

First Reactions—Profound Shock, Disbelief

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TOKYO—The Japanese taxi driver wiped a few tears from his swollen eyes and said:

"Kennedy-san, he number one democratic man...I'm sorry..."

One simple, humble taxi driver, speeding through foggy Tokyo streets early Saturday morning, just about summed up the Japanese reaction to President Kennedy's death.

An American Army colonel, sitting in the corner of the Sanno Hotel's coffee shop in downtown Tokyo, wept openly. He about summed up the American reaction.

Lt. Gen. Maurice A. Preston, top U.S. military commander in Japan, talked

briefly with his aide over the Sanno's lobby telephone. He hung up, stared for a few moments at the carpet, picked up his brief case and headed for his office.

"I am shocked," he said. "What else can I say?"

In another corner of the coffee shop, Mrs. Preston stared at the checkered tablecloth in front of her. She said she couldn't believe it.

Maj. Gen. Chester W. Clark, commander, U.S. Army Japan, sat down at Mrs. Preston's table.

"This is of such deep and great significance that it's hard to grasp. It is indeed a very great tragedy."

Outside, Yukio Fukihara, an office worker, asked:

"Why?"

At the American Embassy, Marine Cpl. Larry St. Amand, the sentry on duty, said the security officer notified him immediately.

"I thought some crank was on the phone and almost hung up," he said. "Then it hit me."

Shingo Sugira, a 17-year-old high school student, about to board a train in Tokyo station, said:

"I don't know much about politics. I didn't think this could happen."

News of the President's death shook Japan.

At Tokyo's shipyards, Ukichi Iwasaki, a longshoreman, said he felt "uneasy and anxious."

Air Force T/Sgt. Kenneth Doane, a

flight steward on many of Lyndon Johnson's trips in 1953-59, feels that "America is in good hands."

"We're lucky," he said, "to have a guy like Johnson to step in."

Another friend of Johnson's offered reassurance: Retired Navy Lt. Leo E. Jenkins, of Fort Worth, Tex., in Japan on a business trip, said he once worked with Johnson.

"What shocks me the most," he said, "is that it happened in my home state—Texas, the place I just left."

Mrs. Henry Magnusen, wife of an Army staff sergeant stationed in Japan, feels a personal loss—she just became an American citizen. A letter welcoming her into the American family was signed by Kennedy.

Oswald—A Defector And a Castro-Man

Compiled From AP and UPI

DALLAS—Lee H. Oswald, a 1959 defector to Russia and chairman of a pro-Castro "Fair Play for Cuba Committee," was jailed Friday as the prime suspect in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Battered and sullen, the 24-year-old suspect was also accused of slaying a policeman who chased him into a theater shortly after Kennedy was shot to death and Gov. John Connally was wounded. He was seized by another officer.

Oswald wore a white shirt and dark trousers. Police said their first description was that he was wearing a brownish-colored jacket. Such a jacket was found in a parking lot of a funeral home near the theater where he was seized.

Oswald is about 5 feet 8 and weighs about 160 pounds. He has light brown hair.

Officer J. D. Tippit, 38, was slain as he and fellow policeman M. N. MacDonald ran into a rear exit of the Texas theater.

Tippit and MacDonald had received a tip that the assassin might have gone into the theater.

An usher told them a man answering the description of the assassin had entered the theater a few moments before.

According to police headquarters, Tippit fired a shot. MacDonald rushed the suspect and the suspect said, "It's all over now."

MacDonald and the suspect sprawled over a seat in the theater. MacDonald's face was slashed. Police said it was a four-inch gash.

The policeman was slain with a .38 caliber snub-nose weapon.

Police said Oswald worked in

the Texas school book deposition building where a .765 German-army Mauser bolt action rifle was found after the assassination.

According to police, the suspect fired at policeman Tippit,

LAREDO, Tex. (UPI)—The Mexican government announced through its Laredo offices Friday that it has sealed the Texas-Mexican border for 72 hours.

then tried to shoot MacDonald, but the weapon misfired. Tippit died.

Oswald put up a fight and was subdued as a crowd of 600 people gathered outside the theater in the Oak Cliff district.

Oswald accused the police of brutality.

On Nov. 1, 1959, Oswald told the U.S. Embassy in Moscow that he had applied for Soviet citizenship. He said he had been a tourist in Russia since Oct. 13 that year. Oswald was reported to have a Russian wife.

