

URGENT

1963

Rea

23 NOV 1963
943 PES

MIAMI, FLA., NOV. 23 (AP)-FIDEL CASTRO EXPRESSED DISAPPROVAL TONIGHT OF JOHN F. KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION BUT ACCUSED THE SLAIN PRESIDENT OF HAVING CARRIED THE WORLD "TO THE BRINK OF NUCLEAR WAR."

THE CUBAN PRIME MINISTER TOLD HIS PEOPLE BY RADIO AND TELEVISION THAT DESPITE KENNEDY'S "HOSTILE . . . POLICIES TOWARD US," THE NEWS OF HIS ASSASSINATION "IS GRAVE AND BAD."

"PEOPLE FEEL REPUGNANCE TO SUCH A SLAYING BECAUSE WE SHOULD NOT CONSIDER THIS METHOD A CORRECT FORM OF BATTLE," HE SAID.

CASTRO ADDED IN THE BROADCAST HEARD IN MIAMI: "WE CUBANS MUST REACT AS CONSCIENTIOUS REVOLUTIONARIES AND NOT CONFUSE SYSTEMS WITH THE INDIVIDUAL. WE FIGHT AGAINST SYSTEMS, NOT THE MAN."

BUT HE SAID KENNEDY'S ADMINISTRATION AND THAT OF HIS PREDECESSOR, DWIGHT EISENHOWER, "WERE CHARACTERIZED BY HOSTILE AND IMPLACABLE POLICIES TOWARD US. CUBA WAS VICTIM OF . . . ATTACKS OF ALL KINDS THAT COST BLOOD. HUNDREDS OF OUR COMPATRIOTS LOST THEIR LIVES DEFENDING AGAINST YANKEE IMPERIALISM."

CASTRO RECALLED THE UNSUCCESSFUL 1961 BAY OF PIGS INVASION AND THE OCTOBER, 1963, NAVAL BLOCKADE OF CUBA, AND DECLARED NUCLEAR WARFARE COULD HAVE RES

OCTOBER, 1962, NAVAL BLOCKADE OF CUBA, AND DECLARED NUCLEAR WARFARE COULD HAVE RESULTED.

SJ943PES

THE BROADCAST WAS CUBA'S FIRST OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE KENNEDY TRAGEDY. THE PRIME MINISTER ASSERTED REACTIONARIES IN THE UNITED STATES "ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE (OF THE ASSASSINATION) TO CREATE A STATE OF ANTI-SOVIET AND ANTI-CUBAN HYSTERIA."

IN THE UNITED STATES, THE CUBAN LEADER SAID, "THERE IS A STRONG CURRENT OF REACTIONARIES, RACISTS," AND ECONOMIC FACTORS THAT AFFECT POLICY.

THE ASSASSINATION, CASTRO CONTINUED, "COULD ONLY BENEFIT THE REACTIONARY SECTORS, AMONG WHICH PRESIDENT KENNEDY COULD NOT BE COUNTED."

HE CHARGED REACTIONARY ELEMENTS SOUGHT TO "PUSH KENNEDY TOWARD WAR."

SM1011PES NM

A202MH

URGENT

MIAMI, FLA.--SECOND ADD CASTRO A186MH X X X TOWARD WAR."

CASTRO SAID KENNEDY'S POLITICAL OPPONENTS CRITICIZED HIM FOR NOT ADOPTING A WAR POLICY."

HE CONTINUED: "FOR EXAMPLE, KENNEDY'S PROMISE IN THE OCTOBER CRISIS NOT TO INVAD E CUBA WAS ONE OF THE POINTS MOST CRITICIZED BY THE ANTI-KENNEDY REACTIONARIES.

"THE PACT TO BAN NUCLEAR TESTS WAS ANOTHER POINT ON WHICH KENNEDY WAS CRITICIZED."

HOWEVER, CASTRO DECLARED, "KENNEDY'S POLICY IN FAVOR OF PEACE WAS NOT APPLIED IN THE CASE OF CUBA.

"REACTIONARY ELEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES, TOO, OPPOSED CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION.

"THOSE SAME FACTIONS FAVOR A PREVENTIVE NUCLEAR WAR, WITHOUT ANY CONSIDERATION OF THE MOST ELEMENTAL RIGHTS OF NATIONS AND OF HUMANITY. IT IS THESE PEOPLE WHO CAN BENEFIT BY THE EVENT THAT HAS OCCURRED."

