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WS 367

3/0/W/T1944-63  
27 Nov 63

REACTIONS TO KENNEDY'S DEATH

22 Nov 63 1966  
Urgent

For [redacted]

First reactions in the UN after KENNEDY's assassination:

1. A unanimous opinion exists that even in the most favorable circumstances, East-West relations will deteriorate in the next few months and may last until elections. KENNEDY's assassination will deepen the break in the Democratic Party between the North and the South. JOHNSON, weak and subject to influence, will be forced to concentrate on stopping this process. GOLD-WATER's position will decline which will increase ROCKEFELLER's chances for the nomination. The results of the elections for the most part will depend on the popularity of the Democratic candidates. Being mentioned are HUMPHREY, ROBERT [25-50M] and American journalists in talks emphasize JOHNSON's liberal past (it is said that he was ROOSEVELT's favorite), and his moderate position in critical periods during KENNEDY's term.

3. It is alarming that anti-Communist hysteria has been turned on. Radio and television continue to broadcast unconfirmed reports that held as a suspect in the assassination is a man who it is said asked for Soviet citizenship two years ago, has a Russian wife and who recently was an activist in the (Fair Play for Cuba) pro CASTRO organization.

American extremists having great influences in the propaganda apparatus here want at all costs to be divorced from responsibilities for the attempt.

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