

156 Fifth Avenue Room 422
New York, New York 10010

YUkon 9-685
Cable address: CITINQUIRY NEWYORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RUSSELL AND SARTRE SUPPORT EUROPEAN COMMITTEES OF INQUIRY;

LANE CALLED BACK FROM EUROPE TOUR TO
REAPPEAR BEFORE WARREN COMMISSION

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New York, June 30 -- Grave doubts about the circumstances surrounding the death of President Kennedy have prompted many noted European lawyers, scholars and artists to call for and assist in the formation of committees to support an independent investigation of the assassination, it was reported today.

Attorney Mark Lane, Chairman of the American Citizens' Committee of Inquiry and a former New York State Assemblyman, who has just returned from a tour of Europe, announced that supporting Committees of Inquiry have been set up in England, Denmark and France. EARL BERTRAND RUSSELL has accepted the chairmanship of the British Committee, which has already begun to function. Other members of the British Citizens' Committee are: JOHN ARDEN, playwright; CAROLINE WEDGWOOD BENN, writer; JOHN CALDER, publisher; PROFESSOR WILLIAM EMPSON, Professor of English Literature, Sheffield University; MICHAEL FOOT, Labour M.P. and Editor of the Tribune; SIR COMPTON MACKENZIE, author and playwright; KINGSLEY MARTIN, former editor of the New Statesman, writer and journalist; LORD BOYD ORR, Former Director-General, U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization, former Rector and Chancellor, Glasgow University; J. B. PRIESTLEY, novelist and playwright; SIR HERBERT READ, publisher, author and poet; TONY RICHARDSON, film director ("Saturday Night and Sunday Morning," "Tom Jones"); RT. REV. ARTHUR MERVYN STOCKWOOD, Bishop of Southwark; PROFESSOR HUGH TREVOR-ROPER, Professor of Modern History, Oxford University; and KENNETH TYNAN, writer, theatre critic and Director of the National Theatre.

The renowned British historian, Professor ARNOLD TOYNBEE, has sent the following message to the American people:

"The Mark Lane brief gives strong reasons for thinking that there is something wrong about the way in which the case is being investigated. I am sure that the right reaction to this is the setting-up, in the United States, of the Citizens' Committee of Enquiry."

In France, author and philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre has announced his support of an independent citizens' investigation; the Association of French Jurists is making plans for an international conference of jurists who will review the evidence in the case and arrive at their own determination.

Many of Denmark's noted jurists have added their sponsorship to a Danish Citizens' Committee headed by Atty. Jorgen Jacobsen.

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Mr. Lane interrupted his European tour at the request of the Warren Commission, who called him to reappear before that body on Thursday, July 2nd. Mr. Lane indicated that while he did not know what material the Commission wished to review with him, he would continue to cooperate with the Commission and would answer all relevant questions they might ask. His first appearance before the Warren Commission was on March 4, 1964.

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CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

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New York, N.Y. 10010

YUkon 9-6850
Cable address: CITINQUIRY NEWYORK

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JULY 6

ALLEGED MURDER WEAPON NOT FOUND IN BOOK DEPOSITORY,
LANE CHARGES

"SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT EVIDENCE BREAK,"
SAYS CHAIRMAN OF INDEPENDENT INQUIRY

New York, July 3 -- "The rifle that was found on the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building less than one hour after the assassination is not the same rifle now alleged to be the murder weapon," said Mark Lane, Chairman of the Citizens' Committee of Inquiry today.

Hailing this new proof as "the most dramatic and important evidence break in the case thus far," Lane charged that the Dallas authorities "have switched rifles in order that a rifle allegedly mailed to Oswald's post office box in March appeared to be the murder weapon." Lane, who testified before the Warren Commission on July 2, was permitted to examine the weapon which allegedly was used by Oswald to assassinate President Kennedy.

During January, Lane revealed that he had in his possession a photostatic copy of an affidavit on file in the Dallas District Attorney's office. That affidavit, signed by a Dallas police officer who found a rifle on the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building less than one hour after the assassination, contained the sworn statement by the officer that the weapon was a German Mauser, Caliber 7.65. The following day the Dallas District Attorney stated that the murder weapon was an Italian Carbine, Caliber 6.5 and it was that weapon which was discovered on the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building and erroneously identified by the officer.

Those defending the official view argued that the officer, after examining the weapon, mistakenly concluded that it was a German Mauser, Caliber 7.65, because it bore no identifying markings. Mr. Lane, in his July 2 appearance before the Warren Commission, while examining the rifle read into the record those markings which appeared on the rifle and which were indelibly engraved thereon in large letters. The markings were: "Made Italy" and "CAL 6.5."

"There can be but one explanation," charged Lane, "and that is that the local law enforcement authorities have switched rifles in order to 'prove' Oswald's guilt."

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CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

156 Fifth Avenue Room 422
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YUkon 9-6650

October 1, 1964

Dear Friend:

I have recently joined the Citizens' Committee of Inquiry as Vice-Chairman because I believe that the case is not closed in the assassination of President Kennedy, that a continuing investigation must be made by an independent citizens' group, and that the results of such an inquiry should be made available to the American people and to the people of the world.

It is in reference to this last point that I direct this letter to you. There has been little free discussion of the facts in this most critical case from the very beginning. The number of Americans who have been exposed to any critical discussion of cross-examination of the evidence of the case is pitifully small.

The Citizens' Committee of Inquiry is trying to make a dent in this wall of ignorance. We have been sponsoring nightly lectures by Attorney Mark Lane in New York for the last two months. The halls have been small, but jam-packed.

We are now organizing two more ambitious projects. On Friday, October 9 in SAN FRANCISCO, and on Monday, October 19 in NEW YORK, Mr. Lane will debate Attorney Melvin Belli, Jack Ruby's trial lawyer and author of a forthcoming book entitled "Dallas Justice". The debate in San Francisco will take place in Masonic Hall, while New York's debate will be held in Manhattan Center.

For tickets to the S.F. debate, write to the Berkeley Citizens' Committee of Inquiry, P. O. Box 345, Berkeley, California. The enclosed leaflet gives details of how tickets can be obtained in New York.

We believe there will be great interest in hearing these two able men present the opposing sides in one of the most crucial debates of our century. You cannot order your tickets too soon.

Sincerely,

Dick Gregory

Dick Gregory