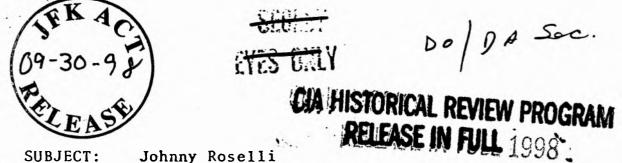
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Johnny Roselli

1. In August 1960, Mr. Richard M. Bissell approached Colonel Sheffield Edwards to determine if the Office of Security had assets that may assist in a sensitive mission requiring gangster-type action. The mission target was Fidel Castro.

Because of its extreme sensitivity, only a 2. small group was made privy to the project. The DCI was briefed and gave his approval. Colonel J. C. King, Chief, WH Division, was briefed, but all details were deliberately concealed from any of the JMWAVE officials. Certain TSD and Communications personnel participated in the initial planning stages, but were not witting of the purpose of the mission.

Robert A. Maheu, a cleared source of the 3. Office of Security, was contacted, briefed generally on the project, and requested to ascertain if he could develop an entree into the gangster elements as the first step toward accomplishing the desired goal.

4. Mr. Maheu advised that he had met one Johnny Roselli on several occasions while visiting Las Vegas. He only knew him casually through clients, but was given to understand that he was a high-ranking member of the "syndicate" and controlled all of the ice-making machines on the Strip. Maheu reasoned that, if Roselli was in fact a member of the clan, he undoubtedly had connections leading into the Cuban gambling interests.

Maheu was asked to approach Roselli, who knew 5. Maheu as a personal relations executive handling domestic and foreign accounts, and tell him that he had recently been retained by a client who represented several international business firms which were suffering heavy financial losses in Cuba as a result of Castro's action. They were convinced that Castro's removal was the answer to their

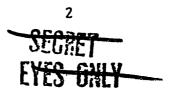
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problem and were willing to pay a price of \$150,000 for its successful accomplishment. It was to be made clear to Roselli that the United States Government was not, and should not, become aware of this operation.

6. The pitch was made to Roselli on 14 September 1960 at the Hilton Plaza Hotel, New York City. Mr. James O'Connell, Office of Security, was present during this meeting and was identified to Roselli as an employee of Maheu. O'Connell actively served as Roselli's contact until May 1962 at which time he phased out due to an overseas assignment. His initial reaction was to avoid getting involved, but through Maheu's persuasion, he agreed to introduce him to a friend, Sam Gold, who knew the "Cuban crowd." Roselli made it clear he did not want any money for his part and believed Sam would feel the same way. Neither of these individuals were ever paid out of Agency funds.

7. During the week of 25 September, Maheu was introduced to Sam who was staying at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach. It was several weeks after his meeting with Sam and Joe, who was identified to him as a courier operating between Havana and Miami, that he saw photographs of both of these individuals in the Sunday supplemental "Parade." They were identified as Momo Salvatore Giancana and Santos Trafficant, respectively. Both were on the list of the Attorney General's ten mostwanted men. The former was described as the Chicago chieftain of the Cosa Nostra and successor to Al Capone, and the latter, the Cosa Nostra boss of Cuban operations.
Maheu called this office immediately upon ascertaining this information.

8. In discussing the possible methods of accomplishing this mission, Sam suggested that they not resort to firearms but, if he could be furnished some type of potent pill, that could be placed in Castro's food or drink, it would be a much more effective operation. Sam indicated that he had a prospective nominee in the person of Juan Orta, a Cuban official who had been receiving kick-back payments from the gambling interests, who still had access to Castro, and was in a financial bind.



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9. TSD was requested to produce six pills of high lethal content.

10. Joe delivered the pills to Orta. After several weeks of reported attempts, Orta apparently got cold feet and asked out of the assignment. He suggested another candidate who made several attempts without success.

11. Joe then indicated that Dr. Anthony Verona, one of the principal officers in the Cuban Exile Junta, had become disaffected with the apparent ineffectual progress of the Junta and was willing to handle the mission through his own resources.

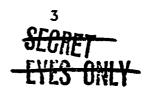
12. He asked, as a prerequisite to the deal, that he be given \$10,000 for organizational expenses and requested \$1,000 worth of communications equipment.

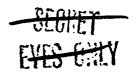
13. Dr. Verona's potential was never fully exploited, as the project was canceled shortly after the Bay of Pigs episode. Verona was advised that the offer was withdrawn, and the pills were retrieved.

14. Of significant interest was an incident which involved a request levied by Sam upon Maheu.

At the height of the project negotiations, Sam expressed concern about his girlfriend, Phyllis McGuire, who he learned was getting much attention from Dan Rowan while both were booked at a Las Vegas night club. Sam asked Maheu to put a bug in Rowan's room to determine the extent of his intimacy with Miss McGuire. The technician involved in the assignment was discovered in the process, arrested, and taken to the Sheriff's office for questioning. He called Maheu and informed him that he had been detained by the police. This call was made in the presence of the Sheriff's personnel.

