

CIA agent's death tied to drug trade

Soviet sleuth reports Paisley met with Mafia drug czars

Sensational stories are very popular in America, but this one — the death of John Paisley — was covered up. Somebody put the brakes on. Why? Because an investigation would probably come to the conclusion that two of the most powerful organizations in the U.S. were involved here: the CIA and the Mafia.

Who was John Paisley?

Until 1974, he worked as deputy director of the strategic studies department of the CIA. He was responsible for studying the military programs of other countries. Four years ago, Paisley retired and became a consultant for the CIA...

And then... John Paisley, one of the aces of the American secret service, was found in the Chesapeake Bay with a bullet wound in his head, a few days after he mysteriously disappeared.

As soon as Paisley's body was found, the story immediately appeared that "a veteran of American intelligence had committed suicide." The FBI, which conducted the investigation, maintained silence. Considering the rivalry between the CIA and the FBI, it may be supposed that it had been decided in Langley to put the squeeze on the "sons of Edgar Hoover": agree with the suicide story, don't put up a fight, this is the way it has to be.

Why? What for?

Suicide story untenable

The suicide story is untenable on several counts. First of all, before going out on his yacht, Paisley told his friend Mike Yion that he would be back the same day and would not spend the night on the yacht. Secondly, the bullet removed from Paisley's skull was a higher caliber than the bullets in his own pistol. And thirdly, the report Paisley was working on was scattered all over the cabin, as if someone was looking for something very important, but couldn't find it.

American law, incidentally, permits various interpretations of these circumstances. It could be stated, for example, that upon saying goodbye to his friend, Paisley had no intention of killing himself, but that some psychological crisis brought him to that step. The "heavy bullet"? This could be a production flaw, an accident; the ballistics specialists would have to determine. And the report could have been thrown around by Paisley himself, dissatisfied with his work.

But how do you explain the fact that there were weights

attached to Paisley's belt, and that they dragged him to the bottom?

American law works according to the laws of analogy. From the annals of U.S. court practice, we cannot fail to find at least two analogous cases. Three years ago, in June 1975, a barrel was found floating off the Florida coast. Inside was found the body of one of the big Mafia bosses, John Rosselli.

I have already written about the case where the FBI found out through wiretaps about the plan of Chicago Mafia boss James Torello — that "rising star of the Cosa Nostra" — to kill a trade union leader after taking him out to sea in his motorboat. We may recall that Torello's rise began in the sixties. At that time he was a hired killer, a small fry in the family of Sam Giancana, who was shot several years ago in Chicago — the CIA agent Giancana who personally ran the preparations to assassinate Fidel

IN THIS SECTION:

There has been intense speculation in the Western press over the mysterious, apparent suicide last September of a high-ranking CIA analyst, John Paisley. From the Soviet Union, however, has come a unique slant on the case: the suggestion that Paisley's death is somehow related to the involvement of sections of the CIA in the drug trade. The suggestion comes from Soviet commentator Julian Semyonov, whose series on the Mafia role in the Kennedy and other assassinations — *Capriccio Siciliano* — appeared in the *Executive Intelligence Review* last year only weeks before House specialists finally conceded that the Kennedy murder was, indeed, the work of a conspiracy.

Semyonov's latest piece, "Behind the Scenes of the 'Paisley Affair'," which appeared in *Literaturnaya Gazeta* dated Dec. 20, 1978, is noteworthy for several reasons, not the least being his identification of the international drug trade as an international "corporation," and his inclusion of the British crown colony Hong Kong as a major narcotics trafficking center. In this section, our exclusive translation. (Note: subheads are added by *Executive Intelligence Review*.)

Castro. Now Torello had surpassed his teacher: he hung the convicted usurer Jackson on a meathook and tortured him with electric shocks for several days until he died. Torello remained free, a completely respectable member of Chicago "high society."

Paisley and the Mafia

American lawyers are experienced people. They could probably interpret the weights on Paisley's belt and advance any number of hypotheses. But how do you explain away the irrefutable facts that Paisley met several times with those Mafiosi engaged in the illegal import of narcotics into the U.S.?

Paisley's contacts with the Mafia people were noted at precisely the time that a new spiral of the illegal narcotics trade in New York began and the battle between the present "narcotics king," Carmine Galante, and the boss Angelo Dellacroce, for leadership of Cosa Nostra, is considered to have gone into its decisive phase. The interests of so many people were involved in this fight, that it was impossible to predict the outcome: U.S. attorneys estimate that the Mafia controls tens of thousands of perfectly legal firms, with annual revenues of \$12 billion! (It is a paradox of the capitalist world that organized crime flourishes because people known as perfectly respectable citizens, without batting an eye, buy cheap contraband goods, discount cigarettes, and of course, heroin supplied by the Mafia; the sale of narcotics has not yet been legalized. The legalization of casino gambling in several states in the U.S., by the way, has also played into the hands of the Mafia; and if ten years ago the offtake on dog racing and the racetrack was \$6 billion, today it has reached \$18 billion!)

The Appalachia meeting

To investigate the "Paisley affair" more carefully, let us review some history. Twenty years ago, during the power struggle in the Mafia at that time, it was decided to hold an "all-American convention" of the Cosa Nostra family leaders. Vito Genovese, then a pretender to the throne of "Godfather Number One," proposed to gather in Chicago. But the Buffalo Mafia boss Stefano Magaddino objected: "The FBI is strong in Chicago; hang our tails out and they'll round us all up at once." He suggested meeting at old man Joseph Barbara's in the small New York town of Appalachia. This idea was accepted.

