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Russell-Oswald 310

WASHINGTON AP - Sen. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., says he is convinced someone else worked with Lee Harvey Oswald in planning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Russell, who was a member of the Warren Commission which investigated the assassination, supported the commission's finding that Oswald acted alone in shooting Kennedy.

"I think that any other commission you might appoint today would arrive at that conclusion," Russell said.

He expressed his views in a television interview taped for later broadcast by Atlanta's station WSB-TV. A report of the interview was carried today by the Washington Post in advance of its broadcast.

Elaborating on his view that Oswald had help, Russell said:

"There were too many things—the fact that he was at Minsk in the Soviet Union, and that was the principal center for educating Cuban students . . . Some of the trips he made to Mexico City and a number of discrepancies in the evidence, or as to his means of transportation, the luggage he had and whether or not anyone was with him—that caused me to doubt that he planned it all by himself."

In the interview, Russell told also of his relationships with former President Lyndon B. Johnson, with whom he had worked closely while Johnson was a senator.

As president, Johnson frequently invited him to the White House for informal talks, Russell said.

"He would call me about things, well, like the Dominican incident and things like that, the Panama Canal controversy. He never did stop advising with me on things like that."

Both Russell and Johnson opposed U.S. military intervention in South Vietnam when it was first proposed, Russell said, but once the United States became committed, the senator said he could not criticize Johnson for sending additional forces.

"My complaint with him," Russell said, "was not for sending others in, but because we didn't go on and win the day by closing up the ports of North Vietnam. He let the timid souls in the State Department talk him out of that. He could have ended that war in six months any time."

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