

Letters to the editor
The Washington Post
1150 15 St.,
Washington, DW 20071

I realize this is longer than the letters you use.

However, I think it is past time for the truth about this matter to be known.

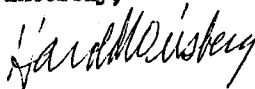
The Post did report as truth Richard Helms' false testimony about it to the House assassins committee and the lie appears in numberless books.

If the Post would care to use this any other way, it should feel free to add it as it sees fit or to ask for more than the copy of the CIA records I refer to that are enclosed.

That amateurish plot came to light and was aborted by the amateurish job done by the professional ^{of} wireman the CIA's ^{of} hunch on that deal, ~~got~~ Robert Maheu, got to do a favor for Sam Momo Giancana. He believe^d that Phyllis McGuire was ^{two} timing him with Dan Martin and asked Maheu¹ to get it all on tape for him. ^{That man} He got caught in the act. Thus the CIA's misleading title, "Unauthorized Publication of Use of Communications" for its assassination plot.

I have two fat FBI files on that caper if it is of interest.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg

I ^{enclose} ~~see, use~~ a copy for Robert Sherrill and a letter to him. Will you please be kind enough to forward them to him? Thanks.

Sorry my typing cannot be any better. I'm 82 and limited in what I can do.

Letters to the editor
The Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, DC 20071

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

12/5/95

Robert Sherrill begins his review of Ronald Goldfarb's book saying "he did not intend to include a theory about the Kennedy assassinations - who did them and why. But in fact most of 'Perfect Villains, Imperfect Heroes' seems constructed for the very purpose of supporting an assassination theory, which Goldfarb gives us at the end."

Sherrill also quotes Goldfarb as saying that "once" Kennedy was in "the White House" he- "or the smart alecks at CIA, with his approval -called on the mob to try to 'get' Fidel Castro. It is likely that Bobby, who really hated the Cuban revolution, may have had some dealings along those lines, too."

The best reviewers cannot know all there is to know about books they review but we do have the right to expect those who write what they say is nonfiction not to make up what they believe can sell their books or excite readers or make them appear to be real-life Perry Mason's.

What Goldfarb writes is false. Records the CIA was compelled to give me by the Department of Justice in response to my FOIA efforts prove Goldfarb wrote ^{what is} was was false. Once given to me those records were publicly available in the Department's public reading room and in the FBI's.

Robert Kennedy's first knowledge of that CIA Keystone Koppery was in 1962. He then demanded an accounting from Sheffield Edwards, the CIA's director of security. Classifying it Top Secret the CIA's general counsel, Lawrence Houston, sent the Edwards memo ^{to} of Kennedy on May 15, 1962 (Department ^{my} of Justice file 82-46-5).

In it Edwards says that he was "approached" in August 1960 "by Mr. Richard Bissell, then Deputy Director for Plans of the CIA to explore the possibility of mounting this sensitive operation against Fidel Castro." Edwards then says "it was thought ^{that} ~~that~~ " the mafia, which had had "certain gambling interests" in Cuba, might be able to get Castro knocked off.

August 1960 was before John Kennedy was elected, not when he was in the White House. That was a plot of the Eisenhower administration.

Edwards also stated that "knowledge of this project during its life was kept to a total of six persons," all high CIA officials, " and there were no memoranda ^{on} ~~of~~ the project nor were there written documents or agreements. The project was approved by the said senior officials of the Agency."

As the experienced lawyer he is Goldfayab did not have to have these available CIA records to be aware that at best his ~~was~~ writing was irresponsible, that he was exploiting and commercializing the assassinations.

When lawyers lack eye-witnesses or tangible proofs they respo^rt to motive, means and opportunity to make their cases.

Goldfayab addresses but one of these, motive. Hundreds of not thousands had the motive he attributes to the mafia only. Means and opportunity are controlling.

