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DATE: 03/01/1968
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GARRISON JAMES
JFK ASSASSINATION
DUTCH TV
OLTMANS WILLIAM

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED 104-10070-10117
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1 March 1968

6:7 Please classify to 201-155-221 (Wilbur Otsman) and index name of James Garrison, New Orleans District Attorney.
MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Garrison and the Kennedy Assassination: Interview of Garrison on Dutch TV by William L. Oltmans (201-155221)

REFERENCES: A. Joint State-USIA cable, HCM 553, HAGUE - 3931, 24 February 1968
B. The Hague 3870, IN 59664, 27 February 1968

SUMMARY

James A. Garrison appeared on Dutch TV on 22 February 1968. He continued -- in fact, escalated -- his attack upon CIA in a persuasive performance. There is a possibility of a follow-up program in Holland and replays elsewhere in Europe. Garrison’s interviewer, William L. Oltmans, is a Dutch pro-Communist, although he pretends not to be, and a homosexual who seems to be or to have been intimate with ex-President Sukarno of Indonesia.

Consideration is being given to forwarding to the Station at The Hague overt derogatory information about Garrison from the U.S. press and TV/radio interviews for release to CA assets there.

DETAILS

1. References state that on 22 February 1968 Garrison appeared on Dutch TV (Dutch Television Foundation, NTS) during prime time for one hour (time not stated). Neither reference explains whether Garrison travelled to The Hague or whether the show was taped in the U.S. and sent on tape to Holland. The Dutch desk believes that the latter is true.
She said that her ex-husband and President Sukarno were close friends and that he wrote to Sukarno at least once a week throughout their marriage. Around 1957 she and Oltmans lived at the Paramount Hotel, New York, for a time. The Indonesian government paid their bill, which was more than $300. She met Sukarno through her husband in May 1939 in Copenhagen. At the time of the introduction Sukarno cleared the room of all advisors and bodyguards, then said to her, "So you are Frieda. Well, I am Sukito." He told her "that he looked forward to receiving his weekly messages from her husband and that he always read them just before he went to sleep while he was in bed." She said that ten minutes after her wedding ceremony with Oltmans was over, she was alone. Her father, she said, learned that Oltmans had a police record for molesting young boys in Amsterdam. She obtained a Mexican divorce in 1960. She said that Oltmans is at least intellectually a Communist and believes Communism to be the economic system of the future.


k. An FBI report of 12 May 1967 says that Oltmans claimed to have written for Ramparts an article about CIA in Indonesia. No such article has been found.

6. Reference B requested background information about Garrison's mental health and performance as a public official. A summary of derogatory information from overt U.S. media for the past year (March 1967 to March 1964) has been compiled in response. A decision will soon be made as to whether part or all of this material may be sent to the Station for use by Dutch CA assets.
2. The following were Garrison's charges:

a. Kennedy was murdered because he favored a détente detrimental to the interests of the "military-industrial complex".

b. Kennedy was the victim of a CIA plot. CIA has made common cause with the military-industrial establishment because of a vested interest in maintaining the cold war.

c. CIA is committed to the land war in Asia, whereas one of President Kennedy's last orders directed a reduction of troops there.

d. A U.S. president who brings the U.S. to the brink of peace will suffer Kennedy's fate.

e. Asked why the program had been designed for a European audience, Garrison said that the growing influence of CIA on U.S. media had made it impossible for him to be heard in his own country.

3. Reference A says Garrison, calm and composed, was sufficiently credible to elicit rather favorable reviews from generally well informed Dutch newspapers. "Several Dutch viewers also commented on the credibility of his person and presentation. Likely that the NTS will try to sell this program to other European stations."

4. Reference B says that the Dutch press was generally favorable and that many comments noted he seemed logical and in control of his facts. The majority opinion among Embassy, U.S.I, and CIA personnel at The Hague is that he seemed credible to a large proportion of the Dutch viewers. SYMPATHIZER 17 feels that the program created an all-time low in the U.S. image in the Netherlands. Dutch TV alluded to a third part of the interview, still to come.

5. Garrison was interviewed by William L. Oltmann. A synopsis regarding Oltmann follows:
a. DPOB to June 1923 Huisen, The Netherlands.

b. Studied at Yale 1950 but expelled for unstate
d behavior.

c. Thereafter worked briefly as correspondent
d for U. P. and for Dutch paper De Telegraaf but dismissed
by both for unstate cause.

d. An FBI report of 1960 states that he calls
himself anti-Communist but expresses the views "of a
great admirer of communism".

e. An IANS report of 1961 lists his address for
1956-1961 as 113-09 43rd Ave., Kew Gardens, Long Island,
New York.

f. A CIA report of 1961 lists him as a UN
correspondent then planning an unsponsored trip to East
Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. Dutch
correspondents said that they had yet to see a story written
by him. When he applied for membership in the UN
correspondents association, he was unable to produce a
single clipping in support of the application. He travels
extensively. He has excellent contacts in all Communist
countries including Cuba.

g. The Haagus Post of 15 April 1951, with a
nationwide readership, characterized Otman as an
intimate friend of the then President of Indonesia, Sukarno,
and as having tried for five years to arrange contacts
for Sukarno in Holland.

h. An FBI report of 24 November 1961 restates
the above and adds that he had been separated or divorced
from his American wife 18 months earlier because "he is
not a man". He was living with a male at the time of the
report.

i. An FBI report of 1 February 1962 includes an
interview with the ex-wife Frieda Biebing (she had remarried).
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