

Mr. Gary Webb  
6905 Los Olivos Way  
Carmichael, CA 95600

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Rd.  
Frederick, MD 21702

8/12/97

Dear Mr. Webb,

My good friend Bill Weichter tells me he has been in touch with you and about me and/or my work. I do not assume that your paper any more than any other has or can have any interest in the assassinations. The record is much too clear on that.

However, there are a few records you may want to have. I enclose them.

Please excuse my typing. If Bill did not tell you, I'm 84 and am lucky to be surviving as much as I have for as long as I have. It does leave me feeble.

I know of the campaign against you in the Wx Post and have an inkling of what the NY and LA Times have done.

It happens that my file tells a story about what the LA Times finds not only worth printing but ~~worth~~ worth syndicating. When the most rudimentary check would have disclosed that Exner was lying her head off. But the papers and TV liked her lies so much they did no checking.

The CIA would not have disclosed to me what I enclose if it had ~~dated~~ use with Justice the claptrap it had contrived to refuse to provide me with anything at all.

Not only does the CIA say that no Kennedy knew about that mafia plot of the Eisenhower administration, I enclose the first knowledge we know any Kennedy had, the Hoover memo on it.

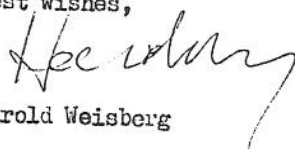
I have a fat FBI file on that. It would make an interesting magazine article. It had to do with Tomo Giancana believing that Phyllis McGuire was ~~too~~ timing him with Dan Martin. It was the wire man the CIA provided who got caught in Vegas.

Of course, ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Post and the NY Times, both of which knew the truth, clobbered the LA Times over this lie that was intended to damage the reputation of the assassinated president.

It was this business that was the subject of the Johnson statement that there had been a conspiracy of which the CIA was part.

Thanks for the good job you did.

Best wishes,

  
Harold Weisberg

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

14 FEB 1989

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Road  
Frederick, MD 21701

Reference: F80-1042

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

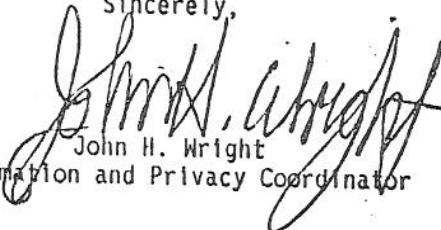
In the course of their processing your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request regarding the John F. Kennedy Assassination, the Department of Justice located two CIA documents and referred them to us for our review and direct response to you.

We have completed our review of the documents and have determined that a letter with attachment dated 23 September 1965 may be released in its entirety. A copy of the document is enclosed at Tab A.

We have further determined that a memorandum with attachment dated 14 May 1962 may be released in segregable form pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(3) and (b)(6). A copy of the document and an explanation of exemptions are enclosed at Tab B.

The official responsible for this determination is Lee E. Carle, Information Review Officer, Directorate of Operations. You have the right to appeal this decision by addressing your appeal to the CIA Information Review Committee, in my care. Should you decide to do this, please explain the basis of your appeal.

Sincerely,

  
John H. Wright  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

MEMORANDUM FOR The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy  
The Attorney General  
Washington 25, D. C.

In accordance with your request of 11 May 1962, I am forwarding herewith, in the attached sealed envelope, a Top Secret memorandum by Colonel Sheffield Edwards, Director of Security, setting forth the facts on which we briefed you on 7 May 1962.

Encl. 1

*L. R. Houston*

82-416-5

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	RECORDED
JUN 27 1962	
RECORDS BRANCH	

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel  
CIA  
(DATE)  
15 MAY 1962

[REDACTED]  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

14 May 1962

FILE  
N. B.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Arthur James Balletti et al - Unauthorized Publication  
or Use of Communications

1. This memorandum for the record is prepared at the request of the Attorney General of the United States following a complete oral briefing of him relative to a sensitive CIA operation conducted during the period approximately August 1960 to May 1961. In August 1960 the undersigned was approached by Mr. Richard Bissell then Deputy Director for Plans of CIA to explore the possibility of mounting this sensitive operation against Fidel Castro. It was thought that certain gambling interests which had formerly been active in Cuba might be willing and able to assist and further, might have both intelligence assets in Cuba and communications between Miami, Florida and Cuba. Accordingly, Mr. Robert Maheu, a private investigator of the firm of Maheu and King was approached by the undersigned and asked to establish contact with a member or members of the gambling syndicate to explore their capabilities. Mr. Maheu was known to have accounts with several prominent business men and organizations in the United States. Maheu was to make his approach to the syndicate as appearing to represent big business organizations which wished to protect their interests in Cuba. Mr. Maheu accordingly met and established contact with one John Rosselli of Los Angeles. Mr. Rosselli showed interest in the possibility and indicated he had some contacts in Miami that he might use. Maheu reported that John Rosselli said he was not interested in any remuneration but would seek to establish capabilities in Cuba to perform the desired project. Towards the end of September Mr. Maheu and Mr. Rosselli proceeded to Miami where, as reported, Maheu was introduced to Sam Giancana of Chicago. Sam Giancana arranged for Maheu and Rosselli to meet with a "courier" who was going back

No high level auth or info cited

H. Hughes

FILE  
N. B.

