

Report Dominates World's Press as Comments Differ

The Warren Commission's report on the assassination of President Kennedy dominated the front pages of newspapers in almost every corner of the world yesterday.

But almost everywhere the press was divided on whether the report had dispelled all the doubts raised by the events of last Nov. 22.

These are the two main points to emerge from a scrutiny of the world press by The Washington Post Foreign Service and news service correspondents.

There was no doubt that newspapers everywhere regarded the release of the Commission's findings as a major news event. Most displayed the story under their biggest, blackest headlines and devoted page after page to summarizing the report's conclusions. In the major capitals, some papers began publishing full or abbreviated translations of the text.

The Communist press flatly called the report a whitewash. In western Europe and elsewhere, however, most newspaper editorials expressed satisfaction with the report and accepted the conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed the President.

But the reaction did not follow political lines uniformly. Several pro-American papers in France and elsewhere expressed continuing skepticism, saying many questions remained unanswered.

Following is a summary of the reaction from various world capitals:

London

The British public received the report with evident satisfaction that the doubts had been resolved as far as possible.

All London newspapers featured the report, and six carried extensive excerpts ranging up to two pages of type. The theme of almost all editorial comment was that the mystery finally had been laid to rest.

The reactions encountered yesterday generally were in accord with the Manchester Guardian's observation that "only the most skeptical will continue to harbor doubts in the face of this massive report. The event remains a ghastly tragedy, but no longer a mystery."

Rome

The entire Italian press gave top billing and large space to the report. But initial comment and interpretation were sparse and confined largely to either Communist or extreme right-wing papers. There was no official comment.

Almost all the press reports emphasized the conclusion that both Oswald and his killer, Jack Ruby, acted on their own. But initial reactions from Rome's rank-and-file citizenry indicated that the conspiracy theory—which had attained wide currency in Italy—was far from being dispelled.

The deep-seated Italian skepticism regarding persons in public office was summarized by one woman who said: "The Warren report is an official document. It is only to be expected that it should not tell the truth or at any rate the whole truth."

Paris

Before the report was published, most Frenchmen were convinced that the deaths of Mr. Kennedy and Oswald were part of the same conspiracy. Publication of the report apparently did little to change their minds.

In fact, Paris was one of the few places where the Warren Commission story failed to rate front-page space in more than a handful of newspapers. The French press reported at length the arguments about the assassination at the time they arose and apparently considered the report's release an anticlimax. Le Monde will publish the entire report.

The general reception in Paris was summed up by Paris-Presse, which said: "It will certainly convince the great mass of Americans . . . But the French say to themselves instinctively, 'We don't believe all that because it isn't believable.'"

The last word from the French standpoint probably was said by Jean-Pierre Cornet, foreign editor of Combat: "There are missing in this voluminous report the few words which would have banished our doubts. They will probably endure forever."

Berlin

All four West Berlin newspapers publishing on Monday bore banner headlines announcing that Mr. Kennedy had had a premonition of

death. In a city where the late President had been especially popular, the headlines reflected something of the anguish of a family which learns its son had sensed death.

East Berlin news media failed to mention the report. The West Berlin papers played their news accounts straight, emphasizing the finding that no conspiracy had existed and that the American security arrangements had been criticized.

Politically astute Berliners, who know communism at first hand, long ago discarded any thoughts that Mr. Kennedy died as the result of a leftist conspiracy. But the possibility of a rightist conspiracy had made some headway.

Commenting on this, the independent BZ said: ". . . There was only one truth in that legend, the truth that the death Kennedy was indeed a dirty piece of work. The Warren report has destroyed the legend of an 'evil' America. That is its biggest accomplishment."

Moscow

Soviet accounts of the report did not specifically dispute the finding that Oswald acted alone. Instead the Soviet Press presented the report in a way that raised doubts in the minds of Russian readers.

However, the Soviet press earlier had harped on the theme that the assassination had resulted from a plot by American rightists. And this note seemed to have made its impressions on the Moscow citizenry which generally tended to dismiss the report as a "whitewash."

Stockholm

All leading Scandinavian newspapers accepted the Commission verdict virtually without reservation. Although there have been doubters among the citizenry, most people also tended to the conclusion that Oswald acted on his own.

Although it was expected that some doubters would remain, many people seemed reassured by the fact that Chief Justice Warren is of Scandinavian descent. This was widely regarded as an additional proof of his integrity.

New Delhi

In India, both the press and the public seemed inclined to

accept the Commission's findings at their face value. This was in contrast to the widely expressed doubts raised in the immediate aftermath of the assassination.

News treatments focussed both on the ruling out of a conspiracy and the criticism of security measures. Accounts indicating that Mr. Kennedy had remarked on how easy it would be to kill the American President received almost as much attention as the report's conclusions.

An editorial scheduled to appear today in the Indian Express declares that "one of the most satisfactory findings . . . is the 'exoneration' of the Soviet Union and other countries from suspicion of complicity."

Tokyo

Release of the report dominated the Japanese press although there was very little editorial comment. This was due in part to the fact that the evening Japanese papers rarely carry editorials or opinion columns.

However, an unsigned article in Mainichi Shimbun foreshadowed the trend that editorial comment is likely to take. It criticized the makeup of the Commission, particularly its inclusion of Allen Dulles and Southern Congressmen, and concluded that the report "would not dig out the whole truth of the affair."

The conspiracy theories regarding the assassination have had wide circulation in Japan, and attention was called to them again in much of yesterday's coverage.