

ABT, JOHN

FD-302 (Rev. 3-3-59)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

I.D.N.
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(2)

Date 11/23/63

Captain WILL FRITZ, Dallas Police Department, advised that LEE HARVEY OSWALD had received a telegram from one HAROLD E. MC DERVID, Attorney, Chicago, Illinois, on November 23, 1963, which telegram had not been delivered to OSWALD inasmuch as OSWALD had expressly requested the services of Attorney JOHN ABT in New York City. OSWALD advised Captain FRITZ that he did not care to be represented by a lawyer from the Dallas Bar Association, and that if ABT was not available, desired to seek counsel from the American Civil Liberties Union.

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on 11/23/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 100-10461
 by Special Agent RICHARD E. HARRISON - gj Date dictated 11/23/63

CR 735

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved or Interviewed

Abt. John

FD-302 (Rev. 3-3-59)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/23/63

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NOV 30 1963

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, 1026 North Beckley, Dallas, Texas, was interviewed by Captain WILL FRITZ of the Homicide Bureau, Dallas Police Department. Special Agents JAMES P. HOSTY, JR. and JAMES W. BOOKHOUT were present during this interview. When the Agents entered the interview room at 3:15 p.m., Captain FRITZ had been previously interviewing LEE HARVEY OSWALD for an undetermined period of time. Both Agents identified themselves to OSWALD and advised him they were law enforcement officers and anything he said could be used against him. OSWALD at this time adopted a violent attitude toward the FBI and both Agents and made many uncomplimentary remarks about the FBI. OSWALD requested that Captain FRITZ remove the cuffs from him, it being noted that OSWALD was handcuffed with his hands behind him. Captain FRITZ had one of his detectives remove the handcuffs and handcuff OSWALD with his hands in front of him.

Captain FRITZ asked OSWALD if he ever owned a rifle and OSWALD stated that he had observed a MR. ~~TRUELY~~ (phonetic), a supervisor at the Texas Schoolbook Depository on November 20, 1963, display a rifle to some individuals in his office on the first floor of the Texas Schoolbook Depository, but denied ever owning a rifle himself. OSWALD stated that he had never been in Mexico except to Tijuana on one occasion. However, he admitted to Captain FRITZ to having resided in the Soviet Union for three years where he has many friends and relatives of his wife.

OSWALD also admitted that he was the secretary for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans, Louisiana a few months ago. OSWALD stated that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee has its headquarters in New York City. OSWALD admitted to having received an award for marksmanship while a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. He further admitted that he was living at 1026 N. Beckley in Dallas, Texas, under the name of O. H. LEE. OSWALD admitted that he was present in the Texas Schoolbook Depository on November 22, 1963, where he has been employed since October 15, 1963. OSWALD stated that as a laborer, he has access to the entire building which has offices on the first and second

Commission No. 5

on 11/22/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 89-43
by Special Agent S JAMES P. HOSTY, JR. and JAMES W. BOOKHOUT /wvm Date dictated 11/23/63

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floors and storage on the third and fourth, as well as the fifth and sixth floors. OSWALD stated that he went to lunch at approximately noon and he claimed he ate his lunch on the first floor in the lunchroom; however he went to the second floor where the Coca-Cola machine was located and obtained a bottle of Coca-Cola for his lunch. OSWALD claimed to be on the first floor when President JOHN F. KENNEDY passed this building.

After hearing what had happened, he said that because of all the confusion there would be no work performed that afternoon so he decided to go home. OSWALD stated he then went home by bus and changed his clothes and went to a movie. OSWALD admitted to carrying a pistol with him to this movie stating he did this because he felt like it, giving no other reason. OSWALD further admitted attempting to fight the Dallas police officers who arrested him in this movie theater when he received a cut and a bump.

OSWALD frantically denied shooting Dallas police officer ~~TIPPETT~~ or shooting President JOHN F. KENNEDY. The interview was concluded at 4:05 p.m. when OSWALD was removed for a lineup.

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LEE HARVEY OSWALD, interviewed in offices of the Dallas Police Department, was advised that he did not have to make any statement, any statement he made could be used against him in court and of his right to an attorney. He was requested to furnish descriptive and biographical data concerning himself.

The following was obtained from his responses and examination of contents of his wallet:

OSWALD declined to explain his possession of a photograph of a Selective Service card in the name of "ALEK JAMES HIDEELL".

When interview had been substantially completed and OSWALD was asked as to his present employment, he stated he thought perhaps interview to obtain descriptive information was too prolonged, that he had declined to be interviewed by any other officers previously, and did not desire to be interviewed by this agent. He remarked "I know your tactics - there is a similar agency in Russia. You are using the soft touch and, of course, the procedure in Russia would be quite different."

OSWALD was advised questions were intended to obtain his complete physical description and background. Upon repetition of the question as to his present employment, he furnished same without further discussion.

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	October 18, 1939
Place of Birth	New Orleans, Louisiana
Height	5' 9"
Weight	140
Hair	Medium brown, worn medium length, needs haircut
Eyes	Blue-gray
Scars	No tattoos or permanent scars
Relatives	Mother - MARGUERITE OSWALD, unknown address, Arlington, Texas, practical nurse (has not seen for about one year)

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 by Special Agent MANNING C. CLEMENTS / mac Date dictated 11/23/63

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Relatives (cont'd) Father - ROBERT LEE OSWALD, deceased, August 31, 1939, New Orleans, Louisiana
 Wife - MARINA; two infant children
 Brothers - JOHN OSWALD, address unknown, last known at Fort Worth, Texas, five or six years ago, age about 30, works with pharmaceuticals, but not graduate pharmacist;
 ROBERT OSWALD, 7313 Davenport, Fort Worth, Texas (wife - VADA, two small children), works for brick company (believed Acme)

Dress at Time of Interview Black trousers, brown "salt and pepper", long sleeved shirt, bare-headed

Contents of Wallet Had card in possession, LEE HARVEY OSWALD, Social Security No. 433-54-3937

Photo of Selective Service System card with photo of OSWALD, "Notice of Classification" and name "ALEK JAMES HIDEEL, SSN 42-224-39-5321". Card shows classification IV (?). Bears date February 5, 1962, reverse side shows card from Texas Local Board, 400 West Vickery, Fort Worth, Texas. Card shows erasures and retyping of the information indicated and bears longhand signature "ALEK J. HIDEEL". Signature of member or clerk of local board (indistinct, may be GOOD ____).

Local Board 114, Fort Worth, LEE HARVEY OSWALD, SSN 41-114-39-532, address 3124 West 5th Street, Fort Worth, Texas, registered September 14, 1959. Date of birth October 18, 1939, New Orleans, 5' 11", 150 lbs., blue eyes, brown hair. Mrs. ZOLA Z. BURGER, Clerk.

