

TOP SECRET

**REACTION OF SOVIET AND COMMUNIST
PARTY OFFICIALS TO THE ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY**

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The position of the Communist Party, USA, toward the Warren Commission Report was clearly set forth in the October 11, 1964, issue of "The Worker," an East Coast communist newspaper. In an article captioned "Warren Report Brushes Off Ultra-Rightist Conspiracy," it was stated that the Warren Report gives comparatively very little space to the material that came before it indicating that a "Right-wing conspiracy" was in the making and that Oswald was a "Left-painted" undercover instrument of such forces or of a Government agency. The article further stated that even the limited material which the Warren Commission has put into the record on the Rightist conspiracy that was in progress is an important contribution and provides a basis for further investigation. (

No information has been developed indicating any of the so-called communist "splinter groups," such as the Progressive Labor Party, Socialist Workers Party or the Workers World Party, have planned or instituted any concerted effort or drive to discredit or attack the Warren Commission. Official publications of these organizations have from time to time contained isolated articles which have been critical of the Warren Commission. For example,

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"Progressive Labor," the official publication of the Progressive Labor Party, issued a Special Supplement dated November 27, 1963, which contained an article which attempted to raise doubts as to whether Lee Harvey Oswald actually killed President Kennedy. The article also attempted to establish that Oswald possibly had been "framed." The December, 1963, issue of this same magazine contained an article which further attempted to establish that Oswald had been "framed" and that the Warren Commission did not make a thorough investigation of the assassination.

The Soviet press, from time to time since the assassination of President Kennedy, has carried articles attacking the conclusions of the Warren Commission. Immediately following the publication of the Warren Commission Report on September 24, 1964, the Soviet newspaper "Pravda" carried an article in its September 28, 1964, edition summarizing the findings of the Warren Commission. In this article, the Soviet author stated that the Warren Commission Report did not dispel all doubts and suspicions about the "crime of the century." The article also noted that "not everything mysterious has become public" and pointed out that at the beginning of the work of the Warren Commission, Mr. Warren declared that some facts connected with the assassination of President Kennedy may not be revealed in the lifetime of this generation.

In an article in the Soviet newspaper "Izvestia" for September 21, 1965, Soviet reporter V. Zorin criticized the Warren Commission investigation and the conclusions of the Warren Commission. The author also summarized the allegations of a number of American and European authors who have written books critical of the Warren Commission Report and concluded that the assassination in Dallas has many riddles to offer and that the mystery remains a mystery.

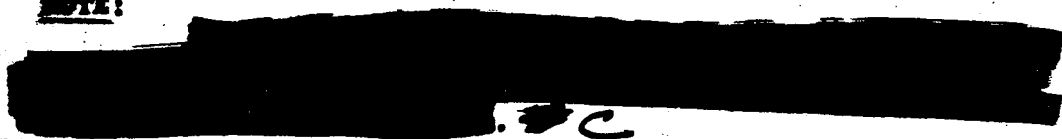
In September, 1966, the Soviet publication "New Times" published excerpts of book reviews by American journalist Professor Richard Popkin. Among the excerpts pointed out were comments made by Professor Popkin concerning the books "Whitewash" by Harold Weisberg and "Inquest" by Edward J. Epstein. The Soviet publication points out that it is the conclusion of Professor Popkin that the Kennedy assassination was the outcome of a carefully laid plot in which influential quarters were implicated.

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NOTE:



See cover memorandum Branigan to Sullivan, dated
12/1/68, captioned as above, prepared by REL:cls. (