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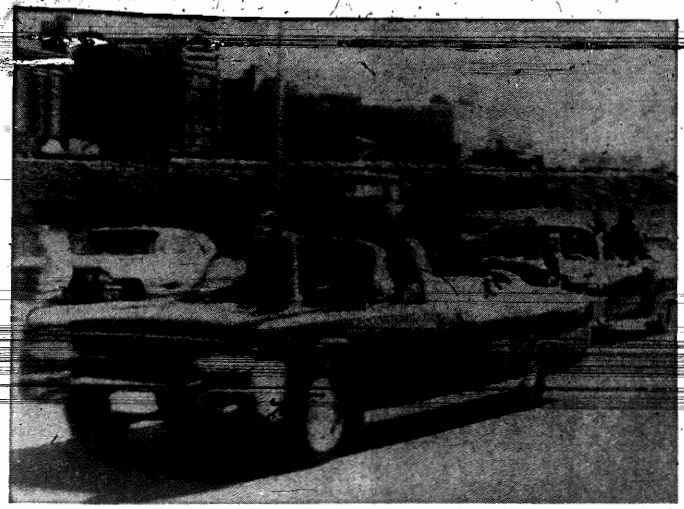
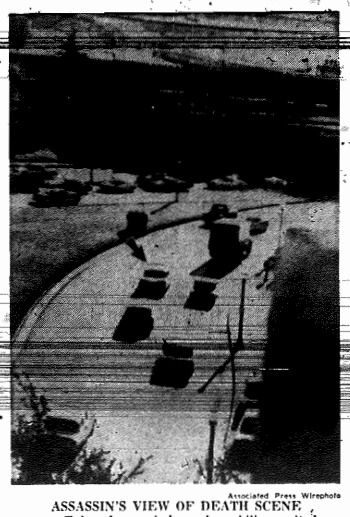


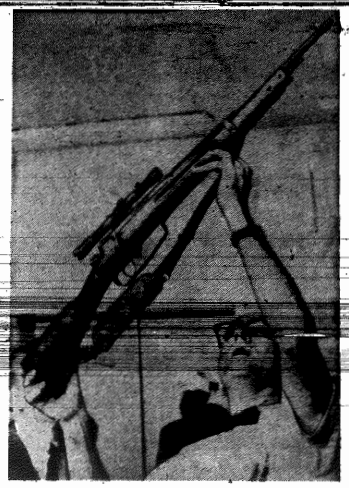
Associated Press Wirephoto

Limousine Carrying President Races for Hospital



Associated Press Wirephoto

ASSASSIN'S VIEW OF DEATH SCENE
. . . Taken from window where killer waited



Associated Press Wirephoto

RIFLE USED TO ASSASSINATE KENNEDY
. . . Held by Dallas detective J. C. Day

JFK First to Show Force in Face of Nuclear War

(By the Associated Press)

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 36th President of the United States, was the first American chief executive to face the possibility of nuclear war and to risk it with a show of force to protect American interests. But later he succeeded in achieving an accord with Russia limiting nuclear tests.

Domestically, he was confronted by a racial problem that epitomized a contemporary world issue—the relationship between the black and white races.

There were foreign problems old and new during his administration. Inherited from previous administrations was the Cold War with Soviet Russia.

Despite Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's determination to rid West Berlin of Allied occupation troops, Kennedy held American forces there. He kept American troops in Southeast Asia to thwart Communist penetration in that area. Through economic help he sought to aid Latin America, a target of propaganda from Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro, avowed disciple of Khrushchev. And he acted in similar fashion in Africa where newly emerged nations groped their way unsteadily toward stability, often with violence.

At home, in addition to the integration crisis, Kennedy became embroiled with the steel industry over a price increase which he hailed, faced a nationwide railroad strike which resulted in Congressional action, fought for a tax cut which he called necessary to spur the economy and to avoid a possible recession and watched avidly the United States race into space with the Russians.

The nuclear crisis broke in the waning months of his second year in office when he confronted Premier Khrushchev with a demand to remove Russian missiles set up in Cuba and pointing at the United States 90 miles away.

