

1/2/92 USA Today

COMMENT

'JFK': Premise fatally flawed

**Retired Col. William
Corbett says history
refutes Oliver Stone.**

Oliver Stone botched it from the start: the motive.

In a TV interview, Stone says, "Look for a political motive . . . as to why Kennedy was killed. . . . Given a motive, then you start to look for the enemies."

Stone contends John F. Kennedy's efforts to end the Vietnam war caused "military-industrial complex" conspirators to plot his death.

Hogwash!

As a young company commander, I was among the first to answer President Kennedy's call for volunteers to join Special Forces and assist the USA in defeating communist aggression in Vietnam.

I was in Vietnam when President Kennedy was assassinated and can verify that U.S. strength levels were increasing and plans to introduce U.S. combat units, dramatically increasing U.S. military participation in the war, were being implemented.

In the USA, those were heady days when we were "winning the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese people," the strategic hamlet program was "separating the communist fish from their friendly sea" and there was "light at the end of the tunnel." There is not one shred of evidence from that

time, actual or circumstantial, in military or political circles, of a White House effort to wind down the war. To reverse Stone's logic, "given no motive, there are no enemies."

Radical liberals, like Stone, constantly seek some left-wing, paranoid scenario that will besmirch the military and intelligence agencies. They have never been able to accept that Kennedy started the war — Nixon ended the war.

Indeed, over the years their revisionist efforts have gone so far as to title it "Nixon's war." This revisionism started after the assassination and when the "best and brightest" Kennedy aides wrote their books.

Even they, so soon after events when facts were fresh, dared not contend that Kennedy had been in the process of stopping the war. Their efforts were restricted to contending that Kennedy *would soon have recognized* the futility of the war effort and moved to bring it to an end.

The lapse of time, and increasing public interest in quick food, facts and history, allows revisionist Stone to blur time, events, passions and truths.

He has done the nation a great disservice and sullied some outstanding U.S. organizations and institutions.

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