

NOTES ON KENNEDY IN SUSPECT'S HOME

Cite 'Necessity' to Murder Senator Before June 5, Anniversary of War

By PETER KERSS

A notebook found in the Pasadena home of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan had "a direct reference to the necessity to assassinate Senator Kennedy before June 5, 1968," Mayor Samuel W. Yorty of Los Angeles said last night.

The date was the first anniversary of the six-day war, in which Israeli forces smashed those of the United Arab Republic, Syria and Jordan.

Sirhan, a 24-year-old Christian Arab, who has described himself as a Jerusalem-born Jordanian, is being held in the shooting of the New York Senator.

Justice Department records indicated that Sirhan came to United States with his family in January of 1957 as immigrants, less than three months after the Suez war in 1956. Sirhan was 12 at the time.

The family quickly broke up in discord, the father staying in New York to work as a plumber and then going back to their former Palestine home, the mother taking five children to California, where a sixth child immigrated later.

Sirhan was described yesterday by Police Chief Thomas Reddin of Los Angeles as "very cool, very calm, very stable and quite lucid."

He was quoted as having said, "I prefer to remain incommunicado," when questioned about the shooting.

Mayor Yorty said that the suspect had a schedule of Senator Kennedy's speaking engagements for this month, a clipping of a columnist's criticism of the New York Democrat—and four \$100 bills.

Mayor Yorty's office said that the clipping was a Pasadena newspaper's publication of a suggestion by the Washington columnist David Lawrence that Senator Kennedy, while a dove in regard to Vietnam, was a hawk in regard to Arab-Israeli hostilities.

"All I know is he is a nice kid," said Sirhan, identifying himself as a brother, declared in a telephone interview from Los Angeles reported by WCBS radio here.

John Weidner, owner of the Organic Health Food Store in Pasadena, said he had employed Sirhan Sirhan as a \$2-an-hour stock clerk and deliveryman from last Sept. 24 until March 7, when the man left "because he didn't like what I said about his work."

"He was a man with principles," Mr. Weidner said. "He didn't smoke. He didn't drink. He always said he wouldn't lie. But he was emotional. He would resent authority. He didn't like to take orders."

"When he was very young, he saw members of his family and friends killed by Israelis. My personal opinion is that I think he did something to Kennedy because he [Kennedy] said he would help Israel."

\$250,000 Bail

Mayor Yorty and Chief Reddin said that the prisoner, held in \$250,000 bail on six counts of assault with intent to commit murder, had been identified through two brothers.

The brothers were identified as Munir, also known as Joe, and Adel, who had been located by the tracing of a .22-caliber pistol said to have been used in the shooting.

Chief Reddin said that the identification had been confirmed through a set of fingerprints on file in Sacramento in connection with an application by Sirhan Sirhan for a job as an exercise boy for horses at the Hollywood Park Race Track.

The application was made some time ago while Sirhan Sirhan was a student at John Muir High School in Pasadena.

In Washington, the Department of Justice said that Sirhan Sirhan was an alien on permanent resident status, on which he arrived in New York City Jan. 12, 1957.

Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service gave his birth date as March 19, 1944, in Jordan. Jerusalem was then part of Palestine, and part was Jordan-ruled from the end of the British Palestine mandate in 1948 until Israel took over after the war last June.

The Justice Department said that he had entered the United States with his father, identified as Bishara Salamah Ghatas Sirhan, and his mother, Mary Bishara Sirhan. Also arriving at the same time were three brothers, listed as Adel, Sharif and Munir, and a sister, Ayda. Another brother, listed as Saidallah, arrived in June, 1960.

Status Explained

The Jordan Embassy in Washington said in a statement: "We deeply regret that the suspect appears to be someone of Jordanian origin who is a permanent resident of the United States."

"The Jordanian Government strongly condemns this criminal act committed against an outstanding American leader and public servant. King Hussein has already conveyed his sense of shock and genuine sentiments to the Kennedy family."

Federal officials said that an alien on permanent resident status is one who has applied for permission to live in the United States permanently while remaining a citizen of his country of origin. Such permission is most commonly granted when the applicant already has relatives living here or has a desired skill.

In New York, a 39-year-old former Arab News Agency representative in Jerusalem, who came here in 1953 and is now working for a publishing company, said that Sirhan Sirhan's parents separated "right away

after they came here." He asked not to be identified.

The father, the journalist said, went back to Jordan, and has a house in Jerusalem as well as a new home he built recently in the village of Et Taiyiba.

Sirhan Sirhan is 5 feet 5 inches and weighs about 120 pounds. His hair is dark and curly. His complexion is swarthy. He speaks English with a slight accent that Chief Reddin reported seemed "Jamaican or Cuban."

He has been living with the brother who goes by the name of Joe at 696 East Howard Street in Pasadena, according to Mayor Yorty. The Mayor said it was Joe who owned the gun held to have been used in the shooting, and the brother told police officers he had no idea how Sirhan Sirhan got the weapon.

