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U.S. Plotted Against

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The U.S. State Dept. and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) joined to discredit American and foreign critics of the Warren Commission Report following the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy.

The agencies, calling attacks on the

controversial report a "matter of concern to the U.S. government," also plotted strategy aimed at bolstering confidence in the commission's findings.

Evidence of the government's activities was contained in official documents obtained through a court suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) for Mark Lane, author of "Rush to Judgment," a book criti-

cally analyzing the assassination investigation.

Lane, who was mentioned by name in the CIA and State Dept. papers, said he plans to sue the government for attempting to discredit him.

John Shattuck of the ACLU said the documents were finally secured out of court under the Freedom of Information Act nearly two years after the suit was filed.

Warren Report Critics

The intelligence dispatches listed authors, editors and reporters who published material blasting the Warren Report. A CIA report noted: "Our organization is directly involved in the assassination probe.

"Among other facts, we contributed information to the investigation," a report states. "Conspiracy theorists have frequently thrown suspicion on our organization.

"The aim of this dispatch is to provide material for countering and discrediting the claims of the conspiracy theorists, so as to inhibit the circulation of such claims in other countries."

Lane has been among the chief critics of the Warren Report. He claims five and perhaps as many as nine shots were fired at the President and Texas Gov. John Connally, seriously uncutting the lone gunman theory of the

commission.

The Warren Report states that only three bullets were fired by Lee Harvey Oswald from the Texas School Book Depository building in Dallas.

The CIA's plans to discredit critics included:

- "Discussing the publicity problem with liaison and friendly elite contacts

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State Department, CIA Joined In Move To Discredit Critics Of Warren Report

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(especially politicians and editors), pointing out that the Warren Commission made as thorough an investigation as humanly possible, that the charges of the critics are without serious foundation, and that further speculative discussion only plays into the hands of the opposition.

• "Pointing out also that parts of the conspiracy talk appear to be deliberately generated by Communist propagandists . . .

• "Employing propaganda assets to answer and refute the attacks of critics, book reviews and feature articles are particularly appropriate for this purpose."

Lane said the CIA dispatch states, "Our play should point out that the critics are:

• "Wedded to theories adopted before the evidence was in.

• "Politically interested.

• "Financially interested.

• "Hasty and inaccurate in their research.

• "Infatuated with their own theories."

Lane said the State Dept.'s role was less cloak and dagger. It included meeting with world leaders who doubted the official lone gunman theory in the assassination.

In a 1964 documented case cited in government communiques, a State Dept. official in Kampala, Uganda, "demanded" a meeting with Abuk Mayanja, minister of education.

Mayanja had attended a meeting of the International Assn. of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), which formed an independent commission to investigate the Kennedy murder.

After hearing evidence presented by attorney and author Lane, Mayanja stated: "It is relatively doubtful that Kennedy was killed by Oswald.

"It is much more likely that he was killed as a result of a carefully planned conspiracy of very important men in the U.S. Army, government and big business who were opposed to policies Kennedy stood for."

The statement caused a flurry of State Dept. activity. An official, identi-

fied in a document as "Deming," said the attack on the Warren Commission Report was an "obvious attempted smear.

"Unfortunately, it will be given some credence in Africa where the written word is given more credit than it deserves even in more educated circles," Deming noted in a report with copies to the CIA, FBI and Secret Service.

"I suggest all possible steps be taken to discredit IADL and Americans involved in making these false charges."

American pressure apparently silenced Mayanja's criticism, Deming reported later.

"I said his statement to the press indicated he had been completely taken in by the Communist-led IADL conference which obviously cooked up the resolution for the investigation of the Kennedy assassination for clearly ulterior propaganda purposes," Deming stated.

An ACLU official said the government "conceded that the State Dept. and CIA documents could be released, but only after many delays."

A State Dept. official admitted the papers were authentic.