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Provenance:

Category: **Uncategorized**

Person:

Date:

The second meeting occurred a week or ten days later. At this point, Rosselli was instructed to proceed to New York for an introduction to a government official. At both the first and second meetings, for an hour or more, various aspects of the proposed projects were discussed but nothing in the nature of specific techniques coinciding. Rosselli remembered his arrival in New York: timing with a visit by Eisenhower, Castro, Nasser, and perhaps Khrushchev. He said it was noteworthy because New York was crawling with officials from all over the world. Rosselli paid his own fare from Los Angeles to New York and stayed at the old Plaza Hotel on Fifth Avenue and 57th Street. He was given the cover name, John Halston. The meeting in New York took place in a hotel room. In attendance were Maheu, Rosselli, and "big" Jim O'Connell, and two or three other people who did not explain why they were there. Jim O'Connell was introduced as a CIA official. Rosselli was unclear as to whether this was stated explicitly or whether through the whole context of discussions it became clear that he worked for the CIA. At this point, Rosselli was satisfied that Maheu was working for the government and, therefore, agreed to work the Cuban mission described at the first meeting. Rosselli was not sure as to the length of his stay in New York at this time. He did remember going to lunch with Maheu a number of times and talking about the particular projects. After his stay in New York, he traveled to either Washington, D.C. or Florida. He was uncertain as to the exact location but he did remember there were series of meetings between himself and Maheu to discuss further plans about the attempted assassination. There was only one further meeting with O'Connell, involving these preliminary stages. At this point, he only discussed techniques of assassination with Maheu. Rosselli remembered staying in

Maheu's Falls Church home (it had a tennis court) during his stays in Washington. There had been no discussion of the cover story that Rosselli was a private citizen representing a group of private businessmen from New York. When Rosselli reached Florida, he made his contacts with the Cubans and then arranged for the Cubans to meet with Maheu. He trusted the Cubans he came in contact with because they, according to themselves, were working on the Bay of Pigs operation, which had not occurred as of yet. There were times when they would stay at Arthur Godfrey's hotel, the Kenilworth Hotel, in Florida. At times he registered under the name Halston. This was to allow him to maintain his cover while Maheu, still working for Hughes, was able to register under his own name, so that Hughes believed that he was doing his work. The operation went on in terms of Rosselli arranging meetings with his Cuban contacts and then having further discussions about specifics with Maheu. At times, O'Connell, from Washington, would visit with Maheu and Rosselli. One time, before the 1960 election, O'Connell brought with him two Admirals, one of whom, Rosselli thinks, was retired. At this point, Rosselli said he was telling his Cuban contacts the cover story, namely that he represented private business interests in New York who were interested in seeing Castro done away with. The Cubans, at this point, had not met with O'Connell, but had met with Maheu. Immediately after the Bay of Pigs, Maheu left and Rosselli only met one more time with O'Connell. Then he also left for the West Coast. The two attempts at assassination both involved the use of pills. One attempt was before the Bay of Pigs and the other was sometime after. The first was to use a capsule filled with a special poison that could be spilled into food or drink. The capsule was filled with a poison that was traceable and made his death appear

natural.