should insist on an effective cure on the present free for all sale of firearms." Several representative clippings from area papers are attached in one original and four thermofaxed copies for the Department and one thermofax for the Embassy.

Enclosures as stated

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FORM 4-62 19-323

Drafted by:

ALPeaslee:he

Contents and Classification Approved by:

ALPeaslee

Clearances:

EUR/CAN Noel J. C. Chescey 6/12/68 (file)

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BUREAU
OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
COMMUNICATION CENTER

1969 JUN 12 AM 10 49

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



The Chronicle-Herald stands for Maritime Progress and Development and is dedicated to the service of the people that no good cause shall lack a champion and that wrong shall not thrive unopposed.

4 THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1968

Act Of Violence

The shadow and the stain of Dallas and Memphis have fallen on Los Angeles, and indeed on to the whole fabric of American society.

The horrified disbelief that was the first reaction, in Canada and throughout the world, to the news that Senator Robert Kennedy had been shot and critically wounded almost at the moment of his victory in the California primary election, was accentuated by the ordinary person's refusal to conceive that Robert Kennedy could meet the same tragic death as that of his distinguished brother, and in such horribly similar circumstances.

Yet this monstrous, mindless act is in keeping with an atmosphere of growing violence, not only in the United States, but in many other countries. Unhappily, in the United States (unlike, for example, France, where the recent turmoil in the streets resulted in remarkably few fatal casualties) violence, whether on a massive scale or directed at individuals, so often involves firearms, and the rule of the bullet.

Senator Kennedy's shooting occurred just two months after the Rev. Martin Luther King had been gunned down on his motel verandah at Memphis, an act which resulted in fearful riots, that may well have been a mere curtain raiser for this summer's anticipated racial strife in American cities.

Must all leaders of political thought in the United States, all men of courage and ideas, of integrity and a desire to better the lot of their fellow men, risk their lives when they become public figures?

It may be that the man who shot Robert Kennedy, whoever he was, was an evil crank rather than a political conspirator, just as Lee Harvey Oswald and the murderer of Martin Luther King may have been cranks.

But the facts of American life, the tradition of violence, the ease with which anyone, upright citizen and paranoid madman, can possess firearms and use them with comparative impunity, and the continuing myth that every American has the right to "bear arms", make political and public service more physically hazardous in the United States than in most other civilized countries.

The effect of this event on American politics, particularly on this year's presidential election, can only be guessed at, for the moment.

Americans can surely best assuage their anger at this dreadful deed by determining to remove the cancer of violence that besets their society. As a start, they should insist on an effective cure on the present free for all sale of firearms.

THE CHRONICLE-HERALD



The Chronicle-Herald stands for Maritime Progress and Development and is dedicated to the service of the people that no good cause shall lack a champion and that wrong shall not thrive unopposed.

4

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1968

No More Martyrs

Like his elder brother, the late President John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy was cut down in his prime, as a man, a political leader and a personality whose political ideals and reforming zeal had given hope to millions of ordinary people, in his own country and beyond.

Senator Robert Kennedy was a controversial figure at the time of his murder. Although he had just won a victory over his principal Democratic opponent in the race for the presidency in the California Democratic primary, his attainment of that office, even his selection as Democratic presidential candidate at the Chicago convention, would have been achieved, if at all, only after a strenuous and probably rough campaign within the party and the nation.

The political, as distinct from personal tragedy, of President Kennedy was that his death left the promise and hope he personified unfulfilled. Robert Kennedy never reached the pinnacle of power attained by his brother, although he seemed to have a fair chance of doing so. But, as a campaigning Kennedy, as a hard hitting politician who had long identified himself with the civil rights movement and with the radical wing of the Democratic party, as a young man with a charismatic appeal to young people impatient for reform, his career held rich promise and potential.

Whether ~~he~~ would have made a great president, or even a good one, and whether he would have worn with comfort the mantle donned so briefly by his brother, are now matters for academic speculation. We shall never know.

What is now important is for the people of the United States, of all races and in all strata of society, to determine that there shall be no more martyrs, no more politicians and no more spiritual leaders gunned down because their words happen to annoy evil and fanatical extremists.

Surely, violence has ~~gone~~ far enough.



Halifax Mail Star 6/7/68

FINAL COMMENT — A condolence book for Senator Kennedy was opened for the public this morning at the U.S. Consul General's office in the Bank of Nova Scotia Building. Alexander Peaslee, right, U.S. Consul General in Halifax, watches Dr. T. M. Sieniewicz become the first Haligonian to sign the book. The book will be open until 5 p.m. today and until noon tomorrow.

52

POL 6 25 / Kennedy,

Robert F.

178349

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

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7 JUN 68 00 58Z

Circular
For OC/T USE ONLY
Joung 70. 178349

Origin

ACTION: CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS URGENT
(LIST OF CHANCERIES ATTACHED)

Info:

CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WE HAVE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF THE
THE REQUIEM MASS FOR THE LATE
DIPLOMATIC CORPS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING ~~THE REQUIEM MASS~~
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL.
~~SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY~~ MEMBERS OF THE KENNEDY FAMILY HAVE
ADVISED US THAT THEY WILL RESERVE ONE (1) OR TWO (2) SEATS
HAVE ITS REPRESENTATIVES
FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH COUNTRY WHICH MAY CARE TO ATTEND.
TO AND FROM NEW YORK
FOR THIS PURPOSE, AIR TRANSPORTATION/WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THOSE
ATTENDING, DEPARTING ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE AT 7:30 A.M. ON
SATURDAY, JUNE 8, ~~AND PROCEED TO NEW YORK FOR THOSE REPRESENTATIVES~~
~~WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE REQUIEM MASS FOR THE LATE SENATOR KENNEDY~~
~~AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL.~~ BUSES WILL MEET THE PLANE UPON
ARRIVAL AT JOHN F. KENNEDY AIRPORT TO TRANSPORT THE PASSENGERS
TO AND FROM THE CATHEDRAL. FURTHERMORE, ~~REPRESENTATIVES~~ REPRESENTATIVES
ACCEPTING THIS INVITATION SHOULD BE AT ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE
(VIP LOUNGE) NOT REPEAT NOT LATER THAN 7:00 A.M. UNFORTUNATELY,
DUE TO LACK OF SPACE, WIVES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS INVITATION.

