

Hoffa Was Crushed, On Orders of CIA,

By VERA GLASER
Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A horrifying version of what happened to my Hoffa is contained in a forthcoming book by an underworld killer.

Hoffa was murdered and his body dumped into a junkyard car, which was crushed and smelted, according to Charles (Chuckie) Crimaldi, a onetime Chicago "hit man" who now is cooperating with federal authorities.

Crimaldi claims that the former mobster boss and ex-convict was ordered on orders of the CIA, but offers no proof. His book describes Hoffa as the agency's original liaison with the mob in the plot to assassinate Cuban premier Fidel Castro in the early '60s, a version that does not square with official accounts of that episode.

THE SAME MAN that killed Hoffa (gangster Sam Giancana) took care of Hoffa for the same reason: He knew about the Castro plots," Crimaldi states.

Giancana was mysteriously gunned down last year shortly before he was scheduled to testify before a Senate committee investigating alleged CIA assassination plots.

Within weeks, Hoffa disappeared.

Last August the body of John Roselli, also said to be involved in the Castro plot, was found floating in an oil drum in Dumfoundling Bay in Dade County.

CRIMALDI HAS a new, secret identity provided by drug-enforcement authorities. He works as a lumberjack, a trade learned in prison, and maintains contact with a few mobster pals.

Gangland enemies are said to have put a \$50,000 price on Crimaldi's head.

For the past three years, he has laid out his life story in taped sessions with John Kidner, a retired Air Force colonel and freelance writer.

Kidner says he does not know where Crimaldi lives and has no direct way of communicating. When he wants to see the former mobster, he places an ad in a Chicago newspaper. Days or weeks later, Crimaldi turns up.



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IN THE BOOK, Crimaldi describes a meeting in Chicago in the '60s with Giancana, during which he asked the late Sam DeStefano, a loan shark who was Crimaldi's boss, to make the "hit" on Castro.

"I was tapped by some guys from the CIA," Giancana explained. "I was promised special government consideration for a lot of aggravation that was coming my way."

The mobsters were thrown into confusion and consternation by the source of the request. If DeStefano took the job, he said, he would want Crimaldi to accompany him to Cuba.

Giancana outlined what he said was the CIA plan:

"WHAT YOU guys will do is jump bail. It'll be in all the papers how two gangsters skipped the country ... so there won't be anything phony about your leaving. After you're situated in South America, you'll be contacted.

"You'll be picked up there and eventually you'll be dropped off on

Smelted in Car Mob Killer Says

the Cuban coast. They'll set everything up. They'll pick the time and place to do the hit. After you whack him, you come on back home and everything will be taken care of. OK?"

DeStefano asked for time to think it over. Eventually, he refused the job on the advice of Paul (The Waiter) Ricca, a sort of grandfather to the mob bosses.

Last year, when Giancana was murdered, Kidner sent word that he wanted to see Crimaldi.

"WORD CAME back that he would be in touch," Kidner said. "About three weeks later, as I was having lunch at the Chez Camille restaurant in downtown Washington, Chuckie strolled in and sat down beside me.

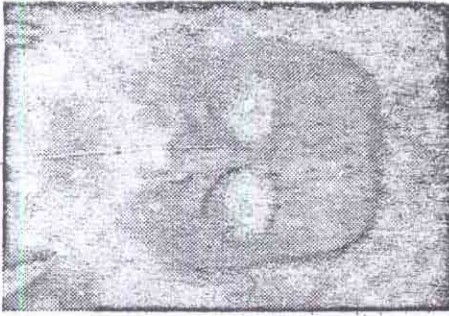
"He came straight to the point: 'Momo was hit by the CIA.'
"I told him that would take some proving. He replied, 'I don't

need proof. The CIA . . . used on of our guys. An import. Nobody ever pin this on anybody."

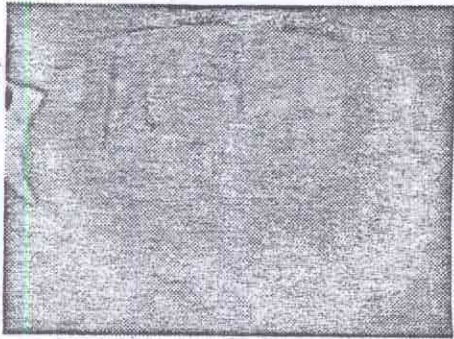
Kidner was not entirely convinced, he said, but finds it difficult to doubt Crimaldi's underworld sources.

Parts of Crimaldi's story — such as Giancana's involvement with the CIA plot — are substantiated by widely publicized accounts. But no independent documentation exists for the involvement of Hoffa, nor the allegation that the CIA was responsible for the deaths of Giancana and Hoffa.

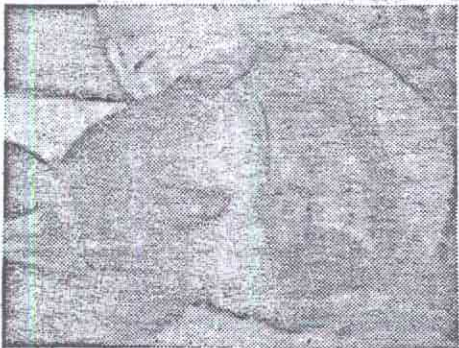
Crimaldi wanted to write the autobiography, Kidner said, in the hope of providing a financial cushion for his wife and children should anything happen to him.



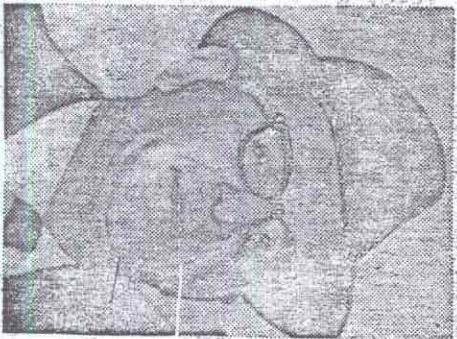
Fidel Castro
... target of plot?



Jimmy Hoffa
... missing Teamster boss



John Rosselli
... found dead in bay



Sam Giancana
... gunned down

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