

Castro Accuses CIA of Repeated Plots

Maheu Details Role

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By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

A former aide to billionaire Howard Hughes publicly acknowledged yesterday that he served as middleman in a CIA-Mafia plot to poison Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Robert Maheu, the former Hughes aide, said the scheme was concocted as part of the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion plan, but was never carried out because it was "always subject to a 'Go' signal, which, to my knowledge, never came."

Speaking with reporters after completing testimony for the Senate intelligence committee, Maheu said he enlisted Johnny Roselli, an old friend and reputed Mafia figure, in 1960 for the assassination scheme at the specific request of the Central Intelligence Agency.

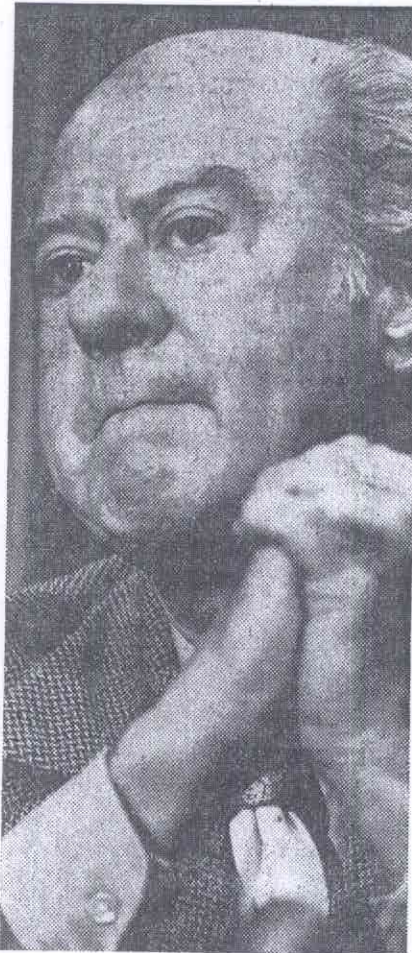
Maheu said he spent months after that in Miami Beach with Roselli and Mafia boss Sam Giancana in an effort to make sure nothing went awry.

"Someone had to be there to hold their hands," Maheu said. "We wanted to be sure that they did not move away from there."

Although Maheu said the poisoning was never attempted, he told reporters that he later learned from one CIA official, the late Col. Sheffield Edwards, that it could have been carried out before the mid-April invasion at the Bay of Pigs.

A former FBI agent who had done various assignments for the CIA since

See MAHEU, A12, Col. 1



By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post

Maheu: The 'Go' signal never came.

McGovern Gets Data

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By George Lardner Jr.
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Cuban Premier Fidel Castro has charged, in a report submitted yesterday to Senate investigators, that the Central Intelligence Agency was involved in repeated plots to kill him and other Cuban leaders from 1960 to 1971.

The allegations were set down in varying degrees of detail in an 86-page document delivered by the Cuban government to Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.), who had visited Cuba in May. McGovern made public a summary of the charges and submitted the full report to the Senate intelligence committee headed by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho).

McGovern told reporters he has no way of assessing the claims, but said he felt they warranted further investigation. He said the charges of CIA involvement were "apparently based on confessions and on circumstantial evidence" such as accompanying photographs of weapons that were seized and mug shots of individuals who had been arrested.

The Castro report listed 24 episodes, some attributed without elaboration to groups "with CIA connections and contacts," and others explicitly naming "CIA agents" allegedly involved in assassination efforts.

On several occasions, the Cubans charged that the U.S. Guantanamo

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