

...chanced cruise missiles against Iraqi targets, was not reported until Monday.

Seven rounds of 2,000-pound shells were lobbed toward Iraqi command bunkers just north of the Saudi-Kuwait border, destroying some of them, U.S. military sources said.

The Missouri, whose main deck was the stage for the Japanese surrender ending World War II, had to pull within 25 miles of Kuwait to get its guns in range. But Johnston said the ship and its 1,600-member crew had not been put "at unnecessary risk."

Garrison

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had the goody two-shoes aura about him," said Rosemary James, a former reporter for The New Orleans States-Item, who helped break the story of Garrison's investigation in 1967.

Elected district attorney in 1962, Garrison was a popular, colorful politician who made national headlines when he went public with his investigation into the Kennedy assassination.

According to Garrison, Lee Harvey Oswald — whom the Warren Commission identified as Kennedy's lone assassin — was one of several red herrings introduced by a faction of the CIA working with anti-Castro Cuban exiles. Garrison has written several books on the subject, and film rights to the most recent, the 1989 "On the Trail of the Assassins — My Investigation and Prosecution of the Murder of President Kennedy," were bought by Stone's production company.

Last week, a spokeswoman at Stone's office in Hollywood wouldn't comment on the project. But Kristina Hare conceded that New Orleans locations are being

scouted and local actors are being cast in small roles.

According to several sources, filming will begin in New Orleans in May or June. Dallas will be another location.

Apparently only a select few have seen the screenplay by Stone, who won an Academy Award for the Vietnam War drama "Platoon."

"They call it 'Project X,'" said a local crew member, who said he would be fired if his name was used.

One New Orleansian who says he has read the screenplay is Garrison, 69, now a judge on the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal.

Even he can't say much. When Garrison sold Stone the rights to his book, he signed a contract prohibiting him from talking about the movie.

He's not happy about that "because I'm not really great at keeping a secret, especially about something as exciting as this, especially coming out in your own home town."

But Garrison is not entirely closed-mouthed.

Yes, he said, it's his understanding that Costner would portray him ("a first-class selection," said Garrison) and that he would be the central character.

But he said it is wrong to say,

"the guys in the blacks hats," they're allowed to go out and do anything they want to do," Schwarzkopf said.

"They can gas innocent women and children, they can loft Scuds against civilian populations, they can use human shields — all of those things are OK for them. But because we're the guys in white hats, we have to stand up, allow ourselves to be shot, take on overwhelming numbers, and not use the weapons that we have available. I just don't understand that mentality."

As some have, that the movie will focus on the late Clay Shaw, director of the International Trade Mart, whom Garrison unsuccessfully prosecuted for conspiring to kill Kennedy.

"It's bigger than that," Garrison said. "The subject is the murder of Jack Kennedy."

Garrison said he has met with Stone three or four times a year for two years. He called the finished screenplay "a beautiful job."

Garrison said Stone also purchased rights to several other books about the assassination, mainly as a hedge against lawsuits. In addition to Garrison's book, he said one other book, the 1989 "Crosstre — The Plot That Killed Kennedy" by William Marrs, would receive screen credit as a source. That book is a review of conspiracy theories.

Does the screenplay closely follow the conspiracy theories that Garrison promotes in his book? "I couldn't say that without violating the contract," he said. But he would say that it "closely follows" his book.

And it's no violation for him to say just how much he likes it.

"I'm happy with the script, not so much because it builds me up in any particular way, because I think it's more objective than

mental Protection Agency \$117 million more than last year for Clean Air Act enforcement, a 141 percent increase.

In other environmental and health matters, the administration would increase spending on seafood inspection by \$23 million. The increase, the budget document said, reflects the growing concern of Congress, consumer groups and industry about the limited scope of the federal government's inspection effort, which falls far short of that devoted to poultry and beef.

That, I'm happy with the script because it's a magnificent job and to be associated with a guy of this caliber is a real experience. It's like having a Eugene O'Neill write it."

But others who recall Garrison's investigation say they hope Stone takes a critical approach.

"Clay Shaw was a decent human being and a lot of us felt his life was ruined by someone who was rather irresponsible," James said.

No matter which side of the fence people found themselves on during the controversy, most agree that the story could be the meat of a fascinating movie.

"I think if they show a district attorney working against almost impossible odds, and they show Garrison's strengths as well as his weaknesses, someone who went off the deep end at times, I think it can be an excellent production," said William Alford Jr., who was fresh out of law school when he joined Garrison's office as an assistant during the conspiracy investigation.

"But if they just go in with Garrison on a white horse, and that's what I thought when I heard about it, it's going to be a 'arty' tale."

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