

A. John Abt (FBI-11)

John Abt was an attorney who represented prominent members of the CPUSA.¹ Following his arrest on November 22, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald stated to representatives of the media, that he wanted to be represented by John Abt. The Review Board requested access to review references to John Abt in the files of FBI headquarters, and the New York and New Haven field offices. Abt's primary residence was in New York City, but he was spending the weekend of November 22, 1963 at his cabin in Connecticut. The FBI provided records from headquarters and from the New York field office. Records from the New Haven field office have been destroyed. The Review Board designated twenty-four serials (all dated after November 22, 1963) for processing under the JFK Act. The records concerned Communist Party meetings at which the Kennedy assassination was discussed, or allegations that Abt knew Oswald prior to the assassination

B. Sergio Arcacha-Smith, Antonio Veciana and Bernardo de Torres (FBI-28)

Sergio Arcacha-Smith, Antonio Veciana and Bernardo de Torres were anti-Castro Cuban activists in the early 1960s. Arcacha-Smith was the New Orleans representative to the Cuban Revolutionary Council until 1962, and in that capacity used an office in the building at 544 Camp Street. The 544 Camp Street address was printed on FPCC literature distributed by Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans in August of 1963. Veciana was the head of Alpha-66, a violent anti-Castro organization that was in paramilitary operations against Castro's Cuba as well as assassination attempts against Castro himself. Veciana testified to the HSCA that he was an agent of the US government, and that he met Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas in 1963 in the presence of his American handler. Torres was a Cuban exile living in Miami who later worked with New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison in his investigation of the assassination. The HSCA reviewed the Headquarters files on Arcacha-Smith, Veciana, and Torres. The Review Board requested an additional search for files from Headquarters, New Orleans, Houston, and Dallas field office files to determine whether the FBI had any other assassination related information on these three individuals. The Review Board designated 33 documents for processing as assassination records from the many files produced responsive to this request. The designated documents were primarily concerned with reactions to assassination within the Cuban exile community.

M. Joseph P. Kennedy (FBI-43)

There have been many allegations in the years following the assassination of President Kennedy that the 1960 campaign for the Democratic nomination and the Presidency were

¹Abt was often mentioned in *The Worker* newspaper, to which Oswald subscribed.

heavily influenced by money raised through Joseph P. Kennedy's organized crime connections. With the understanding that Joseph P. Kennedy was a prominent American who served in many high-level government positions, the Review Board limited its request for files on Joseph P. Kennedy to: 1) a list of file numbers and case captions of files where Mr. Kennedy was the main subject of the file; and 2) field office files for the 1956 FBI investigations for Mr. Kennedy in connection with his appointment to the Presidential Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities of the U.S. Government. The Review Board singled out the 1956 background investigation because of its proximity to the 1960 presidential election, and the allegations of organized crime influence during that election. The Review Board also requested that the FBI provide a list of file numbers and case captions that contained documents mentioning Mr. Kennedy. The Review Board designated three serials produced in response to this request, each of which concerned threats to Joseph P. Kennedy and his family.

O. John Thomas Masen (FBI-22)

John Thomas Masen was a Dallas area gun dealer who was arrested on gun smuggling charges two days before the assassination of President Kennedy. During the fall of 1963, he was supplying arms to the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil (DRE), an anti-Castro group based in Miami. Masen was interviewed by the FBI during the assassination investigation regarding allegations that he may have sold 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano ammunition to Lee Harvey Oswald. Masen's alleged connections to Lee Harvey Oswald are detailed *Oswald Talked* by Mary and Ray La Fontaine, which was published during the Review Board's tenure. The Review Board requested access to FBI files on John Thomas Masen from the following locations: Headquarters (105-12547); San Antonio (105-2886); Dallas (105-1686); and Miami (105-8229). The Review Board designated each of these files in their entirety except for the Miami file which has been destroyed. These files describe the FBI's investigation of Masen in 1963 and 1964, and his association with the DRE.

R. Elizabeth Catlett Mora (FBI-13)

Elizabeth Catlett Mora was a prominent American communist who lived in Mexico City in the early 1960s. Mora was an associate of Vincent T. Lee, head of the FPCC, and traveled to Cuba with him in December of 1962. The Review Board requested access to Headquarters and Mexico City files references to Mora to determine if the Communist community in Mexico City had any contact with Oswald during his trip to Mexico City in the fall of 1963. The Review Board designated twelve serials from the Headquarters file on Mora which concerned the Oswald investigation in Mexico City.

W. Carlos Quiroga

Carlos Quiroga was an anti-Castro Cuban activist in New Orleans who had some contact with Lee Harvey Oswald in the summer of 1963. Quiroga received Oswald's flyer on the FPCC, contacted Oswald, and feigned interest in the group. He spent time with Oswald to determine whether there was a serious pro-Castro group in New Orleans. The Review Board requested access to all Headquarters and New Orleans field office files regarding Carlos Quiroga. The Review Board designated six serials from New Orleans file 105-1095.