

**SECRET SENSITIVE**

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 Zatrepahek. 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 Estevez 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) - born 12 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. Jaquin 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 Senate 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?

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- ii. Who is "B" and what is the name of the anti-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 Saturday 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. Brennan

Atts.

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