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Snapshot photo of woman, apparently wife

Snapshot photo of infant

White card with longhand, "Embassy USSR, 1609 Decatur, NW, Washington, D. C., Consular "REZHUYEHKO" (indistinct)

Department of Defense Identification No. N4,271,617, issued to LEE H. OSWALD, expiration date December 7, 1962, Private First Class, E-2, MCR/INAC, Service No. 1653230. Card shows date of birth October 18, 1939, 5' 11", 145 lbs., brown hair, gray eyes.

Dallas Public Library card, undated, expiration date December 7, 1965, issued to LEE HARVEY OSWALD, 602 Elsbeth, Dallas, school or business - Jagers - Chiles - Stovall, followed by the name JACK L. BOWEN, 1916 Stevens Forest Drive, WH 8-8997.

U. S. Forces, Japan Identification card issued to LEE H. OSWALD, Private, Service No. 1653230, organization - MACS-1 MAG-11 1st MAW. Identification card #00646, issued, May 8, 1958. Date of birth October 18, 1939, American.

Card, "Compliments GA - JO Enkanko Hotel, telephone number ED 5-0755 of reverse side.

Certificate of Service in Armed Forces of United States, issued to LEE HARVEY OSWALD, 1653230, reflected honorably served on active duty, U. S. Marine Corps, October 24, 1956 - September 11, 1959.

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Card of "Fair Play for Cuba Committee, 799 Broadway, New York 3, New York, telephone Oregon 4-8295", issued to LEE H. OSWALD, May 28, 1963, filed by V. T. LEE as Executive Secretary

Card of "Fair Play for Cuba, New Orleans Chapter", issued to L. H. OSWALD, June 15, 1963, filed by A. T. (?) HIDEEL, Chapter President (note name HIDEEL on fictitious Selective Service card)

Selective Service notice of classification card to LEE HARVEY OSWALD, Selective Service No. 41-114-39-532, IV-A, dated February 2, 1960, from Local Board 114, Fort Worth, Texas

\$13.00 in currency, consisting of one \$5.00 bill and eight \$1.00 bills

Residence

2515 West 5th Street, Irving, Texas, phone BL 3-1628 (residence of wife for past five weeks)

Room in rooming house, 1026 North Beckley, for about five weeks. Phone number unknown.

Previous Residences

4706 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, no phone (about three months)

602 Elsbeth, no phone (about seven months), Dallas, Texas

Unrecalled street in Fort Worth, Texas, (a few months), with brother in Fort Worth, Texas, for a few months.

Previously in Soviet Union, until July, 1962.

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Occupations

Photography - Jaggars - Chiles -
Stovall, 522 Browder, Dallas, Texas

Factory worker, William B. Riley
Company (Coffee and Coffee Canisters),
644 Magazine Street, New Orleans,
Louisiana

Unemployed for several months

Employed with Texas State Book
Depository, Dallas, Texas, September,
1963, stock work, filing orders, etc.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/25/63

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LEE HARVEY OSWALD was interviewed at the Homicide and Robbery Bureau, Dallas Police Department, by Captain J. W. FRITZ in the presence of Special Agent JAMES W. BOOKHOUT, Federal Bureau of Investigation. OSWALD was advised of the identity and official capacity of said agent and the fact that he did not have to make any statement, that any statement he did make could be used in a court of law against him, and that any statement made must be free and voluntary and that he had the right to consult with an attorney.

OSWALD stated that he did not own any rifle. He advised that he saw a rifle day before yesterday at the Texas School Book Depository which MR. TRULY and two other gentlemen had in their possession and were looking at.

OSWALD stated that on November 22, 1963, at the time of the search of the Texas School Book Depository building by Dallas police officers, he was on the second floor of said building, having just purchased a Coca-cola from the soft-drink machine, at which time a police officer came into the room with pistol drawn and asked him if he worked there. MR. TRULY was present and verified that he was an employee and the police officer thereafter left the room and continued through the building. OSWALD stated that he took this Coke down to the first floor and stood around and had lunch in the employees lunch room. He thereafter went outside and stood around for five or ten minutes with foreman BILL ~~SMITH~~, and thereafter went home. He stated that he left work because, in his opinion, based upon remarks of BILL ~~SMITH~~, he did not believe that there was going to be any more work that day due to the confusion in the building. He stated after arriving at his residence, then he went to a movie, where he was subsequently apprehended by the Dallas Police Department.

OSWALD stated that his hours of work at the Texas School Book Depository are from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., but that he is not required to punch a time clock. His usual place of work in the building is on the first floor; however, he frequently is required to go to the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh floors of the building in order to get books and

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 by Special Agent JAMES W. BOOKHOUT /wvm Date dictated 11/24/63

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this was true on November 22, 1963, and he had been on all of the floors in the performance of his duties on November 22, 1963.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/25/63

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LEE HARVEY OSWALD was interviewed by Captain J. W. FRITZ, Homicide and Robbery Bureau, Dallas Police Department. OSWALD was advised of the identity of SA JAMES W. BOOKHOUT, and his capacity as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was informed of his right to an attorney, that any statement he might make could be used against him in a court of law, and that any statement which he might make must be free and voluntary. He furnished the following information in the presence of T. J. ~~SMITH~~^{VALLEY}, U.S. Secret Service; DAVID B. GRANT, Secret Service; ROBERT I. NASH, United States Marshall; and Detectives BILLY L. SENKEL and FAY M. TURNER of the Homicide and Robbery Bureau, Dallas Police Department.

Following his departure from the Texas School Book Depository, he boarded a city bus to his residence and obtained transfer upon departure from the bus. He stated that officers at the time of arresting him took his transfer out of his pocket.

OSWALD advised that he had only one post office box which was at Dallas, Texas. He denied bringing any package to work on the morning of November 22, 1963. He stated that he was not in the process of fixing up his apartment and he denied telling WESLEY FRAZIER that the purpose of his visit to Irving, Texas, on the night of November 21, 1963, was to obtain some curtain rods from MRS. RUTH PAINE.

OSWALD stated that it was not exactly true as recently stated by him that he rode a bus from his place of employment to his residence on November 22, 1963. He stated actually he did board a city bus at his place of employment but that after about a block or two, due to traffic congestion, he left the bus and rode a city cab to his apartment on North Beckley. He recalled that at the time of getting into the cab, some lady looked in and asked the driver to call her a cab. He stated that he might have made some remarks to the cab driver merely for the purpose of passing the time of day at that time. He recalled that

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his fare was approximately 85 cents. He stated that after arriving at his apartment, he changed his shirt and trousers because they were dirty. He described his dirty clothes as being a reddish colored, long sleeved, shirt with a button-down collar and gray colored trousers. He indicated that he had placed these articles of clothing in the lower drawer of his dresser.

