

Acc # 9597  
Box 18

~~TOP SECRET DINAR~~

26 Nov 63

1. [EXEMPT] REPORTS ON REACTIONS TO DEATH OF US PRESIDENT

Reports of 23 November sent by

[EXEMPT]

[EXEMPT]

head-

(2/57/[EXEMPT] R284-63

quarters in three of the fourteen administrative districts in [EXEMPT] have noted initial reactions in East Germany to the 22 November assassination of President Kennedy. Extracts from these reports follow:

[EXEMPT]

C345 B52, 23 November

"Rush information report.

"Re: Assassination of US President Kennedy.

"According to a report from

[EXEMPT]

[EXEMPT]

streamers of black

crepe were displayed this evening in the Kreis City in connection with the assassination of the President of the United States.

"This is concentrated in particular on two thoroughfares.

"Crepe was likewise displayed in the show window of the GST [i.e., Society for Sport and Technology]

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on the show windows at the railroad station, on  
the board on [EXEMPT] on a wooden door at  
the railroad station, in the waiting room of the  
[EXEMPT] and in the waiting room of the [EXEMPT]

[EXEMPT]

"In addition to this, worker [EXEMPT] from  
[EXEMPT] flew the DDR [i.e., German Demo-  
cratic Republic] flag with red, white, and blue  
bunting this morning. Responsible comrades held  
discussion with him.

"In [EXEMPT] opposite the [EXEMPT]  
[EXEMPT] was smeared in white oil paint: [EXEMPT]

[EXEMPT] mourns for Kennedy.' A similar slogan was  
placed opposite the Council of [EXEMPT]

[EXEMPT]

[EXEMPT]

[EXEMPT]

declared: "The red did it; there will be a world  
war for sure."

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DST, 23 November

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Generally the workers in the **Basir's** (district) were of the opinion that President Kennedy was murdered because he was a supporter of peace; because he was one of the first to sign the Moscow (test-ban) treaty; and because he took steps against racial discrimination in the United States. Many workers had arrived at the conclusion that the assassination was carried out by racial fanatics. Among older residents of the **Basir's**, the murder of Kennedy was compared to the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo. There were also those who were worried about the new President, Johnson, and how he will act toward the question of relaxation of tensions, peace, and racial discrimination.

In the last few hours, effects of the class antagonists' activity have already become evident. There has been further discussion to the effect that the murder was committed by Communists. In

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\*This report is available in summary form only.

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several resi-  
dents stated that the assassin spent many years  
in the USSR, stayed next in Cuba, and then was  
sent to the US with the mission to kill Kennedy.  
It was learned in discussion at the places con-  
cerned that these and similar arguments came from  
Western broadcasts, and such arguments were them-  
selves evidence that these people listened to  
Western stations.

EXEMPT

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likewise from the  
shipyard, technical control, said: 'For me it's  
incomprehensible that something like this can happen  
in a country. It's my opinion that this can only  
be by forces which were against Kennedy's governmental  
reform.'

EXEMPT

a welder at the

EXEMPT

Shipyard and member of the

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pointed out: 'It's sorrowful that such things as the assassination of the President occur in the so-called country with the unlimited possibilities.'

"The assassination was discussed right at the start of work-day with the colleagues [REDACTED] from the trade organizations of the [REDACTED] enterprises, and it was generally stated that it's shocking that in the USA the President was assassinated and a statesman is pushed aside in such a way. [REDACTED] from the trade organization [REDACTED] especially expressed her extreme indignation over such a thing.

[REDACTED] from the Department of Labor of the [REDACTED] is of the opinion that Kennedy had become troublesome for some people because he had to advocate even more the policy of peaceful coexistence, due to public pressure, and on the basis of the peace offensive of the Soviet Union. And this didn't agree with some people.

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That Kennedy took such a stand did not suit some right-wing military circles in the USA, especially with regard to the Cuba question. Now, it is to be feared that, with Johnson taking over as President of the United States, the world at large has to suffer, in that new contacts have to be made again so that the policy of peaceful coexistence can continue."

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