

# Oswald Depicted as Martyr By Red Propaganda Machine

BERLIN, Nov. 25 (AP)—The killing of Lee Harvey Oswald was a highly appreciated gift to the Communist propaganda machine.

Within minutes after news of the second Dallas assassination, the machine went into action, depicting Oswald as a martyr shot in an attempt to hide those responsible for President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

"The murderers of President John Kennedy are trying to cover up their traces," said the Soviet news agency Tass. "Now the only person who was accused of killing President Kennedy, the man who until the very end denied implication, has been silenced forever."

Neues Deutschland, the East German Communist party newspaper, told its readers the killing of Oswald strengthened suspicion that Mr. Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy by right-wing extremists.

Neues Deutschland suggested also that the Dallas policeman killed by Oswald actually was shot down because he knew too much about men behind the assassination of the President.

## Horror Mixed With Disgust

The German Communist organ commented:

"The horror of the international public at the new crime is mixed at the same time with disgust at conditions in the land that is praised as 'the freest in the world' but is in reality ruled by the reactionary mob with the Colt."

ADN, the official East German news agency, said "political observers" believe Mr. Kennedy's assassination was ordered by extreme right-wingers who "tried with all means to put the blame for the murder of Kennedy on the Communists and brand Oswald a Communist."

"To impede all further investigations which would reveal the true men behind the assassination of Kennedy, they decided to eliminate Oswald in the Fascist manner," ADN said.

The East European press called Oswald "the Van der Lubbe of 1963," likening him to the Dutch Communist Marius Van der Lubbe whom the Nazis executed for the 1933 Reichstag fire. It is widely believed that

the Nazis set up the machine themselves to provide an excuse for outlawing the Communist party.

## 'Action of Facist Forces'

Pravda, the Soviet Communist party newspaper, said in an article from New York:

"With each hour after the tragic death of Kennedy, we have more and more reason to

consider the assassination in Dallas as a well planned action of Fascist forces, of those ultra right-wing and racist circles which are weaving a conspiracy against any step directed at easing international tension, and which try to flood the country with a new dirty wave of reaction."

Among non-Communists, dismay was widespread at the latest crime in Dallas.

"Shocking, terrible," said a West Berlin business man. "Now there won't be a trial and those over there (in East Berlin) will be able to tell whatever lies they like. Many people will believe them."

"I don't think we've had the whole truth from Dallas," said a Swede in West Berlin. "It almost seems as if they wanted him killed, just to close the case."

Stephen Barber, special correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph, cabled from Dallas that precautions at the police headquarters there were extraordinarily lax.

"During the past 48 hours," he wrote, "I have been able to saunter in and out of the City Hall police headquarters on innumerable occasions without anyone asking to see my White House press card."

"The first and only time it was required was to enter the underground garage where this astonishing shooting (of Oswald) took place. Even that was a completely perfunctory request."

## Belgian Comment

The Communists were not alone in suspecting hidden facets of Oswald's killing.

Belgian Catholic and Socialist papers questioned whether the killing had been "ordered by a political group or criminal organization," as the Catholic Le Cite put it.

"Was Lee Oswald perhaps the man who knew too much and had to be liquidated, since he would be forced to speak?" queried the Socialist Vooruit.

In Lebanon, the Beirut daily Al Hadaf raised the same question.

Said Bildzeitung, which has West Germany's largest circulation: "Until now it is not known whether he (Ruby) belonged with Oswald to a ring of agents that planned the Kennedy murder. Did he kill Oswald because he feared he would reveal all? Or did he want to avenge Kennedy's death?"

A comment by a French television announcer summed up much of the reaction in Western Europe to the Oswald killing.

"There will always be a doubt in the world whether he was innocent or guilty."