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THE CIA MURDERED JFK?

Mark Lane's New Book Fingers the Spooks

"I don't really much care who killed Mr. Kennedy."

—William F. Buckley

Most Americans, however, do care who assassinated President John F. Kennedy. One man cares so much that he has spent over 40 years investigating, lecturing and writing about the crime of the century. He is Mark Lane, lawyer, human rights advocate and author of three previous books on the JFK assassination, two of which, *Rush to Judgment* (1966) and *Plausible Denial* (1991), were bestsellers. Lane's latest book is *Last Word: My Indictment of the CIA in the Murder of JFK* (Skyhorse, New York, 2011), published only weeks ago.

Except for the dwindling number of true believers who think the *Warren Report* was correct in claiming that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed JFK, assassination researchers today believe that Kennedy was murdered as a result of a conspiracy. They disagree who the conspirators likely were, however. The four conspiracy theories with the most support nowadays are the Mafia theory, the CIA theory, the anti-Castro Cuban theory and the racist/right-wing extremist theory. (For what it is worth, my own theory is that the conspirators were an ad-hoc group that included organized crime members, past or present intelligence agents, anti-Castroites and rightist extremists.)

Mark Lane embraces the CIA theory—and with good reason. Hardly anyone is more familiar with actual or possible

CIA connections to the JFK assassination. He has examined over 100,000 documents wrested from the CIA under the Freedom of Information Act. He has deposed under oath former CIA directors as well as CIA operatives. In civil trials he has

cross-examined former CIA agent (and Watergate burglar) E. Howard Hunt and other CIA-types. He is familiar with the clever lies and calculated deceptions and the sinister modus operandi of the CIA. He knows all about the perjuries, the obstructions of justice, the murders—including massacres—and the other enormous crimes the CIA has committed but gotten away with. And he persuasively explains why the CIA hated JFK and wanted him dead. Lane, of course, is not the only serious researcher to examine the evidence and conclude that the CIA was behind the JFK assassination.

It is impossible here to reconstruct in detail the impressive case Lane lays out in *Last Word* for the CIA's responsibility in JFK's death, but here are a few tasty tidbits:

- The CIA tricked both FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and Earl Warren, head

of the Warren Commission, into falsely believing that there was a lone assassin, Oswald.

- Weeks before the assassination the CIA was busy setting up Oswald as the fall guy.

- When asked by Lane under oath during a deposition-taking whether the CIA was involved in the JFK assassination, Richard Helms (CIA Director from 1966 to 1973) declined to

firmly reply in the negative. Instead, he said that the CIA was not involved "to the best of my knowledge."

- While it has long been known that mysterious individuals bearing false Secret Service credentials were encountered under suspicious circumstances at the scene of the assassination, it has only recently become known that until shortly after the assassination it was the CIA that prepared the credentials used by Secret Service agents.

- Many of the persons known to have been in the company of Oswald, or to have assisted him in various ways, were CIA operatives. The most notable was the bizarre George De Mohrenschildt, whose life was stranger than the dreams of most people and who committed suicide in 1977 when contacted by an investigator for the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations.

- It is now established fact that New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw, who had connections with Oswald in the summer of 1963, who was charged by New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison with conspiracy to murder JFK, and who repeatedly denied under oath that he was affiliated with the CIA, was in fact a CIA operative ("contract agent").

- Since at least 1966, the CIA, using friendly journalists, writers and other CIA assets, has secretly masterminded a disinformation scheme to discredit *Warren Report* critics.

Whether Mark Lane is right in asserting that the CIA killed JFK, the evidence he has amassed and the conclusions he draws cannot be lightly dismissed. *Last Word* is an enlightening book. The only criticism I have of it is that it lacks adequate footnoting and does not have an index.

Donald E. Wilkes, Jr.

This is the 31st article UGA law professor Wilkes has written either in *Flagpole* or in the old *Athens Observer* about the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