Drafted by: S/CPR: GAbell:RSancho-Bonet

Tel. Ext. 6443

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

Angier Biddle Duke for R.S.B.
Chief of Protocol

Clearances:

S/S-BHRead

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PLEASE BRING THIS TELEGRAM TO PRESENT AS YOUR ADMITTANCE
AUTHORIZATION. SPACE IN THE CATHEDRAL WILL BE SEVERELY LIMITED
AND IT WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ASSURE ATTENDANCE
OF ^{ADDITIONAL} ~~ADDITIONAL~~ REPRESENTATIVES.

BURIAL AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND
A LIMITED SECTION WILL BE RESERVED FOR REPRESENTIVES OF THE
VARIOUS COUNTRIES. THOSE ATTENDING THE BURIAL AT ARLINGTON
SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE DIPLOMATIC ENTRANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT

OF STATE NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M. ^{66/} ~~TRANSPORTATION~~ WILL BE PROVIDED
TO AND FROM THE CEMETERY. ^{66/} ~~THE FUNERAL SERVICES AND BURIAL~~
PLEASE ADVISE US OF THOSE WHO WILL BE ATTENDING AS YOUR
REPRESENTATIVES. TELEPHONE NUMBER DU 3-3452, or DU 3-5633.

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

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UNCLASSIFIED 905

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ACTION NEA 15

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

RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, RSR 01, /069 W

P 071143Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 3995

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 4024/1 SECTION ONE OF TWO

USIAC

JOINT USIS/EMBASSY

FOR: IOP/GM, IPS, IBS

ISRAELI PRESS REVIEW, JUNE 7

1. VOLUMINOUS KENNEDY COVERAGE IN ALL PAPERS. WITH TWO EXCEPTIONS, ENTIRE MORING PRESS EDITORIALIZES.

2. HAARETZ (INDEPENDENTIC) QUOTE SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN IS JERUSALEM-BORN ARAB, BUT SINCE HE SPENT ABOUT HALF HIS LIFE AND ACQUIRED HIS EDUCATION IN US, HE HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE. AT SAME TIME IT CLEAR HE TOOK ACTION AGAINST KENNEDY AS ARAB NATIONALIST; AND WHILE DIPLOMATS FROM ARAB STATES ARE AVOIDING ANY JUSTIFICATION OF MURDER, ALREADY THERE HAS BEEN ARAB PROPAGANDIST WHO ATTEMPTED, WHILE PAYING LIP SERVICE TO CONDEMNATION OF CRIME...EXPLOIT ASSAULT FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. FROM WHAT IS TO BE LEARNED FROM HIS PERSONAL PARTICULARS, SIRHAN IS NEITHER REFUGEE NOR EXILE; HE IS SON OF IMMIGRANT FAMILY SIMILAR TO THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES-ARAB AND OTHER-WHO IMMIGRATED TO US... DID SIRHAN ACT AS INDIVIDUAL OR ON BEHALF OF ORGANIZATION? AS YET THERE IS NO ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION AND MATTER WILL HAVE TO BE EXAMINED FROM ALL POSSIBLE ANGLES... IF IT TRANSPIRES, HOWEVER, THAT HE IS A

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JUN 10 1968

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 04024 071314Z

LONE OPERATOR WITHOUT ORGANIZED BACKING, THIS MUST NOT BE TAKEN ANY LESS SERIOUSLY. TO CONTRARY: LONE ASSAILANT MAY BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN ONE WHO ACTS AS MEMBER OR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP. SIRHAN'S EXAMPLE MAY INCITE OTHERS- NOT NECESSARILY ARABS, BUT ALSO ARABS, AND NOT ONLY IN UNITED STATES. CRIMINOLOGY EXPERTS ALWAYS CLAIM THAT EVERY CRIME THAT SUCCEEDS AROUSES OTHERS TO FOLLOW SUIT. MOREOVER, POLITICAL MURDER HAS ALWAYS BEEN ACCEPTED IN ARAB WORLD AND THERE IS MUCH EVIDENCE OF THIS IN ARAB COUNTRIES BORDERING ON ISRAEL. US MAY NOT BE ONLY ONE TO SERVE AS ARENA FOR ADDITIONAL BLOODTHIRSTY PEOPLE: HERE, TOO, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO REEXAMINE AND IMPROVE SECURITY MEANS INTENDED PROTECT HEADS OF OUR STATE. UNQUOTE

3. DAVAR(HISTADRUT-LABOR FEDERATION): QUOTE IDENTITY OF MURDERER GIVES RISE TO VARIOUS CONJECTURES CONCERNING HIS MOTIVES. US AUTHORITIES MUST CERTAINLY HAVE LEARNED LESSON FROM FAULTS AND INEFFICIENCIES COMMITTED AT LEAST DURING FIRST STAGES OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S MURDER INVESTIGATION... IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THIS TIME ALL MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN AND ALL POSSIBILITIES INVESTIGATED SO AS NOT LEAVE ASSUMPTIONS AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSION ON SUCH IMPORTANT ISSUE. UNQUOTE

