

CIA (D)

Levi Orders F.B.I. To Start Inquiry On Roselli Murder

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By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13—Attorney General Edward H. Levi today ordered the Federal Bureau of Investigation to try to determine whether John Roselli, the crime figure, was murdered as a result of his Senate committee testimony on assassination plots of the Central Intelligence Agency against Prime Minister Fidel Castro of Cuba.

Mr. Levi was responding to requests from Senate Intelligence Committee members that the Justice Department take charge of the investigation.

A Justice Department spokesman, Robert Havel, said that Mr. Levi told the bureau "to investigate whether the Roselli homicide was the result of his testimony before the committee or to prevent future testimony before a committee of Congress."

Mr. Roselli's body was found last weekend in an oil drum floating in Biscayne Bay off the Florida coast.

Mr. Roselli had testified about his role in a C.I.A. plan to use organized crime figures

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to kill Mr. Castro. The plan was never carried out.

Mr. Havel said Mr. Levi had authorized the bureau to enter the case under a Federal statute that makes it a crime to obstruct proceedings before Government agencies and Congressional committees. The statute sets a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

The bureau director, Clarence M. Kelley, said Wednesday that department officials had advised him that there was no Federal jurisdiction in the case. Murder is not usually a Federal crime.

But Mr. Havel said Mr. Levi had now decided that there was a basis for entering the case. Mr. Levi reached the decision after "communicating with the people up on the [Capitol] Hill to determine what Roselli had told the committee," Mr. Havel said. He did not elaborate.

The Federal investigation, Mr. Havel continued, "is to be undertaken with close cooperation and coordination with the authorities" in Dade County, Fla., which has jurisdiction over the Biscayne Bay area.

In his instructions to the bureau, Mr. Levi emphasized "that Dade County has the principal responsibility for the investigation," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, a lawyer for Mr. Roselli today discounted the possibility of a connection between his client's death and reported recent meetings between his client and West Coast crime figures.

Mr. Roselli at one time was known as the West Coast lieutenant of the Chicago mobster Sam Giancana, who was also involved in the C.I.A. assassination plots against Mr. Castro.

Mr. Giancana was murdered in June 1975, shortly before he was to testify before the Senate investigators.