

UNCLAS 1B

*** BEGIN MESSAGE 8 ***

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SERIAL: OW2807034292

COUNTRY: PRC

SUBJ: XINHUA--U.S. SENATE VOTES FOR RELEASE OF KENNEDY FILES

SOURCE: BEIJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH 0321 GMT 28 JUL 92

TEXT:

((TEXT)) WASHINGTON, JULY 27 (XINHUA) -- U.S. SENATE VOTED TODAY TO REQUIRE THE GOVERNMENT TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ITS FILES ON THE 1963 ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

THE SENATE IN ITS DECISION DEMANDED OFFICIALS TO MAKE THE SECRET DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AFTER REVIEWING THEM.

THE DECISION CAME AMID RENEWED PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE ASSASSINATION FUELED BY RECENT HOME VIDEO RELEASE OF THE 1991 FILM "JFK," WHICH CONTENDS THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS NOT KILLED BY LEE HARVEY OSWALD ACTING AS A LONE GUNMAN AS THE WARREN COMMISSION CONCLUDED. *

THE MOVIE SUGGESTED THAT BEHIND OSWALD, THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY MASTERMINDED BY THE CIA AND THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, BECAUSE THEY WERE SERIOUSLY ALARMED WHEN KENNEDY SIGNALLED HIS INTENTION IN 1963 TO BRING U.S. TROOPS HOME FROM VIETNAM, A MOVE THAT WOULD HURT THE INTEREST OF THE MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE COMPLEX.

THE BILL PASSED THE SENATE TO OPEN THE ASSASSINATION FILES ((PASSAGE AS RECEIVED)) SAID DOCUMENTS THAT OFFICIALS DECLINED TO RELEASE WOULD BE DELIVERED TO A FIVE-MEMBER INDEPENDENT PANEL FOR THE FINAL DECISION ON THEIR RELEASE.

THE PANEL, TO CONSIST OF HISTORIANS, ATTORNEYS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT WITH THE SENATE'S CONSENT, WOULD WITHHOLD THE PAPERS ONLY IF THEY ENDANGERED NATIONAL SECURITY OR VIOLATED A PERSON'S PRIVACY.

THE PANELISTS WOULD REVIEW THE UNRELEASED PAPERS PERIODICALLY AND RELEASE THEM AS SOON AS THEY COULD BE RELEASED.

THE SENATE ALSO DECIDED THAT ALL DOCUMENTS STILL HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE RELEASED NO MORE THAN 25 YEARS AFTER THE BILL'S ENACTMENT.

THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED A SIMILAR BILL EARLIER.
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