

One More Theory On Assassination

The plethora of conspiracy theories about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has now been added to, posthumously, by the man who succeeded him, Lyndon Johnson.

Newspaper columnist and Johnson confidante Marianne Means wrote last week that Mr. Johnson had expressed the belief that while Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the murder he had been under the "influence or the orders" of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. Walter Cronkite showed on CBS television a segment of a filmed interview, originally withheld at Mr. Johnson's request on the ground of national security, in which the former President expressed a similar belief.

However, in neither case did Mr. Johnson provide information to support the belief. In the Cronkite interview, he said there was no "hard evidence" to support it, only that he suspected it. In a magazine article published two years ago, Mr. Johnson was quoted as suspecting a Castro role because the Cuban leader had been the intended victim of an unsuccessful assassination effort backed by the Central Intelligence Agency while Mr. Kennedy was President.

The Warren Commission that investigated the Kennedy assassination concluded that it was carried out by Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone. In the more than 12 years since, there have been scores of attacks on that finding, and many theories, but never a specific, incontrovertible, documented piece of evidence that the finding was wrong.

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