

ASSASSINATION

[continued from preceding page]

there to collect a payoff from Cuban agents, that he met a U. S. Communist there, and that the Cuban Ambassador had personally seen Oswald. From the report:

"The investigation of the Commission has . . . produced no evidence that Oswald's trip to Mexico was in any way connected with the assassination of President Kennedy, nor has it uncovered evidence that the Cuban Government had any involvement in the assassination."

Oswald was in Mexico from September 26 until Oct. 3, 1963. There, he visited both the Cuban and Soviet embassies in an attempt to get a visa to Cuba. Both attempts failed.

Oswald's wife, Marina, told the Commission he pretended to want the visa only as a stopover en route to Russia, but that he actually wanted to remain in Cuba.

"NO EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY"

Were Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby, his killer, cogs in a conspiracy against the life of President Kennedy? The Warren report's finding:

"There is no credible evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald was part of a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. Examination of the facts of the assassination itself revealed no indication that Oswald was aided in the planning or execution of his scheme.

"Review of Oswald's life and activities since 1959, although productive in illuminating the character of Lee Harvey Oswald, did not produce any meaningful evidence of a conspiracy.

"The Commission discovered no evidence that the Soviet Union or Cuba were involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

"Nor did the Commission's investigation of Jack Ruby produce any grounds for believing that Ruby's killing of Oswald was part of a conspiracy.

"The conclusion that there is no evidence of a conspiracy was also reached independently by Dean Rusk, the Secretary of State; Robert S. McNamara, the Secretary of Defense; C. Douglas Dillon, the Secretary of the Treasury; Robert F. Kennedy, the Attorney General; J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the FBI; John A. McCone, the Director of the CIA; and James J. Rowley, the Chief of the Secret Service, on the basis of information available to each of them."

SENATOR RUSSELL: MARINA "BAFFLING"

Did Marina Oswald tell all? One member of the Warren Commission, Senator Richard B. Russell (Dem.), of Georgia, expressed some doubts.

In an interview with three reporters for Southern newspapers, Senator Russell said he found Marina Oswald "a baffling personality" who first talked freely but later "would clam up when you asked her how she got her passport so rapidly approved in Russia."

He added he was convinced the Commission did not get all of Russia's files on Oswald, especially those of the Soviet secret police.

Stressing he was not suggesting a conspiracy existed, Senator Russell said he nevertheless insisted that the report say there was no evidence of a plot, rather than stating flatly there was none. His reason: The Commission could not set le "categorically" these two points: to what extent, if any, Oswald was encouraged by outside influences; whether Oswald had any connection with Jack Ruby.

ABROAD: PRAISE—AND DOUBTS

From cabled dispatches of "U. S. News & World Report" correspondents:

BRITAIN—A few people still reject the official conclusion that Oswald alone was guilty of the Kennedy assassination, but they are mainly Communists. Every newspaper editorial comment, with the single exception of the Communist "Daily Worker," accepts without reservation the Warren Commission's version of the crime. "The Guardian," a leading skeptic in the past, said: "The major conclusions . . . are supported in great detail and by almost overwhelming evidence." But newspapers, and the public, remembering U. S. criticism of repeated British security lapses, are asking these new questions: What went wrong with the vaunted FBI and Secret Service? If they had done their job properly, could the assassination have been prevented?

FRANCE—All informal polls show that most Frenchmen still think some kind of plot existed. Most conservative and middle-of-the-road newspapers praised the Warren report as a good try, but indicated clearly they remained unconvinced there was no conspiracy. Communists and left-wing papers took the anti-American line that the report was a whitewash of a right-wing plot.

GERMANY—The Warren report simply put the official seal on what had long been generally believed—that both Oswald and Ruby were lone-wolf killers. Germans, unlike other Europeans, never became fascinated by theories of Communist or right-wing plotters being responsible for the assassination.

AUSTRIA—General skepticism greeted the Warren report. The Commission's finding—that such a momentous act was the handiwork of two madmen—seems too pat, too simple, to the average Austrian. This is reinforced by Austrian memories of the assassinations of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Chancellor Dollfuss—both political crimes.

ITALY—Practically all newspapers other than those of the extreme left made it clear that they found the Warren report quite convincing. However, the impression persists among many individual Italians that the full story has not been told.

JAPAN—A minority remains suspicious, convinced there must have been someone or something behind Oswald. The Japanese remember that assassinations here have almost invariably been politically inspired, and they tend to distrust an investigation by any government. The leftists believe oilmen or Negro-haters conspired with Oswald. Rightists are sure the strings were pulled by the Russians, perhaps by brainwashing Oswald, or the Cubans.

SOUTH AMERICA—The majority of South Americans firmly believe the assassination was a conspiracy, with Oswald killed to prevent him from exposing the plot. The Warren report does almost nothing to clear up their doubts. Most blame the conspiracy on the extreme right wing; a few blame leftists. Their insistence on a plot is based on two main ideas: the "impossibility" of two assassinations being a coincidence, and a general Latin belief that conspiracy is a part of the political process.

CANADA—To the vast majority of Canadians, the Warren report ends all mystery about the assassination. "The Toronto Globe and Mail" summed up the prevailing view: "In most countries the death . . . would have been shrouded in official secrecy and only history could have discovered some part of the facts. In the United States the best judicial and legal minds in the country were assigned to uncover the facts and make them public and they have done so."