FILE  
N. B.

1960

82-46-

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

22 JUN 27 1962

RECORDS MANAGER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FILE  
N. B.

[REDACTED]  
Page 1 of 3

Copy No. 1 of 1

[REDACTED]

and forth to Havana. From information received back by the courier the proposed operation appeared to be feasible and it was decided to obtain an official Agency approval in this regard. A figure of one hundred fifty thousand dollars was set by the Agency as a payment to be made on completion of the operation and to be paid only to the principal or principals who would conduct the operation in Cuba. Maheu reported that Rosselli and Giancana emphatically stated that they wished no part of any payment. The undersigned then briefed the proper senior officials of this Agency on the proposal. Knowledge of this project during its life was kept to a total of six persons and never became a part of the project current at the time for the invasion of Cuba and there were no memoranda on the project nor were there other written documents or agreements. The project was duly orally approved by the said senior officials of the Agency.

Not  
high

Not  
high

Not  
high

2. Rosselli and Maheu spent considerable time in Miami talking with the courier. Sam Giancana was present during parts of these meetings. Several months after this period Maheu told me that Sam Giancana had asked him to put a listening device in the room of [REDACTED]

Not  
high

At that time it was reported to me that Maheu passed the matter over to one Edward Du Boise, another private investigator. It appears that Arthur James Balletti was discovered in the act of installing the listening device and was arrested by the Sheriff in Las Vegas, Nevada. Maheu reported to me that he had referred the matter to Edward Du Boise on behalf of Sam Giancana. At the time of the incident neither this Agency nor the undersigned knew of the proposed technical installation. Maheu stated that Sam Giancana thought that [REDACTED] might know of the proposed operation and might pass on the information to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At the time that Maheu reported this to the undersigned he reported he was under surveillance by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who, he thought, were exploring his association with John Rosselli and Sam Giancana incident to the project. I told Maheu that if he was formally approached by the FBI, he could refer them to me to be briefed that he was engaged in an intelligence operation directed at Cuba.

Not  
high

3. During the period from September on through April efforts were continued by Rosselli and Maheu to proceed with the operation. The first principal in Cuba withdrew and another principal

[REDACTED]

Copy No. 1 of 2

[Redacted]

Edwards' memo on this disclosure by CIA to [Redacted]

was selected as has been briefed to The Attorney General. Ten thousand dollars was passed for expenses to the second principal. He was further furnished with approximately one thousand dollars worth of communications equipment to establish communications between his headquarters in Miami and assets in Cuba. No monies were ever paid to Rosselli and Giancana. Maheu was paid part of his expense money during the periods that he was in Miami. After the failure of the invasion of Cuba word was sent through Maheu to Rosselli to call off the operation and Rosselli was told to tell his principal that the proposal to pay one hundred fifty thousand dollars for completion of the operation had been definitely withdrawn.

4. In all this period it has been definitely established from other sources that the Cuban principals involved never discovered or believed that there was other than business and syndicate interest in the project. To the knowledge of the undersigned there were no "leaks" of any information concerning the project in the Cuban community in Miami or in Cuba.

1. 2. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

5. I have no proof but it is my conclusion that Rosselli and Giancana guessed or assumed that CIA was behind the project. I never met either of them.

6. Throughout the entire period of the project John Rosselli was the dominant figure in directing action to the Cuban principals. Reasonable monitoring of his activities indicated that he gave his best efforts to carrying out the project without requiring any commitments for himself, financial or otherwise.

7. In view of the extreme sensitivity of the information set forth above, only one additional copy of this memorandum has been made and will be retained by the Agency.

[Redacted]  
Shepherd Edwards

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
Copy No. 1 of 2

Memorandum

*Handwritten notes:* "Continuation of [unclear] by [unclear] 5/22/61" and "R.K."

TO : The Attorney General

DATE: May 22, 1961

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ARTHUR JAMES BALLETTI, et al.  
UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATION  
OR USE OF COMMUNICATIONS

*Handwritten:* "WR"

This case involves an allegation that Arthur James Balletti and another unidentified individual placed a wire tap on the telephone of Dan Rowan, a member of the comedy team of Rowan and Martin, in October, 1960.

