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CIA HISTORICAL PERSON PROCESSION

25 August 1976.

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

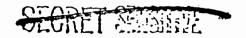
FROM:

Gary M. Breneman

Assistant General Counsel

SUBJECT: Request for Agency Assistance in the Death of John Rosselli

- 1. Senator Gary W. Hart (D-Colo.) has involved the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in the investigation of the murder of John Rosselli (Washington Post, 25 August 1976, p. A25, copy attached). In addition, the Director has met with Hart and stated that the Agency would cooperate in the investigation of Rosselli's death within the bounds of its charter and its statutory charge to protect intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure.
- 2. At the request of the Committee, Mr. Tom White, OLC, and the undersigned met with two homicide detectives from the Dade County sheriff's office at 12:30 p.m., 24 August, in the offices of the Committee in the Dirksen Building. The two detectives were Julio O. Ojeda and Charles Zatrepalek. Also present at the meeting were the following individuals: Paul Daly and Carlton Burrell of the FBI and Mike Madigan, Rick Inderfurth and Mike Epstien of the Committee Staff. Present for part of the meeting were Bill Miller. Staff Director of the Committee, and Charles Kirkow of the Committee Staff.
- 3. The Agency officers explained that they were there to determine how, within the Agency's charter, they could provide assistance to the detectives in their investigation and to receive their questions and then pursue the answers within the Agency. The detectives asked for help in the following areas and their questions break down into three basic categories.
  - A. First, they would like to know whatever the Agency knows about certain Cuban nationals, some deceased and some still alive. They are as follows:
    - 1. Ramon Don Eestevez Dominquez (deceased by shooting) born
      2 May 1936 or 5 February 1936; reportedly a boat manufacturer
      who was able to go in and out of Cuba on a regular basis.



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- ii. Rolando Masferrer Rojas (deceased by bombing) born12 January 1918.
- iii. Luciano Nieves (deceased by shooting).
- iv. Jose De La Torriente (deceased by shooting).
- v. Jose Quintana born 3 October 1945; reportedly a nephew by marriage to Rosselli.
- vi. Jaoquin Antonio Cortizo born 10 January 1945.
- vii. Manola Artimes (the detectives specifically asked where he is now).
- viii. AM/LASH his identity and present whereabouts.
- ix. What are the names of the three Cubans mentioned in the Rosselli testimony? (Two of the three names are in the 9 December 1970 memorandum discussed in paragraph 4 of this memorandum.)
- B. Secondly, they asked for whatever information the Agency could provide on the following individuals whose citizenship is unknown but who are probably U.S. citizens.
  - i. Fred Black identified as a lobbyist involved with Bobby Baker; he reportedly lives in the Watergate Apartments and is a friend of Maheu, Rosselli and Shimon. They wanted to know if he had any connection with the Castro assassination plots.
  - ii. Edward Morgan a D.C. attorney who has reportedly represented Black, Shimon, Rosselli and Maheu.
    - iii. Joseph Shimon identified in the Senzte Select Committee Report on Alleged Assassination Plots at page 81 as "a friend of Rosselli and Giancana." They wanted to know if he had any CIA relationship.
- C. Third, they ask a number of general questions which are as follows:
  - i. Who is the Cuban who provided the speedboat mentioned in the Senate Select Committee Report?

- ii. Who is "B-I" and what is the name of the and-Castro group both of which are mentioned on page 89 of the Report?
  iii. Did Harvey actually pay Rosselli \$2,700 to defray the Cuban expenses as mentioned on page 84 of the Report?
  iv. Why was Rosselli approached instead of Giancana or someone else?
  v. Did the Agency do a background check on Rosselli or Giancana and, if so, could they have access to it?
  vi. Why was all contact with Rosselli stopped in 1965?
  vii. Would it be possible for them to talk to the man or men who served as Chief of Station in Miami during 1960 to 1965?
  viii. Could they talk to the current Chief of Station in Miami?
  - ix. Would it be possible for the detectives to talk to James P. O'Connell, a retired senior Office of Security employee?
  - x. Does CIA have any evidence that the Cuban Intelligence Service may have been involved in Rosselli's death or that Cuban agents were in the Miami area at the time of his death?
- 4. Rick Inderfurth presented the undersigned with two classified memoranda and stated he thought they should be declassified and made available to the detectives. One is a 9 December 1970 memorandum to the DCI from the Director of Security, Subj: "ROSSELLI, Johnny." The second is a blind memorandum dated 9 August 1976, Subj: "Johnny Rosselli." Copies of both are attached.
- 5. The undersigned made absolutely no commitments with respect to any of the requests except to the one relating to interviewing the current COS Miami and I said no to it. The detectives will be in town until Szturday and can be reached at their motel, Tel. 521-1900, Room 610. Following that they can be reached at the sheriff's office in Miami at (305) 547-7456.

Gary M. Breneman

Atts.

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Curtis R. Rivers			• EXTENSIÓN	DATE 8 October 1976	
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Security

APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1993

FROM

Curtis R. Rivers

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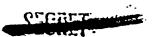
SUBJECT

Dade County Request for Agency Assistance

Regarding the Death of Johnny Roselli

1. The following is provided for your information and pertains to an assessment of the information contained in Office of Security files relevant to the request from the Dade County Sheriff's Office pursuant to their investigation of the death of Johnny Roselli.