OSWALD stated that on November 22, 1963, he had eaten lunch in the lunch room at the Texas School Book Depository, alone, but recalled possibly two Negro employees walking through the room during this period. He stated possibly one of these employees was called "Junior" and the other was a short individual whose name he could not recall but whom he would be able to recognize. He stated that his lunch had consisted of a cheese sandwich and an apple which he had obtained at MRS. RUTH PAINE's residence in Irving, Texas, upon his leaving for work that morning.

OSWALD stated that MRS. PAINE receives no pay for keeping his wife and children at her residence. He stated that their presence in MRS. PAINE's residence is a good arrangement for her because of her language interest, indicating that his wife speaks Russian and MRS. PAINE is interested in the Russian language.

OSWALD denied having kept a rifle in MRS. PAINE's garage at Irving, Texas, but stated that he did have certain articles stored in her garage, consisting of two sea bags, a couple of suitcases, and several boxes of kitchen articles and also kept his clothes at MRS. PAINE's residence. He stated that all of the articles in MRS. PAINE's garage had been brought there about September, 1963, from New Orleans, Louisiana.

OSWALD stated that he has had no visitors at his apartment on North Beckley.

OSWALD stated that he has no receipts for purchase of any guns and has never ordered any guns and does not own a rifle nor has he ever possessed a rifle.

OSWALD denied that he is a member of the Communist Party.

OSWALD stated that he purchased a pistol, which was taken off him by police officers November 22, 1963, about

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six months ago. He declined to state where he had purchased it.

OSWALD stated that he arrived about July, 1962, from USSR and was interviewed by the FBI at Fort Worth, Texas. He stated that he felt they overstepped their bounds and had used various tactics in interviewing him.

He further complained that on interview of RUTH PAINE by the FBI regarding his wife, that he felt that his wife was intimidated.

OSWALD stated that he desired to contact Attorney ABT, New York City, indicating that ABT was the attorney who had defended the Smith Act case about 1949 - 1950. He stated that he does not know Attorney ABT personally. Captain FRITZ advised OSWALD that arrangements would be immediately made whereby he could call Attorney ABT.

OSWALD stated that prior to coming to Dallas from New Orleans he had resided at a furnished apartment at 4706 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. While in New Orleans, he had been employed by WILLIAM B. RILEY Company, 640 Magazine Street, New Orleans.

OSWALD stated that he has nothing against President JOHN F. KENNEDY personally; however in view of the present charges against him, he did not desire to discuss this phase further.

OSWALD stated that he ~~could~~ not agree to take a polygraph examination without the advice of counsel. He added that in the past he has refused to take polygraph examinations.

OSWALD stated that he is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and added that MRS. RUTH PAINE was also a member of same.

With regard to Selective Service card in the possession of OSWALD bearing photograph of OSWALD and the name of ALEK JAMES HIDELL, OSWALD admitted that he carried this Selective Service card but declined to state that he wrote the signature of ALEK J. HIDELL appearing on same. He further declined to state the purpose of carrying same or any use he has made of same.

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OSWALD stated that an address book in his possession contains the names of various Russian immigrants residing in Dallas, Texas, whom he has visited with.

OSWALD denied shooting President JOHN F. KENNEDY on November 22, 1963, and added that he did not know that Governor JOHN CONNALLY had been shot and denied any knowledge concerning this incident.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/25/63

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LEE HARVEY OSWALD was interviewed at the Homicide and Robbery Bureau, Dallas Police Department, at 6:35 p.m., by Captain J. W. FRITZ in the presence of Special Agent JAMES W. BOOKHOUT, Federal Bureau of Investigation. OSWALD was advised of the identity and official capacity of said Agent and the fact that he did not have to make any statement, that any statement he did make could be used in a court of law against him, and that any statement made must be free and voluntary and that he had the right to consult with an attorney.

Captain J. W. FRITZ exhibited to LEE HARVEY OSWALD a photograph which had been obtained by the Dallas Police Department in a search, by search warrant, of the garage at the residence of MRS. RUTH PAINE, located at Irving, Texas, which photograph reflects OSWALD holding a rifle and wearing a holstered pistol. OSWALD was asked if this was a photograph of himself. OSWALD stated that he would not discuss the photograph without advice of an attorney. He stated that the head of the individual in the photograph could be his but that it was entirely possible that the Police Department had superimposed this part of the photograph over the body of someone else. He pointed out that numerous news media had snapped his photograph during the day and the possibility existed that the police had doctored up this photograph.

OSWALD denied that he had purchased any rifle from Kleins Store in Chicago, Illinois.

OSWALD complained of a lineup wherein he had not been granted a request to put on a jacket similar to those worn by some of the other individuals in the lineup.

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Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved or Interviewed*Abt, John*

MI 62-1178

of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee had set up a meeting for the next Sunday night and had caused some leaflets to be distributed. MAYR was vague and gave no specific information about the time or place of the meeting.

On November 26, 1963 JEROME F. BORKOSKI, Executive Editor, Milwaukee Weekend Metro, 3426 West Burleigh Street, informed SA RICHARD C. THOMPSON that his paper had never published a photo of LEE HARVEY OSWALD nor did he know anything about a picture of OSWALD showing him emerging from a meeting at Jefferson Hall during the summer of 1963 or at any other time. BORKOSKI said that he would have been acutely aware of OSWALD's presence in Milwaukee even as early as the summer of 1963, because he was conscious of OSWALD's defection and subsequent return to the U.S. from the Soviet Union. BORKOSKI pointed out that his stand was strongly anti-Communist and he referred particularly to a news item which he published on January 10, 1962 concerning JOHN ABT. BORKOSKI said that, according to public sources, OSWALD (prior to his death) had requested ABT to represent him as his attorney. BORKOSKI said that ABT spoke at Jefferson Hall in Milwaukee on January 12, 1962 two days after BORKOSKI gave the community advance notice of ABT's reputation with the House Committee on Un-American Activities. BORKOSKI said that he took a picture of ABT at that time, but he knew that OSWALD was not at that meeting because OSWALD was not yet back in the United States. BORKOSKI said that he had no information whatsoever that OSWALD had ever been in Milwaukee. He reviewed past issues of the Metro and of the Milwaukee Reporter, its predecessor in the company of SA RICHARD C. THOMPSON with negative results.

On November 26, 1963 ISABEL MAYR, 1935 West State Street, stated that she had nothing further to add to what she had previously told SA WASHBURG (above). She said she had called the FBI because she had heard a rumor to the effect that the Milwaukee Metro had a picture of OSWALD. She said she could not recall the source of her information but if she discovered it she would again contact the FBI. Concerning the proposed meeting on Sunday night, December 1, 1963 MAYR said that this was not to be a meeting of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee which she knew to be extinct in Milwaukee. She said she didn't know where the meeting was to take place or at what time nor did she know the

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~~XO-POST 2~~
INV. 3

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved or Interviewed

NY 105-38431

On December 2, 1963, JOHN J. ~~ABT~~, New York Attorney, telephonically contacted the New York Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and advised SA JOHN J. DANAHY that his client, ARNOLD JOHNSON, referred to below, had located certain correspondence from OSWALD which JOHNSON claimed he had just received and that JOHNSON desired to make this material available to the FBI at his, ABT's, office. The information obtained is hereinafter set forth.

