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14 June 1968

KENNEDY

MEMO FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Suspicion of Palestinian Conspiracy Behind Kennedy Assassination

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MIDDLE EAST*

1. In our second (unclassified) meeting on 12 June with John Joseph Boles, Political Advisor to the executive officers of Occidental Petroleum, we obtained the following information consisting largely of impressions and interpretations. Boles, with a PhD in Economics and 20 years experience in academia and private industry as an area specialist of the Arab Middle East, is convinced that Senator Kennedy's assassination is a product of the Palestinian Refugee resistance group, Al-Fatah. Information supplied at this meeting was admittedly fragmentary and inconclusive, but Boles promised to marshal his facts and identifications while making his next Middle East trip reporting back on his return in early July 1968.

2. The moment he heard the accused assassin's name, Boles concluded the act to be another of 15 or more prominent political assassinations more or less attributed to the Al-Fatah. He dates these killings from 1948 with King Abdulla, Grandfather of Jordan's King Hussein, and continuing to include prominent Arab and non-Arab officials outspoken in their drive for peaceful, equitable solution of the Middle East problem for both Arabs and Jews. Boles pointed to another assassination effort, fortunately unsuccessful, since 4 June which was targeted at Dr. Camille Chamout (ph), prominent Lebanese personality who, during the Eisenhower Administration, permitted the landing of US troops in Lebanon. The US organization most closely aligned with Al-Fatah is the Arab Federated Students, of which there is a prominent concentration in Pasadena, according to Boles. Moreover, in his opinion, the Arab Federated Students comes closer to constituting a Fifth Column in the US than any organization he can name.

3. The depth of Arab nationalism in Palestinian refugees in the US has been further clarified to Boles in conversations with several such friends since 4 June. One specific instance was recounted with Dr. Adel ("Ed") Awad, a refugee with 10-14 years residence in the US, and a naturalized citizen with an American wife. Awad is a chemical engineer employed by PETROMIN, a government agency of Saudia Arabia with who Occidental/Boles has considerable contact. Following the Kennedy assassination, Awad addressed Boles on the subject without an ounce of sympathy adding that the US and the world had better get ready for "we Palestinians" increased demands for greater voice in national affairs of every Arab country, greater demands against foreign oil concession holders, and greater resistance to Isreal. This attitude

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was most surprising from a man Boles thought he had known quite well.

4. Boles further noted two articles in 27 and 29 May editions of The Daily Star, an English language newspaper published in Beirut and supposedly owned by King Faysal. Each edition contained an article recounting and criticizing campaign pronouncements by Senator Kennedy interpreted as particularly anti-Arab. According to Boles, articles such as these had never appeared in The Daily Star previously, from which he questions the coincidence of timing between the articles and assassination.

5. Amplification of the foregoing will be supplied upon Boles return from a trip including conversations at the White House, in London and the Middle East.

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DCS, Services Div

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