A scholarly appraisal of American assassinations

By John Jacobs

[illegible] University of California at Berkeley professor Peter Dale Scott's first [illegible] teaching [illegible] and [illegible] at the university.

[illegible] the [illegible] century has [illegible] years [illegible] title.

And [illegible] has become [illegible] the serious student of the assassinations in this country [illegible].

A [illegible] is taken [illegible] historians [illegible] Americans [illegible] manuscripts [illegible] specialist on the [illegible] Broadcast [illegible].

[illegible] writing [illegible] parties [illegible] bread [illegible] blood and [illegible] years [illegible] two years with the Shah [illegible] Pellar.

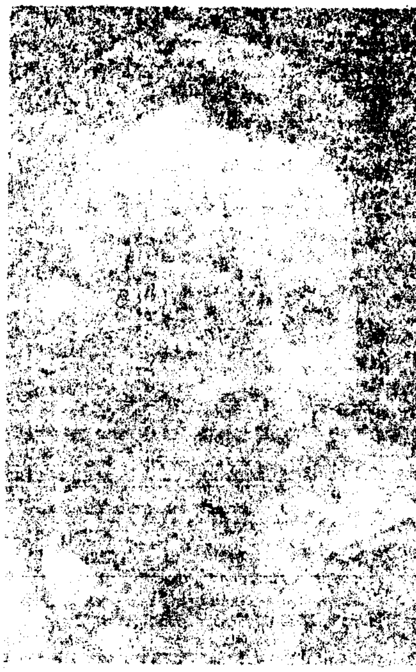
[illegible] an [illegible] professor [illegible] after [illegible] on the [illegible] Latin [illegible] Department [illegible].

[illegible] of his [illegible] profession [illegible] in society.

[illegible] that [illegible] control [illegible] surrounded by books, [illegible] and news clippings.

[illegible] about the Vietnam [illegible] the war was [illegible].

[illegible] the new [illegible]



[illegible]

UC Professor Peter Dale Scott

[illegible] them they [illegible] position of the North Vietnam [illegible] and that led to the [illegible].

Scott's [illegible] book on the subject, which he co-authored with UC professor Franz Schurmann and [illegible] "The Politics of [illegible] in Vietnam." His research there [illegible] led him to consider the role the CIA played in the war, particularly after the Kennedy assassination and from there to the assassination [illegible].

The Kennedy administration, Scott says, had decided in October 1963 to withdraw 1,000 troops from Vietnam. On Nov. 24 the announcement was made two days after Kennedy was dead. And two days after that, Scott says, a secret Defense Department memo was approved — [illegible] significantly changed the nature of American commitment to Vietnam [illegible] 1,000 troops were never withdrawn.

"The first real commitment to win the Vietnam war was made on Nov. 26. [illegible] wasn't a 180-degree shift, but it was [illegible] shift in the language of commitment."

Scott also says that, before President [illegible] was also toying with the idea of a rapprochement with Fidel Castro, following the [illegible] Bay of Pigs, the [illegible] the year before and [illegible] CIA and Cuban [illegible] revolution.

The professor says he doesn't believe [illegible] was any one single motive for the killing. He noted that both Vietnam and Cuba [illegible] important symbols [illegible] and most upsetting to [illegible] by what [illegible].

Of all the assassinations [illegible] the '60s and early '70s [illegible] motivated, he says [illegible] Robert Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King [illegible] George Wallace.

"There was a period in this history when assassinations were used to determine the outcome of elections. [illegible] 1964 John Kennedy was taken out. In 1968 Robert Kennedy was taken out. And in 1972 George Wallace was taken out."

Scott says critics of the [illegible] Kennedy assassination [illegible] are [illegible] pressed [illegible] Pulling a freshly typed manuscript [illegible] Scott provided a [illegible] research. He writes that a British freelance [illegible] was in jail in Havana in 1959 with [illegible] gangster named Santo," presumably, Scott says, Santos Trafficante, who [illegible] with CIA attempts to kill Castro. [illegible] the journalist said Santos was visited by [illegible] named Ruby, presumably, according to Scott, Jack Ruby, who later killed Lee Harvey Oswald after Oswald killed Kennedy. The journalist, John Wilson-Hudson, offered [illegible] of Jack Ruby for the FBI to determine whether he had been the visitor. The FBI [illegible] according to Scott [illegible].

"Prior information available [illegible] Bureau that Ruby in Havana, Cuba in 1959 [illegible] an urgent FBI cable to its representative in London refusing the offer. "Bureau desires no further investigation re Wilson."

Scott is annoyed [illegible] the [illegible] conclusion of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. This [illegible] found, based on scientific and [illegible] evidence, that there is "high probability that two gunmen fired at President John F. Kennedy."

[illegible] the [illegible] statement [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Meanwhile, the responsible press [illegible] forth [illegible] it doesn't believe and which are obviously absurd. It's absurd [illegible] two [illegible] instead of [illegible].

[illegible] corner of his office Scott [illegible] a copy of the Church Committee final report on its investigation [illegible] that about [illegible] to study foreign countries [illegible] for more than $10,000 and that [illegible] the Ford, Rockefeller or Carnegie foundations, were funded by the CIA.

"We have such a large academic establishment in this country that there is room for people to study not just the elites of Africa but the elites of this country, and almost no one does this ... The CIA has helped select the academic elites [illegible] by funding them. There should be [illegible] individuals who look at how this country is run — and that includes such embarrassing relations as the CIA and the university or Vietnam or the Kennedy assassination."