

Kevin Walsh
614 E Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

1/24/97

Dear Kevin,

My Hermes is in the shop and I have problems with this machine so what I say in response to your 1/20, heretoday~~s~~ is less than it might otherwise be.

You do not recall the question as well as the available information well or you are selective in ~~it~~ it. The question is of whether Exner lied. You do not address that. Instead you focus on my presumption of when Bobby Kennedy knew ~~about the mafia's plot~~. My presumption was incorrect because those who had the information I did not and who knew of my interest did not inform me.

You people are off on an inappropriate anti -Kennedy ^{kick} that, aside from being based on ignorance lines you up solidly with those who killed JFK.

There is another disclosed Edwards memo to which you refer in the ~~at~~ most prejudicial of possible way my copy of which was stolen from me and the CIA refuses to replace. The second ~~on~~ of which I know to which you again make the most prejudicial reference, if it is not also a dishonest one, has content you ignore. I sent Jim a copy long ago.

Exner says the mafia plot was JFK's and that he gave it money through her. Both are big lies.

The CIA's mafia plot was of ~~the Eisenhower~~ ^{the Eisenhower} administration and was put in place the August before the election. How JFK, as President, could ~~have~~ ^{created} the plot that existed for more than five months maybe Exner can explain to Jim's satisfaction, his judgement being so easily satisfied. ~~It is also~~ ^{a big} lie that JFK sent them money for that plot through her. First of all, even a child who reads detective stories would know that would never be done, as it also would never be done that money was sent to ~~Ciancana~~ ^{JFK} for buying the election that way. (And what was Mayor Daley doing?) The CIA ~~sent~~ the money, as I think now \$150,000 aside, and the mafia boys refused to take a penny.

It was an Ike plot and not JFK's. It existed, was in place, well before the election that made JFK President. This is in the memo you refer to and you do not mention it.

That Sheff. Edwards memo also contradicts the FBI LHM you sent me. It says that only two others in the CIA knew about that plot. His memo actually says that knowledge was limited to six, all high CIA officials.

You people believe what it would not credit a college freshman to believe. That is only because you want to believe it. As you wanted to believe Ricky White and wasted much time and money when to begin with that story had not the slightest element of credibility. Sincerely, *He cold*

614 E Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
January 20, 1997

Dear Harold:

Jim has passed onto me your comments concerning Judith Exner. I must recommend to you the enclosed FBI memorandum to RFK (and enclosure) dated May 22, 1961, one year before the May 14, 1962 memo on which you rely.

The memo and enclosure show that RFK had nearly all of the essentials of the CIA/Mafia plots in May 1961. As AG and the brother of the President, he certainly could have obtained the rest of the details had he inquired. There is no evidence that he did so.

The May 14, 1962, memo was prepared at RFK's direction and for RFK's files. Under these circumstances, it is certainly not going to put RFK in a bad light. I believe it is a mistake to place any more reliance on it than any other self-serving "memorandum for the record."

I do not see how any one can sensibly contend that RFK learned about the CIA/Mafia plots for the first time on May 9, 1962, given the FBI memo he received a year earlier. And how can his supposed response "I hope if you do business with mafia again, you will let the Attorney General know" (paraphrase) be genuine if he knew about the CIA's use of Giancana a year earlier?

I hope you will give careful consideration to the enclosed document and its implications.

Sincerely,



P.S. - See Church Report - pages 126-28, 275.
Best to Lil.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Continued
to be prepared up to [unclear]
APF
h 2 R 1 K

TO : The Attorney General

DATE: May 22, 1961

Met
FROM : Director, FBI

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

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. *X(u)*

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." *X(u)*

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. *X(u)*

Enclosures (2)

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

DECLASSIFIED BY *SP 4 - Jm/K*
ON *3/9/81* *FOIA # 22,330*
CIA Info declassified per
John E. Bacon 8/27/80

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *2/10/84* BY *PR/BJC/h*
4401215

ENCLOSURE

Classified by

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF *Dec 11, 1961*

DATE *3-25-81*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In Reply, Please Refer to

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. *Xu*

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" *(u)*

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. *(u)*

Classified by *(u)*

DECLASSIFIED BY *SP4-jun/KDA*
ON *3/19/81* TO *FRAT 22, 330*

*CFR Info declassified by
John E. Baccin 8/27/60*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *2/10/84* BY *SP8/ST/ALW*

Colonel Edwards related 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)

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to which loaned."

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