National Editor
The Louisville Courier-Journal
Louisville, KY

8/16/93

Dear Editor,

I have no address for John Seigenthaler, for whom I really intend this. But I also intend it for you. If you would please send him a copy, thanks.

The existing public record refutes the McGinniss fabrications about Joe Kennedy, the plots to kill Castro and the Bay of Pigs.

JFK did not even know of the coming Bay of Pigs project of the Eisenhower administration until after the election, when at Palm Beach Allen Dulles told him part of that affair in the works.

No Kennedy knew of the CIA's plot involving the mafia. I got the enclosed CIA memo on this from it, in response to a FOIA request. I had earlier gotten another one, Harvey's memo on his conference with Bobby, but that was taken or is misfiled and the CIA has not responded to my requests for a duplicate.

As you can see, aside from the assassination team, if it can be called that, which was presumed to have some knowledge, only six people in the world knew of that CIA mafia plot and they were all high officials of the CIA.

There has never been any basis for the extraordinary commercialization of that fiction.

The first leak was by the mafia, though Attorney Edward Morgan, to Drew Pearson, who went to Earl Warren. Warren sent Pearson to Rowley of the Secret Service and he sent Pearson to the FBI.

I have the FBI's records on that (and remember that leak was after the assassination by quite some time) and I do also on the fiasco of the bugging "expert" sent at Giancana's demand when he suspected that Phyllis McGuire was sleeping with Dan Martin.

This makes it clear that McGinniss, while trying to deodorize it by calling it some kind of legitimate mind reading, was really dregging the swamps and sewers of the assassination commercializers.

Not a single part of his concoction had any basis in fact or reasonable suspicion and just about all of it was well and publicly known to be false. Even that Joe Kennedy told Jack to get cracking against Castro when that was already well started under Eisenhower, with Nixon his action officer and E. Howard Hunt the political officer who was to write a new Cuban constitution.

If you or anyone else is interested in these records, they are welcome to come, go over them and copy anything they may want. This has always been my practise with the about third of a million pages I got via FOIA. I hope that what I tell you and enclose makes possible the further exposure of the wretched thing McGinnis and S&S had to know they were up to.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

cc: J. Yardley. Sorry my typing can't be any better.

Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

14 FEB 1989

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21701

Reference: F80-1042

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

In the course of their processing your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request regarding the John F. Kennedy Assassination, the Department of Justice located two CIA documents and referred them to us for our review and direct response to you.

We have completed our review of the documents and have determined that a letter with attachment dated 23 September 1965 may be released in its entirety. A copy of the document is enclosed at Tab A.

We have further determined that a memorandum with attachment dated 14 May 1962 may be released in segregable form pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(3) and (b)(6). A copy of the document and an explanation of exemptions are enclosed at Tab B.

The official responsible for this determination is Lee E. Carle, Information Review Officer, Directorate of Operations. You have the right to appeal this decision by addressing your appeal to the CIA Information Review Committee, in my care. Should you decide to do this, please explain the basis of your appeal.

Sincerely,

John H. Wright

John H. Wright
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

[redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy
The Attorney General
Washington 25, D. C.

In accordance with your request of 11 May 1962, I am forwarding herewith, in the attached sealed envelope, a Top Secret memorandum by Colonel Sheffield Edwards, Director of Security, setting forth the facts on which we briefed you on 7 May 1962.

Encl.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel
CIA

(DATE)
15 MAY 1962

82-416-5

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 27 1962
RECORDS BRANCH

RECORD

FORM 1 AUG 54 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

[redacted]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

FILE
N. B.

14 May 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Arthur James Balletti et al - Unauthorized Publication or Use of Communications