For all the justified dissatisfaction with the official ^{version of the JFK} assassination there is an abundance of solid information about it that lang has been publicly available. A decade and a half ago I had and made available to all writing in the field about a quarter of a million pages of previously-withheld FBI pages alone.

Anyone intending serious writing on the subject could not and cannot do it with total disregard of this official evidence. Not theories, evidence. From this official evidence it cannot be shown that the mafia had the means and the opportunity.

Writing about the assassination of a President or of any other public figure ought not be a fun-and-games project. The people ought not be deceived and misled by it. And certainly the dead who are not able to defend themselves ought not be maligned to puff authors up or sell more of their books.

The plain and simple truth- the official truth ^{is} that no Kennedy had either involvement in or even knowledge of that CIA plot to knock Castro off, the plot of the Eisenhower administration.

We get in this, too, another peek into the CIA. Its concept of its "security" was to have its office of security provide assassins.

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

14 FEB 1980

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21701

Reference: F80-1042

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

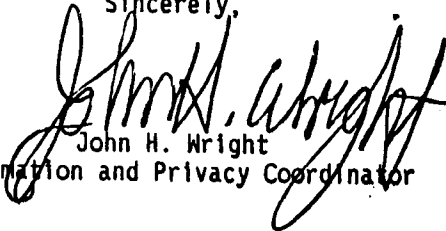
In the course of their processing your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request regarding the John F. Kennedy Assassination, the Department of Justice located two CIA documents and referred them to us for our review and direct response to you.

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 | | L. R. HOUSTON | |
| DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | | General Counsel | |
| 32 | JUN 27 1962 | CIA | (DATE) |
| RECORDS BRANCH | | 15 MAY 1962 | |

FORM 101 REPLACES FORM 101-1
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

[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

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Page 1 of 3 pages

22

JUN 27 1962
RECORDS BRANCH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

[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

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]

Not high

[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.

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 [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]

Copy No. 1022

Mr. Jonathan Yardley, book reviewer
The Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, DC 20071

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Yardley,

If you are also the daily book-review editor, the enclosed ²my be of interest to you.

My books are the only ones based on the official evidence.

A few pretend to be and ^{some} do succeed in giving that impression. But those that do make use of some of it distort what they use and its meaning in pursuance of the preconceptions with which they begin.

If you will read - and I'm not asking if you will review, only if you will read it- I'll be glad to send you a copy of my more or less current NEVER AGAIN!

It appeared in April and I know of no mention of it anywhere.

I think you may find the information in it of use if other books supposedly on the assassination reach you.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

12/5/95

Dear Mr. Sherrill,

I do not know whether our mutual friend Mo Waldron ever mentioned me or my work to you but he did tell me that the last time he was to have visited us both the Times sent him to Tampa to recover Jimmy Hoffa's body from the waters in which it had been told the body was floating. Mo then phoned from I think Key West to say it had not yet gotten there. He had had to chase it elsewhere and then he was taken ill.

All of the books supposedly on the JFK assassination other than my eight on it are not based on the established ^{official} fact. It praises them to call them theories. They are not even that. And this is true of both sides of the ^{controversy}.

I doubt the Post will use a letter of this length. I've told it to feel free to do what it wants if it would like to ~~use~~ make any other uses of it. To the best of my knowledge the full story has never been told and I know that nobody has ever used those FBI Belletti files I have, on the Vegas caper and how he managed to go free.

And, Rosselli and Giancana were both offed.

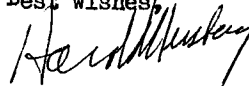
Rosselli had also leaked a bit of it through his lawyer to Drew Pearson.

I have the FBI's report on that and on that ~~key~~ lawyer, Ed Morgan as I recall the name.

These records can be retrieved easily from our basement to which I no longer have access because stairs are too unsafe for me.

If you might be interested, or if you know anyone else who might be, in it or in anything else I have, we also have a copier that can be used.

Best wishes,



Harold Weisberg