

RADIO FREE EUROPE
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FUR LEGAL OR QUASI-LEGAL PROCEEDINGS OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST ARE NOW EITHER UNDER WAY OR PENDING IN THIS COUNTRY. THEY ARE THE SIRHAN AND CLAY SHAW TRIALS, THE FORTHCOMING RAY TRIAL AND THE PUEBLO INQUIRY. ALL FOUR HARE BEING GIVEN RATHER PROMINENT ATTENTION IN THE U.S. PRESS FOR OBVIOUS REASONS. THE EVENTS WHICH HAVE GIVEN RISE TO THESE CASES HARDLY PLACE AMERICA IN A FAVORABLE LIGHT SINCE THREE DEAL WITH POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS AND THE FOURTH WITH WHAT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED THE HUMILIATING CAPTURE OF A SPY SHIP WITHOUT A FIGHT. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT COMMUNIST MEDIA WILL GIVE HEAVY AND BIASED ATTENTION TO THE THREE ASSASSINATION CASES, ESPECIALLY THAT OF CLAY SHAW SINCE IT REOPENS THE ENDLESS CONTROVERSY ABOUT OSWALD AND THE WARREN REPORT. IT MAY BE THAT LESS INTEREST WILL BE SHOWN IN THE PUEBLO CASE, PERHAPS BECAUSE THE SOVIETS ARE SENSITIVE ABOUT THEIR OWN INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS OF THIS KIND. TO DATE I HAVE BEEN ADVISING THE NY DESKS TO LIMIT THEIR COVERAGE OF ALL FOUR TO RATHER BRIEF FACTUAL REPORTS. THE NEWSROOM IS ISSUEING A BACKGROUNDER BY STEINBERG ON THE LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF THESE CASES WHICH SEEMS TO BE BY FAR OUR BEST APPROACH. IN THIS WAY WE CAN EMPHASIZE THE RULE OF LAW AND THE SAFE-GUARDS PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED INCLUDING THE JURY SYSTEM. BY IMPLICATION AT LEAST OUR LISTENERS MAY SEE THE CONTRAST WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND NEWS MEDIA HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN THE KREMLIN. ONE HELPFUL ITEM ON THE PUEBLO INQUIRY WAS RECENTLY CARRIED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES WHICH EXPLAINED THAT THE NAVY TRADITION OF "DONT GIVE UP THE SHIP" PRACTICALLY NECESSITATED A THOROUGH INQUIRY. INDEED COMMANDER BUCHER HIMSELF SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE PUEBLO PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN "COMPLETELY FAIR".

WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR COMMENTS, IF ANY.
REGARDS

END MSG