

The truth behind Monroe's murder

By **PETER GROSVENOR**
Literary Editor

THIRTY years after her drugged body was discovered in her Hollywood home, the world is still speculating about the death of Marilyn Monroe. What happened in the last few hours of a warm August evening in 1962 to cause her death?

Since she had a reputation with friends for consuming large quantities of sleeping pills, an overdose seemed the obvious explanation. Probably suicide.

She was in a highly nervous and desperate state in the last few months of her life and had been fired from her last, unfinished picture, aptly titled *Something's Got To Give*.

But as the years went by, there came revelations of her romantic involvement with President John F Kennedy and with his brother Bobby, the Attorney General — revelations which, had they become public at the time, would surely have been career-shattering blows.

Could Marilyn Monroe have been murdered to protect the guilty?

Little more than a year after her death, those fatal shots rang out in Dealey Plaza, Dallas.

And now, thanks to Oliver Stone's film *JFK*, with its controversial assertion that Kennedy was assassinated by a CIA-Mafia conspiracy, there is renewed speculation about Kennedy's death, too.

On Monday, the Express starts serialising an important insight into both debates, a sensational book called *Double Cross*.

IT DESCRIBES the Mafia involvement in the deaths, and it names the sinister figure behind them. He was the Chicago Godfather, Sam Giancana.

And it reveals, for the first time, the virtually undetectable method chosen for Monroe's murder.

Giancana, nicknamed Mooney from his days as a crazy, teenage henchman for Al Capone, later became one of the most publicised Mafia figures, renowned for his friendship with Sinatra and the Hollywood Rat Pack, and for sharing a mistress, Judy Campbell Exner, with President Kennedy.

He made millions from drugs, gambling and prostitution. He was "the dregs of society, the worst kind of person," said William Roemer, the FBI agent who shadowed him.

Then one June night in 1975, in the basement of his Chicago house, Sam Giancana died as he had



REVELATIONS... of Marilyn Monroe's death

lived. By the gun. The killer planted a .22 pistol into the base of his skull and fired. Then he walked out and vanished.

With Giancana's death it seemed that a million secrets would be buried — his co-operation with the CIA in the attempts to kill Cuba's Fidel Castro, his deal with Kennedy, whom he had helped make President in 1960 by rigging ballots, and his involvement in the deaths of JFK and MM.

"But he did talk, and over the years he confided a lot before he died to my father, Chuck," says Sam Giancana Jr., 37, the Godfather's nephew and godson, who is a Florida advertising executive, and

as far removed from a Mafia illiterate as you could imagine.

After a sextuple heart bypass, his 69-year-old father told him: "I don't know how much longer I have to live, but before I go, I want the truth to come out about my brother."

"It's part of America's history and a part which the government seems determined to hush up."

With the aid of Sam Jr's wife Bettina, they wrote *Double Cross*.

Speaking quietly about his notorious uncle, Sam told me: "I was 20 when he was shot, and after the shock came relief. We had all suffered too much

Confession of Mafia Godfather who also ordered the killing of Kennedy



DANGEROUS LIAISON... Sam Giancana and John Kennedy

because of my uncle. The name Giancana, which for years was seldom off the front pages, was a dirty word in Chicago.

"At school, when the kids learned who I was, they wouldn't invite me to their parties. The neighbours cold-shouldered us and even when we moved, people would find out, and it was the same story all over again. My father suffered most. He had worked for my uncle, but never as a killer."

CHUCK ran a motel for him which was a legitimate business. After that, he decided to start his own construction firm.

"But then the banks withdrew his mortgage, so he had to sell up at a loss," says Sam. "My uncle refused to help my father with a loan and that was really the end of any closeness."

"The worst news came a few months after Bobby Kennedy's assassination in 1968 when people in the Mafia told Chuck, 'Your brother did it again'. It seemed clear he'd had a hand in that assassination, too."

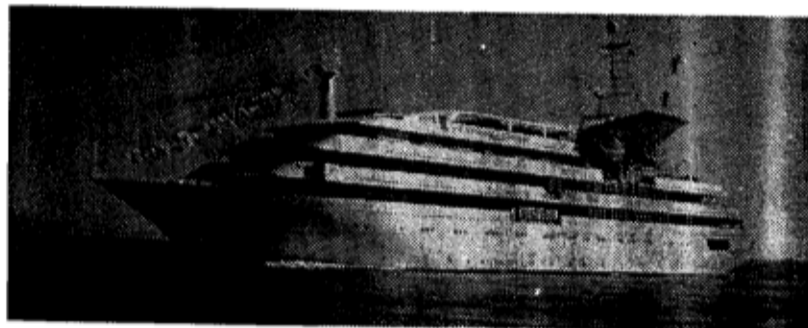
"My Dad decided to make a break. He changed his name and moved away."

Ten years ago, says Sam, he would not have dared to write so frank a book as this. "There were enough people around to be really angry. It would have been like pointing a gun at our heads."

"Even today there are Mob people around with a vested interest in keeping things under wraps, but I don't think we are at risk now. At least I hope not."

"I believe the government has been too busy shredding documents and even falsifying others, so it seemed important to tell what we know."

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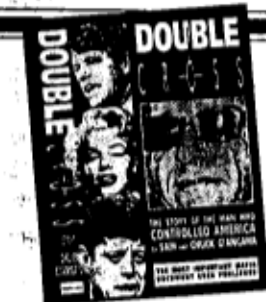
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