4. AL HAMISHMAR(MAPAM-LEFTWING SOCIALIST): QUOTE HE (SIRHAN) WAS BROUGHT TO US AS YOUTH AND THEREFORE SPENT HIS FORMATIVE YEARS AWAY FROM HIS NATIVE CITY. FROM STANDPOINT OF WOUNDED ARAB INNERQUOTE PATRIOTISM INNER UNQUOTE H IS NOT, THEREFORE, MOST NATURAL CANDIDATE FOR ACT OF INDIVIDUAL TERRORISM. AS FOR VICTIM, SENATOR KENNEDY, -FOR ALL HIS DECLARED AFFECTION FOR ISRAEL DURING HIS ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN-WAS NOT IDEAL MANIFESTATION OF ARDENT BELIEF IN OUR CAUSE. CONSEQUENTLY ONE CANNOT AVOID CONCLUSION THAT ISRAELI-ARAB ASPECT HAS BEEN INTRODUCED ARTIFICIALLY AND FOR PURPOSES OF PROVOCATION, INTO THIS HORRIFYING AND BASE MURDER. UNQUOTE

5. HAMODIA (WORLD AGUDAT YISRAEL-RELIGIOUS): QUOTE FACT THAT ARAB LEAGUE'S PROFESSIONAL AGITATOR DR. MAHDI ALLOWED HIMSELF TO USE FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN ORDER TO

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FIND INNER QUOTE JUSTIFICATION INNER UNQUOTE FOR ACT OF MURDER WHO INNER QUOTE BOILED WITH ANGER INNER UNQUOTE UPON HEARING SENATOR KENNEDY'S PRO-ISRAELI STATEMENTS, SHOULD ALERT AMERICAN AUTHORITIES TO DANGEROUS PRESENCE OF VIOLENT GROUP WHICH ENJOYS FULL FREEDOM OF ACTION AND SOWS FEAR IN HEARTS OF ANY WHO DARE DISOBEY THEM. AS LONG AS THIS ACTIVITY DID NOT BEAR SUCH TRAGIC FRUITS, US AUTHORITIES ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO SUFFER ACTIVITIES OF THIS TERRORIST GROUP. BUT NOW THAT THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE RESULTED IN A TERRIBLE MURDER, AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION SHOULD NO LONGER TOLERATE THEM. ISRAEL SHOULD NOT BE EAGER TO REAP POLITICAL BENEFITS FROM THIS ACT. ISRAEL'S ENEMIES, WHO ARE TO BE FOUND EVERYWHERE, MAY ALSO TRY USE INCIDENT IN ORDER TO MAKE POINT THAT AMERICAN LEADERS SHOULD NOT DEMONSTRATE PRO-ISRAELI TENDENCIES AND THAT MIDDLE EASTERN DISPUTE IS DISRUPTING LIFE OF US. BUT, FOR MOST PART, THERE IS ROOM FOR ASSUMPTION THAT AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION WILL NOW UNDERSTAND MUCH BETTER THE TRAGIC REALITY IN WHICH WE LIVE IN OUR REGION. UNQUOTE

6. SHEARIM (POALEI AGUDAT YISRAEL-RELIGIOUS, LABOR): QUOTE IT WILL BE CRIME IF, EVEN NOW, WORLD CONTINUES IGNORE NEST OF HATRED WHICH EXISTS IN MIDDLE EAST. UNTIL NOW WORLD ACCEPTED THIS SITUATION AND AT TIMES EVEN ENCOURAGED IT THROUGH PROPAGANDA. IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THERE IS ANOTHER REGION IN WORLD. GILDNER

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P 07143Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 3996

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 4024/2

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WHERE RULERS BASE THEIR COUNTRIES' EXISTENCE ON SUCH HATRED FOR NEIGHBORING STATE, BOYCOTT ANYONE WHO DOES NOT ACCEPT THEIR VIEWS AND OPENLY INSTIGATE A WAR OF TOTAL ANNIHILATION AND DESTRUCTION. ROBERT KENNEDY WHO FELL VICTIM TO THIS TERRIBLE INSTIGATION AFTER HE HAD SPOKEN WORDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, RECOGNIZED URGENT NEED TO END MIDDLE EASTERN DISPUTE. BUT IT DOUBTFUL WHETHER HE REALIZED JUST HOW DEEP HATRED WAS, AND THIS NOT ONLY IN MIDDLE EAST. UNQUOTE

7. HAYOM (GAHAL - RIGHTWING ALIGNMENT): QUOTE THIS PHENOMENON IS PART OF COMPLEX OF INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF AMERICAN PLURALISTIC SOCIETY, WHICH HAS BEEN TOLERATING ON ITS FRINGES DOUBTFUL ELEMENTS FOR WHOM VIOLENCE IS EXCLUSIVE MEANS OF ACHIEVING AIMS.