1. This memorandum for the record is prepared at the request of the Attorney General of the United States following a complete oral briefing of him relative to a sensitive CIA operation conducted during the period approximately August 1960 to May 1961. In August 1960 the undersigned was approached by Mr. Richard Bissell then Deputy Director for Plans of CIA to explore the possibility of mounting this sensitive operation against Fidel Castro. It was thought that certain gambling interests which had formerly been active in Cuba might be willing and able to assist and further, might have both intelligence assets in Cuba and communications between Miami, Florida and Cuba. Accordingly, Mr. Robert Maheu, a private investigator of the firm of Maheu and King was approached by the undersigned and asked to establish contact with a member or members of the gambling syndicate to explore their capabilities. Mr. Maheu was known to have accounts with several prominent business men and organizations in the United States. Maheu was to make his approach to the syndicate as appearing to represent big business organizations which wished to protect their interests in Cuba. Mr. Maheu accordingly met and established contact with one John Rosselli of Los Angeles. Mr. Rosselli showed interest in the possibility and indicated he had some contacts in Miami that he might use. Maheu reported that John Rosselli said he was not interested in any remuneration but would seek to establish capabilities in Cuba to perform the desired project. Towards the end of September 1960 Mr. Maheu and Mr. Rosselli proceeded to Miami where, as reported, Maheu was introduced to Sam Giancana of Chicago. Sam Giancana arranged for Maheu and Rosselli to meet with a "courier" who was going back

No legal authority cited

H. Hugh Jr.

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82-46

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
22 JUN 27 1962
RECORDS BRANCH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

CIA

Copy No. 1 of 2

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Page 1 of 3 pages

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and forth to Havana. From information received back by the courier the proposed operation appeared to be feasible and it was decided to obtain an official Agency approval in this regard. A figure of one hundred fifty thousand dollars was set by the Agency as a payment to be made on completion of the operation and to be paid only to the principal or principals who would conduct the operation in Cuba. Maheu reported that Rosselli and Giancana emphatically stated that they wished no part of any payment. The undersigned then briefed the proper senior officials of this Agency on the proposal. Knowledge of this project during its life was kept to a total of six persons and never became a part of the project current at the time for the invasion of Cuba and there were no memoranda on the project nor were there other written documents or agreements. The project was duly orally approved by the said senior officials of the Agency.

2. Rosselli and Maheu spent considerable time in Miami talking with the courier. Sam Giancana was present during parts of these meetings. Several months after this period Maheu told me that Sam Giancana had asked him to put a listening device in the room of [redacted] At that time it was reported to me that Maheu passed the matter over to one Edward Du Boise, another private investigator. It appears that Arthur James Balletti was discovered in the act of installing the listening device and was arrested by the Sheriff in Las Vegas, Nevada. Maheu reported to me that he had referred the matter to Edward Du Boise on behalf of Sam Giancana. At the time of the incident neither this Agency nor the undersigned knew of the proposed technical installation. Maheu stated that Sam Giancana thought that [redacted] might know of the proposed operation and might pass on the information to [redacted] At the time that Maheu reported this to the undersigned he reported he was under surveillance by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who, he thought, were exploring his association with John Rosselli and Sam Giancana incident to the project. I told Maheu that if he was formally approached by the FBI, he could refer them to me to be briefed that he was engaged in an intelligence operation directed at Cuba.

3. During the period from September on through April efforts were continued by Rosselli and Maheu to proceed with the operation. The first principal in Cuba withdrew and another principal

[redacted]

Copy No. 1 of 2

[redacted]

was selected as has been briefed to The Attorney General. Ten thousand dollars was passed for expenses to the second principal. He was further furnished with approximately one thousand dollars worth of communications equipment to establish communications between his headquarters in Miami and assets in Cuba. No monies were ever paid to Rosselli and Giancana. Maheu was paid part of his expense money during the periods that he was in Miami. After the failure of the invasion of Cuba word was sent through Maheu to Rosselli to call off the operation and Rosselli was told to tell his principal that the proposal to pay one hundred fifty thousand dollars for completion of the operation had been definitely withdrawn.

4. In all this period it has been definitely established from other sources that the Cuban principals involved never discovered or believed that there was other than business and syndicate interest in the project. To the knowledge of the undersigned there were no "leaks" of any information concerning the project in the Cuban community in Miami or in Cuba.

5. I have no proof but it is my conclusion that Rosselli and Giancana guessed or assumed that CIA was behind the project. I never met either of them.

6. Throughout the entire period of the project John Rosselli was the dominant figure in directing action to the Cuban principals. Reasonable monitoring of his activities indicated that he gave his best efforts to carrying out the project without requiring any commitments for himself, financial or otherwise.

7. In view of the extreme sensitivity of the information set forth above, only one additional copy of this memorandum has been made and will be retained by the Agency.

[redacted]
Sheffield Edwards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Copy No. 1 of 2