

Johnson had doubts about Oswald

From IAN McDONALD

Washington, April 28

Former President Johnson was reported today to have deleted from a forthcoming television interview some remarks in which he questioned the main conclusion of the Warren commission's investigation into the death of President Kennedy.

Mr. Johnson's comments in the interview, to be broadcast on Saturday, concerned his reservations about the commission's finding that President Kennedy was murdered by a lone assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Apparently Mr. Johnson asked for the deletions on the ground of "national security" after listening to the sound track of the interview about three weeks ago.

According to the Washington Post, which received details of the incident from sources in the broadcasting company, Mr. Johnson had been asked by the interviewer, Mr. Walter Cronkite, for his opinion of the Warren commission's conclusions.

He replied that he had never been "absolutely" satisfied with the commission's report. In particular, he expressed doubts about the "motivations and connexions" of Oswald, apparently referring to his supposed relationship with the Communist Party and the circumstances of his defection to the Soviet Union.

The reservations expressed by the former President, who himself set up the Warren commission, are certain to encourage renewed criticisms from the determined band of sceptics who have consistently questioned its conclusions.

One critic of the commission's report, Mr. Harold Weisberg, told me today that Mr. Johnson's comments cast doubt on "the basic conclusion of the Warren report that Lee Harvey Oswald was entirely alone and entirely unassisted. The President himself believed otherwise and believed his own Warren report was wrong."

In Brief

Saboteurs raid U S mission

About 10 young men, believed to be left-wingers, attacked a warehouse used by the American aid mission in Ankara early yesterday, causing damage estimated at £4,000.

The raiders blew up two vehicles and started fires. They shot at the night watchman when he tried to intervene, but he was not hit.

Radio rescue: Two friends chatting over walkie talkies in Morwell, Victoria, picked up distress signals from a woman drifting in a disabled boat 1,500 miles away off northern Queensland. They informed the police and she was rescued.

Heart transplant: The heart of a 14-year-old girl, killed in a car accident, was grafted into a 50-year-old Roman Catholic priest in a transplant operation in Toronto.

Plane crash: Seven people were killed when an Australian aircraft carrying 11 people crashed in the New Guinea highlands three miles from Kainantu.

Polling day: Elections to the Brazilian Parliament and state assemblies will be held on November 15.

Zoo ship: One of the biggest shipped batches of wild animals ever to leave South Africa is being shipped from Durban to west Germany and Holland. The animals include 12 elephants, 12 white rhino, 52 zebra and 20 ostriches.

Answer to oil: A Canadian scientist has proposed that oil-eating microbes be used in Nova Scotia's Chedabucto Bay to clean up oil sludge resulting from the sinking of the tanker Arrow last February.

Boulder misses President Giri

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