

# Why Cambodia Aid Is Justified

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# The Questions That Just Won't Go Away

Suddenly we are nose-deep in conspiracy theories and cover-up charges again. Now that Watergate has finally moved off stage, the curtain re-opens on the mystery that challenges Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians" for most revivals in the American theater — Who Really Killed John F. Kennedy?

There are new claims of evidence challenging the findings of the Warren Commission, and charges leveled against the Central Intelligence Agency give them enough plausibility to overcome the skepticism that greeted earlier conspiracy theories. And still alive in the wings are the incomplete dramas of who else was involved in the killing of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, and what really happened at Chappaquiddick?

The public curiosity attending these questions cannot be expected to die of neglect, as Richard Nixon expected of Watergate. That experience taught us that we can dig out the truth no matter who is sitting on it, and no one is going to be satisfied until all of the doubts are cleared up. The sooner authorities look forward with confidence again as a nation — rather than backwards with suspicion.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY of the public and the press to keep these issues alive until the truth is known and all skepticism laid to rest. Watergate demonstrated the power of investigative reporting to dig out the facts despite a desperate cover-up attempt, although there were special circumstances: people were willing to talk (as long as they weren't identified), and the evidence was all there on the tapes. It would have come out eventually anyway. It is not going to be as easy to get to the bottom of these other mysteries, but public pressure and resourceful journalism apparently are going to have to lead the effort.

Perhaps there is nothing significant to the new theories, as government, FBI and CIA officials would have us believe. But their credibility is so far eroded that few will accept their assurances on faith. And there appears enough substance to the claims that

they must be dealt with seriously and openly enough to inspire confidence in any new conclusions.

THE NEWS is chattering with charges that the CIA plotted with the Mafia to assassinate Fidel Castro in the early 60's, and may have been involved in the assassinations of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic and Francisco Duvalier in Haiti. Two former aides of Robert Kennedy have confirmed the Castro plot — but insist

## Perspective

that Kennedy squealed it. Now rumors have been revived that there is a Castro link to the assassination of President Kennedy — in retaliation for the attempts on his own life.

Dick Gregory, the black comedian who found nothing was funny anywhere, claims that former CIA agents and Watergate felons E. Howard Hunt and Bernard Barker were arrested in Dallas the day of the assassination. Another conducting electronic analysis of Lee Harvey Oswald's voice, taped

will not stop, rather it will increase. . . . even be gone before a dull red candle will not burn.

*(Aid) might give the government just enough leverage to reach that humane and orderly surrender, rather than lying helpless before whatever retaliatory massacre the invaders wish to inflict.*

We will have been false to ourselves, to our word and to our friends. No one should think for a moment that we can walk away from that without a deep sense of shame."

God, how hopelessly old-fashioned. How Eagle Scoutish, how redoubtable the Lafayette Escadrille, Lord Leese, Bundles for Britain, the Berlin Airlift,

ALSO UNEXPLAINED is why spectators in the fight front of the presidential limousine dove to the ground looking behind them for the source of a shot or shots they heard, and why several of them, with a number of Dallas policemen, tumbled the grassy knoll and picked fence in

front of the car in search of the assassin. (Pictures show a shadowy figure in this area before the shots are fired, but gone immediately afterwards.)

There are lingering doubts that Oswald could have fired his Mannlicher-Carcano, with its awkward bolt action, three times in rapid succession and scored direct hits with each shot on a target moving away from him. At least one expert claims the one bullet recovered did not come from Oswald's gun — leading to the disturbing suspicion that someone fudged the evidence.

Through the 1½ years that have elapsed, there have been frequent calls to reopen the investigation, from those written off as kooks to distinguished citizens, but everyone concerned professes satisfaction with the Warren Report. Why? Why, with all of these obviously unexplained questions, does the Kennedy family claim to be satisfied? Why would the CIA be involved anyway?

THESE ARE DISTURBING questions. So is the fact that James

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It clearly would demonstrate to the world that this country still does not turn away from its allies just because they are surrounded and outnumbered. And it would assure that when Cambodia does go, it cannot be said that it went because the United States reneged on its commitment. The divisive potential of an argument over that in domestic politics as well as abroad is too depressing to explore today.

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aid can be passed, before this reaches print.

If the situation is beyond redemption, it is argued, why bother to spend money on it? Of course, if the situation were hopeful, that would be more than reason enough to let the Cambodians go it without rice or shells paid for by us. Heads the other side wins, tails the Cambodians lose.

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The Inside Story