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HEADLINE: Autopsy rules out foul play : Natural causes blamed in death of **Maxwell**

SOURCE: AP

DATELINE: LAS PALMAS

BODY:

(AP) - A Spanish prosecutor said initial autopsy findings today showed no sign of foul play in the death of billionaire publisher **Robert Maxwell**, whose body was found floating in the Atlantic Ocean a day earlier.

"Preliminary indications are that there was no criminal activity involved in this. There seemed to be no signs of violence. At first glance, it looks like natural causes," Canary Islands chief prosecutor [REDACTED] told reporters after attending the autopsy.

Guerra would not answer questions, but earlier he told state-run Spanish Television that the 68-year-old tabloid tycoon's death could have been caused "by something like a heart attack."

Maxwell vanished from his yacht off the Canary Islands sometime Tuesday morning.

Full autopsy results are not expected for about a week because samples have to be sent to the Spanish mainland.

Spanish national radio said earlier that **Maxwell's** body was found unclothed and showed no signs of violence.

Earlier today, the publisher's widow, Elizabeth **Maxwell**, spent an hour with a judge in a courtroom outside Las Palmas, giving him information on her husband's activities, including the kind of medication he used, British Vice-Consul Campbell Livingstone said.

Livingstone said **Maxwell** expected to remain in the islands until she was able to leave with her husband's body. He said the judge hoped to turn the body over to local undertakers after receiving the preliminary autopsy report today.

Maxwell's Mirror Group Newspapers said the 55-metre Lady Ghislaine was under way when **Maxwell** was last seen, walking on its deck before dawn Tuesday.

The newspaper group said in a statement that he had been the vessel's only passenger, in addition to about a dozen crew members. Weather reports said the skies were clear and seas calm.

The Mirror of London, **Maxwell's** flagship newspaper, said **Maxwell** had dined alone on Tenerife Monday night then reboarded the yacht and instructed his crew to cruise all night at sea.

The boards of **Maxwell's** companies named **Maxwell's** son Kevin, 32, as acting chairman of **Maxwell** Communications, and son Ian, 35, as acting chairman of the Mirror Group. The sons have long worked in the family business.