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英美时文选读

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ELECTED READINGS
IN BRITISH AND
AMERICAN PERIODICALS

杨其乡 编注

辽宁大学出版社

责任编辑 李建唐

封面设计 刘桂湘

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Foreword

It is well known that students who major in English in institutions of higher education should grasp the latest English language and be informed of the events of the world;

It is for this purpose that we have compiled this "Selected Readings in English and American Periodicals". It contains forty recent articles from well-known English and American newspapers and magazines of general interest such as New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, Economists, Time, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report, Readers Digest;

All of them are written by prominent correspondents, editors, commentators or critics and are wide in scope including news and comments on political, social, cultural and economic events. Though they are about current events, some are of long-term interest. In order to help student at school and those who study English by themselves to grasp the content, we have given a short introduction to the nature and history of each publication and notes on each article. As far as the language is concerned, we have tried to make sure that all articles are written in a plain and familiar style and are not hard to understand, though some difficulties may

still exist for the readers, which are inevitable, because some of the things they deal with are new to us. As we are fresh to the compilation work and not experienced in teaching the course of "Selected Reading in English and American periodicals" we sincerely hope that readers will give us their invaluable suggestions and criticisms so as to improve our work in the future;

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Lesson One

SHIELD AGAINST ASSASSINS

The Secret Service

There have been attempts to kill 10 of our 39 Chief Executives; 4 were successful. Protecting the President has become an awesome job

BY CARL T. ROWAN AND DAVID M. MAZIE

THE SCENES are vividly etched in our memories, forming a mosaic of horror:

- Dallas, November 22, 1963. President John F. Kennedy is killed as he rides in *an open motorcade*: When shots ring out, a Secret Service agent throws himself over Lyndon Johnson to shield the Vice President:

- Sacramento, Calif., September 5, 1975. President Gerald Ford escapes injury or death when a Secret Service agent grabs the .45-caliber pistol held by Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme and wrestles her to the ground.

• Washington, D.C., March 30, 1981. A Secret Service agent leaps between a gunman and President Ronald Reagan, intercepting a bullet meant for the *Chief Executive*. Although the President was seriously wounded, the agent probably saved his life.

In today's world of hired killers and psychopathic assassins, the job of guarding our President has become an extraordinary test of the *U.S. Secret Service*. And over the years, the agency has been ordered to protect more and more people: the President's immediate family; the Vice President and his immediate family; former Presidents, their wives and children; Presidential candidates; and visiting heads of state. Because of the increasing responsibilities the Secret Service has grown. The Service had 1544 special agents and a budget of \$178 million in 1981, compared with 389 agents and an \$8-million budget at the time of the Kennedy assassination.

An agent typically is a man (though there are about 30 women) in his mid-thirties, with a college degree or a combination of college and police experience. He must be prepared to sacrifice his own life to save the President's. The Secret Service is reluctant to discuss in detail how agents carry out their mission, but a general picture of the strategy can be drawn from descriptions by former agents and others who have traveled with Presidents.

Search and Secure. A week or so before the Presi-

dent is scheduled for an appearance, special agents in Washington join with *local law-enforcement personnel* to prepare for it. The motorcade route is scouted for spots where a would-be assassin could have an open shot at the President. Manholes are inspected for bombs, buildings for sniper posts. If the route passes over a river, Navy frogmen make an underwater inspection. A local hospital is designated for use in an emergency and is advised of the President's blood type. Evacuation routes are chosen.

Other agents search files—those of the Secret Service and other law-enforcement agencies—to see if there are people in the area who might present a threat to the President. If any are found, they will be interviewed and may perhaps be kept under surveillance.

When the President arrives at the airport, he is whisked from *Air Force One* into a waiting limousine that has been flown out ahead of time. It is the "*Sherman tank*" of limousines, complete with bulletproof tires, windows and body. One Secret Service agent drives the Presidential car; another, usually the chief of the protective detail, rides beside him. Fifteen or 20 more special agents are in the motorcade, trotting alongside the limousine when it is moving slowly, or following in station wagons and vans. These vehicles are mini-arsenals on wheels, equipped with short-barreled, Israeli-made submachine guns, tear gas, medical supplies

and even tools for prying a person out of a wrecked car.

Sharpshooters with highpowered binoculars and rifles are stationed on rooftops. Additional Secret Service agents, armed with .357-magnum pistols, are placed strategically along the way. Others intently scan the crowds, searching for any suspicious individuals or actions—the man who's wearing a raincoat on a warm, sunny day or the woman with a camera who makes a sudden move toward the President.

At his destination, the room in which the President will speak has been "secured" or "sanitized." Specially trained dogs have sniffed around for bombs. Members of the public who will attend the event have passed through metal detectors like those used in airports; women have had their purses searched. Then the room has been sealed off.

Rifles in Golf Bags. Protection is just as tight when the President is at home in the White House. And for good reason: during the last ten years, one man landed a stolen Army helicopter on the South Lawn; several have tried to scale the iron fence that stands in front of the executive mansion, and one crashed his car through it. Electronic devices—television cameras hidden in the rosebushes, sensors on the lawn—monitor the 18.7 acres of White House grounds. Agents regularly test the air for poison gases and bacteria; they discreetly join in with tour groups; and they inspect all

packages that arrive, right down to bags of jellybeans.

A Presidential vacation is no vacation for the Secret Service. When Dwight D. Eisenhower was in the White House and took time off for golf, the athletic-looking twosome on the next tee were likely to have high-powered rifles in their golf bags instead of *eight-irons and putters*. Agents who could *schuss and snow-plow* trailed Gerald Ford down the ski slopes of Vail, Colo., and those who can ride horses must keep up with Ronald Reagan at the ranch.

