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Kennedy U.S. Reaction
By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reaction from public figures came swiftly in the wake of today's shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy with expression of shock, sorrow and outrage and prayers for his recovery.

Some commented they feared such violence was becoming commonplace in America.

President Johnson was notified in Washington immediately after word came that the New York senator was shot after finishing a victory speech in Los Angeles.

The White House did not issue any immediate comment from the President.

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey said "our hopes and prayers" are with Kennedy and the other "victims of this dreadful act of violence.

"It is a shocking and terrible thing that has happened," he said at Colorado Springs, Colo., where he was staying prior to a convocation speech at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

"Our hearts go out to Mrs. Kennedy and the children and the families of the other wounded," Humphrey said.

Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy who had gone to bed was awakened and went to the Beverly Hilton hotel ballroom where he asked the stunned crowd to join him in a moment of silent prayer.

McCarthy canceled plans to go to Seattle in furtherance of his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination and said he would fly directly to Washington.

In New York, Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said, "I'm shocked and horrified to think that this type of attempted assassination had become an American habit as it would appear."

James Farmer, civil rights activist said "a terrible contagion of political violence has struck again."

"Americans somehow must learn that debate should be conducted with words, and not bullets," Farmer said. "Once again our hearts go out to the Kennedy family."

Mayor John V. Lindsay said, "This is shocking beyond belief. Thank God none of them was fatally hit. Everyone prays for their recovery."

HP552aed June 5

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LONDON Kennedy Foreign Reaction Roundup A064 add: Horrid."

Crowds gathered at Tokyo newspaper offices to read bulletins pasted in the windows. Men shook their heads in disbelief. Some women wiped tears from their eyes, other muttered prayers.

"Unbelievable," said a Belgian government official in Brussels.

"American political ways are frightening."

Greece's military government expressed "deep sorrow" over the shooting, and Premier George Papadopoulos cabled the senator the government's wishes for a speedy recovery.

Sean McBride, secretary-general of the International Commission of Justice, termed the shooting "a symptom of the lawlessness and brutality of our world." His organization is the Western world's organization of jurists, teachers of law and lawyers.

The government of Thailand expressed "deep shock and regret."

Broadcast reports of the shooting stunned South Africans.

"Is it true? Is he alive?" telephone callers asked newspaper switchboards. The senator's visit there in 1966 aroused enthusiastic support from students and liberals and angry opposition from conservative whites.

HP555aed June 5