

NR_key_name: 57CDFE73BA5B15858525655B0069D031

SendTo: CN=Tom Samoluk/O=ARRB @ ARRB

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BlindCopyTo: CN=R ecord/O=ARRB

From: CN=Laura Denk/O=ARRB

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DisplayDate: 11/26/1997

DisplayDate_Time: 2:22:47 PM

ComposedDate: 11/26/1997

ComposedDate_Time: 2:15:46 PM

Subject: Re: Bob Clark Interest in Any FBI Files on John Abt

TOM: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THE BUREAU HAS FINISHED PROCESSING THE RECORDS THAT PHIL DESIGNATED OR NOT, BUT I will certainly check with Carol next Monday for you. I know that we haven't yet asked them to process anything from the Abt HQ main file. Rather than give Clark daily updates on the status of the Abt file (I'm trying to avoid another "Russo-ian" scenario), why don't we tell Carol that John Abt will be one of the five "requests for additional information" that we will close out in December (we are closing out five each month) and then you can tell Clark that, barring any unanticipated complications, we expect the records to be transferred to the Collection in January 1998. Let me know what you think.

LauraTo: Laura Denk/ARRBcc: Jeremy Gunn/ARRBFrom: Tom Samoluk/ARRBDate: 11/26/97 12:50:08 PMSubject: Re: Bob Clark Interest in Any FBI Files on John Abt

Laura: Thank you for the information. My next question is: what is the status of the records we asked the FBI to process? Anything open? No rush for this week, but when you are able to get an answer, I'll get back to Clark. Thanks.

TomTo: Tom Samoluk/ARRBcc: Jeremy Gunn/ARRBFrom: Laura Denk/ARRBDate: 11/26/97 10:18:13 AMSubject: Re: Bob Clark Interest in Any FBI Files on John Abt

Tom --Phil must have been more interested than you thought, because he did make a request for additional information (FBI-11) on April 8, 1996. The request letter reads, in relevant part, "The ARRB staff requests access to review references to John Abt in the files of FBI Headquarters, the New York field office, and the New Haven field office for the time from June 1962 through December 1964. This request includes, but is not limited to, any communications involving Mr. Abt intercepted via electronic surveillance." The FBI provided Abt's main file from headquarters (100-236194), and his New York field office file (229-9c-9). New Haven had no files on Abt. I think Kevin and/or Joan may have reviewed these files, but I will need to talk to Kevin and find out if he and/or Joan found any assassination records. Phil reviewed several additional files that the FBI provided to us that contained references to John Abt. The first was a HQ file with the caption "Political Action Committee of the CIO . . . John Abt, Counsel" (# 57-407), but it didn't have any assassination records. The second was part of a main file on Alexander Stevens (100-184255) that had references to Abt, but no assassination records. Phil did locate 5 assassination records in the Jessica Smith Abt file (65-44184) and he asked the FBI to process those records. I hope this answers Clark's questions. Let me know if you need any additional information.

To: Jeremy, Lauracc: From: Tom Samoluk/ARRB Date: 11/25/97 11:49:10 PMSubject: Bob Clark Interest in Any FBI Files on John Abt

Bob Clark from ABC News has been dogged in asking what we are going to do about any FBI files that may exist on John Abt. He is adamant that any Abt files should be part of the JFK Collection because Oswald wanted him as his attorney. I had talked to Phil about Record

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