Subsequently, the Department of Justice announced its intention to prosecute Maheu along





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with the technician. On 7 February 1962, the Director of Security briefed the Attorney General, Robert Kennedy, on the circumstances leading up to Maheu's involvement in the wiretap. At our request, prosecution was dropped.

15. In May 1962, Mr. William Harvey took over as Case Officer, and it is not known by this office whether Roselli was used operationally from that point on.

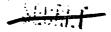
16. It was subsequently learned from the FBI that Roselli had been convicted on six counts involving illegal entry into the United States. Our records do not reflect the date of conviction, but it is believed to have been sometime during November 1967.

17. On 2 December 1968, Roselli, along with four other individuals, was convicted of conspiracy to cheat members of the Friars Club of \$400,000 in a rigged gin rummy game.

18. Mr. Harvey reported to the Office of Security of his contacts with Roselli during November and December 1967 and January 1968. It was his belief that Johnny would not seek out the Agency for assistance in the deportation proceedings unless he actually faced deportation. Roselli expressed confidence that he would win an appeal.

 19. On 17 November 1970, Maheu called James O'Connell, Roselli's first Case Officer, to advise that Maheu's attorney, Ed Morgan, had received a call from a Thomas Waddin, Roselli's lawyer, who stated that all avenues of appeal had been exhausted, and his client now faces deportation. Waddin indicated that, if someone did not intercede on Roselli's behalf, he would make a complete expose of his activities with the Agency.

20. On 18 November 1970, Mr. Helms was briefed on the latest development in this case, and it was decided that the Agency would not in any way assist Roselli. Maheu was so advised of the Agency's position, and he was in



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complete agreement with our stand. He further advised
 that he was not concerned about any publicity as it affected him personally should Roselli decide to tell all.

21. Subsequently, Roselli or someone on his behalf furnished Jack Anderson details of the operation. Attached are two Anderson columns dealing with this matter.

22. The last known residence of Roselli was the Federal Penitentiary in Seattle, Washington.

Attachments

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The Washington Merry-Go-Round THE WASHINGTON POST Monday, Jan. 18, 1971 37 6 Attempts to Kill Castro Laid to CL tor before the motley invadiate against President ion complete with secret crysts at lers landed on the island. Their nedy. By Juck Anderson Locked in the darkest re-: resses of the Central Intellicesses of the Central Intelli-gence Agency is the story of the Communist militia would ert Maheu, a former 1.11 on the Cuben coast. Once, Rosix assassination attempts have had more trouble putting agent with shadowy contact, selli's boat was shot out from against Cuba's Fidel Castro. For 10 years, only a few key down without the charismatic cover assignments for the CIN For the first try, the CIA people have known the terri-Castro to lead them. ble secret. They have sworn After the first attempt relations office. He later vison capsules to sup into? people have known the terri-Castro to lead them. ble secret. They have sworn After the first attempt relations onice. He take bison capsules to sup into never to talk. Yet we have failed five more assassination moved to Las Vegas to head trastro's food. The poison was learned the details from teams were sent to Cuba. The Nevada operations. Sy the time Castro died. Second question. We spoke to John McCone, to a rooitop within shooting selli, a ruggedly handsome till es of the poison, so he who headed the CIA at the distance of Castro before they gambler with contacts in both will deprear to be the victim time of the assassination at-iwere apprehended. This hap-the American and Cuban uniof a natural if mysterious ailtempts. He acknowledged the pened around the last of Feb-derworlds, to arrange the as-imery idea had been discussed inside ruary of first of March, 1963. sassination. The dapper, hawk-i Restill arranged with a the CIA but insisted it had Nine months later, Presi-faced Roselli, formerly mar-Cuban related to one of Casbeen "rejected immedi-dent Kennedy was gunned ried to movie actress June tro's solar the deadly ately." He vicorously denied down in Dallas by Lee Harver Lang. was a power in the pelic: - the dictator's food. that the CIA had ever partici-Oswald, a fanatic who pre-movie industry until his con-On M. 13, 1961, Roselli de-pated in any plot on Castro's viously had agitated for Cas viction with racketeer Willie livered - capsules to his conlife. Asked whether the at-tro in New Orleans and had Bioff in a million-dollar Holly- tact at : and Beach's glamortempts could have been made made a mysterious trip to the wood labor shakedown. The ous Fon a achieve llotel. with his knowledge, he re-Cuban Embassy in Mexico CIA assigned two of its most A cour ... f weeks later, just trusted operatives. William about it with time for the plied: "It could not have hap- City. Ariong those privy to the Harvey and James (Big Jim) plot to been carried out, pened." We have complete confi-CIA conspiracy, there is still a O'Connell, to the hush-hush a report of Havana said dence, however, in our nagging suspicion-unsup-murder mission. Using phony Castro as ill. But he resaurces. 🤰 ported by the Warren Com- names, they accompanied Ro-lovered - core the Ba, of Pigs Pizs upet sion The intent wast fot upon his life and some. The full story reads like the made on destro's life.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

THE WASHINGTON POST Tuesday, Feb. 23, 1971 B11

Castro Stalker Worked for the

Anteles County jail.

