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AIRGRAM

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John F.

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TO : Department of State

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Assassination of President
John F. Kennedy

FROM : Allegation BUDAPEST

DATE: July 25, 1966

SUBJECT: New Series Articles on Kennedy Assassination

REF : DECLASSIFIED BY
ON

Hungary

Beginning on July 3, Magyar Nemzet, widely-read daily organ of the Hungarian People's Patriotic Front, began a series of eight articles entitled "The Open Questions of the Kennedy Assassination," which questioned the findings in the Warren Commission Report. The series drew heavily on Fred COOK's two articles in the June 13 and June 20 issues of The Nation which appeared, from the Hungarian articles, to be based largely on the analysis of a film taken by a spectator named Abraham ZAPRUDER. The bulk of the argument advanced by the series is not that Lee Harvey OSWALD is not guilty but that his guilt is shared by a second assassin who fired a second shot following the one that initially hit the President. All eight articles will not be summarized here inasmuch as they are almost direct translations of the Cook pieces. There follow, however, excerpts from the introduction to the Magyar Nemzet series and the conclusion:

"More than two years and a half have elapsed since the shots that killed President Kennedy were fired. Chief Justice Warren's committee had examined the circumstances of the assassination for a long time. They published their findings in many reports, including a recent publication containing material proofs.

"Nevertheless, the 'crime of the century' has become even more mysterious. It was to disclose these contradictions and to raise unanswered questions that Fred COOK, the noted American news analyst, undertook when he started writing his book. Fred Cook had acquired world reputation with his former re-

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14 AUG 2 1966

Drafted by: POL:EAlexander:ssb 7/21/66

Contents and Classification Approved by:

R. W. Tins

53 AUG 25 1966

Handwritten signatures and initials, including a large signature that appears to be "John F. Kennedy" and other illegible marks.

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and the militarization of the power machinery of the U.S. In his analysis he demonstrated that, contrary to the official view, President Kennedy was not assassinated by one man. Fred Cook does not dare make farther reaching statements than this - he may at best hint at the possibility of a conspiracy in the background. It is by all means worth while paying attention to his hypothesis because leading American intellectuals have just stated in their White Book that the inhuman acts of American foreign policy can only be explained by the coming into power of an uninhibited cabal. Can there be a connection between the Kennedy assassination and the beginning or the more and more aggressive aggressivity of the Johnson era? Let the reader judge it on the basis of Fred Cook's study..."

The final article, following the eighth drawn from Cook's analysis, is entitled "The Lessons Taught By a Series of Articles," includes the following passage:

"We printed Fred Cook's study on the 'Crime of the Century' in eight instalments. Judging by the lively interest our readers have shown for these articles, we are gratified to know that we did right when we published the series. Astounding facts are revealed in Fred Cook's analysis ... At the time we read most attentively the articles on the private investigations of IANE the lawyer who tried to prove Oswald's innocence and we acquainted our readers with the ideas of BUCHANAN and JOESTEN, but they all supplanted their own hypotheses for the official one. Fred Cook set out on another road. He does not want to concoct sensational theories and hypotheses. All he did was to subject the report of the Warren Commission to a microscopic analysis, and to point to its glaring contradictions.

"A Ph.D. thesis appeared the other day in the United States on the Kennedy assassination. (This is probably a reference to "Inquest: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth" by Edward Jay Epstein -ea,) The author says that neither the influential members of the Warren Commission nor the President himself wasted energy and time on examining the circumstances of the assassination... The government did not expect the Commission to follow up the data that could not be concerted

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with the official explanation... When Chief Justice Warren left President Johnson at the time, there were tears in his eyes. Were those the tears of gratitude, emotion or of shame that he had to undertake such an ignominious role?"

Needless to say, the Kennedy assassination has never been a forgotten issue in Hungary and speculation on the "true facts" continue privately and publicly. This series, however, represents the most acute attack on the Warren Report in Hungary yet, easy as that was made for Magyar Nemzet by The Nation. Even as the series was appearing, Valosag, the monthly organ of the Society for the Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge, reviewed at length a book published by the Stanford University Press entitled "The Kennedy Assassination and the American Public. Social Communication in Crisis," edited by B.S. GREENBERG and E.B. PARKER, which appears to be a statistical analysis of the event, investigating such matters as what percentage of the American public knew within one hour what had happened; what percentage considered Oswald a left-winger, the sole assassin, or hired by someone else; what percentage burst into tears on hearing the news, or couldn't sleep that night. The reviewer concludes by saying that the book is a valuable contribution not only to completing a sociological picture of the tragic events but to contemporary history as well.

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