

Cargoes of Conflict: The Cuban Missile Crisis as a theatrical production. Memoirs of a teenage American on the fringes of momentous events.

Michael Bradley
PO Box 97035
149 Roncesvalles Ave
Toronto, ON, M6R 3L0

Part One

November 22, 2010 was the 47th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination.

This article will reveal to readers *evidence that has never before been presented* in any of the popular books and film/TV productions about the JFK tragedy. This evidence proves a "Canadian Connection" with the events leading up to November 22, 1963 in Dallas.

Although this "Canadian Connection" cannot tell us *who* the killers of John Kennedy were, activities in Canada do indicate *why Kennedy had to be killed*. This in itself suggests that U.S. governmental agencies (perhaps assisted by Organized Crime, powerful oil interests and, as Michael Collins Piper has proposed, the Israeli "Mossad") orchestrated the assassination. The actual triggermen were and remain insignificant pawns in a much bigger story. It is really irrelevant whether the killers included a patsy like Lee Harvey Oswald, or were Mafia/Mossad/Cuban hit-men or CIA operatives (or a combination of all of these). It is also really irrelevant whether oil money, the CIA or the Israeli "Mossad" financed all or part of the assassination in Dallas.

Not the *who*, but the *why*, will yield the most valuable insight into the JFK tragedy - and it will also yield insight into the Robert Kennedy assassination and the "incident at Chappaquiddick" involving Ted Kennedy. The Kennedys were to be kept from the American presidency at all costs. Why? **Cargoes of Conflict** will provide much more than a hint of an answer to this all-important question.

Unfortunately, since almost half a century has passed, and since we have all been subjected to almost five decades of myth-making and forgetfulness, major events of the JFK Administration need to be recapped briefly. Only in this way can we recognize the crucial importance of the "Canadian Connection" - a key piece of the JFK puzzle that has been unknown, ignored or dismissed by almost fifty years of history. Now it can be told safely...well, or so I think, trust and hope.

In 1959, Richard M. Nixon was confident, and with good reason, of his inevitable victory in the upcoming 1960 presidential elections. He had been the high-profile Vice-President of Dwight D. Eisenhower, the most popular President in U.S. history, and Nixon was clearly Ike's

heir apparent. He was immensely popular with the conservative mainstream of American voters, the Crown Prince of what has been termed "Middle America".

In order to begin his Administration on a note of triumph, Nixon and the CIA planned the "liberation" of Cuba to take place early in Nixon's first term in the White House. An invasion force of disgruntled Cubans was trained in Nicaragua, Louisiana and Florida (see Jim Garrison's *On the Trail of the Assassins*) and was covertly supplied by the CIA. It was called "The Brigade". The original plan was to land these soldiers near a *mountainous* coast of Cuba. If "The Brigade" suffered defeat on the beach against Castro's militia, it could then retreat into the nearby mountains and convert to guerilla-style operations that (it was hoped) would eventually topple Fidel Castro's regime. This was precisely the way Fidel Castro's mountain-guerilla war had finally beaten dictator Juan Batista.

Then the unthinkable happened - Nixon lost the 1960 election to upstart John F. Kennedy. And now, thanks to Sen. Sam Ervin's "Watergate Hearings" of 1973, we know that Kennedy's victory was not completely justified, not completely "fair". Ballot stuffing in Democrat-controlled Cook County (Chicago) swung all of Illinois to Kennedy and this, in turn, allowed him to win in the Electoral College. As Mayor Richard J. Daley of Chicago *supposedly* once said: "Vote early and vote often". The popular vote was the closest in U.S. political history, so close that the result remains unclear according to some analysts (once the late returns from the armed forces and non-residents are taken into account). But, according to the Constitution, it is the Electoral College *and not the popular vote* which actually elects an American president. And, on this technical point, John F. Kennedy won in 1960.

