

OCT 26 1966  
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BOOK REVIEWS

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## More Light on the Kennedy Assassination

JOACHIM JOESTEN. *Die Wahrheit über den Kennedy-Mord. Wie und warum der Warren-Report lügt, Schweizer Verlagshaus AG, Zürich, 1966.*

WITH the publication of the Warren Commission's report on the assassination of President Kennedy the official investigation was terminated and the case pronounced closed. Yet the circumstances of the crime continue to agitate the minds of many Americans. The report has not satisfied American and world opinion. A *Washington Post* poll this month revealed that three out of five distrust the Commission's findings. Book after book has been appearing in the United States and in other countries casting grave doubt on them, demonstrating them to be biased and unsound. Their authors seek, as it were, to continue the investigation.

In recent months Harold Weisberg in "Whitewash" and Edward Jay Epstein in "Inquest," to name only two, have virtually disproved the official theory that Oswald was the assassin. Now a second book on the subject by the American publicist Joachim Joesten, "The Truth About the Kennedy Assassination," has come out in Switzerland. His first, "Oswald: Assassin or Fall Guy," appeared in New York in 1964 (see *New Times*, No. 38, 1964). After its publication the clouds gathered so thick over Joesten that he thought it the better part of discretion to remove to Switzerland. But even there he was under the watchful eye of those who want to keep the facts about the Kennedy assassination secret. This summer Joesten was suddenly arrested in Zurich and put in a mental hospital. He got himself out of it with difficulty. He later declared at a press conference that the Swiss authorities had acted on the insistence of the American so-

cret service and that his materials and notes on the assassination had been stolen from him.

Joesten gave his new book the subtitle "How and Why the Warren Report Lies." He shows this on the basis of his close and painstaking study of the 26 bulky tomes of the report and its appended documents, only in rare instances drawing on evidence other than that contained in it.

President Kennedy was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald acting alone and on his own initiative—that is the official theory upheld by the Commission. Though Joesten does not name the real killers, he implants in the reader's mind grave doubts of the validity of this conclusion. Many things point to the existence of a secret plot and carefully prepared plan to assassinate the President. Chief Justice Earl Warren on one occasion told newsmen that for security reasons some of the facts about President Kennedy's assassination might not be made public for 75 years. Joesten chose the statement as the epigraph of his new book.

Much of the author's attention is centred on Lee Harvey Oswald who was promptly declared the assassin and who was himself killed at a police station by Jack Ruby two days later. He follows Oswald's movements closely, giving the details of his trip to the Soviet Union, his marriage in Minsk, the circumstances of the Oswald family's return to the United States, and then going on to the anti-Soviet fabrications cited in the Warren Report, patently meant to deflect public at-

tention from the essential issue. But it is not these chapters that are of real interest. The important thing is the conclusion the author draws. Official propaganda painted Oswald as a man who, carried away by Marxism, decided to settle in the Soviet Union and then became disillusioned. Joesten shows that in reality Oswald was a secret agent of the U.S. intelligence service. Since he was soon seen through in the Soviet Union and could not carry out his assignment, the American authorities hastened to return him to the United States. The CIA made one more attempt to utilize him, this time for subversive activity against revolutionary Cuba. It was for that Oswald travelled to Mexico where he vainly sought to obtain a Cuban visa. Failing of this, he returned to the United States and found himself in the position of a discredited agent.

This, writes Joesten, was just at the time when Dallas ultra-Rightist elements were plotting an attempt on President Kennedy's life. For them Oswald was a find: his questionable past offered the opportunity, in their opinion, to make a lone-demented-killer solution credible to the public.

### Riddles of the Warren Report

In some measure this was realized when the crime was committed, but as time passed it became harder to maintain the offered version. This is in effect borne out by the Report itself. It contains no facts proving Oswald's guilt, gives no explanation of his possible motives. The theory that he sought the fame of a