

Roselli's body found in Biscayne Bay

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MIAMI (AP) — The body of John Roselli, a key figure with slain Chicago mobster Sam "Momo" Giancana in a CIA plot to assassinate Fidel Castro, has been found in a chainwrapped drum floating in an arm of Biscayne Bay.

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, whose body was found Saturday and identified Sunday, 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.

He said Roselli's killers tried hard to keep the disappearance a mystery.

"These guys went to an incredible amount of trouble trying to make sure the body was never found," Wright said. "The lengths to which they went to insure that the body would not be found clearly earmarks this as a true ganglandstyle killing."

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 pumped 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 Maheu — onetime top aide to the late industrialist Howard Hughes — who served as a liaison between the CIA and the mobsters. Maheu, who has partially acknowledged his role in the affair, had split with Hughes long before the latter's death earlier this year.

The reports describe numerous meetings between Roselli and Mrs. Exner, now the wife of a golf professional in San Diego.