Computer to Study JFK Murder Photos

By Thomas O'Toole
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A computer specialist named Richard Sprague said yesterday that he will undertake a computer analysis of photogrphs of President Kennedy's assassination to prove that Kennedy was shot by more than one assassin.

Onwer of his own consulting firm in Hartsdale, N.Y., Sprague said he will be assisted in his analysis by a trade magazine called "Computers and Automation" and by the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, which has headquarters in Washington.

Sprague said that an estimted 75 people took more than 510 photographs in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, of President Kennedy's motorcade as it passed through Dealty Plaza, where he was murdered. Some of these 510 photographs are movies, Sprague said, so that the total number of picture frames of the assassination events is over 25,000.

"I personally interviewed every one of the photographers I could find," Sprague said from his home yesterday. "Most of the photographstthey took were never even asked for by the Warren Commission."

In examining all the available photographs, Sprague said he found evidence to support the charge that President Kennedy was killed by at least three gunmen, who fired a total of six shots at the president.

What he has set out to prove with computers, Sprague said, in the May issue of "Computers and Automatin" is that the physics of the shooting, the timing of critical events and evidence hidden in photographs of the crime will all show that the assassination was brought off by as many as 50 men at the scene of the crime.

Through a technique known as "image enhancement," Sprague said that a computer will be able to identify puffs of smoke as the discharge of a weapon. It will also be able to locte the whereabouts of weapons and pinpoint the time of firing.

Sprague said that he has begun to form a computer "model" of the program he intends to use to prove his case. He said this model is being worked out by a computer to which the magazine "Computers and Automation" has access.

When his model is ready, Sprague said, he will undertake the actual computer analysis of th photographs. He said he will do this by renting time on a large computer, at a cost of $15,000 to $20,000, money he said will be provided by the magazine and by the Committee to Investigate Assassinations.

"We're not looking for holes in the Warren Commissin Report," Sprague said. "We're trying to solve a crime."