

VICTORY

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INFORMATION COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS (INCA)

Vol. 1

PREVIEW EDITION — DECEMBER 11, 1963

No. 1

INCA VS. OSWALD

(INCA Executive Vice President, Edward Scannell Butler confronted Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President John F. Kennedy in a panel debate on radio station WDSU, August 21, 1963, just a few weeks before the President's murder. Worldwide speculation on Oswald's motivation and mental condition are rife. Mr. Butler was called to Washington less than 48 hours after the crime to confer with top officials on the case, since he was the only propaganda specialist ever to interview Oswald. The following is a summary which analyzes the meaning of the Oswald episode.—Editor)



Mr. Butler

THE MOTIVATION OF AN ASSASSIN

by Edward Scannell Butler

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The murder of President John F. Kennedy by a doctrinaire, self-confessed Marxist—three years exposed to communism in Russia—proves beyond doubt the power of words as weapons.

Unfortunately, the picture of Lee Harvey Oswald that is beginning to emerge in some quarters does not fully match the firsthand impressions I gleaned just a few weeks before the President's murder. INCA members in various states and the TRUTH network in Latin America are entitled to the facts that we have, both from Oswald's own lips and from my analysis of the man.

I met him at 5:30 on a hot Friday afternoon in the studios of WDSU radio in New Orleans.

I was there to participate in a panel debate which had been arranged by Latin American affairs reporter Bill Stuckey. Moderating the program was WDSU newsmen Bill Slatter, and presenting the Cuban viewpoint was exile leader Carlos Bringuier.

It is worthwhile to consider why I was there in the first place. The answer is, because you, the members and friends of INCA, made it possible. INCA has spent nearly three years, not merely studying, but fighting communist propaganda at the grass roots level in 16 countries. We know from research and experience what works, what won't. We could predict—because we knew the Red line,—what Oswald would say on most topics. We knew what to ask and what to avoid. Within a day we had a briefcase full of facts and

figures of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, as well as the entire story of Oswald's defection with authentic quotes, because I knew whom to contact. In addition we had our own library and clipping file, and a competent staff to back me up and secure substantiating data.

We had the facilities to make the long-distance calls, tape recorders and a headquarters to listen for hours to earlier testimony that Oswald had taped for Stuckey, until I knew his every strong point and weak spot.

And most important, we had freedom to act as private citizens to deprive Oswald of the mass support he was seeking. Technically he had then committed no crime, so no official could touch him. Free societies can't permit a Federal Thought Control Agency to censor, suppress or dispute anyone's views, so officials couldn't even meet him on the propaganda battlefield. But because there was a private professional organization here in New Orleans Oswald was decisively beaten on the battleground he had picked—mass media.

Discredited, Oswald dropped out of sight, and left New Orleans before he did too much damage here. For this rout every INCA member and friend can take a fair share of credit. Moreover the model we have created can be copied throughout the hemisphere.

Some members have conjectured that an INCA branch office in Dallas could have professionally neutralized Oswald there and perhaps saved the President's life. No one can be sure of course. But an INCA branch

could certainly have helped expose him to public view and made it more difficult to commit a hidden crime.

ASSASSIN'S PROFILE

Oswald's hand was clammy as I shook it, and he had an air of arrogance and suppressed tension. Before the debate his face was tight, sarcastic, on guard, yet with no superfluous motions. When I mentioned that a merchant was "progressive" in his business, Oswald looked around quickly in the midst of another conversation at the first syllable of the word 'progressive'. Then when he understood the content of the statement—that it was being applied to capitalism—his glance changed into a smirk of disgust.

He seemed particularly antagonistic toward me. Other onlookers noticed it and mentioned it before I had the opportunity to ask. Later, at home, I took the precaution of taping all of the TV commentaries about the interview.

FOOL OR FANATIC?

Was Oswald insane? He appeared to be not only sane but an extremely articulate and clever proponent of the communist-ling cause of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, which he represented as local Secretary. I can judge, not merely from our debate, but from a previous analysis of a 30 minute tape recorded interview with reporter Bill Stuckey, which is as yet unpublished. Oswald was a proficient propagandist. He used propaganda methods like **subject parallelism**, **target narrowing** and **expansion**, and other technical tricks of the propagandist's trade. Moreover he was thoroughly familiar with the party line, and gave an excellent account of himself when asked the standard questions in the first interview. He did much worse in the debate against a planned, unorthodox attack. An attack which was aimed, not at the communist line he was trying to sell, but at the seller himself. Communists and their sympathizers can seldom withstand such an approach, which prevents them from abusing the freedom of the press by turning it into a propaganda platform. But Oswald tried.

Of course a good case can be made for the fact that communist propaganda had converted Oswald into a

conditioned social schizophrenic just like Lenin, Hitler, Stalin and Castro. He undoubtedly saw the real world through eyes distorted by unreal images of class or race warfare. But the point is, that such deliberately induced criminal insanity is the clear-cut responsibility of the official hate-propaganda of communist regimes. The communist line draws a dead head on every institution and leader of the Free World. Through a sophisticated propaganda network it dumps a mountain of hate into the receptive minds of mankind.