8. MURDER OF ROBERT KENNEDY, IN ADDITION TO ALL ITS TRAGIC AND SHOCKING SIDELIGHTS, IS SOMEHOW EXCEPTION IN SUM TOTAL OF POLITICAL MURDERS OF STATESMEN AND PUBLIC FIGURES IN AMERICA. IN THIS INSTANCE, MURDERER IS SOMEONE WHO IMMIGRATED ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO TO THE U.S., A YOUNG JORDANIAN, AND EXTREME NATIONALIST, WHO SHOT VICTIM OUT OF POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS WHICH HE WANTED CARRY OUT THROUGH PERSONAL TERROR. THUS, WHETHER WE WANT IT

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OR WHETHER IT UNDESIRABLE TO SOMEONE, ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT - AND STAND OF U.S. AND ITS RELATION TO THAT CONFLICT - ENTERS GRUESOME PICTURE OF DRAMATIC EVENT WHICH TOOK PLACE IN LOS ANGELES...IT MOST PROBABLE THAT EVERYBODY REGARDS WITH GREAT DEAL OF DOUBT AND RESERVATION CONTENTIONS OF ARAB DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON, THAT THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN MURDER OF ROBERT KENNEDY AND HIS PRO-ISRAELI DECLARATIONS, WHICH HE HAD VOICED IN RECENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN APPEARANCES BEFORE JEWISH AUDIENCES IN SAN FRANCISCO...VERY FACT THAT ARAB COUNTRIES REJECT WITH FIRM DETERMINATION EVERY APPEAL AND WILLINGNESS ON PART OF ISRAEL FOR DIRECT PEACE TALKS AND CONTINUE PREACH SOLUTION OF CONFLICT BY FORCE OF ARMS, BY RENEWAL OF WAR, IS ENCOURAGEMENT TO VIOLENCE IN EVERY FORM AND MANNER. WAR-CRIES ARE DAILY ROUTINE AND CENTRAL THEME OF PROPAGANDA ORGANS OF ARAB COUNTRIES. NO WONDER IT WAS REVEALED THAT MURDERER IN CALIFORNIA COMMITTED HIS CRIME OUT OF CONVICTION THAT IN THAT WAY HE IS CONTRIBUTING HIS INNER QUOTE SHARE INNER UNQUOTE TO JIHAD (ARAB HOLY WAR). UNQUOTE

9. IN SIGNED ARTICLE, LAMERHAV (ISRAEL LABOR PARTY) WRITES: QUOTE JORDAN CLAIMS THAT HERE ARE NO GROUNDS TO BLAME AN ARAB MAJORITY, OR (HASHEMITE) KINGDOM OR ENTIRE ARAB NATION FOR MURDEROUS CRIME. THAT CONTENTION MUST BE RESPECTED. WE MAY ASSUME THAT MANY AMONG OUR NEIGHBORS FELT PROFOUND REGRET AND SHOCK WHEN THEY LEARNED OF IDENTITY OF MURDERER. NO, THERE IS NO REASON TO BLAME ARAB LEADERS FOR THAT MURDER WHICH MUST HAVE FILLED THEM WITH ANXIETY, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF ITS POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. HOWEVER, IF ANYONE ACCUSED THEM INNER QUOTE YOU ARE THE MURDERERS! INNER UNQUOTE HE WOULD NOT BE FAR FROM THE TRUTH, BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN BLOWING UP ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT TO IRRATIONAL DIMENSIONS. BECAUSE THEY HAVE TURNED THIS REGION, BY THEIR FOUL SPEECHES AND IMAGINATION, INTO A HELL OF BLOOD, FIRE AND TEARS; BECAUSE THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GRUESOME SLAUGHTER WHICH CONTINUES AND IS GOING TO CONTINUE IN THEIR SPEECHES AND IN THEIR DEEDS. AGAINST THIS TERRIFYING BACKGROUND

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ROBERT KENNEDY'S DEATH BECOMES NATURAL PHENOMENON, A
CONCLUSION WHICH HAS BEEN DRAWN, AS PART OF THE
INNER QUOTE GAME INNER UNQUOTE. UNQUOTE. GILDNER

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AIRGRAM

POL 6 US/KENNEDY
ROBERT F.

ARA-10

Original to be Filed in _____ Decentralized Files.

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FILE DESIGNATION

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A-919

HANDLING INDICATOR

NO.

TO : Department of State

JUN 10 3 45 PM 1968

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JUN 12 1968

DATE: June 7, 1968

FROM : AmEmbassy, Caracas

SUBJECT : Venezuelan Presidential Candidates and the U.S. --
Insights From Reactions to Senator Kennedy's Assassination

REF : --

For some time the Embassy has been studying the principal presidential aspirants, their methods of operation, types of people around them, etc., in view of the fact that that one of them will become president in 1969. In the last six months, Luis Beltran Prieto, Rafael Caldera and Gonzalo Barrios emerged as strong candidates. Barring unforeseen ganging up by the other parties behind one candidate, Prieto and Caldera stand at least an even chance at this point to become Venezuela's next president. Barrios' chances are more remote, but no one here is willing to count him out yet.

In view of the foregoing, their personalities have become a subject of great importance. The tragic death of Senator Robert Kennedy on June 5 provided a unique opportunity for insights into their emotional stability and basic attitudes toward the United States. On both counts these insights have provided fair warning that while Prieto and Caldera would be strong capable leaders, there are aspects of their personalities which would prove difficult for the U.S. This is only slightly less true of Barrios.

Prieto and the U.S.

When the shocking news of the assassination of Senator Kennedy hit Venezuela, the natural reaction here, as in many countries, was dramatic. Political leaders immediately issued emotional statements, most of which implied or specified a pattern and link between the assassination of President Kennedy, Dr. Martin

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FORM 10-64 DS-323

Drafted by: POL:KB Jenkins/jac

Drafting Date:

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Contents and Classification Approved by:

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Clearances:

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Caracas

Luther King, and Senator Kennedy. There was prominent criticism of lawlessness and barbaric practices of political assassinations in the United States, although this was more of a remorseful rather than a vitriolic observation. Prieto, in his initial statement, attributed this deplorable act of violence to the aggressive policies of the U.S. He referred critically to our involvement in Viet Nam and suggested that the black forces of reaction feared Kennedy's reform philosophy. Finally, he expressed the hope that the barbaric practice of political assassinations would not spread to Venezuela.

