

Sirhan Did Not Shoot Kennedy, Convicted Man's Lawyer Says

Attorney Godfrey Isaac said Tuesday he did not agree that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan fired the shot that killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy on June 5, 1963.

Isaac, named Monday as new defense counsel for the condemned Palestinian, said he did not contest that Sirhan was armed and fired shots in the Ambassador pantry that night.

But, Isaac said, new evidence has arisen that points to the existence of a second gunman, unrelated to Sirhan, who used Sirhan's gun-lots as a cover for his own and actually fired the fatal bullet, while Sirhan's stray gunfire wounded five other persons.

The Times quoted Isaac Monday as saying he did "not contest the fact that Sirhan killed Kennedy." Isaac

said this was contrary to the view he has espoused for more than a year.

Isaac is the attorney who filed a complaint for disclosure of information June 25, on behalf of investigative journalist Theodore Charach, who has charged that evidence pertaining to the second gunman theory either has been withheld or insufficiently investigated.

Charach's theory, supported by Pasadena criminalist William Harper, also has served as the basis of an affidavit by attorney Barbara Warner Beck, who in May charged Los Angeles Police Department criminalist DeWayne Woffler with violations of procedure in his ballistics probe of the Kennedy slaying.

Those charges still are under investigation by the district attorney's office.