It is hard for some Americans to understand how a young boy of 15, reading a pro-communist pamphlet about the Rosenberg traitors, can be converted as Oswald was—over a period of nine years under the gradual, but merciless assault of words as weapons—into a political assassin.

Yet we must understand it, or President Kennedy's death will have been in vain. The motivation for Oswald's acts are to be found in these quotes he gave to a U.P.I. correspondent in Moscow in 1959. Regarding his first reading of Marx's *Das Kapital*, he said, "It was like a very religious man opening the Bible for the first time." Then he started to "study Marxist economic theories," he told the reporters on his trip to Russia. "I could see the impoverishment of the masses before my own eyes in my own mother. I thought the worker's life could be better. I found some Marxist books on dusty shelves in the New Orleans library and continued to indoctrinate myself for five years."

THE 'COMMUNIST' QUESTION

A second question which has bothered Americans is whether or not Oswald the admitted Marxist, was subject to Leninist discipline.

Professor Anthony J. Bouscaren says in his book, "A guide to Anti-Communist Action":

"There is no doubt that the communist network holds an attraction for adventurous spirits who thrive on the conspiratorial atmosphere within the party, the secret meetings, the resort to aliases, the paraphernalia of illegality and opposition to constituted authority. Those who tend to rebel against tradition and conven-

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tion, Bohemians and nonconformists of all kinds—are naturally attracted to the communist movement. By its repudiation of so-called capitalist ethics and moral standards, the party provides a welcome philosophical sanction for the lunatic fringe.

“The party is a vehicle for anyone with an axe to grind, for anyone who has become embittered. Second-rate artists, lawyers without clients, doctors without patients, writers without outlets, underpaid teachers with inferiority complexes—all these are soothed by the thought that it is all the fault of the capitalist system. They find, in the party, an instrument to vent their spleen against the imagined source of injury, as well as a receptive audience.”

But in spite of the fact that “Officers found letters in Lee Harvey Oswald’s room written to him on letterheads of the Communist Party of America, the party newspaper, the Worker, and the Fair Play for Cuba Committee . . .” (Washington Post, Thursday, November 28, 1963, Pg. A-4) no formal links with party discipline have yet been found.

The distinction is a hard one for average Americans to comprehend. The party uses three kinds of participants in its work.

1—The disciplined party member who acts like a social soldier under orders.

2—The indoctrinated communist sympathizer whose contributions come in the form of money and/or work for the party on a volunteer basis.

3—The dupe, or useful fool, who works and/or donates to communist causes without realizing their full impact.

Oswald seems to have fitted into the second category. He was filled with the standard brand of communist hate. And that hate—conveyed always by words from communists to their sympathizers—finally moved the mind, that actuated the trigger, that killed the President of the United

States. The links of guilt are visible and obvious.

THE MENTAL BLOCK

Yet many Americans hesitate to believe that communism caused the death of the President of the United States. This is as understandable as it is dangerous.

It is understandable because the average American can imagine no appropriate penalty for the murder of the President other than nuclear war; which however would kill millions of our own people, as well as millions of communist slaves. Since no one wants to commit national suicide or kill innocent people, we are assuming the blame for communist guilt ourselves, in order to continue to co-exist, and also maintain some shred of self respect.

It is a dangerous attitude. If the communists ever get the idea that Americans will accept any provocation, up to and including the assassination of the President of the United States, then their audacity will increase, their power greed will grow and our days of liberty will be numbered.

Therefore in order to maintain our self respect and also continue our pursuit of world peace we must:

1—Admit to ourselves that communist hate-propaganda killed the President of the United States by motivating the man that pulled the trigger.

2—Admit to ourselves that nuclear warfare is not the most appropriate response because it might not reach the minority of communist fanatics (who are the real culprits) before killing millions of innocent people.

3—Admit to ourselves that words are the ultimate weapons, because they can move the minds that have the power to pull triggers and press buttons.

4—Admit to ourselves that from now on private citizens must help wage and win the new War of Words at the mass level in the INCA manner; and in this way ultimately help

liberate the communist colonies, avenge the President’s death, and avoid a nuclear conflict in the bargain.

With words, INCA beat Oswald in New Orleans by revealing his defection to Russia and forcing his admission that he was a Marxist.

With words over a network of 126 radio stations INCA is beating communists in 16 Latin American nations. For instance, INCA has 17 stations in Venezuela alone, where the isolated communist minority, lacking mass support for their riots, strikes and demonstrations have been forced to resort to terror. And they are being decisively beaten.

With words, we can demonstrate to the people of each one of the communist dominated slave nations how to gradually pry away the grip of their communist overlords.

We must never forget that the great power the relatively few communists have, is in the minds of the masses of people they manipulate. Sharp, well-directed words can penetrate to the center of that power, and carefully cut it out, without endangering the whole of humanity in nuclear war.

We must always remember that communist propaganda is aimed at the U. S. primarily to create hate, not secure conversions. Therefore a violent mirror image reaction—be it left or right—must be avoided. We need not hate communists, rather pity them like the criminal lunatics many are. But we must work to destroy the communist party organization which grants maniacs the power to coerce and manipulate sane men.

It takes professionals to do this job, and the Oswald incident is an example of what professional techniques can do, when applied on the mass media battleground. There is where the war of words will be won or lost.