

Crime Figure Who Aided Plot on Castro Is Missing

8/6/76

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5—John Roselli, the organized crime figure who last year acknowledged his role in the Central Intelligence Agency's plots against the life of Prime Minister Fidel Castro of Cuba, has disappeared from his home in the Miami area.

Tom Wadden, his lawyer, said today that Mr. Roselli left home in his sister's automobile eight days ago after assuring her that he would return for dinner that evening.

Mr. Wadden said that the auto, a 1975 Chevrolet, was subsequently discovered by Mr. Roselli's brother-in-law at the Miami Airport. There was "nothing strange" about the car, and Mr. Roselli's golf clubs were in the trunk, Mr. Wadden said.

Asked whether any evidence had been found that the 69-year-old Mr. Roselli might have left the country by plane, Mr. Wadden said that his client did not hold a United States passport because of a deportation order, which he is appealing.

It is possible, however, to board an airplane bound for certain countries, such as Mexico and the Bahamas, without first displaying a valid passport.

Testified for Senate

Mr. Roselli, a stocky, silver-haired former member of the Chicago crime organization once headed by Al Capone, testified last year before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence about his role in making arrangements for at least two attempts on Mr. Castro's life in 1960 and 1961.

He worked on that project with Sam Giancana, Capone's successor, who was murdered in his home in Oak Park, Ill., in June 1975, only a few days before Mr. Roselli's Senate testimony.

Justice Department officials here said that they had found no firm indication that Mr. Giancana's death was related to the Senate committee's interest in having him testify about the Castro plots, and they discounted the likelihood that Mr. Roselli's disappearance might be linked to his appearance before the committee a year ago.

After learning that Mr. Roselli had disappeared, Mr. Wadden said, he telephoned Senator



United Press International
John Roselli

Howard H. Baker Jr., a Tennessee Republican who was a member of the defunct select intelligence committee and who now sits on its successor, the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Mr. Baker said that he immediately telephoned Senator Daniel K. Inouye, the Hawaii democrat who heads the committee, and then spoke with Clarence M. Kelley, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and asked him to look into the matter.

One official at the Justice Department said that it was too soon to draw conclusions about Mr. Roselli's fate.

Zaire Chimpanzee Study

KINSHASA, Zaire, Aug. 5 (Agence France-Presse)—A center to study dwarf chimpanzees is to be built at Mabali on Lake Tumb in central Zaire with aid from the United States National Academy of Sciences and the Yerkes Center for Primate Biological Research at Atlanta, Ga. Dwarf chimpanzees are found only in Zaire and only 15 are known to be living.