

VIA U.S. MAIL & FACSIMILE [Fax No. 203-432-7231]

June 1, 1998

Ms. Nancy F. Lyon
Archivist
Manuscripts and Archives
Sterling Memorial Library
P.O. Box 208240
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut 06520-8240

Re: Abe Fortas Papers and the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act

Dear Ms. Lyon:

Thank you for permitting us to inspect certain Abe Fortas papers at Yale University for the purpose of identifying records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. We appreciate your and Akiba Covitz's cooperation in facilitating our review and understanding of these materials.

Based on our May 28 review of the four boxes of Fortas "White House series" papers, we have identified three separate files that contain materials relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. Those files are:

Warren Commission -- 1

Warren Commission -- 2

Jacqueline Kennedy

These files contain papers relating to the establishment of the Warren Commission; drafts of President Johnson's and Lady Bird Johnson's statements submitted to the Warren Commission; and materials relating to rebuttal of certain assertions made by William Manchester's book, *The Death of a President*, regarding events on the day of the assassination.

We believe that these records contain information useful in completing the historical record on the assassination. We would very much appreciate it if you would send to us (or the National Archives) copies of these records. We understand that the Fortas donor agreement provides that his papers will remain closed until the year 2000. However, in view of the fact that there is a small, discrete amount of material on the assassination; that the material relates directly to events on the day of the assassination (including President Johnson's recollection of those events); and that there appears to be no national security classified information within these materials, we ask that you seek the permission of the donor's representative to open up these materials before the year 2000. We also would be willing to contact the donor's representative and request that copies be made.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

cc: Steven D. Tilley
Chief, JFK Assassination Records Collection