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, the suspect's mother, collapsed after hearing of her son's arrest.

Mayor Yorty said that notebooks found in the prisoner's home dwelled at length on the Middle East conflict.

In a copyrighted Los Angeles interview by Radio News International, Mayor Yorty said that one notebook "appeared to have been written by Sirhan Sirhan."

"There's much scribbling, repeated phrases, many references to Senator Robert Kennedy, even some references to Arthur Goldberg," the Mayor was quoted as having said.

"They're not very clear, but there's a direct reference to the necessity to assassinate Senator

Kennedy before June 5, 1968. I don't know why.

"He does a lot of writing pro-Communist and anti-capitalist, anti-United States. Evidently he was quite pro-Arab in the Arab-Israeli matter. He has 'Long Live Nasser' written in there.

"And he said he favors Communism of all types, whether Russian, Chinese and so forth.

"It's very difficult to tell from that why he'd want to pick on Senator Kennedy as the one that he made reference to had to be sacrificed for all these grievances."

Chief Reddin said:

"He almost appeared to be the calmest man in the room. I spoke with him for about 15 minutes, and he sounds well-educated, speaks good English and is a good conversationalist.

"We talked about many things. He was very relaxed and wanted to talk about just about everything except the events last night.

"If I were to judge him strictly on the basis of our conversation, and that were the only basis, I would say he was a gentleman."

In a news conference later, Chief Reddin said there was a "subversive file" on Sirhan Sirhan, which, he indicated, grew out of Arab nationalist activities.

Dr. M. T. Mehdi, secretary-general of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, said:

"Of course we condemn his act, but his behavior reflects the frustration of many Arabs with American politicians who have sold the Arab people of Palestine to the Zionist Jewish voters."

John M. Lawrence, chairman of what he called "a pro-Arab radical left action group," Federated Americans against Israeli Racism, 57 West 10th Street, said his organization would offer financial support to Sirhan Sirhan.

"We're for him, although we wish he hadn't used the assassination technique," Mr. Lawrence, a law researcher, said.

He declared that "there are no tears in us for Robert Kennedy," whom he called "the advocate of sending American jet bombers to Israel so Jews may kill more Arabs."

Socialist Spokesmen Set Record Straight

Refute Lie that Marxists Favor Terrorism

[The following article by Peter Kihss appeared in the Nov. 27 *New York Times* under the headline: "Accused Assassin Belied Tenets of Marxism, Experts Here Agree."]

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Political groups that consider themselves to be the exponents of Marxism contended here yesterday that Marxism opposed assassinations or individual terrorism. Thus they argued that the man accused of assassinating President Kennedy was not a true "Marxist" despite his own assertions to that effect.

The groups expressed concern over misconceptions that might arise because Lee H. Oswald had styled himself a "Marxist" in a much-discussed telecast in New Orleans. They also noted that an engineer whose wife had befriended Oswald's wife and children had said that Oswald "refused to eschew violence."

Norman Thomas, six-time Socialist candidate for President, and leaders of the Communist, Socialist Workers and Socialist Labor parties and the Progressive Labor Movement all contended that true Marxism opposed violence against individuals.

They cited Karl Marx, the German socialist, as having long battled terrorists such as Mikhail Bakunin, the Russian anarchist who believed in destroying the state.

Marx's program for achieving socialism, they held in substance, envisioned a class struggle, with the individual counting for relatively little. In contrast, some of them pictured the idea of the individual as architect of his fate, and reactionaries as believing that destruction of individuals might affect social change.

Apart from the socialistic leaders, Dr. Sidney Hook, professor of philosophy at New York University, agreed that "Marxist theory does not believe in individual violence as a method of social change and transformation."

Condemn Violence

"However," Professor Hook said, "many Marxists would on occasion not condemn an individual act of violence if it served some important social purpose. But they would condemn most actions of violence, especially on the ground that they would act as provocations or pretexts for repressive measures."



Farrell Dobbs

Professor Hook as well as others consider the late Joseph Stalin Soviet dictator, responsible for the killing of his rival, Leon Trotsky. Trotsky was killed while in exile in Mexico in August 1940 by an alpenstock plunged into his brain.

Dr. Hook said there had been "hundreds" of such individual killings and said that "some people who call themselves Communists" were using such individual violence at present in democratic Venezuela.

Earl Browder, expelled former general secretary of the United States Communist Party, who was its Presidential candidate in two elections, said he was sure that Stalin had "practiced" individual terrorism, although Stalin "never defended it."

Farrell Dobbs, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party and its Presidential candidate in the last four elections, said that the killing of Trotsky had "refuted Stalin's contention that he had remained a Marxist."

Arnold Petersen, national secretary of the Socialist Labor Party, said that Marx held Bakunin and other anarchists in "supreme contempt."

