

Dallas in Europe's Eyes

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Paris Is Disquieted by Thought of the U.S. as Lawless

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PARIS, Nov. 25—A deep disquiet over violence and lawlessness in the United States appears to be overtaking the initial shock and sorrow felt in Europe after President Kennedy's assassination.

The murder of Lee H. Oswald, accused as the killer of the President, in the presence of police officers has caused many friends of the United States to question the internal stability of Europe's protector. Another effect is that a normally prudent people are at least listening to a Communist tale, spread by party newspapers, that Oswald was eliminated as part of a plot.

"What's happening, what's going on?" a diplomat asked tonight as he left Notre Dame Cathedral after a requiem mass for the President. "This isn't the America we look to for leadership. How do we answer our anti-American radicals now?"

Plots Are Familiar

Americans will remember that most mature Europeans have lived through the plots and counterplots of Nazi Germany and the assassinations and purges of the Stalin period in the Soviet Union. They may be too willing to see an involved conspiracy behind the events in Dallas.

But few seem completely satisfied with the story that Oswald was a Communist sympathizer.

The Paris newspaper *Le Monde* devoted an entire page tonight to "serious doubts" about the Dallas police and to what the two killings appeared to divulge about American characteristics.

Before President Kennedy arrived in Dallas, the newspaper said, pamphlets were distributed there accusing him of treason. The paper said this indicated the "enormous publicity Americans gave to 'the most fantastic accusations.'"

Question Not Answered

The question that has not been answered to the satisfaction of the French is how Jack Ruby was able to get near enough to kill Oswald. Disbelief of the version given by the Dallas police is evident in the comment of the man in the street.

The State of Texas is emerg-

ing as the villain. *Le monde* described it as "rich and conservative," and as a state that largely financed the late Senator Joseph R. McCarthy.

The reaction here and elsewhere in Europe is not simply an instinctive revulsion to violence; the French have lived through four known attempts on President de Gaulle's life.

But in recent years most Europeans have come to consider the United States as a conformist country. There are jokes in France and Germany to the effect that Americans all do the same things at the same time in the same way.

The sentimental image of the United States as a land of cowboys and Indians has been supplanted by an image of a great, rich country whose society is in many ways drab by European standards.

That image has been damaged by the Dallas killings more than it ever was by disturbances over racial issues in the South. The United States has upheld since 1945 the rule of law in the world and many here have honored America for this.

Now they fear that the United States has been infected by the same taint of violence that has stained the reputation of some of the greatest nations of Europe.