

Castro Plot Figure Found Murdered

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By Dan Morgan
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The decomposed body of underworld figure Johnny Roselli, who said he was recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency in the 1960s to help kill Fidel Castro, was found Saturday in a 55-gallon oil drum floating in the ocean near Miami.

It was the second violent death of a major Mafia figure linked to CIA plotting against the Cuban leader.

The first was that of Sam (Momo) Giancana, 65, who was murdered at his suburban Chicago home in June, 1975, just before being contacted by the Senate intelligence committee investigating U.S. assassination attempts on foreign leaders.

Both men were also linked in congressional testimony to Judith Campbell Exner, who acknowledged last December that she had had a "close, personal" relation-

ship with the late President Kennedy from 1960 to 1962. Exner said she was also friends with Roselli and Giancana at that time.

Dade County authorities said yesterday the killing had the markings of a typical gangland slaying. The 71-year-old victim had been missing since July 28, when he drove away from the Plantation, Fla., home of his brother-in-law, Joseph E. Daigle, en route to play golf.

Authorities said they had no clues as to the motive for the killing or the identity of any suspects.

Detective Julio Ojeda of the Dade County (Miami) Department of Public Safety said the oil drum had been discovered Saturday by three fishermen at the edge of the Intracoastal Waterway in Dumbfound-

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ling Bay north of Miami. One fisherman jumped into the water to inspect the drum and detected odors coming from it.

Police were summoned and Roselli was identified from fingerprints. Sheriff's office officials said the oil drum had been weighted with heavy chains but may have risen to the surface because of gases formed in the body during decomposition.

A preliminary autopsy report said Roselli died from asphyxiation.

Thomas A. Wadden, a Roselli attorney in Washington, said his client's car was discovered at Miami International Airport by Daigle after a lengthy search.

Daigle notified Wadden, who last Tuesday contacted Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.), a member of the Senate intelligence committee before

which Roselli testified in June, 1975. Authorities were then alerted.

In the 1975 testimony, Roselli said that he worked with the CIA in the early 1960s in a number of abortive efforts to kill Cuban Premier Castro.

Roselli said he had been enlisted for the CIA in the waning days of the Eisenhower administration by Robert A. Maheu, a former FBI agent and then a consultant to billionaire Howard Hughes.

Roselli had drifted into Las Vegas circles after a brief career producing movies and making important friends in Hollywood in the 1950s. There he became acquainted with Maheu and Hughes operations in Nevada.

Roselli was reputed to be the West Coast lieutenant of Chicago underworld chieftain Giancana, who also was recruited for the CIA's anti-Castro operations.

With the death of Roselli, the list of persons knowledgeable about CIA-

Mafia joint ventures against Castro is very short, authorities said yesterday. William Harvey, the CIA agent who supervised Roselli from Miami, died recently in retirement in Indianapolis.

Recently published stories have asserted that a third powerful Mafioso, Santo Trafficante Jr., still living, also was involved in the anti-Castro plotting. Dade County authorities described Trafficante yesterday as the "head man in organized crime in Florida—he runs the family out of Tampa."

Before his death, Roselli's name also had surfaced in regard to other Mafia associations in high places. He appeared before the Senate Watergate committee for questioning about an alleged \$100,000 Hughes campaign contribution to President Nixon.

Last December, Exner said at a press conference that she had had a "friendship" with Roselli at the same

time she was involved in a relationship with President Kennedy. Leslie Scherr, another Roselli Washington lawyer, said Roselli had refused to testify on possible relations between

Japanese to Mark Saipan War Deaths

Agence France-Presse

TOKYO, Aug. 8—A memorial service will be held on Saipan in the Mariana Islands Aug. 15 in memory of 12,000 Okinawans who died there during World War II.

About 270 relatives of the dead will fly to the Pacific island aboard a chartered plane Friday to attend the service, which is to be held before a monument built near "Banzai Cliff," where many made suicide jumps just before Saipan's fall to U.S. forces on July 7, 1944.

the President and Mrs. Exner when questioned by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Acquaintances of Roselli described him yesterday as a well-groomed, courteous man. A former Senate investigator who knew him described him as unusually helpful and cooperative as a witness.

At the time of his death, Roselli was appealing a U.S. immigration judge's order to deport him to Italy. One defense was that his work against Castro would expose him to danger from Italian Communists and left wingers.

Roselli was released from prison in 1973 after serving time for a \$1 million Los Angeles gin-rummy cheating scheme, and had been living since then in Florida with his sister and brother-in-law. Wadden said yesterday he believed Daigle worked "secret affairs for the U.S. government . . . missiles, I think." Daigle could not be reached for comment.