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PG 94-363

INFORMANTS

PG T-1 is PCI GEORGE "MOON" MESSER contacted by
SA ROBERT A. VOEGE.

PG T-2 is PG 536-C contacted by SA THOMAS C. ALLEN.

LEADS

PITTSBURGH

AT PITTSBURGH, PA. (ALLEGHENY COUNTY)

1. Will contact Bureau of Narcotics for any information compiled on organized groups.
2. Will report results of interviews with West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania state and/or local law enforcement officers or other responsible persons who are being interviewed and who might logically have past or present information about organized crime, Mafia, "Black Hand" groups, organizations, syndicates, etc.

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A. BACKGROUND

1. Origin and Development

The Pennsylvania State Police furnished the Pittsburgh FBI Office a copy of a report dated October 14, 1942, which was written by Detective JOHN CHRIN, Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), entitled "Mafia Society's Activities in Labor," in which Detective CHRIN referred to several prominent Western Pennsylvania racketeers as members of the Black Hand or of the Mafia. No evidence is contained in CHRIN's report to the effect that these racketeers are actually Mafia members, but merely refers to them as such.

CHRIN, in his report, also mentioned the society known as the Villa Rosa, beneficial association organized by JACK CANCELLIERE, a North Side, Pittsburgh, racketeer, and composed of a group of fellow Sicilians, as an organization of Pennsylvania Black Handers. Unverified allegations have come to the attention of this office from other sources to the effect that the Villa Rosa Society might be a Black Hand group.

In Detective CHRIN's report, he indicates that in 1942, there were at least two hundred members of the Black Hand in Pittsburgh and vicinity.

PG T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, during a discussion about the Mafia, advised that the term Mafia was never used when he was a partner of JOHN LA ROCCA, SAM MANNARINO and FRANK AMATO in a business relationship. He said that his partners were referred to by everyone, including himself, as "Black Handers" and that they employed a group of Italian toughs who carried out collection duties. He said that most of these toughs carried no guns or knives, but were armed constantly with a twelve inch to fifteen inch cue stick which they sawed off and weighted with lead. He said that a hole bored in the end of the sawed off cue stick was filled with the lead and was then corked. He advised that he carried one himself for many years and would still have it if he had not left it in the glove compartment of an automobile he sold. (He said that this cue stick was given to him by MIKE GENOVESE, its original owner, who told him to use it "for protection." He said that during this period the local hoodlums and toughs had great respect for the power and temper of LA ROCCA who was