

PROPAGANDA NOTES

Series B : BACKGROUND MATERIALS

15 May 1967

MORE MATERIAL-ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

1. In , dated 4 January 1967, we provided background, classified and unclassified, on the discussion of the Warren Commission Report, and we suggested possible action to counter criticism of the Commission. Since that dispatch was written, the discussion of the case has developed further. On the negative side, Jim Garrison, the District Attorney of New Orleans, has attempted to win a political name for himself (or to lay the foundation for another bestseller) by resurrecting the case, using witnesses influenced by hypnosis and sodium pentothal to prove an alleged "conspiracy." Abroad, some people have probably assumed that Garrison is a federal official, so that they either believe that the Warren Commission is now being officially discredited or that the US government does not know what it is doing. For those who are aware that local politics are involved and that Garrison has failed to make any case whatever, the Garrison affair has still presented an unsavory picture of US criminal police and prosecution tactics. Garrison has been fully exposed in NEWSWEEK, 15 May 1967.

2. On the positive side, two excellent pieces of material have come into our possession, defending the Commission against its critics. One is an article by Arthur L. Goodhart, "The Mysteries of the Kennedy Assassination and the English Press," which appeared in the January issue of the English legal journal, THE LAW QUARTERLY REVIEW. Goodhart shows, from the standpoint of a veteran professor of law (at Oxford University), that none of the critics, and particularly not Mark Lane or Edward Jay Epstein, has presented a case which would stand up in court. He concludes: "That there has been a sudden wave of these recent publications proves nothing; it must be remembered that however many zeros are added together, the result will still be zero."

3. The other item, still better, is a new book by Charles Roberts, entitled THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION. This gives convincing answers to the major criticisms of the Report, and shows how the critics have distorted and misread the evidence. Roberts is NEWSWEEK's White House correspondent, and he was sitting in the front seat of the press bus following the Kennedy car when the assassination took place. He has carefully examined not only the Warren Commission's Report volume, but also the 26 supplementary volumes recording the Commission's Hearings. He reviews the ideas of the leading critics, such as Lane, Epstein,

Document Number 1081-963

for FOIA Review on SEP 1976

RECORD COPY

Harold Weisberg, and Penn Jones, Jr. (On 10 April 1967, PRESS COMMENT carried the two most pertinent of a series of newspaper articles by Roberts on the assassination. These articles are no substitute for the book, however.)

4. has obtained a supply of copies of Roberts' book and can provide these and reproductions of the Goodhart article to potential users. We also have reproductions of NEWSWEEK's exposé of Garrison. Furthermore, a limited number of copies of the Warren Commission Report is available if needed.