

The Kennedy Assassination as Seen by De Gaulle

By Ronald Koven

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PARIS, Oct. 18.—Hardly an educated Frenchman can be found who believes that President Kennedy was not the victim of some deep, dark plot. And no wonder.

The chief French believer in the conspiracy theory turns out to be the chief Frenchman himself—President Charles de Gaulle—if the revelations being made this week can be accepted as truth. There is every reason to believe they can be.

"The police were in on the job. Either they ordered it to be done, or else they allowed it to be done. In any case, they're in on the job."

That was reportedly Gen. de Gaulle's considered conclusion upon his return from President Kennedy's Washington funeral in late 1963.

The general's words are quot-

An Authority on the General Reveals His Beliefs in New Book

ed in a major new contribution to Gaulology to be published here in a few days, "La Tragédie du Général" (The General's Tragedy) by Raymond Tournoux, France's leading De Gaulle authority. It is being published by Plon, publisher of the general's own memoirs, and the magazine "Paris-Match."

Gen. de Gaulle probably did not invent the plot theory in France. He simply shared the intellectual reflex of his compatriots, who have witnessed innumerable political plots in France's long history.

Within hours of President Kennedy's assassination, a Paris commercial radio station broadcast from the United States a

minute-by-minute description of what happened in Dallas which hauntingly recalled the machine-gun attack on Gen. de Gaulle by a band of Secret Army Organization (OAS) terrorists at Petit-Clamart, near Paris 15 months before.

The following are Gen. de Gaulle's views of the Kennedy assassination and its aftermath, as reported by Mr. Tournoux after exhaustive research among the persons the general talks to freely.

In his refusal to believe that the assassination could have been the work of a lone fanatic, Gen. de Gaulle himself drew the parallel to Petit-Clamart. "His story is my story. What hap-

pened to Kennedy almost happened to me. The assassination of the President of the United States in Dallas is the assassination which could have struck down the French chief of state in 1950, 1961, 1962 here or in Algiers."

Cowboys and Indians

He also saw a parallel between the already mounting conflict between whites and Negroes in America and the struggle between Algerian Moslems and Europeans as a background to the assassination attempts.

"It's like a cowboy and Indian story, but it's really only an OAS story. The police are thick with the (Algerian) ultras. The (American) ultras are the Ku Klux Klan, the John Birch Society and all those secret extreme rightist associations.

"It's the story which would (Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

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have happened to us if we hadn't given independence to Algeria. It's the story of races who can't get along."

For the general, Lee Harvey Oswald was only an unfortunate "front man" designated in advance as the scapegoat to set off an anti-Communist "witch hunt" to "distract attention."

"They got hold of this Communist who wasn't really one, a nullity, a fanatic... a marvelous accused. The idea was to make

people believe that the guy acted out of fanaticism and love for communism."

"Things Went Wrong"

The general said "they" planned to shoot Oswald on sight to prevent a trial, but things went wrong. Oswald got suspicious and took flight. A policeman got killed. There were witnesses. A trial had to be avoided at all cost. Things might have come out.

"So the police got hold of an informer, someone they had where they wanted him. That juy killed the false assassin on the pretext of defending Kennedy's memory."

"What a laugh," concluded the general. "Every police in the world is alike when it comes to dirty work."

If race hatred was not directly involved, Gen. de Gaulle said, the climate of violence it had created was responsible.

"The consequence of that affair could be a new war of secession. The liking for Westerns has something to do with it. It's all a

Western. It's also the natural bent of Americans for witch-hunts. Sometimes they hunt Communist witches, sometimes black witches. Believe me, America's troubles are only beginning... America is less and less of a stable country which can be counted on."

Vital France

The general also concluded after the Kennedy funeral that France was a vital factor in American politics.

"You know, I realized during my trip that France is a tremendous thing in America. Tremendous, do you hear! Nixon and Rockefeller center their publicity on the fact that I received them for lunch or in tête-à-tête... (Johnson's) first official act as President was to say that I'd come to see him in Washington. Johnson needs me to get reelected..."

Mr. Tournoux speaks of what Gen. de Gaulle once publicly called "the dark fascination for things which deal death." The author speaks of the general's temptation to make his exit in Wagnerian glory.

It recalls the private comment of a shrewd French journalist when he heard the general's immediate public tribute to President Kennedy—the day of the murder—