

Probe of Missing Man

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★ Thurs., Aug. 5, 1976

Miami

The FBI disclosed yesterday that it is investigating the disappearance of an alleged underworld figure who told the Senate Intelligence Committee he took part in six CIA attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro.

John Roselli, a reputed one-time associate of slain Chicago

underworld leader Sam Giancana, vanished July 28 from the home of his brother-in-law in the Fort Lauderdale suburb of Plantation, Fla.

The FBI declined to disclose the name of the brother-in-law.

According to the FBI, Roselli borrowed his sister's car. Stowed his golf clubs in the trunk and left the house, apparently for a round

of golf. When he failed to return, his sister reported the disappearance directly to the FBI.

The FBI said the borrowed car was found in the parking garage at Miami International Airport.

Asked if the FBI thought Roselli was still in the United States, the spokesman said, "I can't comment any further." *United Press*

CIA (d)

CBS News, Charles Osgood
KCBS, 1 p.m.

9 Aug 76

transcribed from tape

[First part of item missed.]

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Despite the chains wrapped around the 55-gallon drum and the holes cut into the sides, the thing had come to the surface, and through the holes could be seen a body. It turned out to be the body of John Roselli. In Roselli's line of work it is not unusual to be found murdered, but his lawyer, Tom Wadden [phonetic] is afraid that now there's going to be more speculation about the Castro and CIA and Kennedy connections.

Wadden [voice]: As you know, first they got Manny, that's Giancana, and then the CIA supervisor that supervised John.* Died here about two months ago, supposedly of a coronary thrombosis. But I know nothing about this except I know he died because Johnny was on his way across the country and was going to stop off and see him. They had become very close personal friends. He, too, had retired from the CIA. He's dead, now Johnny's dead. As the third link, of course, Bob Maheu was involved. Originally he enlisted Johnny for the U.S. government. And I called Maheu yesterday - he's out of the country - to tell him he'd better [pause], you know, he'd better start doing some thinking.

Charles Osgood, CBS News.

* W.K. Harvey? - died 9 Jun 76, Indianapolis (NYT 14 Jun 76, filed CIA).

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sent earlier

Talks in L.A.

Slain Mobster's West Coast Ties

Los Angeles

John Rosselli, the slain mobster whose body was found Saturday scattered in a metal drum floating in a Florida bay, met with several West Coast crime figures the month before he was killed.

The meetings, closely monitored by FBI agents and Los Angeles Police Department intelligence officers, took place in a Malibu restaurant and a Hollywood hotel in the first two weeks in June.

Although no direct link has been established between the meetings and Rosselli's murder, details of the surveillance are being checked by federal agents.

Rosselli, 70, key figure in a reported CIA plot to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, had made several recent appearances before Senate investigating committees.

However, despite Rosselli's supposed status as a "government witness," the FBI refused yesterday to assume jurisdiction in the investigation of his gangland-style murder.

FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley, in response to an earlier request from the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said:

"We were informed that it (the

murder) is a matter over which we have now no obvious or detectable jurisdiction."

Kelley told a Washington press conference: "If there is some later information (to indicate a change in jurisdiction) it might be that we would (investigate), but at this point we will not."

Jurisdiction rests with officials in Dade County, Fla., where Rosselli's body was discovered inside a chain-wrapped metal barrel in an arm of Biscayne bay off Miami.

During his recent trips to Los Angeles, according to investigators, Rosselli participated in a June 1 meeting at a Malibu restaurant with James (Jimmy the Weasel) Fratianno, 62, Michael (Mike Rizzi) Rizzitello, 49, and Allen Smiley, 69, a former associate of the late Mickey Cohen.

At a subsequent meeting June 11, Rosselli met with Fratianno and Rizzitello in a restaurant in a Hollywood hotel, and two days later met with Fratianno alone at the same hotel.

Investigators said they have not been able to uncover the reason for Rosselli's trips to California or his meetings with various organized crime figures.

Los Angeles Times