CR 127

Date 12/4/63

On December 3, 1963, JOHN J. ABT, an attorney with offices at 320 Broadway, New York City, acting as attorney for ARNOLD S. JOHNSON, furnished SAS JOSEPH V. WATERS and ROBERT G. OPTEDAL with items of correspondence between LEE H. OSWALD and the Communist Party (CP) and "The Worker". JOHNSON was present during the interview with ABT.

ABT stated that the items which he was making available to the Special Agents represented all of the material which JOHNSON could locate in the way of such correspondence. He requested that the material be returned to him when it had served its purpose and he also stated that any questions which might arise concerning this correspondence should be referred to him for reply.

The items of correspondence made available are set out as follows:

"L.H. Oswald
P.O. Box 30061
New Orleans, La.

"The 'Worker'
23 W. 26th St.

"Dear Sirs:

"As a long time subscriber to the Worker I know I can ask a favor of you with full confidence of its fulfillment.

"I have formed a 'Fair Play for Cuba committe' here in New Orleans, I think it is the best way to attract the broad mass of people to a popular struggle.

On 12/3/63 at New York, New York File # 105-38431
by SAS JOSEPH V. WATERS and ROBERT G. OPTEDAL/ad Date dictated 12/4/63

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NY 105-38431

2.

"I ask that you give me as much literature as you judge possible since I think it would be very nice to have your literature among the 'Fair Play' leaflets (like the one enclosed) and phamplets in my office.

"Also please be so kind as to convey the enclosed 'honorary membership' cards to those fighters for peace Mr. Gus Hall and Mr. B. Davis.

"Yours Faternally,
/s/ Lee H. Oswald
June 10, 1962"

The date at the end of the above letter appears to have been written as 1962, but because it is in handwriting it is possible 1963 was written.

This letter contains notations in a different handwriting, evidently made on receipt "send catalog and limited supply" and another notation, "Lit. sent".

Apparently in response to this letter there was sent the following communication which was made available in the form of a carbon copy:

"July 31, 1963

"L.H. Oswald
P.O. Box 30061
New Orleans, La.

"Dear Mr. Oswald:

"Your letter to the WORKER has been referred to me for reply.

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3.

"It is good to know that movements in support of Fair Play for Cuba has developed in New Orleans as well as in other cities. We do not have any organizational ties with the Committee, and yet there is much material that we issue from time to time that is important for anybody who is concerned about developments in Cuba.

"Under separate cover we are sending you some literature.

"Sincerely Yours
Arnold Johnson, Director
Information and Lecture Bureau"

This typed letter has a handwritten notation, "Lit. sent".

"August 13, 1963

"Arnold Johnson
23 W. 26th St.
New York 10, N.Y.

"Dear Mr. Johnson:

"I wish to thank you for the literature which you sent me for our local branch of the 'Fair Play For Cuba Committee', of which I am the secretary-president.

"As you can see from the enclosed clipping I am doing my best to help the cause of new Cuba, a cause which I know you approve of also.

"Would you from time to time send us literature? any at all will be greatly appreciated.

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4.

"Please accept an honorary New Orleans
branch membership card as a token of esteem.

"Thank You
/s/ Lee H. Oswald

"P.O. Box 30061
New Orleans, La."

Apparently as an enclosure to this letter
was a printed handbill:

"HANDS OFF CUBA!

"Join the Fair Play for Cuba Committee

"NEW ORLEANS CHARTER MEMBERSHIP BRANCH

"Free Literature, Lectures

"LOCATION:

(blank)

"EVERYONE WELCOME!"

On the back of this handbill appears the rubber
stamped legend:

"Write
P.O. Box 30061
New Orleans, La."

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"Central Committee
CP, U.S.A.

"Lee H. Oswald
P.O. Box 30061
New Orleans, La.

"August 28, 1963

"Comrades:

"Please advise me upon a problem of personal tactics.

"I have lived in the Soviet Union from Oct. 1958 to July 1962.

"I had, in 1959, in Moscow, tried to legally dissolve my United States citizenship in favor of Soviet citizenship, however, I did not complete the legal formalities for this.

"Having come back to the U.S. in 1962 and thrown myself into the struggle for progress and freedom in the United States, I would like to know weather, in your opinion, I can continue to fight, handicapped as it were, by my past record, can I still, under these circumstances, compete with anti-progressive forces, above ground or weather in your opinion I should always remain in the background, i.e. underground.

"Our opponents could use my background of residence in the U.S.S.R. against any cause which I join, by association, they could say the organization of which I am a member, is Russian controlled ect. I am sure you see my point.

NY 105-38431

6.

"I could of course openly proclaim, (if pressed on the subject) that I wanted to dissolve my American citizenship as a personal protest against the policy of the U.S. government in supporting dictatorship, ect. But what do you think I should do? which is the best tactic in general?

"Should I dissociate myself from all progressive activities?

"Here in New Orleans, I am secretary of the local brach of the 'Fair Play for Cuba Committee', a position which, frankly, I have used to foster communist ideals. On a local radio show, I was attacked by Cuban exile organization representatives for my residence ect., in the Soviet Union.

"I feel I may have compromised the FPCC, so you see that I need the advice of trusted, long time fighters for progress. Please advise.

"With Ferternal Greeting
Sincerely
/s/ Lee H. Oswald"

Written on the face of the first page of this letter in a different handwriting is a notation "Arnold - please reply E" and another notation in still another handwriting "Fair Play is a broader comm".

On the back of the last page of this three page letter is the name in handwriting, "Arnold".

The following is a carbon copy of a letter of acknowledgement:

NY 105-38431

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"September 19, 1963

"Lee H. Oswald
P.O. Box 30061
New Orleans, La.

"Dear Mr. Oswald:

"Your letter of August 28th to Elizabeth G. Flynn was turned over to me for reply. Since I received your letter of September 1st indicating that you are moving to Baltimore, I suggest that when you do move that you get in touch with us here and we will find some way of getting in touch with you in that city.

"While the point you make about your residence in the Soviet Union may be utilized by some people, I think you have to recognize that as an American citizen who is now in this country, you have a right to participate in such organizations as you want, but at the same time there are a number of organizations, including possibly Fair Play, which are of a very broad character and often which is advisable for some people to remain in the background, not underground. I assume this is pretty much of an academic question now, and we can discuss it later.

"Sincerely yours
/s/Arnold Johnson"

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"The Worker
26 W. 23 ST.
New York 10, N.Y.
August 31

"Lee H. Oswald
P.O. Box 30061
New Orleans, La.

"Dear Mr. Bert

"As a commercial photograher I have, in the past, made blow-ups, reverses and other types of photo work for the 'Worker'.