He quoted a letter Marx wrote to his daughter Jenny on April 11, 1881, in which he said that another anarchist, John Most, "and other childish whimperers preach tyrannicide as a 'theory and panacea.'"

An editorial in the forthcoming

issue of *The Weekly People*, edited by Eric Hass, Socialist Labor candidate for President in the last three elections, expresses horror over the assassination of President Kennedy.

"It is this deep-seated, guilt-inspired, ruling class fear," the editorial says, "that created the climate in which it is commonplace for overwrought, unstable and mentally unbalanced characters to commit irrational acts of violence."

"They have had it drilled into their weak minds by the incessant propaganda of capitalism that, on the one hand, the individual is the architect of his own fate, and, on the other, that evil men, (or those whom the irrational victims of capitalist madness imagine to be evil) are responsible for their private miseries and for the world's woes."

Arnold Johnson, a spokesman for the Communist Party of the U.S.A., said the party's constitution advocates a peaceful road to socialism through "the developing constitutional process."

It calls for expulsion of anyone "who advocates force and violence or terrorism."

"We constantly," Mr. Johnson said, "see the role of the working class and of the mass movements and mass struggles of the people as decisive. We always warn against any short cuts, any methods of individual terror, individual acts which divert from and would basically prove defeating both as to immediate as well as to ultimate objectives."

Mr. Johnson quoted Lenin, first leader of the Soviet state, as having written against "the theory of single combat" in an article "On Revolutionary Adventurism" published Sept. 1, 1902.

This was against Social Revolutionary Party rivals who were contending that "terrorists will win Russia's freedom against autocracy."

Dobbs' View

For the Trotskyites, Mr. Dobbs said Trotsky had written a pamphlet in 1934 on "The Kirov Assassination," in which he cited "the negative aspect of Marxism towards the tactic of individual terror."

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In this, Trotsky quoted an article he wrote in 1911.

It said that "the capitalist state is not founded upon ministers and cannot be destroyed with them," because "the classes it serves will always find new men, the mechanism remains whole and continues its work."

"The only way that the political and basic social problems of the human race can be settled in a civilized way," Mr. Dobbs said, "is for society to be guided by majority decision, which is reached after full and free public debate in which all points of view are heard.

"Individual acts of terrorism in the last analysis can serve only the forces of reaction who want to repress political and constitutional liberties because they seize upon the individual terrorist act as a pretext to attack the rights of society as a whole."

Miss Betty Elkin, national secretary of the Socialist Party, described the party as a "multi-tendency" and with non-Marxist as well as Marxist members. Then she said:

"The Socialist Party has always firmly and unequivocally rejected violence such as assassination and terrorism, against political opponents, as being utterly contrary to Socialist principles and incompatible with membership in the Socialist Party.

"Such violence is abhorrent to Socialists; it is rather the familiar weapon of rabid reactionaries, lynch mobs and demented fanatics.

"Assassination, terrorism and all such forms of personal violence contribute nothing to social progress. It only strengthens the forces of reaction and repression."

Milton Rosen, chairman of the Progressive Labor Movement, perhaps as left-wing as any political group now here, asserted that an attempt was being made "to utilize the alleged acts of Oswald to whip up further the anti-Communist hysteria in the country."

Reject Assassination

"This," Mr. Rosen said, "is all part of the atmosphere that lends itself to these acts of violence. Marxist-Leninists find it necessary to reject assassination as a conceivable form of political struggle. The killing of a man cannot alter the course of history."

Mr. Rosen contended that "assassination and individual violence is part and parcel of the capitalist system." He said that President Kennedy's Administration had "openly acknowledged its role in the assassination of its friend Diem in South Vietnam," and "welcomed with great enthusiasm the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the great nationalist leader in the Congo."

Mr. Browder, the former Communist Party chief here, said Marx had written a eulogy of President Lincoln, after his assassination, for the Central Council of the International Working Men's Association on May 12, 1865.

This, Mr. Browder said, was an example of a general principle Marx has "always held" against assassination.

Marx's eulogy, Mr. Browder said, "could be applied to Kennedy."

He quoted it in part as follows:

"Even the sycophants who year after year and day by day stuck at their Sisyphus work of morally assassinating Abraham Lincoln and the great republic he headed stand now aghast at this universal outburst of popular feeling and rival with each other to strew rhetorical flowers on his open grave.

"They have now at last found out that he was a man neither to be browbeaten by adversity, nor intoxicated by success, inflexibly pressing on to his great goal, never compromising it by blind haste, slowly maturing his steps, never retracing them, carried away by no surge of popular favor, disheartened by no slackening of the popular pulse, tempering stern acts by the gleams of a kind heart, illuminating scenes dark with passion by the smile of humor, doing his titanic work as humbly and homely as heaven-born rulers do little things with the grandiloquence of pomp and state, in one word one of the rare men who succeed in becoming great without ceasing to be good.

"Such indeed was the modesty of this great and good man that the world only discovered him a hero after he had fallen a martyr."