After almost fifty years of Kennedy myth-making, we tend to forget in 2010 that JFK was *the least popular president in U.S. history* from the instant of his election until mid-October, 1962, according to all of the major polls.

Kennedy was briefed on the Cuban operation, but he was given a superficial and not very detailed view of "The Brigade" and its objectives. He seems to have thought that it was a scheme planned, supplied and funded by exiled Cubans themselves. JFK approved their plan *so long as there was no American military involvement*. He didn't seem to know that the operation had been almost wholly planned and directed by the CIA, and was almost totally funded by the CIA. And, of course, John F. Kennedy had no way of knowing the future and therefore knowing that people like Howard Hunt and Joseph Yablonski of later Watergate and Chappaquiddick infamy were among the Americans engaged in training "The Brigade". Then, after Kennedy's rather absent-minded "approval" was obtained, the CIA changed the operation completely over the vehement objections of the participating Cubans.

Or, at least, this is what "liberal" and Kennedy-apologist "history" would want us to believe. However, the Canadian companies involved in **Cargoes of Conflict** must lead us to the conclusion that JFK knew all about the Bay of Pigs invasion *before* his election, knew about the inevitable changes and machinations that would affect the invasion plans *after* his election and had already decided how he could bend the CIA's plans and machinations to his own political requirements in the October 1962 mid-term elections.

No longer was the brigade to be landed near a mountainous coast. The CIA decided to land them at the Bay of Pigs, a low, flat salt-marsh area that is over 100 kilometres (over 60 miles) from the nearest mountains. There was no place to retreat in case of defeat. Further, although the Bay of Pigs offers a poor fighting beach, the region just inland is highly agricultural and served by fairly good roads: Castro would be able to concentrate his militia, and even tanks, within hours while the soldiers of "The Brigade" were still trying to get off the beach and through the salt marsh.

Then too, CIA photo-reconnaissance by U-2 aircraft had identified some underwater shadows off the Bay of Pigs as "seaweed". Some Cubans of "The Brigade" who had been born in the area knew very well that these shadows were coral reefs. Complaints were made to the CIA but to no avail. The Cubans' operation was now hopelessly compromised even before it began, and many members of the brigade wanted to give up the landing attempt. The good sense of this minority was overwhelmed by the élan of the majority. Plans went ahead.

April 1961. The Bay of Pigs landing was a fiasco. Two supply ships, the *Rio Escondido* and the *Houston* ran aground on the coral reefs that the CIA had identified as "seaweed". Supplies, including ammunition and water, could not get ashore. The Brigade was trapped on the beach and Castro surrounded it with a concentration of troops and tanks using the good roads beyond the marsh.

The Brigade's "air force" of second-hand World War II B-25 "Liberator" bombers was shot out of the air by Castro's very few MIGs and T-33 trainers. Kennedy refused to intervene with direct U.S. military action, whether air strikes from nearby carriers or support by U.S. Marines from Guantanamo, despite the pleas of U.S. Gen. Charles Cabell (Number Two man to Allen Dulles at CIA and chief planner of the Bay of Pigs operation). General Charles Cabell's brother, Earle Cabell, was Mayor of Dallas on November 22, 1963.

The Bay of Pigs operation was a total failure... and everyone now blamed Kennedy's lack of support ...the survivors of "The Brigade" were taken prisoner by Castro's militia. Polls showed that the majority of Americans perceived Kennedy as being "soft on Communism" and weak. His popularity dropped *to the lowest in U.S. political history*, according to major polls.

The fate of the Bay of Pigs prisoners was a highly emotional point with a large segment of the American public because the soldiers of "The Brigade" were viewed as patriots who had attempted to free their country from the yoke of Castro's Communism. Securing the release of these prisoners was, therefore, of great political importance to JFK in an effort to repair his shattered prestige.

