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TV Documentary Says Three French Gangsters Killed JFK

¶LONDON (AP) — A British television documentary claims U.S. organized crime was behind the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and that his shooting was carried out by three French gangsters.

¶The two-hour Central Television program entitled "The Men Who Killed Kennedy" says the assassins were from Marseilles. The documentary is to be broadcast tonight. Details of the program were made available today.

¶The documentary names one of the alleged killers as Lucien Sarti and says he was shot to death in Mexico in 1972. It a second alleged killer is believed to be working in Colombia's cocaine trade and the third is understood to be living in Marseilles after his recent release from prison.

¶Central Television, a company in Britain's commercial Independent Television network, said the program was based on a four-year inquiry by American writer and researcher Steve Rivele and the program's British director, Nigel Turner.

¶Kennedy was killed as he rode in a motorcade through Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. American Lee Harvey Oswald was charged with the shooting but was shot dead two days later in a police station by Jack Ruby. The Warren Commission found Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy.

¶There have been numerous theories over the years alleging Oswald was not the killer or that he was part of a conspiracy. Numerous organizations, countries and personalities have been alleged to have been involved in Kennedy's death.

¶The program says Kennedy and his brother Robert, then the U.S. attorney-general, were cracking down on organized crime at the time of the assassination.

¶Turner said: "At last we can show that all those Americans who, for 25 years, believed in Oswald's innocence and in a greater conspiracy were correct."

¶Rivele claims in the program that the three Frenchmen alleged to have killed Kennedy were hired through organized crime circles in the French Mediterranean island of Corsica.

¶A purported drug smuggler who claims he was offered the underworld contract to assassinate Kennedy but did not accept it, and a former drug trafficker who reportedly became a government informant appear on the program to support Rivele's allegations.

¶The documentary claims the U.S. and French governments have sufficient evidence to act against the two surviving Frenchmen.

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