"Mr. Weinstock, in December 1962, expressed thanks for my modest work in a letter.

"Mr. Tormey, of the Gus Hall-Ben Davis defense committee also has commended some photos I did for his committee.

"I am familiar with most forms of photo and art work, and other fazes of typographie.

"I am sure you realize that to a progress person with a knowlege of photography and printing, the greatest desire imaginable is to work directly for the 'Worker'. However, I understand that there might be many loyal comrades who want the same thing, i.e. to work for the 'Worker'. So if you say there is no opening's I shall continue to hope for the chance of employment directly under the 'Worker'.

"My family and I shall, in a few weeks, be relocating into your area.

NY 105-38431
9.

"In any event I'm sure you shall give my application full consideration. Thank you.

"Sincerely
/s/ Lee H. Oswald"

This letter was transmitted in an airmail envelope addressed:

"Mr. E. Bert
The Worker
26 West 23 St.
New York 10, N.Y."

with the return address:

"P.O. Box 30061
New Orleans, La."

This envelope bears a Post Office stamp "Addressee Unknown".

Among the items furnished was a photographic reproduction of a poster:

"READ

"THE WORKER

"If You Want to Know About

"PEACE

"DEMOCRACY

"UNEMPLOYMENT

"ECONOMIC TRENDS".

NY 105-38431
10.

JOHNSON was unable to say when this poster was received or by what means, and he stated he did not know what had become of the wrapper in which it was presumably mailed.

"Communist Party
23 W. 26th St.
New York 10, N.Y.
September 1, 1963

"Lee H. Oswald
P. O. Box 30061
New Orleans, La.

"Dear Sirs,

"Please advise me as to how I can contact the Party in the Baltimore-Washington area, to which I shall relocate in October.

"Fraternally
/s/ Lee H. Oswald"

"Mr. A. Johnston
c/o Worker

"Lee H. Oswald
P.O. Box 6225
Dallas, Texas

"Dear Mr. Johnson;

"In September I had written you saying I expected to move from New Orleans, La., to the Philadelphia-Baltimore area. You advised me that I could contact you when I had gotten settled there and the party would contact me in that area-

NY 105-38431
11.

"Since than my personal plans have changed and I have settled in Dallas, Texas for the time.

"Through a friend, I have been introduced into the American Civil Liberties Union Local chapter, which holds monthly meeting on the campus of Southern Methodist University.

"The first meeting I attended was on October 25th, a film was shown and afterwards a very critical discussion of the ultra-right in Dallas.

"On October 23rd, I had attended a ultra-right meeting headed by General Edwin A. Walker, who lives in Dallas. This meeting preceded by one day the attack on A.E. Stevenson at the United Nations Day meeting at which he spoke.

"As you can see, political friction between 'left' and 'right' is very great here.

"Could you advise me as to the general view we had on the American Civil Liberties Union? and to what degree, if any, I should attempt to highten its progressive tendencies?

"This Dallas branch of the A.C.L.U. is firmly in the hands of 'liberal' professional people, (a minister and two Law professors conducted the Oct.25th meeting.) However, some of those present showed marked class awareness and insight.

"Respectfully Yours
/s/ Lee H. Oswald"

This letter is undated and envelope is postmarked at Dallas, November 1, 1963. JOHNSON said it was received in mail on November 29, 1963.

NY 105-38431
12.

JOHNSON explained that it has been the practice of the CP,USA to answer inquiries concerning the CP by letter and by the transmittal of a group of pamphlets descriptive of CP activity. He made available a packet of such literature, stating that in all probability the items contained in the packet were the same as those in the packet of literature sent to OSWALD. These items are as follows:

"HORIZONS OF THE FUTURE FOR A SOCIALIST AMERICA" by ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN.
Published by CP,USA, December, 1959;

1961 Catalogue of New Century Publishers,
832 Broadway, New York 3, New York,
dated Fall, 1960;

"FREE AMERICANS FROM THE MC CARRAN ACT DANGER!" by GUS HALL. This bears no date, but the text describes the contents as obtained "from speeches by Gus Hall". Issued by the Gus Hall-Benjamin J. Davis Defense Committee,
22 East 17th Street, New York 3, New York;

"BEN DAVIS on the MC CARRAN ACT at the HARVARD LAW FORUM". Issued by the Gus Hall-Benjamin J. Davis Defense Committee;

"Main Street to Wall Street:
END THE COLD WAR!" by GUS HALL.
Published by New Century Publishers,
June, 1962;

NY 105-38431

13.

"The Only Choice
Peaceful Coexistence" by GUS HALL.
Published by New Century Publishers,
March, 1963;

"3 BRAVE MEN
Tell How Freedom Comes to an
Old South City-Nashville, Tenn." by
JAMES E. JACKSON. Published by
Publishers New Press, 23 West 26th
Street, New York 10, New York,
July, 1963;

"THE ULTRA-RIGHT, KENNEDY, AND ROLE
OF THE PROGRESSIVES For People's
Unity Against Big Business Reaction
and the War Danger" by GUS HALL, described
as General Secretary, CP, USA. This six
page folder bears no date nor name of
a publisher. It is indicated to be an
address by HALL, prepared in 1962 or earlier;

Two blank subscription cards to be used
for the receipt of payment for subscription
to "The Worker" for varying terms.

During this interview of ABT and JOHNSON,
the latter was not identified as an officer or
member of the CP in any way.

On November 27, 1962, the Subversive
Activities Control Board filed an order to
JOHNSON to register under and pursuant to
Section 8 (a) and (c) of the Subversive Activities
Control Act of 1950, as amended, as a member of the
CP, USA, a Communist action organization. This
order followed a hearing held on a petition of
the Attorney General of the United States for such
order to JOHNSON to register. The order is on appeal.

NY 105-38431

A characterization of The Gus Hall-Benjamin J. Davis Defense Committee appears in the appendix section of this report.

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved of Interviewed

7001963

Abt, John J.

