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AMA STUDY SUPPORTS WARREN COMMISSION FINDINGS ON JFK KILLING (EDS: ADDS EACKGROUND, QUOTES, REACTION FROM CONSPIRACY SUPPORTER)

BY ARTHUR SPIEGELMAN

NEW YORK, MAY 19, REUTER - TWO DOCTORS WHO PERFORMED THE AUTOPSY ON JOHN F. KENNEDY BROKE A 29-YEAR SILENCE ON TUESDAY TO SAY THE U.S. PRESIDENT WAS KILLED BY TWO BULLETS FIRED FROM ABOVE AND BEHIND BY A LONE GUNMAN USING A HIGH-POWERED RIFLE.

IN DETAILED COMMENTS RELEASED BY THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, PATHOLOGISTS JAMES HUMES AND J. THORNTON BOSWELL SPOKE OUT IN HOPES OF ENDING A NATIONAL DEBATE, FUELLED BY THE FILM.

JFK,:: THAT MAINTAINS KENNEDY WAS KILLED IN A CONSPIRACY.

THE DOCTORS ENDORSED THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE OFFICIAL WARREN COMMISSION PROBE INTO THE ASSASSINATION. THEY SAID ALL EVIDENCE SHOWED KENNEDY WAS HIT BY TWO BULLETS IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD FIRED BY A LONE GUNMAN USING A RIFLE.

THE JOURNAL PRESENTED THEIR CONCLUSIONS AT A NEWS CONFERENCE WHICH WAS NOT ATTENDED BY EITHER DOCTOR. THEIR FINDINGS WERE IMMEDIATELY CHALLENGED BY A LEADING SUPPORTER OF THE THEORY THAT KENNEDY WAS MURDERED IN A CONSPIRACY.

THE JOURNAL:S EDITOR, DR GEORGE LUNDBERG, LASHED OUT AT CONSPIRACY PROPONENTS WHO HE SAID WERE TRYING TO WIN PUBLICITY AND PROFIT FROM A PRESIDENT:S DEATH.

THE BEST EXPLANATIONS FOR THE MOTIVATION OF THE MYRIAD CONSPIRACY THEORISTS ARE PARAMOIA, DESIRE FOR PERSONAL RECOGNITION AND PUBLIC VISIBILITY AND PROFIT,:: HE TOLD THE NEWS CONFERENCE.

THE WARREN COMMISSION FOUND THAT KENNEDY WAS KILLED BY GUNMAN LEE HARVEY OSWALD WHO FIRED AT HIM FROM THE WINDOW OF A BUILDING OVERLOOKING THE ROUTE OF HIS MOTORCADE THROUGH DALLAS ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963.

LUNDBERG SAID THE AUTOPSY COULD NOT STATE WHO FIRED THE RIFLE, WHETHER THERE WERE SHOTS THAT KISSED OR WHETHER OSWALD WORKED WITH ORGANISED CRIME OR WITH THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, ALL CHARGES MADE BY CONSPIRACY THEORISTS.

ALMOST THREE DECADES LATER, MOST AMERICANS SAY THAT THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THE WARREN COMMISSION OR THAT OSWALD ACTED ALONE.

THE TWO DOCTORS SAID THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF A THIRD BULLET STRIKING THE PRESIDENT OR OF ONE BEING FIRED FROM A DIRECTION OTHER THAN ABOVE AND BEHIND KENNEDY.

THEY ALSO DENIED THAT THEIR ORIGINAL WORK WAS TAMPERED WITH BY HIGHER-UPS, THAT THEY WERE PRESSURED TO REACH THE CONCLUSIONS THEY DID, OR THAT THE BODY OF THE LATE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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ALTERED AT THE AUTOPSY. ALL THOSE CHARGES WERE MADE BY PEOPLE CLAIMING THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS KILLED IN A CONSPIRACY.

THEY SAID THAT THEY EXAKINED THE BODY AFTER IT WAS TAKEN FROK A COFFIN AND THEY TOOK EXTENSIVE PHOTOGRAPHS OF IT. HUMES SAID HE DESTROYED HIS ORIGINAL NOTES BECAUSE THE PAGES WERE STAINED WITH BLOOD BUT HE MADE A COMPLETE COPY WHICH IS IN THE RECORD.

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION IS PUBLISHING AN 11,000-WORD INTERVIEW WITH THE DOCTORS IN ITS LATEST ISSUE.

A LEADING SUPPORTER OF A CONSPIRACY THEORY, HARRISON EDWARD LIVINGSTONE, AUTHOR OF

HIGH TREASON 2,:: ENGAGED IN A SPIRITED DEBATE WITH LUNDBERG OVER THE CONCLUSIONS.

LIVINGSTONE SAID,

EVERYTHING IS THIS PRESENTATION IS COOKED. IT:S A LIE. JOHN KENNEDY WAS OVERTHROWN. HE WAS MURDERED IN A CONSPIRACY.::

LUNDBERG SAID THAT HE AND AN ASSOCIATE INTERVIEWED HUMES AND BOSWELL, WHO PERFORMED THE FOUR-HOUR AUTOPSY ON THE PRESIDENT AFTER HIS BODY WAS FLOWN TO BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL OUTSIDE WASHINGTON.

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