

Indians Believe Oswald Was Only a 'Tool'

Blame 'Enemies of Peace' for Slaying of Kennedy

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NEW DELHI, Nov. 27—Following President Kennedy's assassination an impression is growing in India that the United States has not outgrown its Wild West adolescence.

More important, the most sinister kind of interpretation is being applied to the killing of Lee H. Oswald, who had been charged with the assassination.

The first shock of grief is giving way to fear that dangerous forces may be behind both shootings.

The Indian left-wing is exploiting this view of the events in Texas. Of greater significance is the fact that Indian conservatives are also concerned.

Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, a close associate of Gandhi and founder of the Freedom party, India's most responsible conservative Opposition grouping, expressed this anxiety in an interview yesterday.

He said he was fearful that the "enemies of peace" might have used Oswald as a tool and then "silenced him." His reasoning was as follows:

Jack Ruby, the slayer of Oswald, appears to be the sort of man who might kill for money rather than ideas—a man with a police record.

The Dallas police have sought to close the case with "unseemly haste." This also suggested to Mr. Rajagopalachari that there might be "important money in the background."

Neither the "lunatic left" nor even Southern segregationists have the kind of money required to "facilitate a shooting like that done by Ruby and give him confidence of subsequent protection."



United Press International

C. Rajagopalachari

But the "lunatic right" might well command such financial authority.

Mr. Rajagopalachari said his comments were not those of a convinced reasoner but rather of an "anxious man." It should be noted that Mr. Rajagopalachari advocates not only "less Socialism in India" but also closer alignment with the United States.

The Indian leftists pursued the same line of thought with less reserve.

The Patriot, a daily paper that sympathizes with the views of the former Defense Minister, V. K. Krishna Menon, who has been strongly critical of the West, published an editorial headed "Murder Politics." The editorial said "it looks now as though Oswald, who was silenced so quickly, was only an agent."

It continued in this vein:

Left and Right Question the Actions of Dallas Police

"All the efforts by police authorities of Dallas notwithstanding, President Johnson has ordered a Federal investigation.

The newspaper continued: "The ease with which a nightclub keeper with a criminal record could get access to a prisoner in police custody and shoot him suggests collusion... Obviously the effort of the Dallas authorities... was to insinuate that Oswald was connected with Communism and the Soviet Union... This taken together with the Dallas police chief's haste in declaring that the 'case had been closed' with the killing of Oswald points to the existence of influences bent on changing Mr. Kennedy's policies at whatever cost."

Mrs. Pandit Praises Kennedy

Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit of India characterized President Kennedy yesterday as "one of the world's greatest sons," whose death had cast a shadow across the world and "posed a challenge to people everywhere."

She spoke at a luncheon of the Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association in the United Nations Church Center at 44th Street and First Avenue. Mrs. Pandit, the head of India's delegation to the United Nations, urged the women to become even more active in promoting peace.

"The era of pretty speeches is gone now," Mrs. Pandit declared. "We cannot but be conscious of the fact that the man who was assassinated a few days ago was able to show men and women everywhere how to proceed along the path that will lead us to peace."