The following morning, Dr. Prieto phoned the Embassy and spoke with the Minister-Counselor at some length in highly emotional terms. He concluded by requesting that we visit him at his home. The Minister and the reporting officer drove out to Prieto's home in the southeast corner of Caracas (Prados del Este) and had an emotional hour-long conversation with him. Prieto was deeply upset and was not always coherent in the points he made. He agreed that no police force in the world can stop assassinations. He deplored the fact that a President so powerful that he can bomb North Viet Nam at will, is unable to protect an individual politician and he expressed concern for the whole western world that its leading power had reached such a state.

Prieto then lapsed into a somewhat more reflective mood recalling his own personal experiences with the United States. On the positive side, Prieto recalled that he spent two years in the U.S. in 1949 through 1951 when he was in political exile. He was penniless and also had a serious medical crisis with his young son. Prieto obviously was deeply moved by the fact that his son was given the most specialized medical attention, received a highly sensitive operation (which was successful) and then the doctor deferred to his exile status and economic circumstances, and asked only that he pay what he could afford. Prieto pointed out that he still corresponds with the doctor, Dr. Thomas Williams of the George Washington University Hospital, apparently a neurosurgeon. Prieto also recalled how his little boy was accepted into the neighborhood games by American children even though the children could not communicate because of the language barrier.

On the negative side of the ledger, Prieto recalled the fact that the American reputation in Venezuela was initiated by the rowdies who arrived here in the 1930s in the oil fields. These men, he said, were wild brutes who regularly tore up the town of Maracaibo. Prieto also referred critically to the behavior of American naval personnel in Puerto la Cruz during World War II. At that time, the U.S. maintained certain patrol bases in the

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Puerto la Cruz area. While he did not say so, Prieto left the impression that he personally had been involved in unpleasant experiences with these Americans, and he spoke with considerable emotion about their behavior.

On balance, Prieto showed himself ambivalent toward the U.S. -- critical of our shortcomings and emotional over the concept of reactionary forces resorting to force to block social progress. Prieto is obviously still deeply suspicious of the U.S. and harbors an impression of the U.S. which includes high-handed imperialist characteristics, mixed together with his own personal confirmation of humanitarian, open friendly attitudes which he had found in his previous visit to the United States. He has sent various of his children to the U.S. to be educated suggesting that his negative impressions have certainly not won out against the positive.

Perhaps of even greater importance in the long run than Prieto's attitude toward the U.S., is what appears to be a certain emotional fragility in this man who may be Venezuela's next president. There have been past occasions when Prieto was emotional in dealing with matters of international affairs. Violent criticism of the U.S. because of our intervention in the Dominican Republic was widespread within Venezuela in 1965. It is notable, however, that Prieto was well out among the front-runners in this critical reaction and he certainly made no effort at that time to balance his criticism in any way. At the meeting of Latin American Parliamentarians in Lima in the summer of 1965, he gave a demagogic performance, directing most of his vituperativeness against us. Upon his return from Lima, Embassy officers met Dr. Prieto at a press reception, and at that time, Dr. Prieto went to great lengths to downplay the importance of his attack on the U.S. in Lima. He did not withdraw his criticism, but expressed unhappiness that so much emphasis had been placed on the anti-American aspects of his comments.

Emotional Stability of Prieto as a President

A strikingly parallel performance has occurred in connection with Senator Kennedy's death. In his statements to the press Prieto was emotional, quick on the draw and showed no signs of any reflectiveness or caution, which one might expect from a leading statesman. Even after evidence began to appear that Senator Kennedy was a victim of an Arab fanatic, Prieto continued to speak of the force of reactionaries who feared the progressive policies of the late Senator. In our conversation with him on the morning of June 6, Prieto wandered, repeated himself and was clearly wrought-up. There is no doubt of his deep and sincere motives in this instance, and it is clear that he is not wishing the U.S. harm. However, it is equally clear that, at least on this occasion, Prieto did not have full control of

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himself and his mental processes were far from measured.

Caldera Reacts

Without waiting for any evidence as to the motives behind the crime, COPEI presidential candidate Caldera issued a strong critical statement on June 5. He linked Senator Kennedy's assassination with those of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King, referred to continuing U.S. diplomatic errors in contending that the assassination will damage U.S. prestige more than any of our government policies, and insisted that a reactionary Mafia exists in the U.S. which has carried out these crimes.

Barrios Weighs In

AD presidential candidate Gonzalo Barrios was not heard from until the following day. However, when he spoke out, in spite of growing evidence of a deranged Arab fanatic as the source of the crime, Barrios attributed it to "growing dissatisfaction over U.S. involvement in the Viet Nam war. Barrios contended that this war has the U.S. in the role of aggressor and Kennedy was clearly opposed to this.

Conclusion:

The Embassy has long ago come to the conclusion that if Prieto were elected president of Venezuela he would head an administration with which we would be able to work, an administration which would move ahead toward the goals of the Alliance for Progress. It has also been clear for sometime that the strain of nationalism and populist socialism, which are integral parts of Prieto's political personality, would cause certain problems for us. On balance, however, we have confidence that Prieto would not be a bad thing. Our insight into his personal concepts of the U.S. and his emotional stability do not change this assessment. They do, however, indicate specific areas where some troubles may arise should Prieto become president, and reveal that we have our work cut out for us in terms of developing his attitude toward the U.S. into a more positive posture.

