

Study Rejects Oswald Plot Theory

By MARTIN ARNOLD

If there was any conspiracy in Lee Harvey Oswald's assassination of President Kennedy, the Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine says, it was "Oswald as a conspirator against his own parents, his own family—against himself."

An article in the October issue of the Bulletin, "Lee Harvey Oswald: Psychological Capability of Murder," holds that Oswald was led to murder by a lifetime of feeling rejected, first because his father died before he was born, and then because he had an uprooted childhood.

Researched for three years, the article was written by Dr. David Abrahamsen, a governor of the Center for the Study of Violence at Brandeis University and psychiatric and medical director of the Foundation for the Prevention of Addictive Diseases.

Vengeance Against Parents

In an interview this week Dr. Abrahamsen said that such a person as Oswald "was unable to be a part of a conspiracy."

Rather, he had to act out, "by himself in secret," his vengeance against his parents, his country, his wife, and even the Soviet Union, which had refused him citizenship.

The article, "Lee Harvey Oswald: Psychological Capability of Murder," was researched for three years and written by Dr. David Abrahamsen, a governor of the Center for the Study of Violence at Brandeis University and psychiatric and medical director of the Foundation for the Prevention of Addictive Diseases.

In the article Dr. Abrahamsen pictures Oswald as being almost the classic murderer—intensely vengeful, lonely and feeling rejected, living a fantasy life, unable to withstand frustration, an antisocial background, a tendency toward suicide and toward plasticity in self-identification.

"His problems began early, in a sense before he was born," Dr. Abrahamsen writes. "His father's sudden death two months before Lee's birth in New Orleans on Oct. 18, 1939, and his mother's subsequent financial difficulties were the beginning of a disrupted infancy and childhood that were

to have far reaching consequences."

The withdrawn and lonely boyhood, his being shunted from relative to relative and between couples and babysitters, his sleeping throughout most of his childhood in the same bed as his mother—all this, Dr. Abrahamsen says, left him a solitary figure, "craving to be in the limelight." At the same time he was filled with feelings "of guilt, revulsion and fear of being devoured."

In an interview yesterday the psychiatrist said that such a person as Oswald "was unable to be part of a conspiracy," that he had to act out his vengeance against his parents, his country, his wife and even the Soviet Union, which had refused him citizenship, "by himself in secret."

"This paper will show that if there were any conspiracy involved," Dr. Abrahamsen wrote, "Oswald was a conspirator against his own parents, his own family—against himself."

'Revenge' on Mother

Of criminals in general, Dr. Abrahamsen writes that when one "commits his crime, it is invariably founded on his feeling that he must show his mother he is not insignificant, and is able to take revenge upon her for rejecting him."

"The prime mark of the murderer," the psychiatrist adds, "is a sense of helpless impotence and a preoccupation with revenge, carried over from childhood."

In Oswald's case, Dr. Abrahamsen found all these factors present.

"He had to show his power more directly," the article explains. "But, as in childhood, he was biding his time. He kept his every move secret... He could enjoy the feeling of knowing something they did not know—that he was as powerful as they. And one day he would shock them all by proving it."

Dr. Abrahamsen believes that before Oswald had reached this point, he became even more withdrawn.

"Although Lee Oswald had great hostility toward women," the psychiatrist writes, "his hatred for men was far deeper and more consuming. He felt both rejected and overwhelmed by them. There was only one

way he could assuage these fears—by showing contempt for men and remaining aloof from them."

Dr. Abrahamsen concludes: "Obviously Lee Oswald was no ordinary killer. He would not have chosen his victim at random... he chose a victim that was all he had ever wanted to have and be but could not." President Kennedy was, then, "the composite of all Lee's yearnings and frustrations."

Dr. Abrahamsen, who was born in Norway 64 years ago, said he undertook the study "because I was intrigued over whether or not it was possible to see in his childhood and early adolescence facts that would indicate one probable conclusion—that psychologically Oswald was able to kill." He added: "The answer was yes, I think."

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1103
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