Oswald returned to his Fort Worth, Tex., home from Russia last year after having been in the Soviet Union since 1959.

He spent his time in Russia working in a factory in Minsk and left only after he apparently became disillusioned with life



Lee H. Oswald (left), 24, the prime suspect in the assassination of President Kennedy, is escorted into police headquarters in Dallas after being charged with the slaying of a Dallas policeman. The man at right is unidentified. (AP Radiophoto)

under communist rule.

He had gone to Russia after his discharge from the U.S. Marines and announced he wanted to remain there.

After a change of feeling, however, he applied for a passport in the autumn of 1962 saying he wanted to return to the

United States with the Russian wife he met and married in the Soviet Union. They have an infant child.

The passport was issued and the Soviet authorities granted exit permits for him and his family.

It was in 1959, after he had defected to the Soviet Union, that Oswald told American Embassy officials there that he had applied for Soviet citizenship.

"I have made up my mind, I'm through," he said as he slapped his American passport on the desk of an embassy official in Moscow. He was 20 years old at the time.

It was never known if he was granted Soviet citizenship. His American passport was returned to the U.S. State Department in Washington soon after he turned it in.

U.S. Temperatures

By United Press International

	H	L		H	L
Atlanta	70	54	Miami	78	74
Boston	54	45	N. Orlns	81	69
Buffalo	52	48	NYC	56	48
Chicago	62	49	Oklahoma	68	51
Dallas	74	55	Omaha	58	37
Des Moines	59	38	Phoenix	59	52
Denver	33	26	Pittsburgh	66	56
Detroit	60	52	Port., O.	46	38
Fairbanks	-21	-32	Reno	38	24
Fl. Worth	70	54	St. Louis	61	39
Helena	16	-3	S. Antonio	78	66
Houston	83	66	Salt Lake	37	30
Jackville	74	59	San Diego	62	54
Kan. City	67	49	San Fran	59	49
Las Vegas	57	43	Seattle	43	33
L.A.	60	51	Wash.	63	46
Memphis	72	63			

Kennedy's Last Hours

DALLAS (AP) — Here is a chronology of President Kennedy's final hours Friday:

8:45 a.m.—The President walked bareheaded and without a coat through a misty rain into a parking lot across the street from Fort Worth's Hotel Texas.

He spoke there to a cheering throng of Democrats who could not get tickets to see him at a breakfast appearance and apologized because Mrs. Kennedy was not with him—that she was "organizing herself."

9 a.m.—The President and Mrs. Kennedy attended the breakfast in the Hotel Texas, sponsored by the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Kennedy walked in some minutes later and her entrance brought tremendous applause from the 2,500 guests.

Both were presented with Texas boots and the President got a Texas hat. He declined to put it on in public, joking that he would wear it at the White House next Monday.

10:35 a.m.—The President and Mrs. Kennedy left the hotel by auto for Carswell AFB near Fort Worth and their short flight to Dallas.

11:37 a.m.—The presidential plane landed at Dallas' Love Field. Mrs. Kennedy emerged from the plane smiling and shook hands with airport greeters. She carried a bouquet of red roses.

Several young girls were screaming over Kennedy as he made his way through the crowd. There was no sign of anti-Kennedy sentiment. They left in a motorcade that was to take them over an 11-mile route, including downtown Dallas.

12:30 p.m.—The motorcade approached a triple underpass which feeds into an expressway, the 5-lane route to the Dallas Trade Mart where Kennedy was to make a luncheon speech. A series of rifle shots rang out. The President fell face down on the back seat of his car, a bullet in his head. Gov. John Connally slumped at his side, wounded in the back.

Mrs. Kennedy grasped her husband's head. She gasped, "Oh, no!" The motorcade raced to Parkland hospital near the Trade Mart and Kennedy was taken to the emergency ward where he received a blood transfusion, a tracheotomy and then Extreme Unction from Catholic priests.

1 p.m.—The President died.

2 U.K. Soldiers Killed

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Two British soldiers were killed recently in Sarawak in an encounter with anti-Malaysia guerrillas, the Antara News Agency claimed Thursday.

Pacific Stars & Stripes 3
Sunday, November 24, 1963

Just as the Shots Were Fired



This picture was taken almost simultaneously with the shots that cut down President Kennedy in Dallas. Kennedy's car is in the foreground.

Secret Service men (center, top) have their heads turned looking toward the building where the shots came from. (AP Radiophoto)