Continued Contacts with Communist Party

While engaged at the time in activities supporting the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, Oswald continued to maintain contact with the Communist Party. Items found, for example, among his personal effects after his arrest on November 22, 1963, included:

A letter dated July 31, 1963, on the letterhead of the Communist Party, USA, and signed by Arnold Johnson, Director, Information and Lecture Bureau. This letter acknowledged Oswald's previously described letter to "The Worker," forwarded literature, and expressed approval that "movements" in support of fair play for Cuba had developed in New Orleans. (Exhibit 54)

A letter dated September 19, 1963, from Arnold Johnson acknowledging Oswald's letter of August 28th to Elizabeth G. Flynn, national chairman of the Communist Party, USA, which was turned over to Johnson for reply. It also acknowledged Oswald's letter of September 1, 1963, which indicated he was planning to move to Baltimore and suggested that, after he moved, he get in touch "with us here and we will find some way of getting in touch with you in that city." He also gave Oswald advice concerning participation in organizations. (Exhibit 55)

On December 3, 1963, John J. Abt, New York attorney who is representing the Communist Party, USA, in the legal proceedings

Commission No. 1
FBI Report

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved of Interviewed

Abt, John

Nov, 1963

OSWALD'S LETTERS TURNED OVER TO FBI DECEMBER 3, 1963, BY JOHN ABT
ON BEHALF OF ARNOLD JOHNSON. (OSWALD'S HANDWRITING)

*Commission No. 1
FBI Report*

*Exh
56*

LA 850713
 P.O. Box 30061
 New Orleans, La

the "New York"
 23 W 26th St

Dear Mrs

Sub. address
 at hotel (NY)

As a long time subscriber
 to the Worker, I know I can
 ask a favor of you with full
 confidence of its fulfillment

I have formed a "Fair Play
 for Cuba Committee" here in
 New Orleans, I think it is
 the best way to attract the
 broad mass of people to a
 popular struggle.

I ask that you give
 me as much literature as you
 judge possible since I think
 it would be very nice to have
 your literature among the "Fair
 Play" leaflets (like the one enclosed)
 and pamphlets in my office.

also please be so kind as

to convey the enclosed "honorary
membership" cards to those
fighters for peace Mr. Gus Hall
and Mr. C. Davis.

Yours fraternally,
Leo P. Conway
June 10, 1962

August 13, 1963

Arnold Johnson
 23 W. 26th St.
 New York 10, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I wish to thank you for the literature which you sent me for our local branch of the "Play For Cuba Committee", of which I am the secretary-president.

As you can see from the enclosed clipping I am doing my best to help the cause of new Cuba, a cause which I know you approve of also.

Would you from time to time send us literature, any at all will be greatly appreciated.

Please accept an honorary New Orleans branch membership for as a token of esteem.

Thank You
 Leo H. Oswald

P.O. Box 30061
 New Orleans, La.

Lee H. Oswald
P.O. Box 30061
New Orleans, La

Central Committee
C.P., U.S.A

August 28, 1963

Comrades,
Amid
please
reply &

John
to
abroad

Please advise me upon a
problem of personal tactics.

I have lived in the Soviet
Union from Oct. 1958 to July 1962.

I had, in 1959, in Moscow, tried
to legally dissolve my United
States citizenship in favor of Soviet
Citizenship. However, I did not
complete the legal formalities for this.

Having come back to the U.S.
in 1962 and thrown myself
into the struggle for progress
and freedom in the United
States, I would like to know
whether, in your opinion, I can
continue to fight, handicapped as
it were, by my past record, or
I still, under these circumstances, compete

with anti-progressive forces, above-
ground or whether in your opinion
I should always remain in the
background, i.e. underground.

Our opponents could use my
background of residence in the
U.S.S.R. against any cause which
I join, by association, they could
say the organization of which I
am a member, is Russian controlled,
et. I am sure you see my
point.

I could of course openly proclaim,
(if present on the subject) that
I wanted to denude my American
citizenship as a personal protest
against the policy of the U.S. government
in supporting dictatorships, et.

But what do you think I should

do? what is the best tactic
in general?

Should I disassociate myself from
all progressive activities?

Here in New Orleans, I am
secretary of the local branch of
the "Yes Day For Cuba Committee",
a position which, frankly, I have
used to foster communist interests.
On a local radio show, I was
attacked by custom life's organization
representatives for my residence at;
an ~~the~~ Soviet Union.

I feel I may have compromised
the N.P.C., so you see that
I need the advice of trusted,
long time fighters for progress.
Please advise.

With Personal Greeting
Sincerely

Lee H. Oswald

LEE H. OSWALD
P.O. Box 30061
New Orleans, La.

The Workers
26 W. 23 ST.
New York 11, N.Y.
August 31.

Dear Mr. Best

As a commercial photographer
I have, in the past, made blue-prints,
reverses and other types of photo
work for the "Workers".

Mr. Weinstein, in December 1962,
expressed thanks for my recent work
in a letter.

Mr. Torney, of the Gas Hall -
New Louis Defense Committee also
has commended some photos I did
for his committee.

I am familiar with most
forms of photo and art work,
and other forms of typographic.

I am sure you agree, that
to a person with a knowledge
of photography and printing, the
greatest desire imaginable is to
work directly for the "Workers".

However, I understand that there
might be many legal concerns
who want the same thing, i.e. to
work for the "workers?" So if
you say there are no openings,
I shall continue to hope for
the chance of employment directly
under the "workers."

My family and I shall, in a
few weeks, be relocating into
your area.

In any event be sure you
shall give my application full
consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely
Lee H. Oswald

b



105-100
2
1
Lee H. Council
P.O. Box 3041
Washington, D.C.

Communist Party
23 W. 36th St.
New York 18, N.Y.
Sept 1, 1963.

Dear Sir,

Please advise me as to how I can contact the Party in the Baltimore-Washington area, to which I shall relocate in October.

Sincerely,
Lee H. Council

152 H. Oswald
P.O. Box 6225
Dallas, Texas

Mr. & Mrs. Johnson
c/o workers

Dear Mr. Johnson,

In September I had written you saying I expected to move from New Orleans, La., to the Philadelphia - Baltimore area. You advised me that I could contact you when I had gotten settled there and the party would contact me in that area. Since then my personal plans have changed and I have settled in Dallas, Texas for the time.

Through a friend, I have been introduced into the American Civil Liberties Union local chapter, which holds monthly meetings on the campus

of Southern Methodist University.

The first meeting I attended was on October 25th, a film was shown and afterwards a very critical discussion of the ultra-right in Dallas.

On October 23rd, I had attended a ultra-right meeting headed by General Edwin A. Walker, who lives in Dallas.

This meeting preceded by one day the attack on A.E. Stevenson at the United Nations Day meeting at which he spoke.

As you can see, political friction between "left" and "right" is very great here.

Could you advise me as to the

general view we have on the American
Civil Liberties Union?

and to what degree, if any, I
should attempt to heighten its
progressive tendencies?

This Dallas branch of the A.C.L.U.,
is firmly in the hands of "liberal"
professional people (a minister and
two law professors conducted the
Oct. 25th meeting.) However, some of
those present showed marked class-
awareness and insight.

Respectfully Yours
Lee W. Oswald



Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved or Interviewed

Nov 1963

Att. John J.

against the Party under the Internal Security Act of 1950, turned over to the FBI, on behalf of his client, Arnold Johnson, correspondence between Oswald and the Party. Included in this correspondence are previously mentioned letters from Johnson to Oswald dated July 31, 1963, and September 19, 1963. (Exhibits 54 and 55). In addition, there are included six handwritten letters from Oswald to Johnson, "The Worker" and the Communist Party, USA, in which Oswald describes his activities in New Orleans and Dallas, requests a job with "The Worker" and solicits advice on his role in "the struggle for progress and freedom."