In at least one Latin American speech, the Punta Areña ("Sandy Point") speech of April 1961 (called the "Punto Gordo" address in CIA jargon, i.e. "Fat Points" in pseudo-Spanish) and on several Havana radio broadcasts, Castro outlined his demands for release of "The Brigade's" prisoners. Although these demands sometimes varied in detail during 1961's broadcasts, they were actually remarkably consistent:

Castro wanted a substantial dollar value (undisclosed) of baby foods and pharmaceuticals.

He wanted access to U.S. markets for Cuban agricultural products.

Castro needed a supply of non-American gasoline and diesel engines and spare parts which could be retro-fitted to existing Cuban trucks, tractors and cars. These were almost wholly of U.S. manufacture and for which the Cubans could no longer obtain spare parts.

Castro wanted a reparations payment of \$50-Million (sometimes \$62-Million) by the U.S. and a promise that Cuba would henceforth remain free of U.S. threat or military invasions.

Now the crucial point of this article in *The Barnes Review* is that although Kennedy did not publicly respond to any of these demands until the resolution of the "Cuban Missile Crisis" in October-November-December 1962, companies were operating in Canada to fulfill Castro's demands as early as April 1961 *before the Bay of Pigs operation occurred*. In addition, a Canadian-based operation to collect \$50-Million in small bills was in place at the same time.

Being in the right place at the right time – or in the wrong place at the wrong time, depending on your point of view (and mine) – I had summer jobs with all these companies between my last year in Toronto high school and my first years in university. However, I did not put together what had really been going on until 1979 when I was lecturing at Dalhousie University's Centre for African Studies in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

A Toronto-based company, Carib Trading Corporation, imported Cuban agricultural produce, re-labelled the products as "Jamaican", and exported them to the U.S. Coffee, mango juice and guava juice were the main products treated in this way, but some sugar and onions were also involved. Two ships of Dutch registry, the *Magister* and the *Tom van der Heide* were chartered for this trade. These two ships continually sailed back and forth out of Montreal.

Another Toronto-based company, Dominion Auto Accessories, remanufactured BMC (British Motor Corporation) engines, fitted them with mounts and electrical components to fit various U.S. tractors and vehicles, and exported the engines to Cuba via the two chartered vessels.

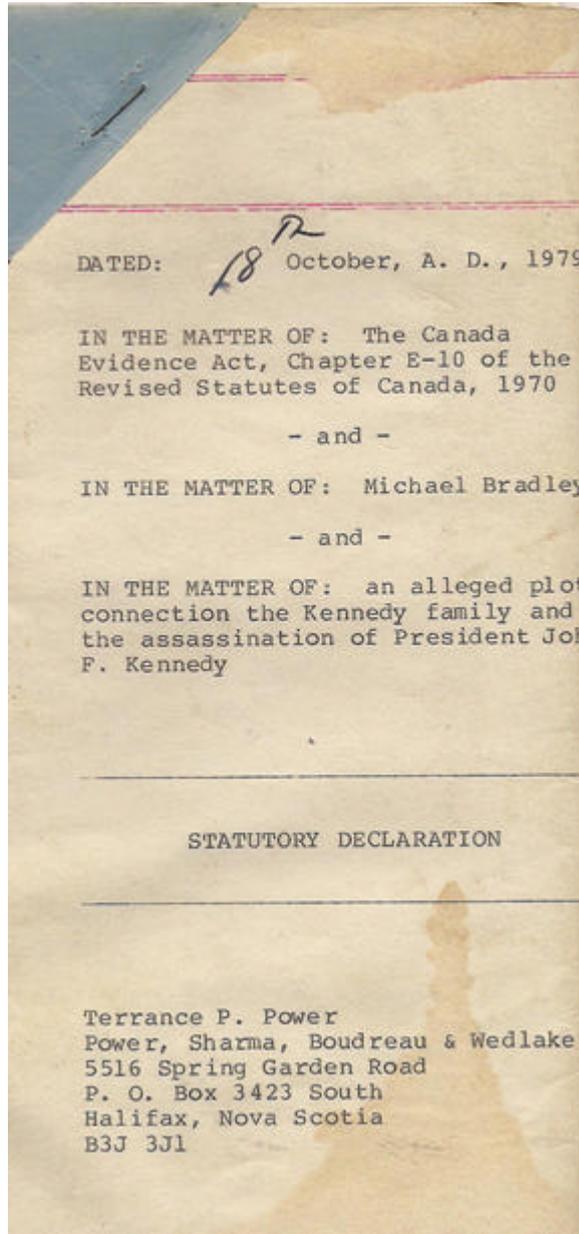
Immediate cash flow for these operations was provided from Cuba in the form of sealed containers containing the treasures of exiled Cuban emigrés. Among the personal effects were jewellery, original paintings (including two by Utrillo and one by Watteau), valuable antique furniture, tableware of gold and silver by Italian Renaissance masters, etc. This all formed the inventory of a Toronto commercial "art gallery", York Galleries, which was soon fire-bombed ("inexplicably", according to Toronto newspapers like the *Toronto Telegram*) with Cuban emigrés claiming credit for the fire-bombing.