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S POLICIES REMAIN A QUESTION MARK, CASTRO SAID.

"KENNEDY HAD GREAT AUTHORITY IN THE UNITED STATES. THE CIRCUMSTANCES WITH REGARD TO JOHNSON ARE NOT THE SAME IN THIS RESPECT."

CASTRO CONTINUED: "WHAT THE REAL MOTIVES OF THIS MISERABLE ACT WERE STILL IS UNCLEAR. THERE IS A CONFUSED SITUATION ABOUT THE ACTS THAT LED TO THE ASSASSINATION. BUT THE ACT SHOWS THAT EXTREME REACTIONARY FORCES ARE ACTIVE IN THE UNITED STATES."

A203MH

"HYSTERIA MAY NOW BE UNLEASHED IN THE UNITED STATES, CASTRO ASSERTED, "BY THE PRESS AND BY THE POWERFUL VESTED INTERESTS IN THE COUNTRY TO CREATE ANTI-COMMUNIST SPIRIT.

"WHEN THE ASSASSINATION OCCURRED, WHAT PASSED IN THE MIND OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS WAS THAT IT WAS THE WORK OF ELEMENTS OPPOSED TO HIS (KENNEDY'S) INTERNATIONAL POLICY, HIS POLICY ON CUBA, AND ON THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF THE UNITED STATES."

SM1034PES NM

MIAMI, FLA.--THIRD ADD CASTRO (A186MH) X X X UNITED STATES.

THE "REACTIONARIES", CASTRO SAID, INCLUDED THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY AND THE ALLIES OF THESE SITUATED IN DALLAS."

CASTRO CONTINUED: "REACTIONARY AS (U.N.AMBASSADOR ADLAI) STEVENSON HAS BEEN, THERE ARE ELEMENTS THAT ATTACK HIM BECAUSE THEY CONSIDER HIM VERY WEAK. THEY ARE THE ULTRA-REACTIONARY ELEMENTS THAT ATTACK THE POLICY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT."

SUCH POLITICAL CONTROVERSIES MAY HAVE PLAYED A PART IN THE MOTIVE FOR THE SLAYING, CASTRO SAID, BUT ADDED:

"THE ASSASSINATION. . .DID NOT MAKE SENSE. IT CANNOT BE THOUGHT THAT THE ASSASSIN WAS A FANATIC OF THE LEFT NOR ONE OF THE RIGHT, BUT HE WAS A FANATIC."

"PEOPLE SO IMMORAL, SO DISHONEST, CYNICS IN THE UNITED STATES, IRRECONCILABLE ENEMIES OF CUBA WHO HAVE WANTED TO RISK EVEN A NUCLEAR WAR HAD TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS MOMENT."

THE PRIME MINISTER WENT ON IN HIS RAMBLING SPEECH: "EVEN OVER THE BLOOD OF THEIR ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT, THEY HAVE STARTED TO FORM AN AGGRESSIVE POLICY AGAINST CUBA."

"THIS OFFERS THE IMPRESSION THAT THAT POLICY WAS LINKED WITH THE ASSASSINATION."

CASTRO READ NEWS DISPATCHES MENTIONING COMMUNIST AND PRO-CASTRO CONNECTIONS OF LEE OSWALD, THE ALLEGED MURDERER, AND DECLARED:

"THERE IS NO ONE WHO BELIEVES THE SOVIET UNION HAD ANY RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS."

"AND TO INSINUATE THAT WE COULD HAVE ANY INTEREST IN KENNEDY'S DEATH IS ABSURD, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS THERE HAVE BEEN MOTIVES TO FEEL LIKE IT."

OF OSWALD, CASTRO SAID: "IS HE REALLY GUILTY? PERHAPS HE IS A PSYCHOPATH, POSSIBLY AN INSTRUMENT OF THE MOST REACTIONARY CIRCLES OF THE UNITED STATES."

"CONDITIONS WERE NOT PROPITIOUS FOR AN ASSASSINATION BY LEFTISTS-- BUT FOR ULTRA-REACTIONARIES, YES."

CASTRO SPOKE TWO HOURS.