It is equally true that Caldera would be an effective reform-minded president. Less emotional than Prieto, he would probably be somewhat less prone to shoot from the hip than his MEP opponent. At the same time he is demonstrably more dogmatic and militant than Prieto and, therefore, would probably be less flexible in his dealings with us. The reaction to Kennedy's murder provides solid evidence that Caldera's basic feeling about the U.S. is just as ambivalent as that of Prieto, and even Barrios quickly slipped into the critical pattern of reaction.

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It must be noted in this respect that the critical statements of Venezuelan political leaders are decidedly in line with reactions by prominent Americans, some of which were a good deal more critically emotional with even less of a basis.

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5617
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS TUNIS 4861

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN ONLY VICE 4860

SUBJECT: REACTION TO KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

REF: TUNIS 4830

1. ASSASSINATION OF SEN. KENNEDY WAS MAJOR SUBJECT IN PRESS AND MAN-IN-STREET DISCUSSION, (SUPPLANTING ANNIVERSARY OF JUNE 5.)

2. FRENCH LANGUAGE LA PRESSE EDITORIALIZED THAT KENNEDY, LIKE OTHER MEN OF HIS QUALITY, WAS VICTIM OF VENGEANCE AND HATE. EDITORIAL SAID VIOLENCE WAS BECOMING FORM OF POLITICAL ACTION NOT ONLY IN U.S. BUT THROUGHOUT WORLD WHERE VOICES OPENLY CALLED ON VIOLENCE AS SINGLE MEANS FOR ARRIVING AT POLITICAL ENDS, AND SHOWS THAT TRADITIONAL POLITICAL METHODS ARE OUTDATED ASSASSINATION OF KENNEDY IS ATTACK AGAINST LIBERTY, TOLERANCE, AND JUSTICE. QUOTE THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THIS NOBLE FIGURE POSES THE PROBLEM OF DEMOCRACY, LIBERTY, AND DEGRADATION OF POLITICAL VALUES IN OUR TIME.. AS ALL HEROES, BOB KENNEDY LIVED FOR HIS IDEAS AND DIED FOR HIS IDEAS. THAT IS WHY THE VALUES FOR WHICH HE FOUGHT WILL REMAIN ALIVE. END QUOTE

3. EDITORIALS IN TWO ARABIC PAPERS DEALT WITH ARAB BACKGROUND OF SUSPECT. OFFICIAL AL-AMAL, AFTER PRAISING KENNEDY'S LEADERSHIP

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Department of State

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ABILITIES AND ACTIVITIES IN GOVERNMENT, SAID IT WAS IRRELEVANT TO DISCUSS HIS OPINIONS ON ME BECAUSE KENNEDY WAS INFLUENCED, LIKE MOST OTHER AMERICANS AND NON-AMERICANS IN FREE WORLD, BY ZIONIST PROPAGANDA WHICH MISLED HIM ON PALESTINIAN AFFAIR. EDITORIAL SPOKE OUT AGAINST WAVES OF VIOLENCE IN U.S., AND SAID IT WAS INTERNAL PROBLEM THAT AMERICANS MUST FACE AS THEY FACED THEIR REVOLUTION AGAINST COLONIALS. ANY OTHER ANALYSIS OR EXPLANATION OF THIS VIOLENCE, WHETHER INDIVIDUAL OR COLLECTIVE, IS ONLY QUOTE SAND IN EYES. UNQUOTE NO MATTER WHAT IDENTITY OF CRIMINAL, HE IS AN ELEMENT OF A SOCIETY WHICH ONE AMERICAN LEADER HAS DESCRIBED AS BEING QUOTE A SICK SOCIETY. UNQUOTE

4. AS-SABAH COMMENTED MORE DIRECTLY ON BACKGROUND OF SUSPECT. NO DOUBT, IT SAYS, THAT BEHIND THIS CRIMINAL ACT THERE IS MAJOR CONSPIRACY, NURSED AND PREPARED FOR LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES, AND ZIONISM HAS HAND IN IT. WE RECEIVED WITH MUCH RESERVE, IT SAYS, INFORMATION THAT YOUNG ARAB, EVEN A CRHSITIAN, WAS INVOLVED IN CRIME AGAINST KENNEDY, PARTICULARLY FACT THAT HE DID THIS VOLUNTARILY AND ON HIS OWN, AND THAT THIS WAS RESULT OF VENGEANCE FOR HIS COUNTRY. IN ANY CASE, WE SPEAK OUT AGAINST THIS DESPICABLE MANNER OF RIDDING ONSELF OF ONE'S ADVERSARIES.

5. MAN-IN-STREET REACTION CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF SHOCK AND REGRET, MIXED WITH CONFUSION AS TO WHAT IMPLICATIONS ARE TO BE DRAWN FROM FACT THAT SUSPECT IS OF ARAB ORIGIN. LA PRESSE ARTICLE SAID, THAT, UPON HEARING NEWS OF SEN. KENNEDY'S DEATH, QUOTE BOTH HIGH OFFICIAL AND TAXI DRIVERS WERE DEEPLY AFFECTED... INNERQUOTE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE END INNER QUOTE WAS THE GENERAL REACTION. IN WORKSHOPS, SCHOOLS, AND OFFICES, THE NEWS SPREAD. EACH THOUGHTOF THE SAD DESTINY OF THESE TWO BROTHERS WHO DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND WHO WERE TRAGICLY STRUCK DOWN. END QUOTE

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POL 6 US/Kennedy,
Department of State

TELEGRAM

Robert F. #

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R 071640Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 794

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUXEMBOURG 422

SUBJECT: LUXEMBOURG REACTION TO DEATH OF KENNEDY.

