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FIRST LEAD WARREN REACTION A217

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1030 PED

LONDON, MONDAY SEPT. 28 (AP)-THE WARREN REPORT ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S MURDER WON GENERAL ACCEPTANCE IN BRITISH EDITORIALS TODAY AS A COMPETENT AND HONEST DOCUMENT HOLDING DIRE LESSONS FOR THE FREE WORLD.

AMONG FIRST COMMENTARIES, THE ONLY CRITICISM CAME FROM THE COMMUNIST DAILY WORKER, WHICH CALLED IT A WHITEWASH, AND FROM THE 92-YEAR-OLD PHILOSOPHER BERTRAND RUSSELL.

RUSSELL, CHAIRMAN OF A SELF-APPOINTED "WHO KILLED KENNEDY COMMITTEE," SAID OF THE REPORT: "IT IS A SORRILY INCOMPETENT DOCUMENT, AND IT COVERS ITS AUTHORS IN SHAME." HIS AIDES, HOWEVER, CONCEDED THAT HE HAD NOT READ IT, BUT WAS FILLED IN BY TRANSATLANTIC TELEPHONE.

NEWS DISPATCHES FROM WASHINGTON HEADLINED THE REPORT'S CRITICISM OF THE FBI AND SECRET SERVICE, LONG REGARDED HERE AS MODELS OF THEIR TRADE.

OTHER HEADLINES AND EDITORIALS STRESSED THE VULNERABILITY OF A DEMOCRATIC HEAD OF STATE--SOMETHING POINTED OUT BY THE LATE PRESIDENT HIMSELF ON THE MORNING OF HIS ASSASSINATION.

THIS VULNERABILITY HAS SPECIAL MEANING HERE SINCE LATER THIS MONTH QUEEN ELIZABETH II IS DUE TO TOUR CANADA. OFFICIALS BELIEVE HER LIFE MAY BE IN DANGER THERE FROM FRENCH CANADIAN SEPARATISTS.

THE TIMES, INDEPENDENT, SET THE TONE OF MOST NON-COMMUNIST COMMENT BY CALLING THE REPORT "THOROUGH, PAINSTAKING, VOLUMINOUS, FRANK AND ABOVE ALL SCRUPULOUSLY CAREFUL IN ITS ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS."

IT POINTED UP AS ONE OF THE REPORT'S LESSONS: "WHEN ALL COMMISSIONS PROPOSALS FOR TIGHTER SECURITY ARE ADOPTED, THERE WILL REMAIN THE PROBLEMS OF TOO MUCH EXTREMISM AND TOO MANY GUNS."

THE TIMES ADDED:

"ONE REDEEMING FEATURE IS THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC DID NOT PANIC INTO A BELIEF INTO A SINISTER INTERNATIONAL PLOT. THE STRONG TEMPTATION WAS MOST CREDITABLY RESISTED."

THE DAILY MAIL, CONSERVATIVE XXX 8TH GRAF A217.

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WITH WARREN (280)

LONDON, MONDAY, SEPT. 28 (AP)--THE TIMES TODAY SAID TODAY THAT "THERE IS NO MISTAKING THE STAMP OF HONESTY IN THE WARREN COMMISSION'S REPORT ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S MURDER."

THE INDEPENDENT TIMES CARRIED THE FIRST BRITISH NEWSPAPER COMMENT ON THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT ISSUED LAST NIGHT IN WASHINGTON. THE PAPER CARRIED NINE COLUMNS OF EXTRACTS FROM THE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT. ITS MAIN NEWS PAGE STORY UNDER A TWO-COLUMN HEAD SAID "U.S. SECURITY CRITICIZED OVER KENNEDY MURDER. COMMISSION FAILS TO DISCOVER ASSASSIN'S MOTIVES." THE STORY FROM THE TIMES CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON COVERED TWO COLUMNS OF TYPE.

THE EDITORIAL SAID:

"IT (THE REPORT) IS THOROUGH, PAINSTAKING, VOLUMINOUS, FRANK, AND ABOVE ALL ELSE SCRUPULOUSLY CAREFUL IN ITS ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS....THE NEEDLESSNESS AND THE MEANINGLESSNESS OF IT ALL IS BROUGHT OUT IN TWO MAIN PASSAGES IN THE REPORT....FROM FIRST TO LAST--THROUGH ALL THE CRITICISMS OF THE DALLAS POLICE ALSO IT IS A DREADFUL STORY."

THE TIMES OBSERVED: "ONE REDEEMING FEATURE IS THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC DID NOT PANIC INTO A BELIEF IN A SINISTER INTERNATIONAL PLOT; THE STRONG TEMPTATION WAS MOST CREDITABLY RESISTED..."

THE TIMES ADDED: "IN ITS THOROUGH WAY THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS THE ATMOSPHERE OF EXTREMISM AND HATRED WHICH GREW UP IN DALLAS, AS ELSEWHERE IN THE SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST, AROUND THE LATE PRESIDENT'S HEAD. THE MEMBERS PROPERLY REFRAIN FROM SAYING THAT OSWALD WAS INSTIGATED BY IT; BUT ONLY A STRONG MIND CAN WHOLLY RESIST IT.

"WHEN ALL THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR TIGHTER SECURITY ARE ADOPTED, THERE WILL STILL REMAIN THE PROBLEMS OF TOO MUCH EXTREMISM AND TOO MANY GUNS."

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LONDON--FIRST ADD COMMENT A217/XXX GUNS.

