

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Fin. & Adm.
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

6/21

Assassination of Pres. John F. Kennedy

Richard Helms

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CIA-KENNEDY ASSASSINATION
BY DAVID C. MARTIN
WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTED ITS OFFICES AROUND THE WORLD IN 1967 "TO EMPLOY PROPAGANDA ASSETS" TO COUNTER DOUBTS RAISED BY CRITICS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.
THE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN WAS TO BE WAGED IN PART BY PASSING UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION TO CIA "ASSETS" WHO COULD USE THE MATERIAL IN WRITING "BOOK REVIEWS AND FEATURE ARTICLES" THAT WOULD "ANSWER AND REFUTE THE ATTACKS OF THE CRITICS," ACCORDING TO A NEWLY RELEASED CIA DOCUMENT.
THE DOCUMENT SAID ITS AIM WAS "TO PROVIDE MATERIAL FOR COUNTERING AND DISCREDITING THE CLAIMS OF THE CONSPIRACY THEORISTS, SO AS TO INHIBIT THE CIRCULATION OF SUCH CLAIMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES."
THE DOCUMENT WAS AMONG SOME 250 PAGES OF MATERIAL RELEASED FRIDAY BY THE CIA UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.
THE DOCUMENTS SHOW THAT THE CIA EXAMINED COPIES OF ALMOST ALL BOOKS ABOUT THE NOVEMBER 1963 ASSASSINATION, INCLUDING ONE BY THEN-CONGRESSMAN GERALD R. FORD. A CIA OFFICER CALLED FORD'S BOOK "A RE-HASH OF THE OSWALD CASE" AND CRITICIZED ITS "LOOSE" WRITING.
A FORD CHAPTER REBUTTING THE CLAIM THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS AN FBI AGENT "IS JUST LOOSE ENOUGH TO PERMIT QUOTATION OUT OF CONTEXT," A MARCH 1965 MEMO TO RICHARD HELMS, THEN-DEPUTY CIA DIRECTOR FOR PLANS, SAYS. "...THE CHAPTER, AS WRITTEN, COULD BE USED BY THE LEFTIES (MARK LAINE ET AL) TO CONTINUE THE CAMPAIGN OF WHICH YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE."

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FORD WAS A MEMBER OF THE WARREN COMMISSION THAT CONCLUDED THAT OSWALD WAS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION. FORD QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM SECRET SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION IN HIS BOOK, TITLED "PORTRAIT OF AN ASSASSIN."

MANY OF THE DOCUMENTS RELEASED DEAL WITH INTERNAL AGENCY ASSESSMENTS OF CHARGES RAISED BY MARK LAWE IN HIS BOOK "RUSH TO JUDGMENT," BY EDWARD JAY EPSTEIN IN A BOOK CALLED "INQUEST," AND BY FORMER NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTORNEY JIM GARRISON, WHO ALLEGED HE HAD UNCOVERED A CONSPIRACY BEHIND THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

THE 1967 DISPATCH TO "CHIEFS, CERTAIN STATIONS AND BASES" SAYS THAT THE RASH OF BOOKS AND ARTICLES CRITICIZING THE WARREN COMMISSION'S FINDING "IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING OUR ORGANIZATION."

"EFFORTS TO IMPUGN (THE) RECTITUDE AND WISDOM (OF COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF) TEND TO CAST DOUBT ON THE WHOLE LEADERSHIP OF AMERICAN SOCIETY," THE MEMO SAID.

"MOREOVER, THERE SEEMS TO BE AN INCREASING TENDENCY TO HINT THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON, HIMSELF, AS THE ONE PERSON WHO MIGHT BE SAID TO HAVE BENEFITED, WAS IN SOME WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION.

"IMPETUS OF SUCH SERIOUSNESS AFFECTS NOT ONLY THE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED, BUT ALSO THE WHOLE REPUTATION OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT."

IN USING PROPAGANDA ASSETS TO REFUTE THESE CHARGES, THE DISPATCH SAID, "OUR PLAY SHOULD POINT OUT, AS APPLICABLE, THAT THE CRITICS ARE (1) WEDDED TO THEORIES ADOPTED BEFORE THE EVIDENCE WAS IN, (2) POLITICALLY INTERESTED, (3) FINANCIALLY INTERESTED, (4) HASTY AND INACCURATE IN THEIR RESEARCH, OR (5) INFATUATED WITH THEIR OWN THEORIES."

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