For all the security checks and the *exotic James Bond devices*, most authorities believe the key to protecting a President is *intelligence gathering*—finding out about potential assassins before they can strike. The Secret Service keeps computerized files on some 26,000 individuals—people who have threatened the President or other officials at some time, or who have done something to make authorities suspicious and concerned. Of these, some 250 to 450 are on the “hot” list.

Every month some 5000 to 6000 new pieces of information pour into Secret Service headquarters. Someone in a bar has been overheard to shout, “*That jerk in the White House ought to be shot.*” A woman reports that her next-door neighbor blames the President for losing her job. “A high percentage of people we deal with are suffering from mental illness,” explains former Secret Service director H. Stuart Knight. “We have to

ask ourselves: Are they *seriously* considering killing the President?"

Sometimes a tip will cause strong precautions to be taken. Last November, certain intelligence sources warned that Libya's Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi had sent assassination teams to murder top-ranking U.S. officials—including President Reagan. The tightest of security precautions were put in place. When the President attended a gala at Washington's Kennedy Center, some of America's most distinguished people, including FBI director William H. Webster, had to pass through metal detectors before entering the theater.

"The early warning was a deterrent," one official asserts. "Qaddafi may have disputed the reports, but we believe he *called off his goons.*"

Needed: Better Intelligence. In the past, however, the early-warning system has been far from perfect. Lee Harvey Oswald was not on the Secret Service hot list, although the FBI knew of his erratic behavior and earlier defection to the Soviet Union. Neither was Ronald Reagan's alleged assailant, John W. Hinckley, Jr., on the list, even though he had been detained in 1980 for trying to board a plane in Nashville with three handguns, on the same day President Jimmy Carter had been in that city. (The FBI did not notify the Secret Service about Hinckley.)

Indeed, one of the major suggestions for tightened

protection is better intelligence. Secret Service officials are especially unhappy over the guidelines imposed in 1975 by Gerald Ford's Attorney General Edward H. Levi—that limit the FBI's right to infiltrate radical groups. Fomer director Knight contends that the Levi guidelines reduce the information that the Secret Service receives from the FBI by as much as 60 percent.

Behavioral experts from the National Academy of Sciences have suggested that agents need better training to spot potential assassins. No precise profile of such psychopathic killers exists, although some general characteristics are known. (See box, page 143.)

Another problem is the longrunning conflict between the White House and the Secret Service over campaigning by the President. The natural tendency of politicians is to ride in open cars and wade into crowds to "*press the flesh*"—actions that tempt Secret Service agents to take early retiremnt. But as Huber H. Humphrey once said, "If you are a public official, you have to do more than shake hands with the Secret Service."

Yet, increasingly, the White House appears to be avoiding undue risks. Security considerations kept both President Reagan and Vice President George Bush from traveling to Egypt for the funeral of Anwar el-Sadat. And security regulations also forced President Reagan to light the national Christmas tree from inside the White House; We can look forward to more of this

fewer public appearances by the President, more rides with the *bubble-top up in his limo*, Presidential trips coming with little or no advance publicity, crowds kept farther away.

Knowing the risks, few Americans will argue against prudence. Still, there is something terribly sad and disturbing when such grim precautions are necessary. If our Presidents must sneak in and out of the White House or speak from bulletproof "*isolation booths*," then We have lost an invaluable element of our free society.

Spotting the Next Killer

IDENTIFYING A POTENTIAL ASSASSIN is extremely difficult. But many experts, including psychiatrists, psychologists and criminologists, say there are characteristics that fit the majority of people who have attempted to kill our leaders.

He is a *loner*. Without exception, assassins and would-be assassins have been isolated individuals who either have never married or have failed at marriage or other significant relationships. Lee Harvey Oswald, John W. Hinckley, Jr., Sirhan Sirhan, who murdered Robert F. Kennedy, Arthur Bremer, who shot George Wallace, and James Earl Ray, who killed Martin Luther King, Jr, all were living alone at the time of the crime. None had ever been able to maintain a stable relationship with another person.

He is a *drifter*. John Schrank traveled more than 2000 miles in eight states before finally shooting Presidential candidate Theodore Roosevelt in 1912. In the months before his alleged attempt on the life of President Reagan, Hinckley wandered throughout the country. Oswald defected to the Soviet Union and later returned to America. Once back here, he too traveled widely.

He has a *sense of grandiosity*. The assassin envisions himself as an important, though frustrated,

figure who must carry out a historic deed in order that his talent can be recognized.

He identifies with extremist groups. Many assassins were identified with radical causes. Psychiatrist Edwin A. Weinstein notes that potential assassins often use "the language of politics and other institutions to gain a sense of identity." In many instances, say several experts, assassins attempt, via fantasized identification with a cause, to make up for the absence of relationships with relatives, friends and co-workers.

—Richard Restak, M.D., in *Sicence Digest*

Notes

Reader's Digest

Reader's Digest is one of the few remaining American general interest magazines and the most widely read magazine in the world. It is printed in thirteen languages and sells 29 million issues each month. Its articles and stories are taken from other magazines and are often condensed. It is very conservative and easy to read. For the foreign readers the content of the magazine will give good insights into the issues and problems about which ordinary Americans are concerned.

The following article is about protecting the president. Recent assassinations and attempts on presidents' lives have greatly disturbed Americans.

1. open motorcade—a parade of cars with their tops off carrying high officials

2. Chief Executive—The President

3. a combination of college and police experience—a policeman who has taken college classes

4. local law-enforcement personnel—police

5. Air Force One—The special plane which carries the President

6. Sherman tank—a military vehicle used in battles

7. twosome on the next tee—two people playing