

21 March 1967

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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CIA
3/27/67
WAB*

ASSASSINATION of President John F. Kennedy

Moscow TASS International Service in English 0720 GMT 18 March 1967--L

(Text) New Orleans, 17 March--TASS special correspondent--New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison was interviewed today by TASS correspondent S. Losey and NOVOSTI correspondent J. Borvik before the close of the preliminary hearing of Clay Shaw's case.

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Garrison told correspondents that he was as sure now as he was two weeks ago when he first said that the question of the existence of a plot to assassinate President Kennedy had been settled. He said that he felt sure that it was only a matter of time and effort to bring the matter to conclusion.

When asked by the correspondents whether he still adhered to his former opinion that no foreign state had anything to do with the plot, the New Orleans district attorney replied that undoubtedly no foreign government had even the slightest connection with the plot against President Kennedy.

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Garrison believes that the plot which was hatched in New Orleans was not originally directed against the U.S. President but, like a rocket, went out of control and hit a quite different target.

The Soviet correspondents asked Garrison whether he still held the opinion once expressed by him to correspondents, that there was no reason to believe that Oswald assassinated anyone in Dallas on 22 November 1963. In his reply Garrison said that he had been misinterpreted by the correspondents when he said that it was not Oswald who pulled the trigger in Dallas. He said that he had not been referring merely to a rifle shot. The district attorney said that it was still early to talk of what happened then in Dallas because the plot and assassination were very cleverly organized and skillfully camouflaged.

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When asked whether he was going to make other arrests, Garrison replied that there would be many more but not in the near future. He emphasized that not a single murder case had remained unsolved since his appointment as district attorney.

At the conclusion of the interview District Attorney Jim Garrison said that in a later stage of the investigation he would ask for the assistance of the investigating agencies of other states and the federal authorities. But, for the time being, he said that he was not going to transfer the investigation to anyone. The district attorney said that this was not a dog-in-the-manger attitude. He said that he was ready to report everything he knows when he feels that the people coming to his assistance do so with an open heart. Garrison stressed that competent agencies should understand that there are still many outstanding questions. However, their process of understanding is somewhat slow, he said.

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GRONYKO RECEIVES SIERRA LEONE AMBASSADOR

REC-EX-103 62-109060

Moscow TASS International Service in English 1049 GMT 21 March 1967

NOT RECORDED

12 MAR 30 1967

(Text) Moscow March--Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko today received the ambassador of Sierra Leone, Harrison P. Tucker, in connection with his forthcoming presentation of credentials to the president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

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FOI/PA #	6454
APPEAL #	
CIVILACT. #	
E.O. #	12356
DATE	1-18-89 INITIALS <i>WAB</i>

Per CIA letter 9/23/88.

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of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee; Gerhard Schuerer, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the State Planning Commission; Otto Winzer, member of the Central Committee and minister for foreign affairs. The item adds Foreign Minister Gromyko to the list of Soviet leaders welcoming the delegation at Vnukovo Airport, and the Moscow domestic radio at 1430 GMT adds the names of Yuriy Andropov, Mikhail Solomentsev, " and others.")

KENNEDY ASSASSINATION HEARINGS CONTINUE

Russo, Chedda Testimony

Moscow TASS International Service in English 0647 GMT 17 March 1967--L

(Text) New Orleans--TASS special correspondents Sergei Losev and Harry Freeman dispatch--Clay Shaw's defense completed yesterday the cross examination of Perry Russo, the main witness presented by New Orleans District Attorney Garrison. Russo testified that in the middle of September 1963 Oswald, former pilot David Ferrie, and New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw, whom Russo had known then under the name Glen Bertrand, had conspired in Ferrie's apartment to assassinate President Kennedy.

The aim of Shaw's lawyers (Shaw is the only living participant in the "plot") was to demonstrate Russo's psychic imbalance. The lawyers stated that during interrogations at the district attorney's office Russo had been hypnotized and given an injection of sodium pentathol.

After Russo's interrogation, a witness of the prosecution Dr. Nicolas Chedda, an expert in forensic medicine from the district attorney's office, spoke about Russo's interrogations.

Dr. Chedda said that sodium pentathol and hypnosis put the interrogated person into a semiconscious state and help him to remember events and facts which he had forgotten. Chedda testified that Russo had voluntarily agreed to this procedure. He expressed the view that Russo had been in full possession of his faculties both during this procedure and during the interrogation at the preliminary hearing. Russo's replies to questions were sensible and clear, Chedda added.

Today Garrison will summon to the morning session the witness Edmund Patter, the doctor who had hypnotized Russo.

Simultaneously with the preliminary hearing, secret meetings of the grand jury are being held in New Orleans. The grand jury, too, is also investigating the charge advanced by Garrison that Oswald, Shaw and Ferrie took part in a plot to assassinate President Kennedy. The grand jury summoned for interrogation the owner of a local tavern, George Nowel. Nowel told newsmen that Garrison intends to interrogate him about the events of 1961 which involve a leader of Cuban counterrevolutionaries in the United States, Sergio A. Smith.

Sergio A. Smith left New Orleans in 1962 and moved to Houston, Texas, where he was living at the time when President Kennedy was assassinated. Later, he moved to Dallas and has been residing there for three years.

Assistants of the New Orleans district attorney tried to question Sergio A. Smith in Dallas but he flatly refused to give evidence unless representatives of Dallas authorities are present at the interrogation.