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Bede conteúdo pessoal  
as memórias do Presidente  
e Kennedy.

October 24, 1979

Prime Minister Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo  
Government Headquarters  
Lisbon, Portugal

Dear Madam:

I would very much like to include a few comments from you in my book, which will be compiled of personal accounts from people all over the world---telling me their memories of where they were, what they were doing, the feelings they had, the reaction of others around them, and how they first heard the news of the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy. The book will not be about President Kennedy's life or his politics; it will be about people. I am not asking for any political comments---just simply a brief account of your memories of this event.

We are emphasizing the patriotic attitude our country had; the historical significance because of the many small details people remember concerning this unexpected, tragic, and dramatic moment in our country's history; and the human-interest aspect because of the unusual ways so many people first heard the news.

Your taking the time to send me a brief account will be very much appreciated. Others who are well-known and eminent have responded and I've heard from many people of other countries. This morning I received a very interesting personal letter from Mrs. Indira Gandhi of India and every day brings letters of historical significance from all over the world.

I do hope you will be kind enough to send me a few comments. I've enclosed a list of a few of the more interesting accounts. Thank-you so much and I am looking forward to hearing from you.



Sincerely,

Jodie Elliott Hansen  
Mrs. Jodie Elliott Hansen  
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A very alert 94 year old man who remembers when President McKinley was assassinated in 1901; this gentleman was in Buffalo at the time. Another unique story from a 90+ year old lady who attended the funerals of both Presidents McKinley and Kennedy. She compared the two services by saying, "The cadence of the muffled drums and the tempo of the Marine Band music had been stepped up considerably, after 62 years---no doubt, the result of the contemporary tempo of everything." A young man with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra who only recently learned from his grandmother that she was a maid in the old mansion in Buffalo where President McKinley was taken after he was shot and before he died.

Princess Grace of Monaco has written and told me what she was doing, how she first heard the news, etc.

Many authors including James Michener and Harry Golden. Mr. Michener was in Israel working on a novel in '63 and told me about how the people around him reacted to the news. Mr. Golden invited the Norman Luboff Choir to his home in Charlotte after they had canceled their concert scheduled for that night.

Many entertainers including Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. who stayed up all night writing an article for the London Evening News---and I talked to Danny Thomas in Memphis at St. Jude Children's Hospital not long ago about his memories of the event and of the man.

Senator Ted Kennedy has given me a few comments pertaining to this tragic event and we've heard from William Brock who is Chairman of the Republican National Committee; former President Gerald Ford; former Governor John Connally; George Bush; Senator Barry Goldwater; and many other politicians. Gerald Rafshoon, Assistant to the President for Communications, has sent me copies of speeches President Carter has made with remarks about how the Kennedy assassination affected our nation.

Several civic leaders including Mayor Koch of New York City have responded, and people of the business world have also written to us including Mr. Henry Ford II, who sent me his recollections along with a copy of the statement he had given to the press on November 22, 1963.

Former Secretary of State Dean Rusk who was en-route to Japan; Judge Sarah Hughes who administered the presidential oath to Lyndon Johnson; and others who were in Dallas, including several newsmen---have sent us accounts of this dramatic day in their lives.

General Maxwell Taylor, Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, and Mr. Jack Valenti have sent very courteous letters and have referred me to their books (written several years after the assassination) for their personal memories.

A Memphis newsman, Gordon Sawhead, heard the news in a most unusual way. He was in NYC and noticed a large crowd gathered in front of a television retail sales outlet store. The people were watching the TV sets through the store windows, but could not hear what the news-commentators were saying. A deaf lady in the crowd read the lips of the newsmen and told the people around her that the President had been shot.

AT&T officials have been extremely helpful concerning the telephone situation that day, although we were already aware of the dramatic increase in the vol-

ume of calls across the nation because so many have included this detail in their stories. The NY Times received 31,800 calls that week-end. The NYSE has also been very helpful in regard to the atmosphere on Wall Street.

Many college presidents have told us about their students' reactions including accounts of the patriotic atmosphere at West Point and at The Citadel. The Reverend Theodore Hesburgh, President of Notre Dame, sent me an account of his personal memories and told me they canceled their game with Iowa that Saturday, the 23rd, and refunded over \$90,000. in tickets. Some schools went on with their games but had memorial-type services at half-time.

College professors from all over the country have had very interesting philosophical comments and historical insights concerning this event and I've heard from a few Lincoln scholars.

A lady who was in a convent in West Virginia had not read a newspaper nor had she seen a television or heard a radio broadcast for 3 years. She and the others were suddenly allowed to watch the televised account of this presidential assassination and it was quite an emotional experience for her.

A couple from Mississippi had ordered a new rocking chair (sometimes known as a "Kennedy rocker") and they were in front of their television set, unpacking this rocker when the news was announced. The lady wrote on the bottom of the chair, "This is the day President John Kennedy was assassinated." Today, after almost 16 years, the words are still there.

A lady who was in high school at the time gave me her memories and told me the suicide rate in America went down that day.

Art Buchwald has responded with a comment or two---in his usual literary style.

Peace Corps people, P.F. Post veterans, and two prisoners (one on death row at the time) have also sent interesting accounts.

Several ministers, priests, rabbis, and two families of the Mennonite faith have given us their recollections and thoughts concerning this event.

A doctor from a rural area in Kentucky had just come home from a hunting trip when he heard the news. He did not hunt again that season which was most unusual for him and he said that even his old hunting dog sensed that something "bad" was wrong.

A New York florist has told me about how he and many others stayed up all night to drape the windows of Fifth Av. stores with black bunting, etc.

A Vice-Admiral in the U.S. Navy was on a submarine near Scotland and did not hear the news for a few hours.

We've heard from many people of other countries along with Americans who were living outside the United States. A lady who now lives in Massachusetts was a Fulbright professor and living in Paris. She heard the initial report on the Voice of America and as she waited for addition news, she heard the guns at the Ecole Militaire firing the official salute to the dead Chief of State.

A man who was in the jungles of South America was told the news by a white mercenary soldier who had recently returned from fighting in the Congo.

A lady was working in her professor's garden in Pennsylvania and heard the church bells ringing at an odd hour. After hearing the news a few hours later, she realized the bells were tolling instead of ringing.



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