
Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90100-10273
RECORD SERIES : HQ
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 52-72398-207

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : PG
TO : HQ
TITLE :
DATE : 09/22/1959
PAGES : 7
SUBJECTS :
JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA
STUART SUTOR
DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 07/29/1998
OPENING CRITERIA : APPROVAL OF ATF
COMMENTS : AT

FBI

Date: 9/22/59

Transmit the following in _____

Via AIR TEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (52-72398)

FROM: SAC, PITTSBURGH (52-1687)

SUBJECT: STUART SUTOR; etal
TGP; ITSP; FFA; NM - CONSPIRACY
OO: CLEVELAND

Re New York airtels 8/12,20 and 27/59, relating to ARNOLD RAYBER and Newark airtel 8/19/59, concerning CHARLES COLLE.

Attached for New York and Newark are photographs of JOSEPH MEROLA, NORMAN ROTHMAN, VICTOR CARLUCCI, JOSEPH GIORDANO, DANIEL HANNA and STUART SUTOR all under indictment in this case.

In addition a photograph of Pittsburgh National Top Hoodlum SAM MANNARINO is enclosed for Newark together with a letterhead memorandum which summarizes results of the investigation to date.

- 3 - Bureau
- 2 - Cleveland (52-1918)
- 2 - Miami (52-3290)
- 1 - Philadelphia (Info)(52-3853)
- 2 - New York (52-5814)(Encl. 6)
- 2 - Newark (52-3663) (Encl. 8)
- 2 - Washington Field Office (52-5612)
- 2 - Pittsburgh (52-1687)

RGD:cmg
(16)

REVIEWED BY ^{ATF} TASK FORCE

ON 5/5/98

RELEASE IN FULL

RELEASE IN PART

TOTAL DENIAL

REC-19

52-72398-201

24 SEP 25 1959

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/5/99 BY SP2 TAP/CA

PG 52-1687

For the benefit of Washington Field Office referenced airtels contained information furnished to the New York Office by ARNOLD RAYBER, Brooklyn, N. Y. gun dealer, who was contacted by JOSEPH MEROLA in 9/58 in connection with purchasing large quantities of arms and ammunition for the Cuban rebellion. The most important disclosure by RAYBER was information dealing with CHARLES COLLE, owner and operator of the Millville Weapons Corp., in Union, N. J. RAYBER reported that COLLE knew where he could purchase part of the Canton Armory loot and claimed it would be necessary to meet the seller of the weapons in Washington, D. C. RAYBER turned this information over to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division soon after he talked with COLLE but nothing further developed and it is only recently that the New York Office discovered this situation.

For the benefit of New York and Newark, Pittsburgh has not made any recent arrests in the TGP category involving persons or weapons described by RAYBER's source of information. The only arrest RAYBER's source might have referred to involves the apprehension of Pittsburgh Top Hoodlum SAM MANNARINO on 7/2/59 in the case captioned, "BERNARD J. EZHAYA; etal - ITSP - MT." MANNARINO was taken into custody by Bureau Agents in his office at the Ken Iron and Steel Co., a scrap yard in New Kensington, Pa. The location of the arrest is pointed out since RAYBER's source mentioned one of the people near the alleged weapons shipment worked in a quarry.

As a matter of information weapons stolen from the National Guard Armory, Canton, Ohio, did not have the appearance of new equipment nor were there any Thompson submachine guns or flame throwers taken during the burglary. Consequently, the M1 rifles seen by RAYBER's source may or may not be part of the armory weapons.

PG 52-1687

Because of the uncertainty of the situation at present Pittsburgh is not in the position to advise the New York Office as to the action to be taken by RAYBER, although close contact should be maintained with him in the future. In the event RAYBER develops information through his source that will identify the shipment in question as part of the Armory loot, it will be necessary to contact the Bureau before deciding upon a particular course of action to be taken.

The situation regarding CHARLES COLLE, however, should be the subject of immediate investigation in view of his disclosure to RAYBER about being able to meet the seller of the Canton Armory weapons in Washington, D. C. Since RAYBER says COLLE disclosed this information approximately one month after RAYBER's original contact with MEROLA in New York City, the date would be somewhere between 10/24 and 10/26/58. It is recalled that on 10/26/58, SUTOR made his first flight out of the Allegheny Valley Airport presumably with the first load of weapons stolen from the Armory in Canton.

Newark, New York and Washington Field Office should note the following sequence of events since they appear to indicate the strong possibility that COLLE may have met with SAM MANNARINO in Washington, D. C., sometime in late 10/58. Miami Office has developed information that S. MARINO, not further described, but who is undoubtedly identical with SAM MANNARINO, was aboard Eastern Airlines Flight No. 985 on 10/24/58 from Washington, D. C., to Miami, Fla. This flight left Washington at 10:10 P.M., and arrived in Miami at 12:37 A.M., 10/25/58. It is important to note that on 10/25/58, at 1:36 A.M., SAL MANN who has been positively identified as SAM MANNARINO registered at the Sea Gull Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla. Miami has pointed out that there is a 59 minute differential between the arrival of MARINO in Miami on Eastern Airlines and the check-in time of SAL MANN at the Sea Gull Hotel. Miami points out that

PG 52-1687

Photographs of subjects under indictment in this case and the photograph of SAM MANNARINO should be shown to COLLE and every effort should be made to obtain a signed statement fully identifying the person he was to meet in Washington, D. C.

New York is asked to re-contact ARNOLD RAYBER; display enclosed photographs and in addition determine whether COLLE gave RAYBER any indication that he followed through on the meeting with the seller in Washington D. C. Suairtel results Newark.

Miami - AUSA DANIEL SNYDER, Western District of Pennsylvania, has advised that he considers it quite important that Miami continue efforts to have JOE MEROLA brought face to face with CHARLES F. SMITH. Consequently Miami is asked to carry out this objective at the earliest possible date and if SMITH has no objection by the most direct method possible. Miami is also asked to obtain handwriting specimens from JOHN KERNAN, manager, and JAMES T. YERBY, night auditor, Sea Gull Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla., for submission to the FBI Laboratory in order that they may be compared with the handwriting on Registration Card No. 1908 in the name of Mr. SAL MANN, Brooklyn, N. Y.

It is realized that Miami cannot engage in an endless submission of handwriting specimens although this phase of the investigation will not be completed until all employees of the Sea Gull who had some official contact with the SAL MANN Registration Card have been positively identified or eliminated. For example WERNER MITCHELL, a former employee now living in Chicago, has been eliminated on the basis of handwriting and it seems reasonable that YERBY, the employee who accepted the MANN registration, should be identified or eliminated. KERNAN, who may have registered MANN despite his statements to the contrary should be identified or eliminated. This investigation is