All of the above-mentioned companies operated out of 6 Tippet Road, Downsview, Toronto and their joint telephone number back then was 636-4930. All of these companies were owned by Jack Granitsky ("Jack Grant") and the Hennick brothers, Irving and Marvin. My

paycheques came from “Hengran Development Corporation” of the above address. This was a paper subsidiary of Marvel Jewellery U.K. for which I also couriered diamonds to Amsterdam.

It may be of some interest to note that Jack Grant claimed to have a financial interest, along with the Hennicks, in Jack Ruby’s “Carousel Club” in Dallas. In fact, I was offered a free weekend (for my hard work) in Dallas with my then-girlfriend, Louise von Stockelbach. She was the beautiful daughter (see *The World’s Hundred Most Beautiful Women* by Canadian photographer Josef Karsh) of Count Kuno von Stockelbach of Toronto, a friend of Aristotle Onassis. Von Stockelbach was a supposedly genuine Danish Count whose family had pre-Bolshevik financial and manufacturing interests in Czarist Russia.

If I had accepted Jack Grant’s invitation to visit Jack Ruby’s “Carousel Club” in 1961, I would have been there two years before the Warren Commission’s mysterious “Miss Jean Aase” or “Miss Jean West” had been there on November 20, 1963 (see Jim Garrison’s *On the Trail of the Assassins*).



When I *finally* realized what I had been on the fringes of, I looked up the nearest lawyer in the Halifax phone book and swore out a ten-page legal deposition in small type on legal-sized paper concerning most (not all) that I remembered about Canadian-Cuban trade 1961-1963 and John Toyne's operation 1960-1963 . This was so that I could be on official record in the event that I was "suicided", as so many people on the fringes of the JFK assassination were.

Part Two

A Toronto-based ex-British secret agent named John Toyne, author of *Win Time for Us* about his autobiographical World War II exploits for Winston Churchill, headed an operation to extract (under false pretenses) "contributions" from Canadian and American citizens of Soviet-bloc extraction.

John Toyne's World War II code-name, bequeathed by Winston Churchill himself, was "Royal Marine". This "Royal Marine" is mentioned in Churchill's *History of the Second World War* (Volume I, "The Gathering Storm"). Toyne's World War II missions involved activities in Rumania and southern Russia in order to prevent Black Sea oil from getting into German hands.

Toyne's 1960-1963 scheme held out the hope for North Americans of Soviet origin that their imprisoned relatives behind the Iron Curtain would have a chance at freedom. This was presented as a secret Kennedy-Soviet plan to create a buffer state between China and the Soviet Union. Soviet political prisoners in Siberia and elsewhere (particularly those from the Baltic states) would be allowed to "escape" from prison camps and thereby populate this buffer state. Toyne gave me Adolf Silde's *The Profits of Slavery* in order to brief me on the locations and conditions of Soviet work camps housing mostly Baltic political prisoners (Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians).

