

New Light on the M.L. King Assassination

By JOHN M. SWOMLEY

THE MYSTERIOUS assassination of Martin Luther King, why he was killed, and the careful planning by U.S. governmental agencies for his murder are now revealed by an internationally famous lawyer after eighteen years of careful and meticulous investigation. The book in which this is revealed is *ORDERS TO KILL: The truth behind the Murder of Martin Luther King*, By William F. Pepper (Carroll and Graf Publishers.) The author is that lawyer. In this book he demonstrates that James Earl Ray, who is still in prison as the convicted murderer did not and could not have killed King.

Pepper is an international human rights and constitutional lawyer who lives in London but practices law both in England and the U.S. He had worked with King in 1967-68 and, with Benjamin Spock, had talked of promoting King for President as a third party candidate. King was killed April 4, 1968 in Memphis, but Pepper's investigation began only in 1977 after Ralph Abernathy asked him to interview James Earl Ray in prison.

Convinced that Ray was innocent, he started a modern detective investigation that led him to locate witnesses, participants, and even Army Special Forces personnel involved. These Army persons, who had fled the country after some others were killed because they knew too much, helped him discover the joint plans of the CIA, FBI, Army Intelligence and political leaders who were involved.

When King denounced the war in Vietnam and planned a Poor People's march on Washington that would shake the *status quo* and when racial unrest was rising in big cities, a decision was made to kill King. This carefully documented book, replete with photographs, takes us into interviews and journeys that read like a detective story, and ultimately to a Mafia character who was paid to do the shooting. However, in case that man was not successful, special Army snipers were on top of a building to do the shooting. The FBI and other agents planned their escape and thwarted witnesses from pursuing the killer.

This book is significant not only for this amazing expose' but for several

other reasons. One is the detailed description of unlawful electronic surveillance of King, infiltration of his inner circle, and smears about his character. That surveillance, in which FBI, CIA and other intelligence agencies collaborated, was followed by detailed careful planning by those agencies to kill him and frame an innocent man. Although the author doesn't link this to the killing of President Kennedy, it raises possible questions about the killing of others by government agents.

The author describes in detail such things as "Intelligence Emergency Operation Centers" located in cities where racial crises were anticipated and troops were to be deployed. One Army veteran told the author of a "recon... to determine the feasibility for a future 'wet insert ops determined' operation." That meant that "the unit carries out a surreptitious entry at night into the targeted residence, kills everyone there, and leaves without a trace." This was actually tried secretly on a house in the Los Angeles vicinity

used by Senator Robert Kennedy while he was not there.

In other words, this book is also a gold mine of information about the way the FBI, CIA and military intelligence agencies plan to deal with "dangerous" civilians whom they see as a threat to the economic and political interests that govern the United States. The book is not based on conjecture, but on hard facts. We are told of investigations that he dismissed because they were not conclusive, for example.

This book should be available in every public library and ordered for your own reading. It is fascinating, alarming and capably written by a lawyer who tried every legal means to reopen the case of James Earl Ray and was thwarted at every level of government. Hence this book. ★

(Carroll & Graf, 260 5th Ave., NYC 10014, \$28.)

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Danish-Cuban Association

The Danish-Cuban Association, founded 27 years ago, is currently promoting an increase in Danish tourism to Cuba. Every year they send a senior citizens' group and a youth group on a wide-ranging program designed to familiarize them with the country's realities.

During February and March, they organized trade union meetings as a public discussion forum for Danish people's questions and plan to distribute a bulletin version of these discussions throughout Denmark.

The association sponsors the Rafael Valdes Polyclinic and the Hans Christian Andersen day-care center, in Havana and they regularly supply both facilities with clothes, computer equipment, medicines, powdered milk and other provisions. Their latest project is directed toward installing an electric power system, based on biogas and windmills, in Matanzas province.

The group's most important area of work is the international material published in Denmark, designed to clarify the quality of Cuban democracy. The most fundamental of human rights, including the right to life, are respected in Cuba.

Irma Caceres, a news chief of Cuban television described the encounter with the Danish population as unforgettable, especially when the over 5000 people, after a rendition of the July 26th anthem sung in perfect Spanish, continued shouting "Viva Fidel and the Revolution!"

Sven Tarp, a teacher at the Aarhus School, said:

"This phenomenon can be explained, because after the 1990 feelings of disillusionment with the disappearance of the Soviet Union and the European socialist countries, ordinary people are keen to participate in solidarity actions with Cuba, with enthusiasm and hope. They understand that this Revolution's fight for justice is not only for 11 million Cubans, but for everybody."

Ulises Estrada Lescaille
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