

# Jimmy Hoffa — Murdered On Orders From the CIA?

By Vera Glaser

Washington

A professional underworld killer says that former Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa was murdered and then dumped into a junkyard car, which was crushed and smelted.

Charles (Chuckie) Crimaldi, a one-time Chicago "hit man" who is now cooperating with federal authorities, gives his version of Hoffa's disappearance last year in a forthcoming autobiography.

Criminaldi claims Hoffa was killed on orders of the CIA but offers no proof. His book describes Hoffa as the CIA's original liaison with the mob in the plot to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro in the early '60s, a version that does not square with official accounts of that episode.

"The same man that killed Momo (gangster Sam Giancana) took care of Hoffa for the same reason: He knew about the Castro plots," Crimaldi states.

Giancana was mysteriously gunned down last year shortly before he was scheduled to testify before a Senate committee investigating alleged CIA assassination plots. Within weeks Hoffa disappeared.

Criminaldi lives in obscurity with a new, secret identity provided by drug enforcement authorities. He works as a plumber, a trade learned in prison, and maintains contact with a few old mobster pals. But gangland enemies are said to have



**Jimmy Hoffa — a bizarre tale of his disappearance**

put a \$50,000 price on his head.

For the past three years he has poured out his life story in taped sessions with John Kidner, a retired Air Force colonel and free-lance writer, in hopes of providing a financial cushion for his wife and children. The resulting book, "Criminaldi, Contract Killer," is a brutal, sadistic tale of mob and prison life, its pages filled with killings, beatings and obscenity.

In the book Crimaldi describes a meeting in Chicago in the '60s with Giancana, during which he asked loan shark Sam DeStefano,

Criminaldi's boss, to make the "hit" on Castro. (DeStefano is now dead.)

"I was tapped by some guys from the CIA," Giancana explained. "I was promised special government consideration for a lot of aggravation that was coming my way."

According to Crimaldi, Giancana outlined what he said was the CIA plan:

"What you guys will do is jump bail. It'll be in all the papers how two gangsters skipped the country . . . so there won't be anything phoney about your leaving. After you're situated in South America, you'll be contacted.

"You'll be picked up there and eventually you'll be dropped off on the Cuban coast. They'll set everything up."

DeStefano asked for time to think it over. Later he refused.

Last year, when Giancana was murdered, Kidner sent word that he wanted to see Crimaldi.

"Word came back that he would be in touch," Kidner said. "About three weeks later, as I was having lunch at the Chez Camille restaurant in downtown Washington, Chuckie strolled in and sat down beside me. He came straight to the point: 'Momo was hit by the CIA.'

"I told him that would take some proving. He replied, 'I don't need proof. The CIA . . . used one of our guys. An import.'"