Ordered Naval Quarantine

Kennedy ordered a naval quarantine on such offensive weapons being sent to the island nation, said ships carrying them would be turned back and called on Khrushchev to withdraw the weapons already there.

For five days the nation and the world waited for word from Khrushchev, sworn foe of the Free World. On Sunday, Oct. 28, 1962 came intense relief. Khrushchev announced he had ordered work stopped on missile bases, said the missiles would be crated and returned to Russia and promised that the United Nations would verify the dismantling.

The crisis involving Cuba was not Kennedy's first with that small Carribbean nation.

Soon after he was inaugurated Jan. 20, 1961 Cuban refugees with United States backing invaded their homeland in an attempt to wrest it from Castro. The invasion was a fiasco.

Castro's Russian-built military might crushed the invasion. Anticipated defections from Castro's forces failed to materialize. And the United States did not come to the invaders' aid militarily. U.S. prestige abroad plummeted.

While the invasion was in progress Khrushchev warned Kennedy to "call a halt to the aggression" or else Russia would give "all necessary assistance" in resisting the invasion. But the President replied:

"In the event of any military intervention by outside force, we will/immediately honor our obligations under the inter-American system to protect this hemisphere against external aggression."

Later, in a speech, Kennedy warned Communist foes and ... that the United States would act on its own against Cuba's Reds if United States security was threatened. This is what he did in October, 1962.

The nation's first inkling came Sunday, Oct. 21. There were reports of tension in Washington, but newsmen were unable to pin down the cause.

Tension in Washington

On Monday it was announced Kennedy would address the nation at 7 p.m. on a matter of greatest urgency. Meanwhile, it was learned that Congressional leaders had been summoned back to the capital.

At the appointed hour a serious, stern President could be seen on the television screen. Without wasting words he outlined evidence of atomic missile sites in Cuba. He blamed Soviet Russia, which had been assuring the United States it was sending only defensive weapons to the island. Said Kennedy:

"This secret, swift and extraordinary build-up of Communist missiles in an area well known to have a special and historical relationship to the United States and the nations of the Western Hemisphere is a deliberately provocative and unjustified change in the status quo which cannot be accepted by this country, if our courage and our commitments are ever again to be trusted by either friend or foe."

He ordered a quarantine on all such offensive weapons for Cuba and said ships carrying them would be turned back.

He called on Khrushchev to withdraw weapons already there and cease preparation of missile sites. If this were not done, he said, "further action" would be taken. Aerial surveillance would continue, he added.

Days were Tense

The days following the quarantine announcement were tense. Military forces were built up in the Southeast. The Organization of American States met the next day and unanimously adopted a resolution offered by Secretary of State Dean Rusk authorizing "the use of force individually or collectively" to enforce the blockade. With that legal backing, Kennedy issued the proclamation to become effective at 10 a.m. the next day. Twentyfive Russian ships were reported en route to Cuba.

Meanwhile, United Nations Acting Secretary General U Thant asked both Kennedy and Khrushchev to suspend the crisis pending negotiations. Khrushchev accepted. Washington agreed to cooperate to avoid a confrontation.

Tension mounted. The Kremlin stalled. On Friday, Oct. 26, the State Department called attention to the President's speech in which he said if missile site preparation continued "further action will be justified."

At 9 p. m. that night a letter arrived from Khrushchev. Although not explicitly stated, it contained an offer to withdraw the offensive weapons under U. N. supervision in return for a guarantee the United States would not invade Cuba. The following day—Saturday—a second note from Russia offered to trade Cuba bases for U. S. bases in Turkey.

The United States, parrying the Turkey bid, advised Khrushchev that if he was offering to remove offensive weapons for an end to the blockade and a U. S. promise not to invade Cuba, it was a deal. Khrushchev's fateful message came the next day. He agreed.

But the crisis still was unsolved. Castro, thrust in the background during the tension filled days, announced he would not permit U. N. on-the-spot inspection. A visit from U Thant failed to budge him. Russian First Deputy Premier Anastas I. Mikoyan flew to Cuba but Castro remained adamant.

Russia Removes Missiles

Russia announced 42 medium-range missiles had been dismantled and shipped home. The U.S. Navy verified it by inspecting freighters en route from Cuba to Russia.