1. SHOOTING AND DEATH OF ROBERT KENNEDY CONTINUE TO MONOPOLIZE FRONT PAGES OF ALL LOCAL PAPERS AND DOMINATE CONVERSATION HERE.

2. PRESS COMMENTARY HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY HEAVY FOR LUXEMBOURG. INITIAL REACTIONS TENDED TO EMPHASIZE ALLEGED POLITICAL ASPECT OF SHOOTING. LATE SENATOR'S LIBERAL POLICIES WERE COMPARED WITH THOSE OF JOHN KENNEDY AND MARTIN KING, WITH IMPLICATION ALL THREE KILLINGS WERE RESULT OF REACTIONARY PLOTS. EQUALLY STRESSED WAS THEME OF AMERICAN VIOLENCE AND QUICKNESS TO REACH FOR GUNS TO SETTLE POLITICAL DISPUTES. NORMALLY ANTI-AMERICAN COMMENTATORS PRESENTED THIS AS PARTICULARLY AMERICAN PHENOMENON, WHILE MORE FRIENDLY PRESS WENT ON TO GENERALIZE AND SOUND ALARM OVER WORLD-WIDE TREND TOWARD DISORDER AND SOCIAL BREAKDOWN.

3. AS CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING KILLING BECAME CLEARER, PARTICULARLY IN WAKE OF SENATOR'S DEATH, COMMENT TENDED TO MODERATE SOMEWHAT, STRESSING EXPRESSIONS OF GRIEF AND LOSS TO WORLD. READY ACCESSABILITY OF GUNS IN US, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO BE SPOTLIGHTED AS TARGET OF SCATHING CRITICISM. FREQUENTLY NOTED IN PERSONAL COMMENT TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL BY LUXEMBOURGERS, IS FACT THAT SUSPECTED KILLER IS EVIDENTLY NOT US CITIZEN.

4. EVIDENT THROUGHOUT HAS BEEN FACT THAT KENNEDY NAME HAS LOST NONE OF ITS CACHET IN LUXEMBOURG AND THAT LUXEMBOURGERS ARE CONVINCED ROBERT KENNEDY WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED IN SOLVING AMERICAN AND WIDER PROBLEMS WHOSE SOLUTION HAS SO FAR ELUDED OTHERS.

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THEY ARE REACTING WITH STRONG AND REAL EMOTION TO HIS LOSS.

5. OUR PRESENT ASSESSMENT IS THAT EVEN IF KENNEDY DEATH IS SHOWN TO HAVE BEEN WORK OF DERANGED FANATIC ACTING IN ISOLATION, IT HAS DEALT BLOW TO AMERICAN IMAGE HERE, EFFECTS OF WHICH WILL BE SOME TIME IN WEARING OFF. FELDMAN

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ROBERT F.
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P 070943Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5324

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 9908

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

SUBJECT: MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE CONCERNING DEATH OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

1. THE FOLLOWING CABLE WAS SENT JUNE 6 BY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC CHARLES HELOU TO MRS. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, C/O US SENATE WASHINGTON DC: QUOTE IT IS WITH GREAT CONSTERNATION THAT WE LEARNED THE TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEATH. VERY AFFECTED BY THIS NEW MISFORTUNE WHICH HAS STRUCK THE KENNEDY FAMILY. MY WIFE AND I SHARE YOUR SADNESS AND PRESENT YOU WITH OUR DEEP CONDOLENCES. SIGNED: CHARLES HELOU, PRESIDENT OF THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC UNQTE.

2. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE HAS NO OBJECTION IF KENNEDY FAMILY WISHES TO RELEASE THE TEXT OF THIS CABLE.

3. PRIMIN ABDALLAH YAFI MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT JUNE 6: QTE WE ARE GRIEVED BECAUSE DESTINY HAS BEEN SO CRUEL TO THE KENNEDY FAMILY. I FEEL THE GREAT MISFORTUNE WHICH HAS BEFALLEN THE KENNEDY FAMILY AND I PRESENT MY WARMEST CONDOLENCES. WE ARE AGAINST ANY ACT OF VIOLENCE AND ASSAULTS AGAINST HUMAN BEINGS AND LIFE, ESPECIALLY SINCE OUR RELIGION AND EASTERN MORALITY PROHIBIT AND DISAPPROVE OF SUCH UNQTE.

4. KAMAL AL-ASSAD, SPEAKER OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT JUNE 6: QTE WE CONSIDER THE ATTACK AGAINST SENATOR KENNEDY AS AN ATTACK ON THE

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FREEDOM OF NOT ONLY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BUT OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, THIS FREEDOM WHICH IS THE REASON FOR LEBANON'S BEING. THE HAND THAT ASSASSINATED ROBERT KENNEDY ATTACKED NOT ONLY HIS LIFE BUT ALSO ASSAILED FREEDOM OF OPINION, SPEECH AND POLITICAL ACTION BECAUSE FREEDOM IS THE PRINCIPAL PILLAR OF DEMOCRACY UNQTE.