They would thus gain a measure of freedom, and at least be out of Soviet concentration camps. Money was, however, required to set up a "cultural and rehabilitation" centre in the territory of the new buffer-state-to-be. That was Kennedy's contribution to the plan; it would cost \$50-Million. Those American and Canadian citizens with relatives in such camps were asked to "contribute" because Kennedy could understandably not ask the U.S. Congress for such an appropriation.

That was Toyne's story. He collected an undisclosed amount of money because of it. I worked as a courier carrying monetary contributions from Canadian and American cities to John Toyne back in Toronto. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police were aware of his activities because I reported to them about Toyne's money-collecting scam, but the RCMP did not interfere. I was concerned about being mixed up in some sordid criminal con game instead of a romantic secret operation on behalf of John F. Kennedy. As is obvious after forty-seven years, there is no such "buffer state", and there never was.

Although these operations and covert activities were in place in Toronto as early as April 1961, Castro's demands were not actually dealt with by Kennedy until after the "Cuban Missile Crisis" and its resolution more than 18 months later. And, all that was ever *publicly* agreed was that the Bay of Pigs prisoners were released in return for Kennedy's assurance that Cuba would never again be invaded by U.S. or American-backed forces. And what about Castro's other demands? It seems that most of them were already being satisfied from Canada as part of the *unpublicized* resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

And this so-called "Crisis" is worth reviewing briefly because of its relevance to both the Canadian activities already in place and operational, and to the assassination in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

In his Foreword to RFK's book on the missile crisis, *Thirteen Days*, the British Prime Minister of the time, Harold Macmillan, covers his own historical position by admitting that there were "many curious aspects" to this crisis that would only be clarified by time. Here are some of these "curious aspects", as succinctly as possible.

The crisis blew up in mid-October when CIA U-2 photo-reconnaissance identified *uncamouflaged* missiles at San Cristobal. The Cubans then had the facilities for tracking U-2 flights on Soviet radar. Cuban documents prove that these flights were monitored with great precision and diligence. Why did the Cubans leave the missiles *uncamouflaged for four days* until they were *certain* that the missiles must have been photographed by a scheduled U-2 overflight of San Cristobal?

In this connection, it is interesting that Lee Harvey Oswald, then a U.S. Marine, was assigned to a radar and anti-aircraft unit at Atsugi, Japan where U-2 flights over China began and ended. In Oswald's *apparent* defection to the Soviet Union in September-October 1959, he announced to the American Embassy in Moscow that he intended to give the Soviets information about U.S. U-2 flights and U.S. radar and anti-aircraft capabilities. When Oswald returned to the United States with his new Soviet wife Marina (niece of a Colonel in Soviet Domestic Secret Security), he later worked in Dallas for a company preparing secret U-2 overflight maps of Cuba (see Jim Garrison's *On the Trail of the Assassins*).

And, why would JFK have "unhesitatingly" accepted the CIA photo-reconnaissance since the CIA's U-2 surveillance had made a fiasco of the Bay of Pigs, Kennedy's nemesis? Yet, JFK took these very first CIA photos, *unsubstantiated by reports of secret agents in Cuba*, to both the American public via TV, and to the UN in a presentation by Adlai Stevenson, and claimed they were sufficient to begin his missile confrontation with the Soviet Union.

At the same time, JFK was facing the 1962 mid-term elections. These traditionally go against the Administration in power, but Kennedy wasn't facing merely the usual mid-term voter disgruntlement. He was facing a landslide defeat, his utter political repudiation as the "least popular president in American political history". The Cuban Missile Crisis saved JFK's political future and reputation. The crisis utterly dominated U.S. media to the virtual exclusion of election issues. JFK monopolized the media with his cool "crisis management" and ultimately successful confrontation with Nikita Khrushchev.