Although the crisis eased, Cuba remained a problem. Cuban exiles in the United States worked incessantly for the release of loved ones captured during the ill-fated invasion of 1961. An effort to ransom the prisoners failed because of Castro's exorbitant demands.

Finally, through private negotiations conducted with Castro by James B. Donovan, a New York lawyer skilled in undercover negotiations, another ransom of privately donated drugs and baby food was agreed upon and 1,113 imprisoned Cubans were flown to Miami just before Christmas 1962.

With the Cuban crisis still simmering, West Germany Chancellor Konrad Adenauer flew to Washington to confer with Kennedy on the Berlin problem. It was the aged Adenauer's third visit to the young president and during each the Berlin issue dominated the discussions.

The divided city of West and East Berlin had been a thorn since the end of World War II. Khrushchev called West Berlin showplace of the Free World surrounded by Communism, a bone that must come out of the Russian throat. He threatened to sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany and turn over access to West Berlin to the East German Communist government. The East Germans whom the Western powers did not recognize, said the city should be theirs.

Khrushchev stepped up his offensive by questioning the inviolability of Western air access to Berlin. The West insisted on its right to unrestricted use of the air corridors between West Germany and West Berlin.

The Soviets charged the United States with airlifting saboteurs and spies into West Berlin for action against East Germany and other Soviet bloc nations. In replying to this charge, the White House said in a statement:

"The United States must serve a solemn warning to the Soviet Union that any interference by the Soviet government or its East German regime with free access to West Berlin would be an aggressive act for the consequences of which the Soviet government would bear full responsibility."

Allies Hold Fast

Throughout the spring and summer of 1962 Kennedy issued warnings to Khrushchev that the Western Allies intended to remain in West Berlin. He repeatedly asserted that the United States would stand by its pledge to defend West Berlin.

In June of 1963 he reemphasized this in a visit to West Germany, where he was greeted enthusiastically.

To a West Berlin throng he described himself as "a Berliner," asserting that "all free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin."

West Berlin was not Kennedy's only worry. The United States was involved with the Communists in such far off places as Laos and South Viet Nam in Southeast Asia.

In May of 1962 Kennedy dispatched U. S. naval, air and land forces to the Thailand-Laos border because of a pro-Communist seizure of control of most of northern Laos. The maneuver was intended to demonstrate United States commitment in Thailand's defense and to place more troops closer to landlocked Laos.

Two months later a treaty establishing the neutrality of Laos was signed in Geneva by a 14-nation conference. The treaty carried a protocol providing for withdrawal of foreign troops.

Kennedy hailed the accord as a "significant milestone in our efforts to maintain and further world peace." He said, "It is a heartening indication that difficult and at times seemingly insoluble international problems can in fact be solved by patient diplomacy."

Khrushchev, sounding a similar theme, suggested that other, "unsettled international problems, however complicated," could be resolved in the same spirit.

As time went on, however, there were indications that Laos' coalition government of neutralist, right-wing and left-wing was frail and insecure. There really was no peace.

Turmoil in South Viet Nam

Fighting raged in South Viet Nam where the Communist Viet Cong from the North fought to overrun the country and place it in Communist hands. U.S. military advisers tried to help the government of President Ngo Dinh Diem but they spoke of the Viet Nam involvement with the infiltrated Communist guerrillas in terms of years and millions of dollars.

The situation became further complicated in 1963 by a political-religious outbreak involving Buddhists, a majority in the country, and the Roman Catholic Diem family. The Buddhists, charging repressions, demonstrated. The Diem government raided pagodas and jailed Buddhists. Some Buddhists burned themselves to death publicly in protest.

The United States blamed Ngo Dinh Nhu, the President's brother, who was considered the second most powerful, if not the most powerful, man in the country.

Through persuasion and the withdrawal of certain economic aid, it sought to persuade Diem to rid himself of his brother. The Diem government resisted, denied that it persecuted the Buddhists and counter-charged the Buddhists with aiding the Communist cause through their demands.

