

The Tears of Autumn, a bitter, viciously anti-Kennedy book, is a kind of switch on the E. Howard Hunt glorification of the CIA. It blames JFK - personally - for the Diem assassinations, has the Diem/Nhu regime and personalities as ~~xx~~ only nationalistic, patriotically searching for an independent, representative and free society, and attributes the JFK assassination to the revenge of the Diem family.

This is not the entire package. The Cubans were involved through the North Vietnamese. The Russians paid a Mafia type \$1,000,000 to get Ruby to kill Oswald.

And the hero is a non-violent, free-floating super-Bondish, world-covering agent of agents, a one-man Agency. It is a skilled propaganda job for the spookery, all but one of whose people is as kind, decent, thoughtful a human as the world holds.

Of all the white characters in the book only three are not goodguys. One is the personification of JFK, the other this Polish-German named agent in the southeast of Asia, the third the Cuban who arranged for Oswald. It says.

The hardback of the Saturday Review Press is of 1974 copyright. Probably the end of the year because the Post's review is of 1/75. The Fawcett reprint is of 1/76/

Aside from its smoothness and overt doctrines what attracted my attention re the JFK assassination is the kind of minor detail that one would not ordinarily expect from a single novelist, ranging from the geographic (even after discounting for improvisation of simple invention) to where Oswald's post-office box was, the Terminal Annex. The suggestion is that Charles McCarry had a little help, certain also if he is not a linguist.

The timing of this book is as interesting as the money invested in it. The Publishers Weekly play was three full pages. It came at a time the CIA needed help and was about to sponsor a campaign paralleled later as with an earlier effort to foster the same kick-back notion through Cuba alone.

If it is an accident the coincidences are remarkable.

So is the number of variations on the basic theme of the CIA's innocence and JFK's responsibility.

With the normal minimum of six months between the time a book is completed and it appears this one was time to the height of Watergate and the embarrassment to the CIA in it. It was done by the middle of 1974 if not earlier.

HW 10/30/76