The FBI Laboratory has determined that the six handwritten letters to Johnson were prepared by Oswald. (Exhibit 56).

Mrs. Oswald's Move to Texas

Meanwhile, Oswald's wife continued her efforts to obtain assistance in returning to the Soviet Union. A letter to her from the Soviet Embassy dated August 5, 1963, advised her that her request to enter the Soviet Union for permanent residence had been forwarded to Moscow for processing.

Toward the end of September, 1963, Oswald's wife left New Orleans and went to live in Irving, Texas, with a friend, Mrs. Ruth Paine. The latter, who resides at 2515 West 5th Street in Irving, advised on November 23, 1963, that she had first become acquainted with the Oswalds at a social gathering in February, 1963. Mrs. Paine said she developed a friendship with Oswald's

Commission No. 1
FBI Report

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES CONTROL BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

January 9, 1964

Mr. J. Lee Rankin
Room 401, Veterans of Foreign Wars Building
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I have received a letter from Chief Justice Earl Warren dated January 2nd, 1964, requesting that we send to you all information that we have relating to Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack L. Ruby, as well as any other information which we believe may be relevant to your investigation.

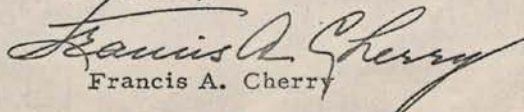
A careful search of our files reveals that we have no information relating to either Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack L. Ruby.

Some information is enclosed which possibly may be relevant to your investigation. As you no doubt know, the President of the Dallas County Bar Association stated on television that Lee Harvey Oswald had told him he wished to be represented by Attorney John J. Abt of New York City. The attached chart is relevant to Mr. Abt and his appearances before this Board. As you will note, he has for a long period of time represented various groups alleged to be Communist-action or Communist-front organizations, beginning with the Communist Party in 1951, and he is now representing most of the individuals charged by the Attorney General with being members of the Communist Party. From my personal reading of briefs and court decisions I can tell you that Mr. Abt has represented the Communist Party or its alleged members in many cases arising in federal courts.

I assure you that should any pertinent information develop in the future which relates to these principals or the assassination, it will immediately be directed to you.

You have our very best wishes for success in your undertaking.

Sincerely,


Francis A. Cherry

Enclosure

XERO
COPY

XERO
COPY

XERO
COPY

<u>Title of Case</u> <u>Attorney General of the United States, Petitioner</u> <u>v. Respondent:</u>	<u>Board</u> <u>Docket</u> <u>Number</u>		<u>Result</u>
The Communist Party of the United States	51-101	P	Ordered to register as Communist-action organization. Affirmed by Supreme Court.
International Workers Order, Inc.	103-53	A	Petition dismissed on order of Court of Appeals following dissolution of the organization.
United May Day Committee	111-53	W	Ordered to register as Communist-front organization. Affirmed by Court of Appeals, 12-17-63.
William Albertson	I-1-62	P	Ordered to register as member of Communist Party. Judicial review pending.
Miriam Friedlander	I-2-62	P	do do
Arnold Samuel Johnson	I-3-62	P	do do
William L. Patterson	I-4-62	P	do do
Betty Gannett Tormey	I-5-62	P	do do
Louis Weinstock	I-6-62	P	do do
Dorothy Healey	I-7-62	P	do do
Albert Jason Lima	I-8-62	P	do do
Burt Gale Nelson	I-9-62	P	do do
Roscoe Quincy Proctor	I-10-62	P	do do
Samuel Krass Davis	I-11-63	A	do do
Claude Mack Lightfoot	I-12-63	A	do do
Flora Hall	I-13-63	A	do do
Samuel Kushner	I-14-63	A	do do
George Aloysius Meyers	I-15-63	A	do do
Thomas Nabried	I-16-63	A	do do
Mildred McAdory Edelman	I-17-63	P	do do
Irving Potash	I-18-63	P	do do
William Wolfe Weinstone	I-19-63	P	do do
Mortimer Daniel Rubin	I-20-63	P	do do

Time to appeal has not expired.

P - Participated in the evidentiary hearing.

A - Entered appearance but did not participate in evidentiary hearing.

W - Entered appearance for intervenor but subsequently withdrew before evidentiary hearing began.

A-1 - Entered appearance. Evidentiary hearing has not been held.

XERO
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COPY

Title of Case Attorney General of the United States, Petitioner v. Respondent:	Board Docket Number	Result
John William Stanford, Jr.	I-21-63	A Ordered to register as member of Communist Party. Time to appeal has not expired.
Benjamin Dobbs	I-22-63	A do do
William Cottle Taylor	I-23-63	A do do
Frances Gabow	I-24-63	P do do
Aaron Libson	I-25-63	P do do
Lionel Joseph Libson	I-26-63	A-1 Pending hearing.
James Joseph Torney	I-27-63	A-1 do
Michael Saunders	I-28-64	A-1 do
Daniel Lieber Queen	I-29-64	A-1 do
Ralph William Taylor	I-30-64	A-1 do
Betty Mae Smith	I-31-64	A-1 do
Norman Haaland	I-34-64	A-1 do
Benjamin Gerald Jacobson	I-35-64	A-1 do
Milford Adolf Sutherland	I-36-64	A-1 do
Daniel Andrew Hamerquist	I-37-64	A-1 do

P - Participated in the evidentiary hearing.

A - Entered appearance but did not participate in evidentiary hearing.

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Dorothy Healey	I-7-62	P	do do
Albert Jason Lima	I-8-62	P	do do
Burt Gale Nelson	I-9-62	P	do do
Roscoe Quincy Proctor	I-10-62	P	do do
Samuel Krass Davis	I-11-63	A	do do
Claude Mack Lightfoot	I-12-63	A	do do
Flora Hail	I-13-63	A	do do
Samuel Eshner	I-14-63	A	do do
George Aloysius Meyers	I-15-63	A	Time to appeal has not expired.
Thomas Nabried	I-16-63	A	do do
Mildred McAdory Edelman	I-17-63	P	do do
Irving Potash	I-18-63	P	do do
William Wolfe Weinstone	I-19-63	P	do do
Mortimer Daniel Rubin	I-20-63	P	do do

P - Participated in the evidentiary hearing.

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Lionel Joseph Libson	I-26-63 A-1	Pending hearing.
James Joseph Torney	I-27-63 A-1	do
Michael Saunders	I-28-64 A-1	do
Daniel Lieber Queen	I-29-64 A-1	do
Ralph William Taylor	I-30-64 A-1	do
Betty Mae Smith	I-31-64 A-1	do
Norman Hasland	I-34-64 A-1	do
Benjamin Gerald Jacobson	I-35-64 A-1	do
Milford Adolf Sutherland	I-36-64 A-1	do
Daniel Andrew Hamerquist	I-37-64 A-1	do

P - Participated in the evidentiary hearing.
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Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved or Interviewed

Abt, John J

January 9, 1964

*orig in
GAT
Subversive
Activities
Control Bd.*

Mr. J. Lee Rankin
Room 401, Veterans of Foreign Wars Building
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I have received a letter from Chief Justice Earl Warren dated January 2nd, 1964, requesting that we send to you all information that we have relating to Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack L. Ruby, as well as any other information which we believe may be relevant to your investigation.