The drama came to a climax Nov. 1, 1963. Vietnamese military leaders captured key points in Saigon and attacked the Presidential palace. Soon after dawn Nov. 2 the palace fell. Diem and his brother were dead. Some said the brothers committed suicide. Others said they were assassinated. The military installed a civilian as Premier of a caretaker government.

The United States, which considered the country vital to the Western defense position in Southeast Asia and had invested $2.5 billion in aid and 16,500 troops, watched closely.

Nuclear Ban Sought

In an assessment of his first-year in office Kennedy told a news conference that failure to reach agreement with the Soviet Union on a nuclear test ban had been his greatest disappointment. He achieved a limited test ban in 1963, his third year in the White House.

Nuclear testing had been a constant problem. In September 1961 Russia junked a three-year moratorium in atomic weapons, attributing its decision to pressure from "imperialistic countries."

Kennedy called the decision "utter disregard of the desire of mankind for a decrease in the arms race."

Russia proceeded with the tests in Central Asia between September and November. Khrushchev said one blast in the series was on the plus side of 50 megatons (a 50-megaton blast is equivalent to 50 million tons of TNT).

This was in defiance of worldwide appeals not to test such a bomb because atomic explosions in the atmosphere cause radioactive fallout — small poisonous particles which can harm life if received in large doses.

After Russia's renewal of nuclear detonations, Kennedy announced resumption of underground and laboratory tests by the United States. Such tests do not create the hazard of fallout.

"We have no other choice in fulfillment of the responsibilities of the United States to its own citizens and to the security of other free nations," he said.

Meanwhile, Russia announced it would hold more tests if the United States continued underground blasts or started atmospheric explosions.

The United States resumed atmospheric tests in April 1962 but only after Russia rejected a treaty prohibiting all tests. Russia promptly resumed tests in mid-summer and the United States followed with more tests in the autumn.

Nuclear Treaty Reached

Finally in June 1963 Kennedy proposed a "strategy of peace" to lead the United States and the Soviet Union out of the "vicious and dangerous cycle" of the cold war. As a first step, he said, high ranking representatives of the United States Great Britain and Soviet Russia would meet in Moscow in a renewed effort to agree on a nuclear test ban. As a demonstration of its good faith, he said the United States would refrain from atmospheric tests so long as others did likewise.

A treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in space, in the atmosphere and under water was initialed in Moscow in September. The three nations formally accepted it and other nations followed suit.

Kennedy said the treaty "reflects no concessions either to or by the Soviet Union. It reflects our common recognition of the dangers in further testing."

The treaty caused Kennedy to comment on the "pause in the cold war" in a speech before the United Nations in September.

A further thaw appeared in October when Kennedy approved the sale of some four million tons of wheat to Russia and other Soviet bloc nations which had been hit by drought.

Past American policy had discouraged U.S.-Soviet trade but Kennedy saw such benefits in the deal as easing the effect of the balance of payments, increase in gold supplies, strengthening of the farm economy and a reduction in the U.S. wheat surplus.

"This transaction advertises to the world as nothing else could the success of free American agriculture," he said.

Racial Strife Occurred

At home Kennedy found himself deep in the civil rights problem from the very start of his administration.

In the spring of 1961, his first year in office, Negro and white groups, calling themselves Freedom Riders, sought to break down bus station racial barriers and ran into violence in Alabama. There were incidents at Anniston, Birmingham and Montgomery, among others. The worst was at Montgomery.

At least 20 persons were beaten with fists and clubs in a bloody riot there. The rioting around the Greyhound bus station continued for nearly two hours before the white mob — numbering close to 1,000 at times — was broken up with tear gas by state and city police.

President Kennedy's brother, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, ordered several hundred U.S. marshals to Montgomery. The Guardsmen with fixed bayonets scattered a howling mob that tried to overwhelm federal marshals protecting a Negro church mass meeting.

The Governor particularly blamed the marshals for causing the outbreak at the church. He said he still admired the Kennedy administration but added that "the President and the U.S. attorney general made a mistake in this matter."

Attorney General Kennedy declared, however, there would have been "an extremely bloody and costly riot" in Montgomery but for the presence of the marshals.