THE DAILY MAIL, CONSERVATIVE, SAID:

"IT IS NONE OF OUR BUSINESS TO ADD TO THE CHORUS OF AMERICAN SELF-REPROACH WHICH WILL ARISE FROM THE REPORT ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION.

"YET WE EXPRESS INCREDULOUS AMAZEMENT AT THE "CATASTROPHIC NEGLIGENCE" OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S SAFETY. THE PRECAUTIONS BROKE DOWN AT NEARLY EVERY POINT THROUGH SHEER INCOMPETENCE.

"THE F.B.I. AND THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE HAVE BEEN REGARDED HERE AS MODELS OF ALERTNESS AND EFFICIENCY. THAT IDEA MUST BE DRASTICALLY REVISED.

"ONE MORE THOUGHT. IT IS THAT MRS. KENNEDY'S SEARING EXPERIENCE, NOW FULLY REPORTED MUST HAVE LEFT AN INERADICABLE MARK. THE WORLD'S HEARTFELT SYMPATHY FOR HER IS RENEWED."

A DAILY SKETCH DISPATCH FROM WASHINGTON FORECAST THAT PUBLIC OPINION WILL DEMAND SWEEPING CHANGES IN THE SECURITY SYSTEM AND ADDED:

"ONE POSSIBILITY IS THE RESIGNATION OF J. EDGAR HOOVER--'MR. G-MAN.'"

THE SKETCH, LIKE MOST BRITISH NEWSPAPERS, FEATURED THE WARREN REPORT AS ITS MAIN STORY. ITS HEADLINE WAS "KENNEDY'S SECRET SERVICE FLAYED."

THE DAILY WORKER, COMMUNIST, HEADLINED ITS ACCOUNT: "WHITEWASH FROM WARREN; KENNEDY KILLING REPORT DODGES WORLD QUERIES."

ITS EDITORIAL SAID: "VERY POWERFUL POLITICAL FORCES IN THE UNITED STATES HAD AN INTEREST IN GETTING RID OF KENNEDY.

"BUT ONCE HE WAS DEAD, EVEN MORE POWERFUL FORCES HAD AN INTEREST IN PUTTING ALL THE BLAME ON ONE MAN, AND CLOSING THE LID ON THE MURKY DEPTHS OF AMERICAN POLITICS WHICH BEGAN TO BE REVEALED.

"WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE MURDER OF KENNEDY SHOWS HOW POWERFUL ARE THE RIGHTWING PRESSURES IN THE U.S.

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"THE WILD MEN ARE FIGHTING HARD TO HOLD BACK PROGRESS AND STRENGTHEN REACTION. THE WHITEWASH OF THE WARREN REPORT IS A SERVICE TO THEM."

THE GUARDIAN, LIBERAL, HEADLINED ITS EDITORIAL "KENNEDY: A DECISIVE REPORT," AND SAID:

"THE REPORT OF THE WARREN COMMISSION IS AN IMPRESSIVE DOCUMENT. THE MAJOR CONCLUSIONS ARE SUPPORTED IN GREAT DETAIL AND BY ALMOST OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE. ONLY THE MOST SKEPTICAL WILL CONTINUE TO HARBOR DOUBTS IN THE FACE OF THIS MASSIVE REPORT.

"THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, LIKE THAT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, GAVE RISE TO RUMORS AND SPECULATION NOT ONLY IN THE UNITED

STATES BUT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

"MYTHS, AS THE REPORT POINTS OUT, TRADITIONALLY SURROUND THE DRAMATIC ASSASSINATIONS OF HISTORY. THE WARREN COMMISSION, HOWEVER, BY THIS MEMORABLE DOCUMENT, HAS DONE ITS BEST TO DISSOLVE MYTHS IN FACTS."

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A254 (NR FW)

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LONDON--2ND ADD WARREN REACTION ORIGINAL A230 XXX FACTS.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH EDITORIAL CONSIDERED THE RISKS ANY DEMOCRATIC STATE FACES IN PROTECTING ITS HEAD AND CONCLUDED:

"SHORT OF ALTERING THE WHOLE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT. NOT FOR HIM A DICTATOR'S IMPENETRABLE BODYGUARD, NOR THE SUDDEN CHANGE OF PLANS THAT MORE THAN ONCE SAVED HITLER'S LIFE.

"HEADS OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONS MUST FULFILL THEIR PLANNED ENGAGEMENTS, MINGLE AND KEEP FAITH WITH THEIR PEOPLES."

THE SUN, INDEPENDENT, SPREAD ACROSS ITS FRONT PAGE A HEADLINE ADAPTED FROM KENNEDY'S OWN PROPHECY ON THE DAY OF THE CRIME: "ANYONE CAN KILL A PRESIDENT."

ITS EDITORIAL SAID: "THE WARREN COMMISSION HAVE NOW EXHAUSTIVELY PIECED TOGETHER EVERY SCRAP OF UNHAPPY DETAIL...REASONABLE PEOPLE MUST SURELY ACCEPT THEIR FINDINGS.

"EVEN SO, RUMORS WILL NOT BE STILLED BY REASON ALONE. GREAT TRAGEDIES ALWAYS WEAVE THEIR OWN DARK MYTHOLOGY.

"BUT NOW WE HAVE ALL THE FACTS WE ARE LIKELY TO GET. A LONE AND SICK FANATIC CAN STILL CAUSE THE WORLD TO TREMBLE."

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