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ZODIAC

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(ZNS) A PROFESSOR AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS CLAIMS TO HAVE OBTAINED EXTENSIVE DOCUMENTS WHICH ALLEGEDLY PROVE THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY BEHIND THE 1963 ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY.

PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR RICHARD POPKIN, A VETERAN RESEARCHER IN THE J.F.K. MURDER CASE, IS CHARGING THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS THE VICTIM OF C.I.A. OPERATIVES WHO USED SOPHISTICATED BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES TO PROGRAM THE ACTUAL ASSASSINS. ACCORDING TO POPKIN, THE ASSASSINS HAD BEEN PROGRAMMED "LIKE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATES" TO KILL J.F.K.

POPKIN REPORTS HE HAS OBTAINED THOUSANDS OF PAGES OF TRANSCRIPTS OF THE INTERROGATION OF ONE OF THE ALLEGED ASSASSINS WHICH WERE COMPILED BY THE PHILIPPINE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION IN 1967. THE PROFESSOR CLAIMS THAT ONE OF THE ASSASSINS, WHOSE NAME IS BEING WITHHELD, WAS ARRESTED BY THE PHILIPPINE POLICE IN 1967 FOR ALLEGEDLY PLOTTING TO KILL PRESIDENT MARCOS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

THE PROFESSOR SAYS THOSE INTERROGATION SESSIONS TOOK PLACE WITH THE SUPERVISION OF A TRAINED HYPNOTIST WHO UNCOVERED THE FACT THAT THE MAN ARRESTED IN THE PHILIPPINES HAD ALSO BEEN IN DEALEY PLAZA WHEN PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED.

POPKIN REPORTS THAT AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT SOURCE -- A MAN HE IDENTIFIES AS A FORMER C.I.A. OFFICIAL -- HAS PROVIDED HIM WITH PREVIOUSLY SECRET AGENCY DOCUMENTS WHICH NAME NAMES AND BACK UP MANY OF THE MAJOR ALLEGATIONS UNCOVERED BY THE PHILIPPINE INTERROGATORS.

POPKIN HAS INFORMED U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL EDWARD LEVY AND DALLAS DISTRICT ATTORNEY HENRY WADE OF HIS POTENTIALLY-EXPLOSIVE FINDINGS. THE PROFESSOR SAYS HE IS FLYING TO WASHINGTON AT THE END OF THIS WEEK TO MEET WITH JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND WITH MEMBERS OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE WHICH IS INVESTIGATING THE C.I.A. -- ZODIAC

Note: Popkin (although very busy) can be reached through Wednesday at his San Diego home: (714) 453-6966.

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