Far worse rioting—Two persons were killed—occurred Sept. 30, 1962 when Negro James H. Meredith sought to register at the all-white University of Mississippi in Oxford. He finally registered with the aid of U.S. marshals and federal troops but not before an awful night of tear gas and buckshot rifle bullets and flying bricks, screaming hordes of people gone wild and blood and death.

It was the biggest clash of state versus federal power since the Civil War. The nation and the world watched tensely as Mississippi's Governor Ross Barnett sought to defy the federal government which was determined to uphold federal court orders admitting Meredith to the university.

Meredith's struggle to enter Ole Miss began 18 months earlier. His application was rejected. The case moved back and forth between state and federal courts. Meredith contended he had been refused because of his race. A federal court of appeals upheld his contention.

Meredith made four attempts to register at the university. On first try on the campus Barnett blocked him and invoked interposition — putting himself and the state's police powers between orders of the federal court and the people of the state.

The governor blocked a second try and Lt. Gov. Paul B. Johnson thwarted a third. The Justice Department abandoned a fourth attempt when federal marshals accompanying Meredith were called back because of a possibility of violence and bloodshed.

Riot on Campus

When marshals finally escorted Meredith to an apartment on the campus on Sunday, Sept. 30, an unruly mob of 2,500 students, townspeople and out-of-towners opened up with a barrage of rifle bullets, rocks, bottles and acid. The marshals fought back with tear gas. Meanwhile, Kennedy, who had made a fruitless appeal for order, dispatched federalized Mississippi National Guardsmen and troops to the college town.

Meredith registered the next day and began classes under the protection of marshals. They remained with him until he graduated in August 1963.

Barnett and Johnson both were cited for contempt of court for defying the court orders to admit Meredith. They faced possible jail sentences and fines.

Racial strife boiled anew in the spring and summer of 1963, spreading to other Southern states and some Northern cities, as Negroes demonstrated for equal rights. Birmingham, Ala., took the spotlight when Negro mass demonstrations in April and May were countered by fire hoses and police dogs.

More than 2,400 negroes and whites were jailed and two Negro residences were bombed at the height of the fury. Federal troops were sent to bases near Birmingham for possible use. The President read a statement asserting the government would do all it could "to preserve order, to protect the lives of its citizens and to uphold the law of the land." He expressed dismay "at the efforts of those who would replace conciliation and good will with violence and hate."

The situation simmered as progress was sought through biracial talks. But the peace was shattered on Sept. 17 when a bomb exploded in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church during a Sunday School session. Four Negro girls were killed and 20 other persons were injured. The bombing climaxed the first week of token integration of three white schools.

In the midst of the Birmingham trouble, the Kennedy administration also tangled with Alabama's Gov. George C. Wallace over the admission of two Negro students to the University of Alabama. Although Wallace made good a threat to stand on the school house steps and forbid the students entrance, he bowed to federalized Alabama National Guardsmen and the students entered the university.

Requested Legislation

The unrest spurred the President to send a special message to Congress in June asking it to help end "rancor, violence, disunity and national shame" by passing what was described as the most sweeping civil rights bill since Reconstruction days.

The bill brimmed with weapons against racial discrimination in stores, hotels and other public places, in schools, in jobs and polling booths. The President called its enactment "imperative."

He chided Congress for not enacting earlier proposals and said, "The result of continued federal legislative inaction will continue, if not increase, racial strife." At the same time he appealed to Negroes to rein their demonstrations so Congress can "freely work its will."

In a move to impress Congress, Negro leaders called for a "March on Washington." On Aug. 28 more than 200,000 Negroes and whites arrived in the capital by plane, train, bus, car and on foot. Gathering at the Washington Monument, they marched down Constitution Ave. to the Lincoln Memorial, chanting and singing. Massed before the statue of the Civil War President, they shouted support of their leader's demands for "jobs and freedom." Kennedy asserted "the ...use of 20 million Negroes has been advanced" by the assembly. But Congress did not hurry enactment of the civil rights bill.

Kennedy had trouble, too,

(Continued on Page 4)

Associated Press Wirephoto

MRS. KENNEDY RETURNS TO NATION'S CAPITAL
. . . Comforted by Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy