

# Europe Sure Oswald Was Part of a Plot

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LONDON.

Many Europeans are convinced that there was a cabal—probably political—behind the assassination of President Kennedy. The less they know about the circumstances and the more remote they are from Dallas the surer they become.

Londoners are awfully suspicious and the Parisians are pretty certain they know. In Budapest they're dead sure.

Here, in a quiet men's club, a highly regarded political commentator sidles over to an American at the bar and says, very darkly, "Doesn't this suggest 'The Manchurian Candidate' to you?"

"You mean that Oswald was brainwashed and all that?"

"Yes, exactly."

"You're not serious."

"Why not? Look, what was he doing in Minsk all that time?"

## NHU?

That's the sort of thing you get from intelligent people. You also get phone calls from people wanting to know why it hasn't occurred to the police that Mme. Nhu may be connected with it. "You see, that chap Ruby, he's a gangster, and he must have been bringing in drugs from the Far East..."

No theory is too fantastic in this country of Agatha Christie and Ian Fleming, and it is getting harder and harder for Americans to explain their belief that the killing was surely the act of a lone psychopath.

But what was he doing in Mexico? How come Ruby's

lawyer knows the landlady where Oswald was staying? Can you fire three shots in five seconds with a 7.65 whatever-it-is? Each day the rumor mills are fed with new

tidbits and ever more ominous speculations by the sensational press.

Wednesday's Evening Standard from Dallas that wound up with this poser:

"Are the murders the work of two men who suffer from 'the insane root that makes the reason prisoner,' or are they murders by a ring of politically trained assassins? Today you hear that Oswald was perhaps a Peking Communist determined to split the growing good fellowship of the two countries he had lived 'and failed in.'"

## SHIFTY CUBAN

The Daily Sketch man in Dallas likes the China angle too, but with Cuba in on the plot. His Thursday piece was

headed "Red Plot?" and in it he tells how he checked one of the addresses found in Oswald's room. The door was opened at that address "by a shifty-eyed Cuban." The Cuban didn't know anything, but he had shifty eyes.

Some of the papers are very anxious to set the public straight on the matter of Jack Ruby's name. The explanation "(real name—Rubinstein)" comes out quite frequently, and each time you can almost feel a knowing nudge.

Cross the Channel and the plots thicken.

On the Continent, assassination almost always involves a political conspiracy: the murder of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand by the Serb Nicholas by the

Bolsheviks, Chancellor Dollfus by the Nazis and Trotsky (albeit in Mexico), by the Stalinists. Add to this the eight murder plots by the Secret Army Organization against President de Gaulle since 1958—two of them overt attempts—and you get conspiracy on the brain.

The Continentals simply cannot believe that a mighty chief of state as Mr. Kennedy can be cut down by a nasty little man with a mental problem. The French, particularly; they find it intellectually and dramatically unsatisfying.

## A TRAP

"There is no doubt that President Kennedy fell into a trap," said the left-wing paper Liberation, in Paris. "He was the victim of a plot. And in this plot it is evident that the Dallas police, protectors of gangsters like Ruby, played a role you can only describe as questionable. They created a defendant, then allowed one of their stool pigeons to kill him."

Paris Presse, a paper with no strong political line, is convinced that Oswald had an accomplice, and that the Dallas policeman was shot to allow the other man to get away.

Even respected Le Figaro had come up with a scenario, one that takes some studying. "No one knows still," it said, "whether the murderer was in fact murdered by the other murderer. If the second killer killed the first one to prevent him from talking, nothing prevents a third from killing the second one, and so on through all the accomplices."

One American in France,

a man named Alfred M. Rossum, was so dazed by the swirling theories that he was moved to give the French a sharp lecture in the letters column of Thursday's Herald Tribune, European Edition.

"Nothing," he said, "could better illustrate their (the French) propensities for political conspiracy than the taking of this essentially simple, straightforward matter, running it through their complicated and subtle reasoning apparatus and having it emerge, distorted beyond belief. Truly the convoluted French horn is more representative of their famous 'logic' than is the flute. They are apparently unable to un-

understand this very Texan tale of the bitter lone 'bushwhacker' who killed the symbol of his frustrations and is, in turn, shot down by an avenger. . . ."

### THE RIFLE

But all over Europe the plot-spinning goes on. The Milan paper Corriere Lombardo has taken a special interest in the Italian rifle, and gnawed for several days last week on the problem of getting three aimed shots off in five seconds.

Hamburg's Die Welt wondered about several possibilities, then threw up its hands. "A forest of question marks grows around the city of Dallas and all that happened there since Friday," it said.

The Soviet line (racist plot) was set immediately by the Russian news agency Tass, but it was hard to tell whether this was actually believed or just a conditioned response, or whether it was a quick cover for the embarrassment that must have been felt over Oswald's curious Russian venture.

In any case, the satellite countries picked it up, and indeed improved up it. Not even Pravda or Izvestia was so certain of the answer as the party paper in Budapest, Nepszabadsag.

It was obvious, said the paper, that Oswald was killed "with the help of Dallas police. . . . the real murderers wanted to remain in the dark by picking Oswald as the so-called culprit. Oswald has been killed to prevent him from revealing the names of the real murderers."

Europeans, however, are not the only ones who love

a conspiracy. Take Gen. Edwin Walker, for example. He explained it all to a right-wing weekly in Munich last week—National Zeitung and Soldaten Zeitung.

A right-wing plot?

"Nonsense," snorted the general, who flew his flag upside down when Dallas apologized to Adlai Steven-

son for splitting on him. "The murderer is a Marxist, a Communist, one of the huge mass of leftist infiltrators who struck Kennedy's death did not come as such a surprise as it is now made out to be. There was enough dynamite piled up, only it was permanently covered up by false press reporting."