

MAR 13 1975

SFChronicle



SAM GIANCANA
A gangster chieftain



DAN ROWAN
A bug in his room



PHYLLIS MCGUIRE
Singer in the middle

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Vegas Break-In, Castro 'Contract'

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Strange Mafia Link to CIA

Los Angeles

Mob chief Sam Giancana, at the behest of the Central Intelligence Agency reportedly organized a Mafia effort to assassinate Fidel Castro, sources have told the Los Angeles Times.

Time magazine, in its current issue, reports receiving similar information from other sources.

Time said the CIA had worked with Giancana, a powerful Chicago Mafia overlord, and Johnny Rosselli, another underworld figure, to kill the Cuban premier in the early 1960s.

According to the magazine, "the FBI inadvertently learned of the plot in investigating a burglary of comedian Dan Rowan's Las Vegas hotel room.

"Agents learned that he arrested prowlers had been assigned by the CIA as a favor to Giancana, who sought information to break up a budding romance between Rowan and Giancana's girl friend, singer Phyllis McGuire.

Rowan confirmed that his room in the Riviera Hotel had been rifled and electronically bugged in "1960 or

'61" in an effort to obtain information "about my involvement with Miss McGuire."

He described the singer as "a close friend" whom he occasionally dated before his marriage. FBI agents told him, he said, that Giancana, who spent considerable time in Las Vegas in the early '60s, was behind the break-in and bugging.

"I even met the guy who did the bugging. He claimed to be a private investigator out of Miami. He was the coolest thing you ever saw."

Rowan's comments on the incident came after the New York Times quoted two former aides to the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy as saying that he had told them he stopped a CIA plan to use the Mafia to kill Castro. There have been other reports that American mobsters have made assassination attempts.

After his conviction here in 1971 in the Friars Club card cheating case, Rosselli asserted he had worked with Robert A. Maheu, former aide to Howard Hughes, in attempts to kill Castro.

The statement was in affi-

davits and unsigned memoranda filed in Rosselli's behalf when he sought a reduction in his five-year term.

Rosselli's attorney, Adrian Marshall, told the court that a CIA mission in the early 1960s had called for the assassination of Castro. Marshall said the CIA had enlisted the aid of Maheu, who then sought assistance from Rosselli. Six attempts were

made on the Cuban leader's life and, during one of them, a boat was shot out from under Rosselli, Marshall said.

Maheu would not comment at the time. But last year he testified in the trial of his complicated civil suit against Hughes that he himself had done "sensitive" work for the CIA in 1960 and 1961 in the Miami area.

Los Angeles Times