

Magazine Week

Not long before his death, President Lyndon Johnson confided in an aide that he believed President Kennedy was murdered because Kennedy had okayed a CIA-backed plot to kill Cuban officials. The aide, Leo Janos, says LBJ told him the CIA's team was "thwarted" in Havana and LBJ suggested that Cuba may have struck back by arranging for the 1963 Kennedy assassination that shook the U.S. and the world.

Apparently, President Johnson couldn't prove this theory of the presidential slaying. But Janos, writing in the July issue of *The ATLANTIC MONTHLY* quotes LBJ as saying that when he succeeded Kennedy in the White House he found "we have been operating a damned Murder, Inc. in the Caribbean." According to Janos, LBJ was sufficiently suspicious of the Warren Commission report that he assigned Ramsey Clark to probe the assassination quietly---but to no avail.

Whether the CIA under President Kennedy made an attempt upon the lives of Cuba's Communist leadership is a matter of utmost gravity

By Sherwood Ross

to the nation. While the idea of such an attempt sound incredible, it must be remembered that the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba was conceived by the CIA under President Eisenhower and carried out under President Kennedy---and THAT was kind of incredible, too, as well as disastrous.

Even if the Kennedy murder was not arranged by Castro, the statements attributed to President Johnson about the Caribbean Murder, Inc., warrant full public disclosure. Americans are justifiably angry at the idea of a foreign power attempting to subvert this country by force and violence and Johnson's hint the U.S. did it abroad raises some grave questions. Not the least of these is whether CIA operatives, at the whim of the White House, are roaming the world to kill leaders a president might not happen to like.

This is hardly conduct befitting a democratic society. Rather, it is reminiscent of the manner in which the Russian secret police arranged for the murder in Mexico of ousted revolutionary Leon Trotsky in 1940. How much truth, if any, is there to LBJ's observation, and what, if anything, did he do about it when he moved into the White House?

Another question LBJ's comment raises is whether the CIA murder try in Havana provoked Castro to open his island to Soviet nuclear missiles. Did the CIA attempt play a role in triggering the Cuban missile crisis that brought the U.S. and Russia to the brink of nuclear war? And if a CIA murder plot was foiled in Havana, what steps, if any, were taken to prevent a revenge murder of President Kennedy and other high U.S. officials?

Several years back, *TRUE* magazine put together an impressive account of how the CIA helped crack Bolivian army units track down Che Guevara, the Cuban revolutionary and aide to Castro, and to kill him. In that covert operation the CIA not only trained the Bolivian troops but supplied photo planes equipped with heat-sensitive cameras that followed the movement of Guevara's band by fixing the location of their cook stove.

In the light of Johnson's remark that Kennedy was killed in retaliation for the Havana plot, it becomes plausible that the CIA may have gone after Guevara in Bolivia with a vengeance.

Finally, the public may fairly inquire whether the CIA has become corrupted to the point where it could be used as a tool against American citizens a president might regard as troublesome. It was, apparently, without much hesitation that the CIA supplied disguises for Watergate burglars who broke into the Los Angeles offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. An agency whose operatives may be routinely wiping out political figures overseas might not blanch at helping commit crimes against Americans at home.

Even the FBI, charged with conducting domestic fact-finding to protect national security is charged with scrupulously adhering to Constitutional guarantees not to violate the rights of any citizen. But the evidence is growing that the CIA has been working around the FBI and the public may be at the point of demanding to know the full extent of the CIA operations bearing upon matters of the utmost importance nationally and internationally.

The Supremes A Smash In Japan



THE SUPREMES

The Supremes, world's Quarter nightclub following leading female vocal group the shows.

for over a decade, shattered every existing attendance record for concert and nightclub appearances during the recent tour of the Orient, which included visits to Japan and Hong Kong.

In their first tour of the Orient in over six years, The Supremes displayed the type of professionalism that has put them in a class by themselves as far as female trios are concerned.

Opening their performances with a medley of "TUB" and "Stop In The Name of Love," Mary Wilson, Jean Terrell and Lynda Laurence drew thunderous applause from each ensuing number, many of which they've never recorded.

Kicking off their tour with an appearance at Tokyo's Nenkien Hall, The Supremes success was so overwhelming that the promoter scheduled an additional eight concerts at the hall, as well as having the group double up for appearances at the Latin

According to Japanese promoter Tats Nagashima, "The Supremes' eight concerts in Tokyo is a record for any foreign act, and from the way the tickets went, we could have scheduled at least three more shows if their schedule had permitted."

"The group, a legend in its own time, had sell-out shows wherever we played them. Next year I am hoping they will accept my offer to come over for a minimum of at least 20 appearances."

In Hong Kong it was the same story over again, as they performed for three consecutive evenings at the huge Lee Gardens Theatre.

To quote the reviewer from the Hong Kong Star, "Great, marvelous and fantastic — these three words are perhaps the best one could find to describe the Supremes' concert at the Lee theatre last night."

"The name fits them right. They are really supreme."

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