And, is it merely coincidence that the U.S. destroyer that stopped the first Soviet freighter (the *Yuri Gagarin*) was the *Joseph P. Kennedy*... a ship and name televised by three anxious U.S. television networks broadcasting to a nervous American audience?

However, apparently the destroyer *Joseph P. Kennedy* had been stationed at Pearl Harbor just before the crisis erupted and had to steam at full speed through the Panama Canal in order to join the U.S. Atlantic Fleet in time for the dramatic (and televised) interception of the *Yuri Gagarin*.

The result of the Cuban Missile Crisis was that Kennedy's Democrats *won* the mid-term elections of October 1962, a feat accomplished only once previously in U.S. political history (Roosevelt, 1934).

For a serious confrontation which had the whole world fearing nuclear holocaust, its resolution was remarkably rapid. By December 23, 1962 the Bay of Pigs prisoners had been released. On that day and the next they were flown to Miami's Orange Bowl for a 3-network meeting with JFK and Jackie, televised throughout the U.S. JFK was given "The Brigade's" battle flag which had flown ever-so-briefly over the beachhead at the Bay of Pigs. JFK waved the flag, and said: "This flag will yet wave over a free Havana."

It can be seen, objectively, that the "Cuban Missile Crisis" served everyone's purposes very well: Castro's Cuba received the security and reparations demanded.

Kennedy's political fortunes were retrieved from what seemed like inevitable disaster.

Within the Soviet-bloc and the Third World, Khrushchev emerged as a peacemaker, a man who preferred "backing down" rather than destroy the world in a senseless confrontation over obsolete missiles that were, in essence, no different than American missiles then in Turkey and Italy and aimed at the U.S.S.R.

However, Khrushchev and the U.S.S.R. also had a blackmail hold over JFK in co-operating with this scenario. The same hold hung over *any* Kennedy in the White House. Since Ted Kennedy had been swept into office in the October 1962 mid-term elections, this amounted to a possible "Kennedy Dynasty" totalling a 22-year blackmail hold over the U.S. presidency, given the possibility of two terms for each Kennedy. And by then JFK's son "John-John" would have come of age politically and could also have run for President. But JFK was assassinated, so was RFK and Ted Kennedy's chances of the presidency were hopelessly compromised by the "Incident at Chappadquiddick" and the tragic death of Mary Jo Kopechne in the back seat (who remembers *her* name now?).

It must now be clear why Jacqueline Kennedy Bouvier had to marry someone like Aristotle Onassis (on October 20, 1968).

It had been her fluency in Spanish and Russian, and her secret and romantic Russian connections (a future story for *The Barnes Review?*), that had made the clandestine collusion of "The Cuban Missile Crisis" possible.

As the publicly adored widow of JFK, she and her children Caroline and "John-John" were probably safe from the CIA for a maximum of about five years. After that, well "accidents" could befall them. Aristotle Onassis, with his fleet of Greek *oil tankers*, was in a position to barter Jacqueline's escape from the United States. With his immense wealth and his private Greek island of Skorpis, not to mention his virtually impenetrable security forces based on Greek family ties (read:"army"), only Aristotle Onassis in the entire world was in a position to provide Jacqueline Kennedy with reasonable security until Caroline and "John-John" could survive to become teenagers. This was an "exit strategy" for Jacqueline that must have been

agreed-upon before John F. Kennedy's election of 1960. For it was well known that Jacqueline Kennedy and Aristotle Onassis had no particular liking for each other (see Pierre Salinger's book *A Thousand Days*).

"John-John", JFK's son, died in his Piper Saratoga's aircraft "accident" of July 1999. Making things absolutely certain, Lee (the younger sister of Jacqueline Kennedy) Radziwill's son Anthony died suddenly and unexpectedly of cancer just a month after "John-John" in August of 1999. Anthony was the son of Polish Count Stanislaw Albrecht Radziwill who married Lee Bouvier on March 19, 1959 – this is a part of the Bouviers' secret Russian and Romanov connections.

