

PROBE

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the Citizens for the Truth
of the Kennedy Assassinations+

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CITIZENS FOR THE TRUTH OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATIONS+ STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

THE CITIZENS FOR THE TRUTH OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATIONS+ (hereafter known as CTKA+) was organized as a result of the April 1993 Chicago *Midwest Symposium on Assassinations*. At the end of that conference, it was generally decided that the time had come to create a political action group, which would urge the executive branch of our government to re-open the unsolved assassinations of the 1960s — i.e., the murders of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King. To clarify and further that overall goal, we hereby list the following immediate purposes of our organization:

1. To ensure that a Review Board is constituted to oversee the release of all classified documents concerning the murder of President Kennedy.
2. To demand, along with the aforementioned Review Board, the appointment of an Office of Independent Counsel to conduct full, uncompromising criminal investigations into the assassinations of the three leaders named above.
3. To amend the current Freedom of Information Act to render future covert actions more difficult to hide.
4. To educate the American public about these murders.
5. To unify under a common banner all other groups researching these cases.
6. To organize local affiliates which will further these aims and give the American people the truth of their recent history.

New Confessions in the JFK Assassination?

Lee Harvey Oswald admitted his employment by the Office of Naval Intelligence and other espionage agencies — or so claims formerly-'deceased' researcher Ted Gandolfo (see accompanying story).

Gandolfo made his assertions on Roy Tuckman's *Something's Happening* program, broadcast June 13, 1993 on Los Angeles radio station KPFK, a Pacifica affiliate. According to Gandolfo, Captain Will Fritz of the Dallas police secretly recorded the entire fourteen hours of Oswald's interrogation, then suppressed the tapes.

Two assassination researchers reportedly now possess these tapes and will make them available at a major press conference on November

22, 1993. "Every tree in the forest will fall," Gandolfo says.

Speaking on the same program a week earlier, JFK investigator Robert Groden also referred to the secret

Oswald confessions. According to Groden, a "right-winger" has possessed these important recordings for a number of years.

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THE GANDOLFO RESURRECTION

JFK assassination researchers in Los Angeles were startled to hear the voice of well-known investigator/collector Ted Gandolfo on KPFK's *Something's Happening* show, June 13 1993. Gandolfo's obituary had appeared in the March 3, 1993 issue of Paul Hoch's journal *Echoes of Conspiracy*. Hoch invited his readers to send expressions of sympathy "or donations" to the late researcher's widow, Anita Piaggio Gandolfo. In a recent letter, Anita Piaggio Gandolfo confirmed her husband's passing. Yet, as in the legend of El Cid, the corpse continues to do battle. Now *that's* dedication! If you wish to send condolences or questions, write the 'late' Ted Gandolfo at 857-D Garfield Street, Franklin Square, NY 11010.

Dallas police have always insisted that they neither recorded the interview nor took any notes.

Although he has not heard the tapes himself, Gandolfo reports that Oswald admitted "he was in the Office of Naval Intelligence; he was a CIA contract employee with the number 110669, and that he was a paid FBI informer, paid \$200 dollars a month, with the number S-172."

Gandolfo also played a telephone interview with the late Jim Garrison, recorded during the House Select Committee on Assassinations hearings. Garrison reported that HSCA researchers had obtained a confession from a participant in pre-assassination planning meetings.

Garrison felt that revealing this new information "would get the investigators here, who are communicating with me, in trouble, and then they would get fired. I wish I could tell you how far they've gone, the progress they've made. It's past conspiracy; it's past *prima facie* — it's solid evidence. On tape. But [chief counsel G. Robert] Blakey seems to have cotton in his ears." According to Garrison, HSCA investigator Clifford Fenton had procured a taped confession from a participant in a pre-assassination planning meeting. Blakey, Garrison charged, suppressed this evidence.

Gandolfo told the KPFK audience that the confessed assassination accomplice was Thomas Beckham. According to Gandolfo, Beckham had provided Fenton with maps of the Dealey Plaza firing zones and names of the conspirators, including convicted Watergate burglar Frank Sturges.

Gandolfo reports that Beckham, acting under CIA auspices, sat in on conspiratorial meetings held in No-Name Key, in the Florida Everglades. Other participants in these meetings allegedly included Harry Dean, Richard Case Nagel, Emilio Santana, Jack Lawrence ("a crack shot from the West Coast"), and Jim Hicks.

After Fenton submitted his report, Blakey assigned

two men to take Beckham's testimony. "They scared him to death," says Gandolfo. "They made him keep backtracking and backtracking. He knew that he was in hostile territory."

Clifford Fenton reportedly now fears for his life and refuses to discuss his work for the HSCA. Gandolfo has implored Attorney General Janet Reno to send an investigator to search for the Fenton report among the classified HSCA documents at the National Archives. According to Gandolfo, Reno assented to this request.

Robert Morrow's books *First-Hand Knowledge* and *The Senator Must Die* both make intriguing references to Fenton's investigations. According to Morrow, Fenton had uncovered a CIA operative willing to present evidence directly implicating Garrison's chief suspects, David Ferrie and Clay Shaw.

The Assassinations Archives and Research Center possesses a document written by Thomas Edward Beckham, in which he describes how, as a youth of 16 in 1959, he came under the influence of Jack Martin and Guy Banister (who also employed Oswald). Martin encouraged Beckham to adopt the pose of a "priest" in the Old Catholic Church. His ministry was actually a front for anti-Castro Cuban activities.

In the AARC document, Beckham states that he overheard these Cuban rebels discuss the possible assassination of President Kennedy.

After the assassination, Beckham became partners with the bizarre Fred Lee Crisman, who had worked in New Orleans with Banister and Martin during 1963. During his investigation of the JFK assassination, Jim Garrison received a purported internal CIA document which identified Crisman as an intelligence operative assigned to domestic duties. A number of assassination researchers believe that Crisman strongly resembled the eldest of the three tramps arrested on November 22, 1963.

Garrison subpoenaed Crisman to appear before a New Orleans Grand Jury on November 21, 1968. Crisman, then living in the state of Washington, had become a far-right radio commentator under the pseudonym John Gold. He evaded extradition; however, reporters discovered that Crisman and Beckham co-owned seven businesses which employed no-one and provided no goods or services.

Crisman told Seattle reporters that Beckham had functioned as a banker for the anti-Castro underground.

Fred Lee Crisman died in 1976.

Thomas Edward Beckham still lives. An occasional country/western singer, he may be operating under the pseudonym Mark Evans. †

