

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
Memorandum

*Continued
by [unclear] up [unclear]
[unclear]*

TO : The Attorney General

DATE: May 22, 1961

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ARTHUR JAMES BALLETTI, et al.
UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATION
OR USE OF COMMUNICATIONS

WR

This case involves an allegation that Arthur James Balletti and another unidentified individual placed a wire tap on the telephone of Dan Rowan, a member of the comedy team of Rowan and Martin, in October, 1960.

The Criminal Division was previously advised that Robert Maheu, after concealing his full connection with this matter, informed that coverage of Rowan was in furtherance of activities of Maheu on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) relative to anti-Castro activities.

Colonel Sheffield Edwards, Director of Security, CIA, furnished the information set forth in the attached memorandum regarding his utilization of Maheu in connection with anti-Castro activities. According to Colonel Edwards, Maheu contacted Sam Giancana in connection with this program. Reports of investigation of Giancana have been furnished to the Department in the case entitled "Samuel N. Giancana, Anti-Racketeering."

Since the purpose for placing the wire tap on Rowan's telephone, which is the basis for this investigation of the violation of the Unauthorized Publication or Use of Communications Statute, has not been determined, the full investigation requested in this matter is continuing and copies of reports will be furnished to the Department upon receipt.

In view of the information regarding CIA's attempted utilization of the hoodlum element in connection with anti-Castro activities, CIA has requested that this information be handled on a "need-to-know" basis.

Enclosures (2)

- 1 - Mr. Byron R. White
Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General
Herbert J. Miller, Jr. (Enclosure)

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8-JMK/...
ON 3/9/81 FOIA # 23 83c
CIA 540 declassified per
John E. Bacon 8/27/80

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340/...

ENCLOSURE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF THIS MESSAGE

3-2-61



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 22, 1961

Only, Please Refer to

ARTHUR JAMES BALLETTI, et al.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On May 3, 1961, Colonel Sheffield Edwards,
Director of Security, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
furnished the following information, *KL*

Colonel Edwards advised that in connection with
CIA's operation against Castro he personally contacted Robert
Maheu during the Fall of 1960 for the purpose of using Maheu
as a "cut-out" in contacts with Sam Giancana, a known hoodlum
in the Chicago area. Colonel Edwards said that since the
underworld controlled gambling activities in Cuba under the
Batista government, it was assumed that this element would
still continue to have sources and contacts in Cuba which
perhaps could be utilized successfully in connection with
CIA's clandestine efforts against the Castro government.
As a result, Maheu's services were solicited as a "cut-out"
because of his possible entree into underworld circles.
Maheu obtained Sam Giancana's assistance in this regard and
according to Edwards, Giancana gave every indication of
cooperating through Maheu in attempting to accomplish several
clandestine efforts in Cuba. Edwards added that none of
Giancana's efforts have materialized to date and that several
of the plans still are working and may eventually "pay off" *(u)*

Colonel Edwards related that he had no direct
contact with Giancana; that Giancana's activities were
completely "back stopped" by Maheu and that Maheu would
frequently report Giancana's action and information to
Edwards. No details or methods used by Maheu or Giancana
in accomplishing their missions were ever reported to
Edwards. Colonel Edwards said that since this is "dirty
business" he could not afford to have knowledge of the actions
of Maheu and Giancana in pursuit of any mission for CIA.
Colonel Edwards added that he has neither given Maheu any
instruction to use technical installations of any type nor has
the subject of technical installations ever come up between
Edwards and Maheu in connection with Giancana's activity. *(u)*

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4 *Jim K...*
ON 3/19/81 *to EP 22, 330*

C. F. Info Declassified by
John E. Gannon 8/26/80

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Colonel Edwards recalled that Maheu did come to him concerning the arrest in Las Vegas of Balletti for "wire tapping." Maheu cautioned Edwards that the Balletti arrest could cause CIA some embarrassment since Balletti was in Las Vegas attempting to obtain coverage on some "Hollywood people" in connection with Giancana's efforts for CIA. Edwards said that he did not know the facts of the Balletti case and Maheu claims "Balletti went too far" in his efforts to obtain information. Edwards added that he was unaware of any reason for this activity of Maheu or Giancana in Las Vegas and that Giancana's activity in furtherance of the anti-Castro activity was left completely in Maheu's hands. X(u)

Colonel Edwards advised that only Mr. Bissell (Deputy Director of Plans, CIA) and two others in CIA were aware of the Giancana - Maheu activity in behalf of CIA's program and that Allen Dulles was completely unaware of Edwards' contact with Maheu in this connection. He added that Mr. Bissell, during his recent briefings of General Taylor and the Attorney General in connection with their inquiries into CIA relating to the Cuban situation, told the Attorney General that some of CIA's associated planning included the use of Giancana and the underworld against Castro. X(u)

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