

History/PS # 315

Re: Review Sheet of "Dallas in Perspective"

Instructor Confession: What follows is an attempt to present an alternative explanation to why JFK was assassinated. It is an alternative to the official view that he was killed by a single lone-nut(Oswald)because Oswald was Marxist oriented and hated America and President Kennedy,etc., etc., etc. Tragic to be sure; but all presidents are potential victims of mad people with guns.

1. On the origins of "executive active" capability. It began under Eisenhower when he gave the CIA the go-ahead with program against Patrice Lumumba of the Congo and Dominican Republic's strongman and all-around SOB and troublemaker, Raphael Trujillo. The CIA took Ike's authorization as a permanent sanction for the program. These six men(CIA insiders)then pretended that Ike's sanction transferred automatically to all successor presidents. It is very possible that JFK and RFK never knew about the Agency's attempts against Castro.
2. NSM # 55. It's intent was to move in the joint Chiefs of Staff, that is, the military, into the business of Cold War Operations(that is covert actions)and to incrementally reduce the CIA's role in clandestine operations over time. After the Bay of Pigs and in light of the CIA's domination of US foreign policy during the Eisenhower years and their responsibility for embarrassing JFK and the US in the Bay of Pigs fiasco.
3. Clarification of Prouty article. The origins of NSM # 263. This was JFK's own policy to initiate the withdrawal and w/ some luck and the right circumstances to begin the liquidation of US involvement in Vietnam after his re-election. Vietnamization was planned to be in place by 1965. The withdrawal was announced in press(see NY Times, Nov. 21, 1968). JFK choose the circuitous route he did as explained in Prouty article because he knew that powerful advisers like General Taylor and Sec. of Def. McNamara did not approve of liquidating US involvement. They favored a military solution to the problem. In presenting them w/ "their" own report he was giving them a fait accompli. Accept my policy or look for work some place else!!!! If Prouty is correct the message is clear. This was a very strained situation.
4. Move toward detente w/ the Soviets. JFK's American University speech(June '63). Speech was the direct product of the Cuban Missile Crisis of Oct. 1962. This was a very close thing!
5. Implementing the language and thrust of the American University Speech:

- a. Nuclear Test Ban treaty(August '62)
- b. Initiating the "hot line" between WDC and Moscow
- c. Wheat deal w/ the Russians

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d. JFK's promise to end all covert action efforts/use of Cuban anti-Castroites (a la Bay of Pigs) to undermine and overthrow the Castro regime. This was part of the deal w/ Khrushchev to get the missiles out of Cuba. This was accompanied by "back channel" talks with Castro officials at the UN with US official at UN a William Attwood. Possibility of regularizing relations w/ Castro in time.

e. reduction of US military budget for fy 1964

f. Talk of recognition of Red China w/ her billion people.

g. JFK's refusal to recognize the military junta that overthrew the elected government of Dominican Republic.

h. NSM# 55--Its possible long-range consequences for CIA

i. NSM# 263. JFK begins the long term process of Vietnamization of the VN war and the disentanglement of US from that political struggle.

Note: There is still held in "limbo" by the US government's refusal to make public the JFK/Khrushchev correspondence over the period October 1962 to November 1963. JFK's former press secretary Pierre Salinger claims the correspondence is rather lengthy. I have heard over 25 letters were exchanged. When made public this will reveal, I believe, how the Missile Crisis brought these two heads of state closer together and reaffirm the fact that neither man ever wanted to face the threat of a nuclear war again. There is pending an FOIA suit to get this correspondence released. The Soviets have already agreed to release on their end. The US refuses on the grounds that they might breach national security interests.

We have not mentioned JFK and domestic policy.

1. JFK's support of the civil rights movement
2. Bobby Kennedy's offensive against organized crime
3. JFK's reduction of oil depletion allowances