

CONFIDENTIAL

The Attorney General

May 22, 1961

Director, FBI

139 - 1041 - 43

REC-23

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4-Quilley
3/9/81 7070A 221330

EX 105
ARTHUR JAMES BALLETTI, et al. ON
UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATION
OR USE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Deleted Copy Sent F. Taylor Branch
by Letter Dated 12/15/76
Per FOIPA Request

*CIA info declassified per
John E. Moran 8/27/80

This case involves an allegation that Arthur James Balletti and another unidentified individual placed a wire tap on the telephone of Sam Rowan, a member of the comedy team of Rowan and Martin, in October, 1960.

The Criminal Division was previously advised that Robert Maheu, after concealing his full connection with this matter, informed that coverage of Rowan was in furtherance of activities of Maheu on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) relative to anti-Castro activities.

Colonel Sheffield Edwards, Director of Security, CIA, furnished the information set forth in the attached memorandum regarding his utilization of Maheu in connection with anti-Castro activities. According to Colonel Edwards, Maheu contacted Sam Giancana in connection with this program. Reports of investigation of Giancana have been furnished to the Department in the case entitled "Samuel N. Giancana, Anti-Racketeering."

Since the purpose for placing the wire tap on Rowan's telephone, which is the basis for this investigation of the violation of the Unauthorized Publication or Use of Communications Statute, has not been determined, the full investigation requested in this matter is continuing and copies of reports will be furnished to the Department upon receipt.

In view of the information regarding CIA's attempted utilization of the hoodlum element in connection with anti-Castro activities, CIA has requested that this information be handled on a "need-to-know" basis.

Enclosures (2)

ENCLOSURE

- Tolson
- Parsons
- Mohr
- Belmont
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Malone
- Rosen
- Tavel
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

- 1 - Mr. Byron R. White
Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General
Herbert J. Miller, Jr. (Enclosure)
- 1 - Mr. Evans (Enc.)
- 1 - Mr. Belmont (Enc.)

CONFIDENTIAL

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

EJM:aeo
(12) JUN 1 1961

CONFIDENTIAL
per CIA Lt 12/2/76 GTT

Classified by 6017
Xerox to legal counsel 6/10/77
For possible dissemination to Senate
Solid Committee inv. CIA. 7/4

6029
4/17
Relax

U.S. HEADING ROOM

MAY 27 9 06 PM '61

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

~~TOP SECRET~~
CONFIDENTIAL

NOTE:

Case involves wire tap placed on phone of Dan Rowan of comedy team of Rowan and Martin. Rowan reportedly engaged to Phyllis McGuire of McGuire Sisters trio, who is also reportedly a girl friend of Sam Giancana, under investigation by the Chicago Office as a top hoodlum. Maheu claims coverage of Rowan (although not to include telephone tap) put on in behalf of CIA's efforts to obtain intelligence information in Cuba through the hoodlum element which has had interests there. From the information furnished by Maheu and CIA, it is difficult to determine any need for Maheu to put full coverage on Rowan (including wire tap) in connection with Giancana's reported efforts on behalf of CIA. It appears possible Rowan was being covered by Maheu on behalf of Giancana ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ relative to the reported conflict between Giancana and Rowan for the affections of Phyllis McGuire. In view of this, investigation is being vigorously pressed and airtel was sent 5/12/61 to LV and other offices having leads in this matter. Information in attached letterhead memo relative to CIA's utilization of Maheu in its anti-Castro program was furnished to Liaison Agent by Col. Sheffield Edwards, Director of Security, CIA. X(u)

In accordance with arrangements made between Liaison and CIA, this information relative to anti-Castro activities on behalf of CIA by Maheu and Giancana should be limited to those in the Department on a "need-to-know" basis. Dissemination only being made to Department. This should be routed through Division 5 for its information. X(u)

~~TOP SECRET~~
CONFIDENTIAL
~~TOP SECRET~~

May 22, 1961

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ARTHUR JAMES BALLETTI, et al.

On May 3, 1961, Colonel Sheffield Edwards, Director of Security, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) furnished the following information.

Colonel Edwards advised that in connection with CIA's operation against Castro he personally contacted Robert Maheu during the Fall of 1960 for the purpose of using Maheu as a "cut-out" in contacts with Sam Giancana, a known hoodlum in the Chicago area. Colonel Edwards said that since the underworld controlled gambling activities in Cuba under the Batista government, it was assumed that this element would still continue to have sources and contacts in Cuba which perhaps could be utilized successfully in connection with CIA's clandestine efforts against the Castro government. As a result, Maheu's services were solicited as a "cut-out" because of his possible entree into underworld circles. Maheu obtained Sam Giancana's assistance in this regard and according to Edwards, Giancana gave every indication of cooperating through Maheu in attempting to accomplish several clandestine efforts in Cuba. Edwards added that none of Giancana's efforts have materialized to date and that several of the plans still are working and may eventually "pay off."

Colonel Edwards related that he had no direct contact with Giancana; that Giancana's activities were completely "back stopped" by Maheu and that Maheu would frequently report Giancana's action and information to Edwards. No details or methods used by Maheu or Giancana in accomplishing their missions were ever reported to Edwards. Colonel Edwards said that since this is "dirty business" he could not afford to have knowledge of the actions of Maheu and Giancana in pursuit of any mission for CIA. Colonel Edwards added that he has neither given Maheu any instruction to use technical installations of any type nor has the subject of technical installations ever come up between Edwards and Maheu in connection with Giancana's activity.

ORIGINAL TO DEPARTMENT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

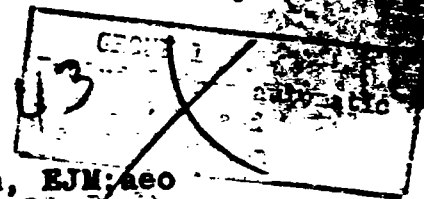
ENCLOSURE

EJM:aeo
(18)

- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Belmont

See cover memo to AG, 5/22/61, same caption, EJM:aeo

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT



DECLASSIFIED BY SP4 JMK/ktc
ON 03/19/87
*CIA info declassified per John E. Bacon 8/27/80

- _____ Parsons
- _____ Mohr
- _____ Belmont
- _____ Callahan
- _____ Conrad
- _____ DeLoach
- _____ Evans
- _____ Malone
- _____ Rosen
- _____ Tavel
- _____ Trotter
- _____ W.C. Sullivan
- _____ Tele. Room
- _____ Ingram
- _____ Gandy

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Colonel Edwards related that Maheu did come to him concerning the arrest in Las Vegas of Balletti for "wire tapping." Maheu cautioned Edwards that the Balletti arrest could cause some embarrassment since Balletti was in Las Vegas attempting to obtain coverage on some "Hollywood people" in connection with Giancana's efforts for CIA. Edwards said that he did not know the facts of the Balletti case and Maheu claims "Balletti went too far" in his efforts to obtain information. Edwards added that he was unaware of any reason for this activity of Maheu or Giancana in Las Vegas and that Giancana's activity in furtherance of the anti-Castro activity was left completely in Maheu's hands.

Colonel Edwards advised that only Mr. Bissell (Deputy Director of Plans, CIA) and two others in CIA were aware of the Giancana - Maheu activity in behalf of CIA's program and that Allen Dulles was completely unaware of Edwards' contact with Maheu in this connection. He added that Mr. Bissell, during his recent briefings of General Taylor and the Attorney General in connection with their inquiries into CIA relating to the Cuban situation, told the Attorney General that some of CIA's associated planning included the use of Giancana and the underworld against Castro.

"Property of FBI

This report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~