A careful search of our files reveals that we have no information relating to either Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack L. Ruby.

Some information is enclosed which possibly may be relevant to your investigation. As you no doubt know, the President of the Dallas County Bar Association stated on television that Lee Harvey Oswald had told him he wished to be represented by Attorney John J. Abt of New York City. The attached chart is relevant to Mr. Abt and his appearances before this Board. As you will note, he has for a long period of time represented various groups alleged to be Communist-action or Communist-front organizations, beginning with the Communist Party in 1951, and he is now representing most of the individuals charged by the Attorney General with being members of the Communist Party. From my personal reading of briefs and court decisions I can tell you that Mr. Abt has represented the Communist Party or its alleged members in many cases arising in federal courts.

I assure you that should any pertinent information develop in the future which relates to these principals or the assassination, it will immediately be directed to you.

You have our very best wishes for success in your undertaking.

Sincerely,

s/ Francis A. Cherry

Francis A. Cherry

Enclosure

ABT, ^{KP} John J

~~IN-EN~~

~~3-7~~

~~Oswald, Lee Harvey~~

FEB 10 1964

JLR:HPW:al
2/8/64

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you for your letter of February 3, 1964, regarding our request for the items of clothing worn by Lee Harvey Oswald at the time he was arrested in Dallas by the Dallas Police Department. As you know, we completed our interrogation of Marina Oswald Thursday, February 6, 1964, and presented certain of these items of clothing to her for identification. At all times these items were retained in the custody of Special Agent Vincent Bruin, as arranged with the Texas authorities.

I appreciate your making these arrangements, which were of great assistance to the Commission.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

HPW
2/10/64
JLR

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR -



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

February 3, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter of February 1, 1964, wherein you requested items of clothing worn by Lee Harvey Oswald at the time he was arrested in Dallas by the Dallas Police Department.

Appropriate arrangements were made with District Attorney Henry Wade and the Dallas Police Department to obtain the items of clothing desired. In order to obtain these items of clothing it was necessary to promise the Dallas authorities that these items of clothing would be returned to Dallas by the end of this week in order that they would be available for a hearing on the Jack Ruby case to be held on February 10, 1964. In addition, it was necessary to sign a receipt showing that these items of clothing would be retained in the custody of Special Agent Vincent Drain until returned to the Dallas, Texas, authorities.

This was discussed with you telephonically on February 1, 1964, and you agreed that these items would be made available in sufficient time to return them to the Texas authorities or, if for some reason this could not be done, you would work out the necessary arrangements with the Texas authorities.

Prior to showing the items of clothing to Messrs. Melvin Eisenberg and Norman Redlich of your staff on February 2, the clothing was examined to see if any extraneous material was located in the pockets. A small slip of paper bearing four telephone numbers was located, which are as follows: OR 9-9450, RI 8-9711, AC 2-4611, and CO 7-3110. Appropriate inquiry by our New York and Dallas offices has resulted in these numbers being identified as follows:

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

RI 8-9711 is the general telephone number for the City of Dallas, Texas.

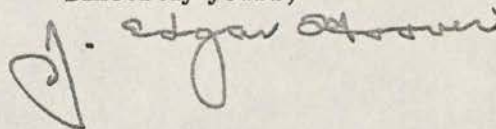
OR 9-9450 is the telephone number for "The Worker," 23 West 26th Street, New York City. (This is the East Coast Communist newspaper.)

CO 7-3110 is the telephone number for the law firm of David Freedman and Abraham Unger, 320 Broadway, New York City. (The firm of Freedman and Unger has represented the Communist Party and various members on numerous occasions for a number of years.)

AC 2-4611 is listed to John J. Abt, 444 Central Park West, New York City, and Jessica Smith, the wife of Abt who uses her maiden name as a practicing attorney. (Both Abt and Smith have represented members of the Communist Party for a number of years.)

I would appreciate your advising when these articles of clothing have served their purpose in order that they may be returned to the Dallas authorities.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of J. Edgar Hoover in cursive script.

#68

jka

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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J O H N A B T, having been first duly sworn,
was examined and testified as follows:

BY MR. RANKIN:

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By *J. J. Sumner*

Date *3-19-68* Case

Q Will you state your name?

A John J. Abt.

Q Where do you live?

A 444 Central Park West, New York City.

Q And you are a practicing attorney in the
City of New York?

A I am.

Q How long have you been practicing law?

A A long time, Mr. Rankin, since 1927. You
do the mathematics.

Q You have been informed, I am sure, that Lee
Harvey Oswald, after his arrest, tried to reach you to
request that you act as his counsel. I don't know
how you were informed, but I have seen it in the
newspapers. When did it first come to your attention?

A May I tell you the story, Mr. Rankin? Per-
haps that is the simplest way.

Q Yes.

A On Friday evening, the 22nd, my wife and I
left the city to spend the weekend at a little cabin

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

jka

John Abt

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we have up on the Connecticut woods. Some time on Saturday, several people phoned me to say that they had heard on the radio that Oswald had asked that I represent him, and then shortly after that the press -- both the press, radio and TV reporters began to call me up there.

I may say we have a radio but we have no TV there. And in the interim I turned on the radio and heard the same report.

I informed them -- and these calls kept on all day and night. Saturday and again Sunday morning -- I informed all of the reporters with whom I spoke that I had received no request either from Oswald or from anyone on his behalf to represent him, and hence I was in no position to give any definitive answer to any such proposal if, as and when it came.

I told them, however, that if I were requested to represent him, I felt that it would probably be difficult, if not impossible, for me to do so because of my commitments to other clients.

I never had any communication, either directly from Oswald or from anyone on his behalf, and all of my information about the whole matter to this day came from what the press told me in those telephone

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By authority of
Archivist of United StatesBy *A. J. Donovan*Date *2-19-68* *Case*

~~TOP SECRET~~
C E R T I F I C A T E

We, John H. Knuppel and Murray Padgug, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and accurate transcript, to the best of our skill and ability, from our stenographic notes of these proceedings, taken down by us and transcribed under our supervision on the 17th day of April, 1964, in Room 511A, United States Courthouse, Southern District of New York, Foley Square, New York, N. Y., in proceedings before the President's Commission investigating the assassination of President Kennedy.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELED

By authority of
Archivist of United StatesBy J. J. DanahyDate 2-19-68 CaseJohn H. KnuppelMurray Padgug
~~TOP SECRET~~