

The Dallas Morning News - November 23, 1963

His election, though by a narrow margin, was like a breath of fresh air to the political system of the US. He was young, handsome and different. His speeches irradiated strength and conviction. Remember his famous words in his inaugural speech on January 20, 1961? "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." And his warning: "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of lib-

erty." Every sentence conveyed the energy and hope of the "new generation of Americans" he represented.

But when the rifle of an assassin struck at the open motorcade that sunny day in the streets of Dallas in one of the most infamous assassinations in history, there was an early end to a presidency that like many others was already full of crises, mistakes and inactions.

Television was not as developed and ubiquitous as it is now, but viewers around the world looked on in shock at the result of those tragic days: dramatic images of a violence that seems to be the hallmark of a nation and that could even reach its most important person.



This is how the Dallas Morning News reported the event: "A sniper shot and killed President John F. Kennedy on the streets of Dallas Friday. A 24-year-old pro-Communist who once tried to defect to Russia was charged with the murder shortly before midnight. Kennedy was shot about 12:20 pm Friday at the foot of Elm Street as the Presidential car entered the approach to the Triple Underpass. The President died in a sixth floor theatre at Parkland Hospital about 1 p.m., though doctors said there was no chance for him to live when he reached the hospital. Within two hours, Vice-president Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as the nation's 36th president."