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INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY

A source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on December 16, 1963, that a New Jersey Communist Party (NJCP) Seminar was held in Irvington, New Jersey, on December 14, 1963, at which James Lustig, Chairman of the NJCP, had questioned those present concerning their experiences following the assassination of President Kennedy. The source said Lustig's questions went somewhat as follows:

1. What reaction did those present find in people in general after the assassination?
2. What effect did those present feel the assassination had on the CP?
3. Can the CP go out and work better now than before the assassination?
4. Who is responsible for the assassination?
5. Why was the blame for the assassination not placed on the "Left Wing"?

The source said the above type questions were asked individually of those present, with Lustig going from one person to the next asking one question at a time. The source said Lustig also gave four reasons why the "reaction" failed

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to blame the assassination on the communists; namely,

1. The American people would not "buy it". The American people are too sophisticated to fall for "that baloney". Lustig described the Americans as people who instinctively feel the assassination was a "Right Wing plot", and Lustig said the Americans are people who can feel the truth, as during elections when they always elect the lesser of two evils.
2. World public opinion knew the assassination was by "reactionary forces". Lustig quoted someone in India who described it as a "Right Wing plot", and he quoted a statement to the same effect made in the British Parliament.
3. The Administration did not want to see the assassination "entirely whitewashed".
4. The Administration is "reactionary", but not as "reactionary" as the "Extreme Right".

The source said that Lustig summarized the answers to his questions, as follows:

1. Oswald was not just a "crackpot".
2. Oswald was probably a dupe of some sort with sinister forces behind him and these sinister forces are definitely "Right Wing".
3. Lustig, himself, is not convinced that Oswald did the assassination.
4. Oswald was killed by "white supremacists" who wanted to "shut him up".

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5. Oswald was not a communist because it is against a communist's creed to commit an assassination and an assassination proves nothing -- it only let's in more "reactionary" people, as reflected in President Johnson assuming President Kennedy's place.

The source said Lustig claimed that there are several inconsistencies developing from the assassination; namely, Lustig felt that the rifle supposedly used could not be fired three times in five seconds; Oswald had unexplained amounts of money in his possession; and Lustig was not convinced that Oswald was the one who killed Officer Tippit.

The source said Lustig expressed shame over the reaction of communist China to the assassination. Lustig described the Chinese position as uncouth and compared it to the positions of the Soviet Union and Cuba; both described by Lustig as expressing a shocked attitude, such as Castro of Cuba who called the assassination terrible. Lustig said those present should express sorrow over the assassination, while at the same time remembering that President Kennedy was in the grasp of the "bosses".

The source said Lustig praised the Administration of President Johnson for establishing a Commission to investigate the assassination. Lustig said it was good President Johnson did not leave the matter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to "whitewash". Lustig said the FBI was in collusion with the Dallas, Texas, Police. Lustig said the Commission will get to what is behind the assassination, especially since Chief Justice Warren, who heads the Commission, was once attacked in Dallas, too.

The source said that Lustig claimed that during this period following the assassination it will be easier for the CP to come out and expose the truth; therefore, it will be easier for the CP to recruit new members because people now realize that communists are the ones who are doing right.

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The source said that Lustig had with him a group of articles concerning the assassination which he had clipped from various newspapers.

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