Since the "Canadian Connection" proves that the resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis was in operation *before* the crisis occurred, the only reasonable conclusion is that the Cuban Missile Crisis was a concocted crisis, a theatrical production. That means collusion between Fidel Castro, John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev in order to solve their different, but equally urgent, problems.

The result of this collusion was that not only JFK, but *any* Kennedy possibly destined for the White House, represented a security risk. It therefore became an obligation of U.S. security agencies to cut short JFK's presidency, and to prevent any future Kennedy presidency, without tearing the nation's political institutions and delusions apart. This seems to have been done – on November 22, 1963 with JFK in Dallas, with RFK in Los Angeles, with Ted Kennedy at Chappaquiddick. Whether or not Oswald and Sirhan Sirhan were *the* assassins, or were just patsies covering Mob, CIA and possibly "Mossad" gunmen is really not so important.

And whether Howard Hunt and Joseph Yablonski of the "Dirty Tricks" department of Nixon's entourage were merely in Chappaquiddick by "coincidence" on the day of Ted Kennedy's tragedy is also irrelevant to the larger theme of history.

What *is* important is that the "Canadian Connection" indicates almost beyond any reasonable doubt that the Cuban Missile Crisis and the final resolution to the Bay of Pigs was a massive act of collusion which could not be permitted of a U.S. president.

In conclusion, a "Canadian Connection" with the JFK tragedy is not only proved by the evidence, it also makes sense within the context of the times. Canada maintained diplomatic relations with Cuba when the U.S. had severed them. Canada maintained trade with Cuba when the U.S. had imposed an embargo. This Canadian political stance was extremely convenient for Kennedy operatives of the time for there was no diplomatic barrier to direct communications with Fidel Castro and the Cuban government.

And, although Americans tend to ignore the fact, it is *known* that Canada was involved in the spate of U.S. political assassinations of the 1960s. It is easy to forget that the alleged assassin of Martin Luther King, James Earl Ray, actually lived *in Toronto* before he was finally apprehended at London's Heathrow Airport. He claimed that he was trying to get to Montreal in order to confront the man, "Raoul", who had recruited him for a simple gunrunning scam. This scam had placed Ray in the right place at the right time to be blamed for King's murder.

As late as 1975, Ray's lawyer, the famous (or infamous) Jim Garrison, asked me to try to locate "Raoul" in Montreal. It was Garrison's belief that the entire King assassination was planned and implemented *from Canada* by American agents. This makes logical sense because at that time Canadian passports were very easy to obtain, Canada is next door to the U.S. but insulated from the purview of the U.S. Congress and law enforcement agencies: illegal activities in the U.S. could more easily be planned and executed from Canada than from within the U.S. itself.

In fact, it may be that the "Canadian Connection" with JFK's tragedy was the precursor or prototype for many later operations by U.S. Administrations, operations which were illegal and could not obtain Congressional approval or appropriations. Like "Irangate" where illegal arms sales to Iran paid for the Contra rebels in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, Kennedy may have first hit on the formula of undertaking illegal operations in one foreign country to finance illegal operations in another foreign country: Canadian-based activities would pay for Castro's demands. Neither the activities (like Toyne's money-raising) nor the payoff to Fidel Castro would have been approved by the U.S. Congress, and they could not have been implemented *in the United States* under the eye of U.S. law enforcement agencies. Trade with Cuba was not illegal in Canada, and the covert activities of a famous *British* agent such as Toyne were not stopped by the RCMP.

Such illegal foreign activities have inevitably led to tragedy for U.S. presidents, as we've seen in the Watergate money-laundering and Irangate scandals. These were only "politically" fatal for the presidents concerned.

But for JFK, the "Canadian Connection" of illegal activities proved to be truly fatal in Dallas on November 22, 1963.