

## CAMBODIA, KENT, AND KENNEDY

Precondition for continuation of the war in Vietnam in 1963, as time has made clear, was removal of dictator Diem who, it has been said, was negotiating secretly for peace with Hanoi.

Precondition for Americanization of the Vietnamese war was removal of President Kennedy who was seeking accommodation with the Soviet world and a modus vivendi with the rising tide of revolutionary nationalism in the "Third World."

Precondition for extension of the war to Cambodia was removal of Sihanouk whose "neutrality" supported Hanoi and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

All three events hinge on the war in Indochina and signify the activity of a powerful force commanding enormous resources and widespread organization.

Political assassinations and coups d'etat are the modus operandi of the CIA.

The war serves the immediate interests of the military-industrial complex which with the advent of the Presidency of Lyndon Johnson became the dominating force in the formulation and implementation of the policy of the U.S. government.

Protest against the war in the United States centers in the white middle class; is supported by banking and industrial interests which lost their traditionally dominant role in government policy with the assassination of Kennedy; encounters

the hostility of a large part of the white working class whose privileged economic position benefits from the war; and meets with indifference among the black masses whose protest against intolerable conditions and increasing oppression has been made for the most part on separate "racial" lines.

Peace Nobelist Martin Luther King's attempt to fuse classic labor and black protest struggles in the strike of Memphis garbage workers ended in his assassination. Selection of King's assassin and abortion of his trial by guilty plea paralleled nomination of Lee Harvey Oswald as Kennedy's assassin and abortion of his trial by murder. The parallelism argues a common interest was served by both assassinations.

Political logic indicts the military-industrial complex.

The massacre of students at Kent University in Ohio aroused widespread revulsion, in the United States chiefly in the white middle class, and moved white college youth to gather peacefully in Washington to demonstrate their indignation and essential futility in changing the war policy of the government. By and large the establishment press expressed horror and condemnation on humanitarian grounds, but followed Nixon in attributing fault to the victims and their fellow students. No Senator or Congressman publicly linked the shooting to the incitements to reactionary violence made, among many others, by the governor of Ohio who called out the National Guard to play its accustomed repressive role; nor to the war policy of the Nixon government against which the students were protesting.

Thereby they contributed to the total establishmentarian effort to dissociate the massacre from the context from which it sprang, as the Warren Commission labored to disconnect the assassination of President Kennedy from the context of seething reactionary rhetorical and physical violence into which he ventured in Texas in November 1963.

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