About 100 Mafia leaders converged on the farm. The last question raised during their talks was somewhat unexpected: since the FBI narcotics bureau was hot on the trail of the Mafia and beginning to step on some people's toes, it was necessary to temporarily suspend the underground heroin trade. But analysis of a proposal like that leads to one conclusion: this kind of a ban would only step up the secret heroin trade, but new Mafia people, the "Young Wave," would take it over. Carmine Galante was 46 years old at the time — remember that. His chief rival Dellacroce was 42, and heroin had never been his forte. Loan sharking and casino gambling were his sphere.

But just as this question was being discussed by the godfathers, police sergeant Crosswell noticed the mass of Lincolns and Rolls Royces parked at the farm. He and three partners managed to seize several dozen Mafiosi. Fifty other men broke through the police ring, since Crosswell was unable to summon help. Thus the question of a temporary suspension of the narcotics trade, until the FBI cooled down, remained unresolved by the "strategists" of the American Mafia.

And who was putting this question on the agenda? Who was interested in the advancement of "dark horses" like Galante to the throne of the new godfathers? Who wanted further expansion of the worldwide secret Mafia networks? Who gained from the Mafia millionaires that the FBI was aiming at? The case of cooperation with the CIA by the godfather Lucky Luciano speaks for itself. In violation of American law, this criminal was freed from jail — on orders from the American secret service. The CIA's work with the Chicago Mafia boss Sam Giancana shows the same thing.

And who helped the men arrested at the New York farm go free? The godfathers were accused of plotting to obstruct justice, since they refused to explain their presence at Barbara's house. They were found guilty and sentenced, but they didn't stay in jail for very long. In November 1960, they were freed on appeal. Some of the country's leading lawyers argued their case.

"What was the purpose of the meeting," asked the judge.

The godfathers answered as if someone had prepared a story for each of them.

"Old man Barbara was getting sick... He is very dear to all of us, because he makes the best pizza in the States."

And believe it or not, Barbara, in New York State, was visited by Frank de Simone, the patron of Cosa Nostra in California; James Civello, the Dallas Mafia boss; and Luis Trafficante, Jr., the Florida chief who had represented the interests of "narcotics emperor" Lucky Luciano in Cuba before the revolution.

The absurdity of their answers, however, did not keep the judge from letting all the Mafiosi go scot-free. And all these "rehabilitated" bandits immediately took off to see CIA agent Lucky Luciano, who had begun to collaborate with the U.S. secret service already in 1942. Lucky Luciano at that time was living in Italy. And not alone: the U.S. government, starting in the late 1940s, exiled all the Cosa Nostra gangsters on whom there was supposedly not enough evidence to put in jail. Even before the "Appalachians" arrived in Europe, CIA agent Luciano already had working with him such "veterans" as Giuseppe Badalamenti, Frank Caruso, Gaetano Chifalo.

The international drug corporation

How did the "exiled" Mafiosi occupy themselves in Italy? They created throughout Europe a broad network of "import-export" companies — mainly trading in fruits and vegetables (they hid heroin in the oranges and almonds). The Mafia network encompassed all of Europe:

Caruso was based in Marseilles; Cappola had offices in Marseilles, Frankfurt-am-Main, and Hamburg; Shillachi in Monaco; Picci in Genoa.

Thus the CIA, through Lucky Luciano, who was closely connected with Hong Kong, had a labyrinthine network of agents through Western Europe. But the CIA didn't stay in debt for this: the flow of the heroin plague into the U.S. was run under the cover of their European stations.

Today Carmine Galante, whose people maintained contact with the CIA consultant John Paisley, has his hand on the pulse of the international heroin corporation. It is precisely he who is closely tied to the heroin suppliers in Amsterdam's Chinatown, in Hong Kong, and in Southeast Asia. It is precisely he who could not fail to run to the CIA for help when he feared the FBI's counter-intelligence efforts. It was he who, in exchange for that help, carried out and still does implement special secret instructions from the gentlemen at Langley, just as his predecessor Lucky Luciano did.

Why was Paisley killed? What were they after in his report? What was the criminal looking for on the yacht? The Mafia's signature is obvious. But who sanctioned this murder?

One of the CIA leaders was not long ago forced — apparently trying to overtake his FBI competitors — to state that he did not exclude the possibility that Paisley's contacts with the Mafia occurred "with the CIA leadership's knowledge."

In that case, the question arises of how to reconcile this statement with the words of CIA director Admiral Turner, regarding operations against narcotics traffic: "We place a great emphasis on this, stressing in instructions to our agents that this is a priority task. We have achieved some

successes." With respect to political murders, Admiral Turner declared even more decisively, "We are categorically forbidden to engage in such activities. Perhaps in an extraordinary situation, it would be justified to kill a person in the name of a good cause and we would be able to convince the President to make an exception..."

Did Turner know?

Did the CIA director know about the preparations to murder his consultant John Paisley? And if not, then is a new campaign of "uncontrolled actions" beginning in the CIA, such as was recently discussed in the U.S Congress?

The Director of the CIA does little to conceal his unhappiness with congressional control over the agency. "The monitoring process involves a definite risk," he says, "First of all, there is a danger that our intelligence will be weakened — we won't want to take risks because someone might criticize us. The second danger is disclosure. When too many people know about a secret operation, it can become public, which could cost somebody's life or cause the operation to be terminated... I would like us to inform the congressional commission less..."

But whether the CIA likes it or not, the public will find out the reasons and purpose of the murder of John Paisley. Whether the Director of the CIA likes it or not, the American public will most probably be very interested to know who is running whom — the CIA chiefs the Mafia, or vice versa, with godfathers giving orders to Langley.

—Julian Semyonov,
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