

Second Figure in Anti-Castro Plots Murdered

MIAMI (AP) — "These guys went to an incredible amount of trouble trying to make sure the body was never found," a medical official said. He was referring to the killers of John Roselli, a key figure with slain Chicago mobster Sam (Momo) Giancana in a CIA plot to assassinate Fidel Castro.

Roselli's body was found Saturday in a chain-wrapped drum floating in an arm of Biscayne Bay. It was identified yesterday.

Dade County officials said Roselli had been asphyxiated. Dr. Ronald Wright, chief deputy examiner would not say if Roselli died before or after his body was stuffed into the 55-gallon drum.

Earlier reports had indicated that Roselli had been shot. Wright would only confirm that there was "a circular wound on the lower abdomen."

Wright said Roselli, 70, had probably been dead since July 28, the day he reportedly left his sister's home in nearby Broward County to play golf.

"THE LENGTHS TO WHICH they went to insure that the body would not be found clearly earmarks this as a true gangland-style killing," Wright said.

Roselli testified last year before the Senate Intelligence Committee that he and Giancana had been recruited in 1961 by the CIA as part of a plot to poison Castro, the Cuban premier. He said he turned down the

offer, for which he and Giancana were reportedly to have been paid \$100,000. According to the Senate report on the scheme, Roselli was the contact man between Giancana and Cuban dissidents who were to carry out the murder.

Giancana was also supposed to testify, but he never made it. On June 19, 1975, several days before his scheduled appearance, someone fired six .22 caliber bullets into him in what authorities said was an expertly set up syndicate "hit." That murder has never been solved.

The actual contact man for the Castro operation turned out to be Robert Mahen, onetime top aide to the late industrialist Howard Hughes, who served as a liaison between the CIA and the mobsters. Mahen, who has partially acknowledged his role in the affair, had split with Hughes long before the latter's death earlier this year.

Roselli and Giancana were also reported to have been linked with Judith Campbell Exner, who said last year she had "a relationship" with the late President John F. Kennedy. The names of Roselli and Giancana appear in FBI reports released at Mrs. Exner's request for help in writing her memoirs.

The reports describe numerous meetings between Roselli and Mrs. Exner, now the wife of a golf professional in San Diego. One was in 1962 at a Los Angeles hotel, where Mrs.

Exner turned over \$600 in cash to pay a bill.

TWO FISHERMEN FOUND the drum floating in Dumbfoundling Bay, an arm of Biscayne Bay between North Miami and Miami Beach. Police said the fishermen, not publicly identified, called them after they spotted human limbs through the holes chopped in the barrel.

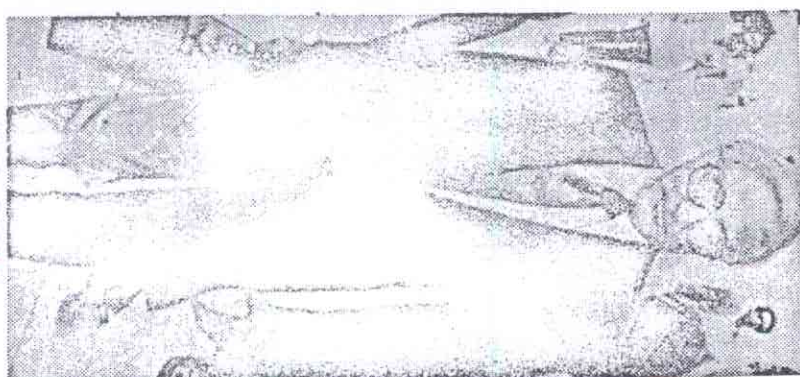
Authorities said that because of the currents, it was not known where the drum was thrown in the bay.

Wright said the holes had been chopped in the barrel to make it sink and chains had been wrapped around it to weight it down. Gases formed by the decomposition and trapped inside body tissue and the barrel itself brought it to the surface.

"It's quite possible that additional weights had been put on the barrel and broke loose," Wright added. "That would explain how it came up."

In Washington, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, chairman of the new permanent Senate Intelligence Committee, said yesterday that it would be premature to decide on a congressional investigation until more facts of the killing are known.

"As soon as we have more of the facts available, I will see they are presented to the committee and it will be up to them to decide whether to investigate," he said.



JOHN ROSELLI
Body found floating in barrel.