The Criminal Division was previously advised that Robert Maheu, after concealing his full connection with this matter, informed that coverage of Rowan was in furtherance of activities of Maheu on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) relative to anti-Castro activities.

Colonel Sheffield Edwards, Director of Security, CIA, furnished the information set forth in the attached memorandum regarding his utilization of Maheu in connection with anti-Castro activities. According to Colonel Edwards, Maheu contacted Sam Giancana in connection with this program. Reports of investigation of Giancana have been furnished to the Department in the case entitled "Samuel N. Giancana, Anti-Racketeering."

Classified by [unclear]

Since the purpose for placing the wire tap on Rowan's telephone, which is the basis for this investigation of the violation of the Unauthorized Publication or Use of Communications Statute, has not been determined, the full investigation requested in this matter is continuing and copies of reports will be furnished to the Department upon receipt.

In view of the information regarding CIA's attempted utilization of the hoodlum element in connection with anti-Castro activities, CIA has requested that this information be handled on a "need-to-know" basis.

Enclosures (2)

- 1 - Mr. Byron R. White  
Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Herbert J. Miller, Jr. (Enclosure)

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4-Qua/CHZ  
ON 3/9/81  
CIA also declassified per  
John E. Bacon 8/27/80

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF THIS MEMORANDUM

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/10/84 BY [unclear]



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

...ly, Please Refer to

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 22, 1961

ARTHUR JAMES BALLETTI, et al.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On May 3, 1961, Colonel Sheffield Edwards,  
Director of Security, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)  
furnished the following information, *KL*

Colonel Edwards advised that in connection with  
CIA's operation against Castro he personally contacted Robert  
Maheu during the Fall of 1960 for the purpose of using Maheu  
as a "cut-out" in contacts with Sam Giancana, a known hoodlum  
in the Chicago area. Colonel Edwards said that since the  
underworld controlled gambling activities in Cuba under the  
Batista government, it was assumed that this element would  
still continue to have sources and contacts in Cuba which  
perhaps could be utilized successfully in connection with  
CIA's clandestine efforts against the Castro government.  
As a result, Maheu's services were solicited as a "cut-out"  
because of his possible entree into underworld circles.  
Maheu obtained Sam Giancana's assistance in this regard and  
according to Edwards, Giancana gave every indication of  
cooperating through Maheu in attempting to accomplish several  
clandestine efforts in Cuba. Edwards added that none of  
Giancana's efforts have materialized to date and that several  
of the plans still are working and may eventually "pay off" *KL*

Colonel Edwards related that he had no direct  
contact with Giancana; that Giancana's activities were  
completely "back stopped" by Maheu and that Maheu would  
frequently report Giancana's action and information to  
Edwards. No details or methods used by Maheu or Giancana  
in accomplishing their missions were ever reported to  
Edwards. Colonel Edwards said that since this is "dirty  
business" he could not afford to have knowledge of the actions  
of Maheu and Giancana in pursuit of any mission for CIA.  
Colonel Edwards added that he has neither given Maheu any  
instruction to use technical installations of any type nor has  
the subject of technical installations ever come up between  
Edwards and Maheu in connection with Giancana's activity. *KL (u)*

DECLASSIFIED BY *SPL-2 Jmm/KZB*  
ON *5/19/81*  
*John E. Bacon 8/27/80*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE *2/10/84* BY *SP-7/CLW*



Colonel Edwards told that Maheu did come to him concerning the arrest in Las Vegas of Balletti for "wire tapping." Maheu cautioned Edwards that the Balletti arrest could cause CIA some embarrassment since Balletti was in Las Vegas attempting to obtain coverage on some "Hollywood people" in connection with Giancana's efforts for CIA. Edwards said that he did not know the facts of the Balletti case and Maheu claims "Balletti went too far" in his efforts to obtain information. Edwards added that he was unaware of any reason for this activity of Maheu or Giancana in Las Vegas and that Giancana's activity in furtherance of the anti-Castro activity was left completely in Maheu's hands. (u)

Colonel Edwards advised that only Mr. Bissell (Deputy Director of Plans, CIA) and two others in CIA were aware of the Giancana - Maheu activity in behalf of CIA's program and that Allen Dulles was completely unaware of Edwards' contact with Maheu in this connection. He added that Mr. Bissell, during his recent briefings of General Taylor and the Attorney General in connection with their inquiries into CIA relating to the Cuban situation, told the Attorney General that some of CIA's associated planning included the use of Giancana and the underworld against Castro. (u)

"Property of FBI

This report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~