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EUROPE DISMAYED; FEARFUL FOR U.S.

Murder of Dr. King Evokes Doubts Over Stability of the American Society

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Special to The New York Times

LONDON, April 5—The murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. evoked in Europe today a reaction of intense horror at the deed and of fear for the stability of American society.

In governments, in the press and among the public, there were expressions of sympathy that went beyond formalities. Dr. King was deeply admired in Europe and held up as a symbol of hope for America.

'A Common, Tragic Link'

All the concerns about the United States and its leadership that have grown here in recent years—concerns especially about the war in Vietnam and the violence in America—were fed by the killing of the civil rights leader in Memphis last night.

Everywhere in Europe, people linked Dr. King's death with the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963. That two men so admired here could so similarly be killed intensified doubts about the character of America today.

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Le Monde, the leading independent newspaper of France, said, "a common tragic link indeed unites men devoted to a common struggle." The story of Dr. King's murder dominated newspapers and radio and television broadcasts across Europe. Political and religious leaders expressed their sympathy and their concern.

The following were some of the principal reactions in individual countries.

ITALY

Pope Paul VI was described as personally and deeply grieved.

He sent a cablegram to Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, the Apostolic Delegate in the United States, in Washington, who was to make it known to the American Catholic hierarchy and to the public in general. The Pontiff said he was "profoundly saddened" at Dr. King's death "in such tragic and deplorable circumstances."

The cablegram, in which the Pope spoke of himself in the third person, continued:

"He prays that the virtues of justice and fraternal love,

for which Dr. King stood, can come to be respected everywhere. His Holiness implores the Omnipotent God to give the consolation of divine grace to his family and friends desolated by his death."

Dr. King saw Pope Paul in a private audience in 1964, and the Pope was reported to have been greatly impressed by him.

L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, carried a strongly worded article today by its director, Raimondo Manzini.

"We must fear brutal impulses or worse," Mr. Manzini said of the immediate future in the United States, "vendettas, aggression and destruction."

President Giuseppe Saragat cabled President Johnson:

"Speaking for all the Italian people, I join in the mourning of free America for the death of its great son, Martin Luther King, victim of racist barbarities."

FRANCE

The state radio network deleted an interview with a Cabinet minister to make way for a tribute to Dr. King.

One headline, in Paris-Presse, read, "America Is Frightened."

Le Monde said editorially that Dr. King "knew very well the limitations of his program

and the frailty of his pacifist hopes."

"Every day," the editorial continued, "saw hatred and passion disfigure the visage of a white America that wants to be respectable and cannot help being racist."

"The assassinated pastor also knew that violence unleashes violence, and he did not refrain from saying that the massive use of force in Vietnam encouraged everywhere the resort to arguments that are never those of reason. For having sowed peace, he has reaped the whirlwind."

The chief of the Gaullist party, Robert Poujade, said no one could predict "the seriousness of the consequences that threaten." But, he said, "everyone must hope that the United States finds in its political resources, which are the fruit of a long democratic tradition, the possibility of avoiding an interior cleavage."

The Catholic daily La Croix said, "If violence takes over from legality, if the black revolution some day repudiates nonviolence, it will be known that the night of Memphis marked the event."

BRITAIN

Members of all parties in the House of Commons introduced a motion expressing "horror at

the brutal and senseless murder" and pledging to eliminate racial discrimination in Britain.

Edward Heath, leader of the opposition Conservative party, called Dr. King's death "a great tragedy."

Neither Prime Minister Wilson nor the Government in general made any official statement, although ministers privately expressed their shock and concern for the United States.

Some in the American com-

munity were puzzled by the official silence. Mr. Wilson was busy planning cabinet changes.

At the American Embassy, a book of remembrance was placed inside the main door with a picture of Dr. King and a simple vase of flowers. Many persons entered to sign, among them the chairman of Britain's Race Relations Board, Mark Bonham Carter.

The Evening Standard said in an editorial that "America is indeed a violent land." Comparing Dr. King's death with President Kennedy's assassination, the editorial said, "Once again, one of its greatest citizens has been cut down by an act of pointless and irrevocable violence."

The Times of London called Dr. King's murder "a great loss to all Negroes, to the United States and to a world that had come to love and respect him."

Television and radio channels ran special programs.

SWITZERLAND

Secretary General Thant, who was visiting Geneva, sent Mrs. King a cablegram praising her husband for having "worked so unceasingly and by nonviolent methods for the cause of peace, international understanding and human rights."

The Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, cabled Mrs. King that her husband "was, in my judgment, the outstanding Christian minister in our country."

Dr. Blake joined executives of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Alliance of Reform Churches in a statement that said, in part:

"By international consensus Dr. King was a first citizen of the world. In the United States he was a main hope for a tortured nation."

Geneva's State Assembly ob-

served a minute of silence in respect for Dr. King.

WEST GERMANY

Both houses of Parliament in Bonn stood in silence to pay tribute to Dr. King. The Foreign Minister, Willy Brandt, spoke for the Government and called the murder "a real tragedy."

The left-leaning Frankfurter Rundschau, in an editorial for tomorrow's editions, said, "America's prestige, damaged as it is already through her brutal warfare in Vietnam, must slip further when her prominent personalities can no longer be sure that they cannot be hunted down and killed like rabbits."

Die Welt of Hamburg, a conservative paper, said, "Nothing worse could have happened to the United States in this election year." But it added that "other nations ought to refrain from giving unsolicited advice in view of the great portion of guilt they incurred themselves in the past."

SPAIN

Pueblo, the newspaper of the Franco Government's labor organization, carried the headline "U.S.A. Again Under Terror."

In the afternoon paper Madrid, the commentator Jaime Miravittles wrote:

"John Kennedy and Luther King, who were friends and who worked together, were victims of bullets fired by the same assassin: hatred, non-understanding, fanaticism."

There was no official comment, but privately officials expressed their sense of bewildered shock. One asked, "Is it Dallas all over again?"

BELGIUM

The Premier, Paul Vanden Boeynants, called the assassination a "monstrous crime with