

# MEMORANDUM

January 26, 1998

To: Laura Denk  
Kevin Tiernan  
cc: Jeremy Gunn

From: Carrie Fletcher

Subject: Summary of John Thomas Masen Files, FBI Request Number 22

I have completed my review of the four FBI files on John Thomas Masen that the FBI produced in response to our request for additional information. John Thomas Masen was involved in smuggling guns to an anti-Castro organization and was arrested on gun charges two days before the Kennedy assassination. Masen operated a gun store in Dallas and testified to the Warren commission on the possibility that he may have sold ammunition to Oswald. Masen's physical similarities to Oswald were noted by several individuals including Ellsworth, an ATF agent who investigated both Masen's gun running and the Kennedy assassination.

ARRB requested five files: Headquarters file 105-125147, San Antonio Field Office file 105-2886, Dallas Field Office file 105-1686, Miami Field Office file 105-8229, and New York Field Office file 105-64262. I reviewed the Headquarters, San Antonio, New York, and Dallas files. I was told by FBI Historical & Executive Review Unit (HERU) that the Miami file has been destroyed. HERU should request documentation for the destroyed Miami file. The four files I reviewed should be designated assassination records both for their subject matter and date.

105-125147                      Headquarters: Serial Scope 105-125147-1 through 28 covers  
October 1963 to December 1964. This file contains records on  
Masen's gun deal, arrest, involvement with the Directorio  
Revolucionario Estudiantil (DRE) and the Minutemen, and  
connection to Oswald. This entire file should be designated an                      assassination  
record.

105-2886                      San Antonio: Serial Scope 105-2886-1 through 38 covers October  
1963 through September 1964. This file contains many duplicates                      of

File 4.16.4 (FBI-38)  
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documents in the Headquarter file and additional records on Masen's involvement with the DRE organization. This entire file should be designated an assassination record.

105-64262 New York: Serial Scope 105-64262-1 through 15 covers November 1963 to February 1964. This file contains many duplicates of documents in the Headquarter file and additional records on Masen's involvement with Anti-Castro organizations. This entire file should be designated an assassination record.

105-1686 Dallas: Serial Scope 105-1686-1 through 62 covers October 1963 to December 1964. This file contains documents on Masen's activities in Dallas, his arrest, and connections with the Minutemen. Document -46 contains an April 1964 statement attributed to Minutemen member Morris Gerald Tannehill: Jack Ruby "is dead either way he goes unless he gets a life sentence because somebody will rub him out" and it was "well known that Ruby had been mixed in with the Communists and that Ruby had a plane chartered to go to Mexico the day of Lee Harvey Oswald's assassination but did not go." This entire file should be designated an assassination record.