5. OTHER PROMINENT LEBANESE OFFICIALS AND PERSONS HAVE MADE STATEMENTS CONDEMNING THE ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR KENNEDY. THESE STATEMENTS WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY AIRGRAM. SPOKESMAN OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS AT UNRWA VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER SIBLIN TELEPHONED EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY ON BEHALF ALL STUDENTS AT CENTER. OTHER STUDENT SPOKESMAN HAVE ALSO CALLED TO EXPRESS SYMPATHY. MAK

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R 072300Z JUN 68

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

SECSTATE WASHDC 2922

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 2051

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RENDERS TRIBUTE TO ROBERT KENNEDY

1. PRESIDENT FIDEL SANCHEZ WAS "KEY-NOTE" SPEAKER AT FIRST MEETING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. HIS MAIN THEME WAS THAT PARTY POLITICS SHOULD NEVER BE AN IMPAIRMENT TO THE PROMOTION OF PROJECTS OF NATIONAL INTEREST. THE COUNTRY'S INTERESTS SHOULD ALWAYS PREVAIL OVER ANY PARTISAN ACTION. A DIALOGUE AND TEAMWORK MUST ALWAYS EXIST BETWEEN ALL POLITICAL FACTION.

2. THE MOST IMPRESSIVE PORTION OF THE CEREMONY WAS WHEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ASKED EVERYONE TO STAND FOR A MINUTE OF SILENCE IN TRIBUTE TO FORMER SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY. TAPS WERE PLAYED DURING THE PERIOD OF SILENCE. THIS GESTURE WAS WELL-RECEIVED BY ALL THOSE PRESENT.

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*San Salvador 2051
6/17/68*



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ROBERT F
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R 071527Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7202
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS ROME 6420

PRESIDENT AND MADAME MOBUTU CAME TO EMBASSY JUNE 7 TO SIGN BOOK FOR SENATOR KENNEDY. SAID HE ACTING IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF CONGOLESE REPUBLIC, OF OAU, AND OF CONGO, CHAD, CAR UNION, AND AS SIGN HIS AND WIFE'S FEELINGS OF PERSONAL ATTACHMENT TO KENNEDY FAMILY. EXPRESSED CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY. I THANKED HIM FOR GESTURE AND SAID WOULD INFORM FAMILY AND PRESIDENT.
ACKLEY

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R 072000Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WAHSDC 8633

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SUBJ: SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAPITALIZES ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

REF: MOSCOW 4139

1. SOVIET PROPAGANDA MACHINERY CONTINUES TO GRIND OUT VICIOUS ANTI-US MATERIAL IN CONNECTION WITH SENATOR KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION. MAIN THEME CONTINUES TO BE CHARGE THAT POLITICAL ASSASSINATION NATURAL CONCOMITANT US SYSTEM AND WAY OF LIFE.

2. BY LIBERAL USE OF FOREIGN SOURCES AS WELL AS ELABORATE SOVIET COMMENTARY (INCLUDING PARTICULARLY SCURRILOUS POEM BY YEVTUSHENKO IN TODAY'S PRAVDA) PRESS AND TV EAGERLY ATTEMPTING CREATE PICTURE OF A MURDEROUS GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY IN WHICH RACISM, GANGSTERISM, AND AGGRESSIVE WAR HAVE BECOME COMMON PLACE. WHILE CAMPAIGN THUS FAR STOPS SHORT OF ALLEGING SPECIFICALLY THAT THERE WAS AN OFFICIALLY-INSPIRED PLOT TO ELIMINATE KENNEDY, THERE IS PLENTY OF INNUENDO TO THIS EFFECT, ESPECIALLY IN TODAY'S TRUD AND IN YEVTUSHENKO'S POEM. PRAVDA TODAY GIVES CURRENCY TO INSINUATIONS OF A PLOT BY JUXTAPOSING WITH FRONT PAGE ARTICLES ON ASSASSINATION AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A SECRET SESSION OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HAD TAKEN PLACE.

3. IZVESTIYA TODAY TAKES OFFENSIVE ON QUESTION OF ORIGIN OF ALLEGED KILLER SIRHAN, CLAIMING THAT US PRESS TRYING TO SHIFT BLAME FROM AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE BY DESCRIBING SIRHAN AS BEING ANTI-ISRAELI. INCIDENTALLY, SAME ARTICLE REFERS TO SIRHAN AS NATURALIZED AMERICAN CITIZEN. THIS ASPECT OF CRIME THUS FAR OBVIOUSLY NOT USEFUL FOR EXPLOITATION AND CONTINUES

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BE PROBLEM FOR SOVIETS.

4. KOSYGIN MESSAGE TO MRS. KENNEDY AND SPIRIDONOV-PALETSKIS MESSAGE TO VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY BOTH APPEARED TODAY'S PRAVDA. WE NOTE EMPHASIS ON "INDIGNATION" IN BOTH MESSAGES.

5. SIGNERS OF CONDOLENCE BOOK AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE THUS FAR MAINLY MEMBERS DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND RESIDENT AMERICANS WITH SPRINKLING JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS. ONLY SOVIET OFFICIALS SIGNING DURING DAY WERE SEC GEN MFA ZEMSKOV AND CHIEF US DIVISION MFA KORNIENKO. ONLY OTHER SOVIET SIGNER (BESIDES TWO LOCAL EMPLOYEES) DETAINED BRIEFLY BY MILITIAMEN BEFORE BEING PERMITTED ENTER SPASO HOUSE. ANOTHER SIGNER ALSO DETAINED TEMPORARILY AT GATE BUT ALLOWED ENTER WHEN HE IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS AMERICAN STUDENT. AFTER CLOSE OF BUSINESS YEVTUSHENKO, AKSENOV, BRODSKY AND TWO COMPANIONS CAME INTO EMBASSY COMPOUND TO SIGN BOOK.

EXEMPT. SWANK

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