

Evans and Novak

The Irish Mafia Meets in Secrecy, Concludes RFK Should Hold Back

WASHINGTON—In a plush Manhattan setting, key members of John F. Kennedy's Irish Mafia and brain-trust held a secret meeting last month on whether Sen. Robert F. Kennedy should run for the 1968 Democratic nomination against President Johnson.

There all but unanimous conclusion: Sen. Kennedy (who wasn't at the meeting) should not try to take the nomination from President Johnson, even though one or two of those present thought he could do it if he tried.

The meeting was called by Pierre Salinger, who was in New York with his pretty wife, Nicole.

Mr. Salinger, who was President Kennedy's press secretary, has a close personal relationship with Bobby Kennedy.

Among those invited to the Salinger hotel suite for cocktails were Kenneth O'Donnell, the original head of the JFK Irish Mafia; JFK speechwriters Ted Sorensen and Richard Goodwin; ex-Kennedy White House aides Charles U. "Chuck" Daley and Frederick Dutton; Ivan Nestingen, under-secretary of health, education and welfare under JFK.

New York state Democratic chairman John J. Burns, a protégé of Bobby Kennedy's, dropped in briefly, but took little part in the political discussion.

The "clear consensus," in the words of one participant, was that Sen. Kennedy should continue his present path — backing Mr. Johnson for reelection.

The President's calamitous decline in popularity was noted. He trailed Sen. Kennedy in the respected Iowa poll 65 per cent to 23 per cent among Iowa Democrats on Oct. 29. Nevertheless, the feeling among the Kennedy men was that Mr. Johnson would control the Democratic convention and that even if Sen. Kennedy won the nomination it wouldn't be worth having with the party savagely split down the middle.

In a move long overdue, South Vietnamese government is revamping its entire internal security system in an effort to crack the inner machine.



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the notorious Communist "infrastructure" — its political military organization in hamlets.

The first step is to substitute a cheat-proof identification for the flimsy ID cards carried by most citizens. The card, developed with some of the top experts in the United States, have the fingerprints, a photograph, a plastic cover that is all but identical with the card.

It will be required of every citizen of carry the new times. This is a valid effort on the part of those who are guerrilla.

one can see the signs of a terrorist design that is not