

WXPost JUL 23 1975

Ford Opposes Reopening JFK Death Probe

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Ford opposed yesterday the reopening of the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy on the grounds that no evidence has been produced to discredit the Warren Commission findings.

Press secretary Ron Nessen made it clear that Mr. Ford is not prepared to support a suggestion by Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.), a member of the Senate intelligence committee, that the investigation be reopened.

In response to a question on reports that the Central Intelligence Agency was involved in plotting against the life of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro at the time of the Kennedy assassination, Nessen said Mr. Ford believed there was "no evidence" the Warren Commission findings were incorrect.

At a news conference in April, Mr. Ford said that as a member of the Warren Commission he helped draft the report. "We said that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin," the President recalled. "We said that the commission had found no evidence of a conspiracy, foreign or domestic."

The Rockefeller commission report on the CIA said in June that it found no credible evidence of CIA involvement in the Kennedy assassination.

In other developments, Nessen said that the President's invitation to Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn to meet him at the White House was open despite the writer's criticism of the President.

Solzhenitsyn was quoted by The New York Times yesterday as charging that Mr. Ford would be participating in "the betrayal of Eastern Europe" by attending the 35-nation meeting on European security in Helsinki next week.

The Nobel prize winner said he saw no point in meeting the President in view of Mr. Ford's support of the security agreement, The Times said.

Questioned about the security agreement to be signed at the Helsinki conference after two years of negotiations, Nessen said the agreement "in no way legally settles the borders in Eastern Europe." It obligates the signers not to change borders by force but to make any changes by peaceful means, Nessen said.

Critics of the agreement, which the Soviet Union has long sought, have charged that it in effect ratifies Soviet domination of Eastern Europe.

Administration officials, denying this, are expected to em-

phasize in the next few days what they regard as positive benefits to the West.

However, Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) yesterday attacked the President's support of the agreement and said Mr. Ford "ought to stay home."

"By cooperating with [Soviet leader Leonid I.] Brezhnev at the Helsinki summit in fostering the illusion that substantive progress toward greater security in Europe has been made, President Ford is taking us backward, not forward, in the search for a genuine peace," Jackson said.

Jackson called the language on borders "ambiguous."

The President and Mrs. Ford are scheduled to fly to Bonn Saturday and to visit Warsaw, Bucharest and Belgrade as well as Helsinki. They will be away from Washington 10 days.