

The assassin has no place in politics, and nor does vio...

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When I heard the news that an attempt had been made on Donald Trump's life my immediate reaction was 'not again'.

I wrote only yesterday about Robert Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1968 when running for President. I recall that happening, just as I recall Reagan being shot since then. Bullets solve nothing when it comes to Presidential races.

My next obvious concern was for all involved. I hope those injured recovered. I feel for the family of the young man who acted so heinously, and has lost his life for doing so. They will be totally bewildered by this, I suspect.

And then, whilst wishing no ill to Trump, I thought of the violence that Trump encourages in his campaigning. He has often spoken in rallies of the 'right way' to deal with those who dissent from his comments. He is unambiguous about his desire to settle scores with those who he thinks have crossed him if he reaches office. He may not be threatening their actual lives, but he is threatening to destroy their wellbeing when they have done no wrong, except to disagree with him.

So, I unambiguously condemn the shooting.

I am relieved that Trump has not been made into a martyr.

I worry about what he might make of this in the campaigning to come.

And I unambiguously condemn the violence he endorses.

This was a bad night for the USA, and maybe for the world. Assassins have no role to play in life, let alone politics. We can and should worry that some think otherwise. The price of that is very high.

But so too is the price we pay for having candidates who endorse violence and the ending of the rule of law.