John Roselli, once a dashina linward Hughes' Nevada oper-i All iold, six assassination at do with that than I had." figure around Hollywood and ations. Las Vegas, now a gray, 651 Roselli was to Hattard eventible Spring of 1953 Through Roselli's lawyers are now He is handsome, hawk-faced the over phaatom billionaire down.

Las Vegas, now a gray, 651 Roselli was so flattered over the spring of 1963. Through trying to get clementy for year-old inmate with a respirat being asked to perform a seriout this period. Roselli worked their client, cling our stories tory ailment. cret mission for the U.S. gov-junder the direct supervision about his secret CIA service.

Confidential FBI files iden- crament that he paid all his of two secret CLA acents, Wiltily him as "a top Mafia fi2" expenses out of his own liam Harvey and James (Bis ure" who watched over "the pocket and risked his neck to Jim) O'Connell, concealed interests in Las land the assassination teams Firearing Fiesco Under pressure from the Vegas casinos of the Chicago on the Cuban coast. Roselli's Reward fircarms lobby, the Treasury underworld."

Roselli has admitted to held whispered meetings in the assassination plot, has force a vital section of the friends that he was a rum run- Miami Beach notels with Cu- tried to pump Roselli for in-1953 federal firearms act. ner during the Rearing Tweet hans willing to make an al- formation. But he was sworn "The law was passed after ties. Operating along the East trougt on Castro's life. Once, to silence by the CIA, and the munders of San. Rehert

lescaped into the shadows.

over the Havana gambling ca-j Roselli isinos

sion that the CIA was plan-turned its guns on his dark- an alien. ning in 1981. As part of the ened boat, tore a hole in the He was also convicted for which would have to comption icave Cumplica Certess.

Risks Neck

By Jack Anderson (b) by Bebert Maheu, a for Roselli with desily point is still on the CLA portall, The mystery manyhom the Central Intensione Azenzy recruited to assassinate Cuba's Fidel Costra has been lad up deviced however, to food. Later, marksmen armed gard. For Recelli and called Fidel Castra has been laid up discuss the details. This is the with high-powered Belgian ri- the Friar's Club case a "bum in the sick ward of the Los'same Mahou, incidentally, who fles attempted to infiltrate rap." Said Harvey: "The is now involved in a legal bat- close enough to gun Castro Friar's Club indictment is

In James Bond fashion, he The FBI which got wind of Department has failed to en-

Coast, he learned how to evade he called on Chicago racket to this moment, he hasn't bro-the murders of Sen. Robert

Coast Guard cutters and por boss Sam Giancana to line up ken it. Lice patrols. It's name later became files report that Giancana had partment, as part of its crack. Treasury Secretary to require linked with the bizzest names gamoling interest and an in- down on organized crime, full reports of all firearms and In the Chicaco and Los Ance- ferest in the shrimp business tried to nail Roselli. The FBI ammunition sales.

les underworlds. He also ce- in Cuba." However, the Chi-Idiscovered that his Chicazoi. For the two years that the veloped contacts in the Cuban ears gangster took no direct birth records had been forged that hes been in force, the underworld herore Castro rook part in the assassination plot. Ithat his name was really Fi-Treasury Department has inmidnight lippo Sacco and that he had nored this key provision. The made dashes to Cuba with his hiredicome to this country from sun industry has complained

He had the right back assassins in twin powerboats. Italy as a child. He was con- it would be a booksee sine ground for a hush-hush mis- Once a Cuban patrol ship victed for failing to register as nightmare.

Bay of Pitt intestion, the ClA bottom and sank the boat Ro- conspiracy to rig card sames all the sales data, has not heped to have a fill castro and selli was fished out of the at Los Angeles' exclusive have rejuctant to spend the leave Cunality periess. [water by the other beat, which Frier's Club. 5129 million it would rest the water by the other boat, which Eriar's Club.

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1 Of Roselli's two CIA asto, computers and staff to make In earlier columns, we re-leistes. Harvey has now retired toin the fitearms files.

Recall was recruited for the ported how the CIA furnished to Indianapolis and O'Connell - tort sector as I and the context of the ported how the CIA furnished to Indianapolis and O'Connell - tort sector as I and the context of the