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ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F.  
KENNEDY, 11-22-63, Dallas, Texas

The following article appeared in the June 2,  
1964, issue of "Il Messaggero," a Rome daily Italian-  
language newspaper:

*Italy*  
Inquiry into the assassination  
of Kennedy

Warren investigation ascertained  
Oswald acted without accomplices

Alleged plot of extreme right or extreme  
left refuted - Report containing 18,000 pages  
of testimony, to be made public at end of month

The voluminous and documented report of the  
Warren Commission on the assassination of President  
Kennedy will be made public at the end of the current  
month and will show that LEE HARVEY OSWALD acted  
alone, without accomplices and without direction, in  
perpetrating one of the most horrible and rash crimes  
of the century. A spokesman for the Commission stated  
that the report consists of approximately 18,000 pages  
setting forth depositions given by more than 400 wit-  
nesses and that a large part of the investigation was  
concerned with a systematic refutation of the exist-  
ence of a plot - of the extreme right or the extreme  
left - ending with the tragic event of November 22,  
1963. American publications, such as "The Nation,"  
"The New Republic," "The Reporter," which are consid-  
ered liberal or radical, and various daily newspapers  
have repeatedly maintained that the official version

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of the assassination as reconstructed first by the Police and the Attorney General of Dallas, and later by the FBI in collaboration with the Secret Service, left gaps and contradictions. It was, however, the European press, and especially that of France and England, which went even beyond these remarks and doubts and made inferences which the Warren Commission was able to prove as being unfounded. The report dedicates ample space to an examination of the beliefs held, for example, by American journalist, THOMAS G. BUCHANAN, who in a series of articles written for the French weekly "L'Express," and later appearing in a book entitled "Who Killed Kennedy?" tried to demonstrate that the principals of OSWALD were oil men and the "John Birch Society" of Texas. Analogous, and no less sensational, inferences were made by the reliable English magazine "The Spectator," by the radical weekly "New Statesman," and by other European publications. The Commission spokesman stated that none of these studies or inquiries are based on evidence or verifiable information. He stated that we are dealing with theories based on more or less legitimate suspicions even though these suspicions are superficial and rise from discordant and groundless conclusions.

The Commission spokesman added that the publication of the report and of the documents collected by the Commission would clear up the existing suspicions and would deprive of any basis of fact the speculations advanced to date by the press. The spokesman also stated that "the work of the Commission is not as yet completed and it is improbable, but not impossible, that new information could be brought to light in the next four weeks." The spokesman said that "those who are obsessed with the idea of a plot will probably not yield in the face of the results of this imposing inquiry. They will, however, have to base their theories on other bases. Naturally, we do not have the vaguest idea of what the other bases could be."

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A functionary of the legal office which assisted the Commission in their work was specific in identifying the reasons for the spreading of so many suspicions and risky theories. "Even if we keep in mind the unusual circumstances in which they acted," continued the functionary, "the Dallas Police left much to be desired in the first phases of the investigation. It was without a doubt the discrepancies and the contradictions resulting from the statements of their functionaries that caused the first doubts. The killing of LEE HARVEY OSWALD in the police department quarters helped to strengthen the suspicions of those who already felt that a political plot was involved."

The Warren report frankly admits that many of the public statements of District Attorney WADE and of the heads of the Dallas Police Department, from the afternoon of November 22 until the end of that month, were the result of the desire to satisfy immediately and at all costs the curiosity of public opinion and did not result from the intention to complete the inquiries so as to then present the results in an orderly and consistent manner. It is sufficient to list some of the discrepancies:

1. The FBI report includes the sworn statement of the police officer who found the weapon on the sixth floor of the book depository in Dallas. The weapon was identified as a Mauser rifle, 7.65 caliber. HENRY WADE stated that this was the weapon used. He added that the "palm prints" of OSWALD had been found on the stock of the weapon. On November 23 the FBI stated instead that the weapon was an "Italian Carcano," 6.5 caliber. That evening WADE admitted the error, but insisted on the presence of the prints on the weapon. Four days later it was revealed that no prints were found on the gun and that the paraffin tests simply revealed traces of gunpowder on the hands of OSWALD.

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2. The first report of the assassination transmitted by police radio indicated that the gunshots had originated from the overpass of the highway and not from the book depository. Until November 23, the Chief of Police denied the existence of this report, which was instead included in the documents gathered by the FBI. Obviously it was a question of an erroneous notice and it was the hurried denials by authorities which gave credit to it.

3. At least six versions were furnished by Dallas authorities in the first three days after the sad event on the number of shots fired at the presidential car. The Warren Commission determined that there had been three shots; that the first went through the chest of the President and then hit Governor CONNALLY, the second was the fatal shot, and the third missed the target. Experts of legal medicine determined that if the first shot had hit Kennedy lower on the body, the impact would have thrown him to the seat and the second shot, the fatal one, would not have hit the President's head.

4. In the hurried reconstruction of the assassination, furnished by Police Chief CURRY on November 23, it was noted among other things that OSWALD had committed the crime between 12:30 and 12:31 and that he arrived at his residence at 12:45. The distances, the traffic conditions, and other information obtained on the movements of OSWALD showed that the times indicated by the police were fabricated and that more than 35 minutes had passed from the time of the assassination to the arrival of the assassin at his residence. WADE had, moreover, identified the driver of the taxi used by OSWALD as one CARRIL CLICK, later found to be nonexistent. Two days later the District Attorney indicated that the taxi driver was one WILLIAM WALEY.

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5. WADE, from the night of November 22 to the morning of November 25, identified three different locations where Policeman TIPPIT had been killed and gave various versions regarding the arrest of OSWALD. On two different occasions these contradictions were made even more complicated by contemporaneous and divergent announcements made by the Chief of Police.

The Warren Commission sifted through innumerable bits of information concerning the changes made and contacts led by OSWALD in the months preceding the assassination and often the obstacles encountered in the investigation were those created unintentionally by the police of Dallas. L.M.