- 2. The Dade County Sheriff's representatives requested all Agency information pertaining to several Cuban nationals. A review of Office of Security indices in this regard disclosed the following:
  - a. Ramon Don Eestevez Dominquez--Office of Security records were negative.
  - Rolando Masferrer Rojas--Covert. (36.859) and overt (352 772) security files were located regarding Rolando Arcadio Masferrer (Rojas), aka: Roland Rojas Masferrer, a Cuban citizen born 12 January 1918 in Holguin, Cuba. Although limited national agency checks were conducted on Subject in January 1950, there is no indication that Masforrer was ever utilized by the Agency. He is a former Cuban senator and Cuban Communist Party member (expelled in 1945), a former commander for Batista's private army, and firmly anti-Castro. The two files contain numerous FBI reports regarding his activities in connection with an attempt to invade Cuba in 1960 and a subsequent effort to invade Haiti in 1967. Masferrer and 75 of his followers were arrested in January 1967 in Marathon, Florida, while preparing for the invasion of Haiti.



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Masferrer claimed that his Haiti invasion plot was approved by the U.S. Government (varying between the CIA and the FBI as the approving agency). While the CIA approval claim was untrue. Agency concern, at the time, centered around the possibility of unfavorable publicity and the compromise of sources and methods if the Agency was forced to disprove Masferrer's charges in court. A handwritten note in Masferrer's file revealed that he died in 1975 when his car was -blown apart by a bomb in Florida. No further details regarding his death were contained in his subject files. Since Masferrer has never. been affiliated with the Agency, despite his claims, it is helieved that Dade County officials should be referred to the FBI for information regarding Masferrer.

Luciano Nieves -- Office of Security files contain [ linformation regarding Luciano Nieves Mestre, date and place of birth 6 October 1933, Santa Clara, Cuba. Nieves was L I on 4 February 1966 in Florida. It was developed that he was a Cuban national who had been arrested, tried, and sentenced to 20 years in Cuba for allegedly being involved in an anti-Castro plot. He was released in March 1965 after serving approximately 16 months of his sentence and went to Spain briefly where he was of interest to the In August 1965 he entered the United states and in November 1965 was contacted by Directorate of Operations (DDO) representatives. From November 1965 until approximately January 1966 he was of operational interest to the DDO.

It is noted that the DDO maintains a 201 file (201-788521) regarding Subject and it is believed that the Office of Security would have to defer any decision regarding the release of information concerning Nieves to the DDO.

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- d. Jose de La Torriente--Security records contain only sparse information provided by the Domestic Contact Service in 1970 showing that one Jose de La Torriente, not further identified, claimed to have worked for the CIA for many years. An attachment to a 1970 Domestic Contact Service memorandum containing details of Torriente's claimed association with the Agency was not contained in Office of Security files. It is believed that a decision to release information regarding Torriente would have to be deferred to the DDO.
- e. Jose Quintana--Office of Security records contain no information identifiable with Jose Quintana.
- f. Jaoquin Antonio Cortizo-Office of Security records are negative.
- g. Manola Artimes--Security records contain overt (611 523) and covert (210 838), files regarding Manuel Francisco Artime-Buesa. Artime-Buesa is a former Agency operational asset utilized by the DDO during the approximate period 1959-1963. Any decision regarding the release of information regarding Artime-Buesa or his present whereabouts should be deferred to the DDO.
- h. AMLASH--Rolando Cubela (Secades), Agency cryptonym--AMLASH, is the subject of the Office of Security covert file 101 080. Cubela is a rather celebrated Cuban national and operational contact of the DDO mentioned throughout both of the Senate Select Committee assassination reports. Although Cubela is identified in the assassination reports as AMLASH and his identity has never been revealed by the Agency, his true identity has been surfaced in several recent news articles. All information on Cubela in the possession of the Office of Security would fall within the purview of the DDO, and it is believed that any decision to release information pertaining to

Cubela should be deferred to the Latin America Division of the (DDO) It should be noted that during their investigation, Senate Select Committee staffers reviewed Cubela's raw files from both the (DDO) and the Office of Security.

- i. Dade County Sheriff's Office representatives requested the "names of the three Cubans mentioned in the Roselli testimony." It is believed that the response to this question should be deferred to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence since the Office of Security does not have access to the Roselli testimony.
- 3. Additionally, the Dade County Sheriff's Office representatives ask for all Agency information pertaining to several individuals of unknown citizenships, but believed to be U.S. citizens. A review of the Office of Security indices in this regard disclosed the following:
  - a. Fred Black--Office of Security records revealed only newspaper clippings contained in the Robert G. Baker subject file (260 273) showing that Fred B. Black, Jr., a consultant with North American Aviation, was a close friend and business associate of "Bobby" G. Baker. Black was mentioned repeatedly in the news media coverage of Senate investigations of Baker in the early 1960's. While Black's citizenship is undetermined, it is probable that he is a U. S. citizen.
  - b. Edward Morgan--A covert security file
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    Morgan, date and place of birth 28 May 1913,
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It is noted that while only the aforementioned subject file exists regarding Morgan, in his capacity as Robert A. Maheu's personal attorney, Morgan is mentioned sporadically in the Maheu, Harvey, and Roselli files. In 1967 Maheu was interviewed and advised that he had briefed Morgan regarding the details of his involvement in the Agency-sponsored Castro assassination plots. Morgan's current association with Maheu, professional and/or personal, is unknown. Morgan is currently practicing law in the District of Columbia law firm of Welch and Morgan.

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- 4. To date, no decision has been made as to the type and form of response to be made to the Dade County Sheriff's Office request. Additionally, a formal request to the Office of

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Curtis R. Rivers

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