

Johnson's Doubts On Kennedy Death

New York

Former President Lyndon B. Johnson indicated in an interview in 1969 that "international connections" might have been involved in Lee Harvey Oswald's assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas six years earlier.

This was disclosed by Walter Cronkite on "CBS Evening News" last night when he broadcast portions of an interview with Johnson that had been deleted at the former President's request on the ground of national security.

Cronkite said he was making the deleted portions public because of a column written Thursday by Marianne Means of the King Features Syndicate.

Miss Means said that Johnson told her in confidence a year before he died that Oswald had acted alone in the assassination but was "either under the influence or the orders" of Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba.

Miss Means explained that she was breaking the former President's confidence "because Johnson's opinion appears to debunk the current speculation that the Central Intelligence Agency might somehow have been involved in the Kennedy assassination."

In his broadcast last night, Cronkite said that he had asked Johnson whether he was satisfied that there had been no international conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy. He then showed deleted portions of the interview in which Johnson said:

"I can't honestly say that I've ever been completely relieved of the fact that there might have been international connections."

Cronkite — You mean you still feel that there might have been?

Johnson — Well I have not completely discounted it.

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