

Roselli Tie Admitted

CIA Role in Slaying Of Mobster Denied

MIAMI (AP)—The CIA, which enlisted mobsters John Roselli and Sam (Momo) Giancana in a plot to kill Fidel Castro, played no part in their gangland style deaths, the agency's former head said yesterday.

"I can guarantee you that the CIA had absolutely nothing to do with their deaths," former CIA director William E. Colby said in an interview with WTOP television in Washington.

Colby acknowledged that the CIA had used the underworld figures in an unrealized assassination scheme against the Cuban premier in 1961. He was not in charge of the agency at the time.

Detectives in Dade County, Fla., say they are trying to determine whether there is any link between the death of Roselli, whose body was found in Biscayne Bay off Miami on Saturday, and that of Giancana, shot to death in Chicago on June 19, 1975.

Meanwhile, Sen. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., said that Roselli may have withheld information when he testified on his role in the Castro affair before the Senate Intelligence Committee. His testimony came just five days after the death of Giancana, who also had been subpoenaed to appear.

"He was extremely apprehensive about testifying at all and would only testify under a grant of immunity, which was given to him," Baker, who was vice chairman of the committee, said in an interview in The Miami Herald yesterday. He said Roselli also insisted that investigators "bring him in secretly" to the panel room.

"When he testified, he appeared to be very outgoing," Baker said. "I got the impression he was not telling us all he knew. He was visibly shaken by (Giancana's murder), and hence all the security precautions. After that, I had no contact with Roselli."

Roselli swore that the CIA had offered him and Giancana \$100,000 to help Cuban dissidents kill premier Castro. He said he agreed to help free of charge.

Baker didn't say what information Roselli might have held back.

The body of the 71-year-old Roselli was found Saturday in a 55-gallon drum weighted with chains that fishermen sighted floating in Biscayne Bay. He had been missing from his sister's home near Miami since July 28.

Baker said he thought that "on the basis of what's happened now" the FBI should take over the investigations of Roselli's murder and Giancana's still-unsolved slaying. But FBI spokesmen in Washington said the agency would not become involved unless it could be shown a federal law was violated.