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MIAMI

AT MIAMI - MIAMI BEACH, FLA.

Will conduct investigation requested in Pittsburgh airtel dated 9/22/59, concerning the possible identification of JOE MEROLA by CHARLES F. SMITH and interviews with LOUISE LEVINE, FRANCES LUTTERMAN and MARSHA BERSTEIN.

AT MARATHON, FLA.

1. Will display SAM MANNARINO's photograph to GEORGE E. ALFORD, Tarpon Lodge Motel, to determine whether MANNARINO could be identical with (FNU MARINO) rather than WILLIAM SAMS.
2. Will identify the Tarpon Lodge Motel ~~clerk~~ who registered MARINO and display SAM MANNARINO's photograph for his possible identification.

For background information concerning WILLIAM SAMS, Miami should refer to cover pages J and K.

NEWARK

AT UNION, N. J.

Will conduct investigation requested in Pittsburgh airtel dated 9/22/59, relating to interview of CHARLES COLLE and the possibility of his being in contact with SAM MANNARINO in Washington, D. C., in October, 1958, to purchase weapons stolen from the Ohio National Guard Armory.

NEW YORK

AT BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Will re-contact ARNOLD RAYBER for any information he may have received concerning the location of the weapons from the National Guard Armory.

Copies (CONT'D)

1 - Chicago (Info)(52-3498)	2 - New York (52-5814)
1 - Jacksonville (Info)(52-125)	2 - Newark (52-3663)
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WASHINGTON FIELD

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

1. Will as requested in Pittsburgh airtel dated 9/22/59, identify subscriber to Washington, D. C. telephone number ST 3-5454 (Reservation Department) called from SAM MANNARINO's private business phone in New Kensington on 10/17/58.
2. Will conduct additional investigation requested in Pittsburgh airtel dated 9/22/59, relating to the displaying of MANNARINO's photograph at the Mayflower, Sheraton-Carlton, Willard and Wardman Park Hotels. Will review the above hotel registration records for the possibility of a registration by SAM MANNARINO under the aliases S. MARINO, SAM BOTTI, SAM BIOTTI or SAL MANN.

PITTSBURGH

AT WEST MIDDLESEX, PA. (MERCER COUNTY)

Will maintain close contact with PCI FRANCIS LA CAMERA for additional information as to the identities of the men who pulled the Canton Armory job.

AT NEW KENSINGTON, PA. (WESTMORELAND COUNTY)

1. Will consider interviewing FRANK GUZ, 168 Seventh Extension, to determine if possible why he was called by SAM MANNARINO under the name SAL MANN from the Sea Gull Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla., on 11/3/58.
2. Will consider interviewing SAM MANNARINO when and if Miami is able to positively establish his presence at the Sea Gull Hotel under the alias SAL MANN during the period 10/24/58 to 11/7/58, in contact with other co-conspirators.

AT PITTSBURGH, PA. (ALLEGHENY COUNTY)

1. Will identify and consider interviewing local subscribers called from the Sea Gull Hotel by Mr. and Mrs. WILLIAM SAMS,

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RONALD MOSS, Special Investigator, Alcohol and Tobacco Division, New York City, on August 5, 1959, advised that Special Investigator RUDOLPH KALES conducted an investigation in September, 1958, concerning an attempt by MEROLA to purchase firearms from an Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division informant whom he identified as ARNOLD RAYBER, a Brooklyn, N. Y., gun dealer.

On September 26, 1958, RAYBER contacted Special Investigator KALES to report that a representative of Cuban revolutionary leader JOSE ALEMAN requested RAYBER to meet with a leader of the Mafia named JOSEPH MEROLA. Several days later RAYBER met with MEROLA and two Cubans in an apartment in the vicinity of 138th St., and Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y. During the meeting MEROLA pointed out that he was associated with ALEMAN and that he was interested in purchasing large quantities of firearms including machine guns. MEROLA told RAYBER that he had been responsible for supplying over a million dollars worth of arms during the Cuban rebellion and that he and his associates anticipated extensive gambling concessions in Cuba from the revolutionary government.

On the basis of this information the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division temporarily loaned RAYBER a number of confiscated weapons in order that he would have a representative stock to show to MEROLA. On October 6, 1958, RAYBER reported to KALES that MEROLA had been to Canada and Miami the previous week reportedly in connection with some arms deal and had requested RAYBER to accumulate a large pile of American "stuff" for him. MEROLA also told RAYBER at that time that he would have to postpone any purchase of arms since the Miami area was swarming with FBI Agents looking for stolen weapons.

RAYBER on August 10, 1959, was interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI in New York City. During this interview he confirmed the foregoing information and positively identified a photograph of JOSEPH MEROLA, although he could not identify a photograph of Pittsburgh national top hoodlum SAM

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MANNARINO. RAYBER pointed out that about one month after MEROLA contacted him he (RAYBER) was contacted by CHARLES COLLE, operator of the Millville Ordinance Co., in Union, N. J., who said he knew where a lot of M-1 rifles could be purchased. COLLE told RAYBER that the rifles were hot and were part of the loot lifted from the Canton Armory job in Ohio. COLLE also mentioned that the person who had the guns from the Canton Armory wanted to get rid of them and that in order to purchase the guns it would be necessary to meet the seller in Washington, D. C., and from there go to the location where the guns were stored. RAYBER emphasized that he had no information about the location of the guns but pointed out that he had told the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division about COLLE but nothing further materialized.

The Newark Office was then requested to interview COLLE regarding the weapons stolen from the National Guard Armory, Canton, without compromising RAYBER.

The Newark Office on August 19, 1959, described CHARLES COLLE, owner and operator of Millville Weapons Corporation, as an untrustworthy person on the basis of previous interviews with him on matters not relating to this investigation. Newark pointed out that although COLLE was not hostile during previous interviews that he had expressed some disfavor over the large number of Federal investigators whom he claims continually interview him and occupy his valuable time. Newark also quoted COLLE as saying that he would never inform on anyone except to protect himself or as would be required by law applying to firearms dealers. In conclusion Newark recommended against an interview with COLLE in this case on the basis of his unreliability and also because of the possibility of disclosing RAYBER as an Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division informant.

On September 22, 1959, Pittsburgh requested the New York Office to re-contact RAYBER to determine whether COLLE gave RAYBER any indication that he followed through on the meeting with the seller of the Canton Armory weapons in Washington, D. C. The

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New York Office on October 6, 1959, re-contacted RAYBER and determined that RAYBER claimed he had no reason to doubt that COLLE intended to make the trip to Washington, D. C., to meet the seller of the weapons. RAYBER pointed out that COLLE wanted him to go to Washington to meet the seller but after RAYBER declined COLLE did not indicate whether he followed through on the deal. RAYBER said that about one month after COLLE discussed the trip to Washington, he (COLLE) mentioned that he had lost contact with the people who had the arms. RAYBER also remembered that at the time the trip to Washington, was discussed COLLE was to have made a telephone call (person unknown) and then the meeting would be held at airport in Washington, D. C.

The Pittsburgh Office on September 22, 1959, requested Newark to interview COLLE regarding the Canton Armory weapons and the proposed meeting at Washington, D. C. Considerable background information was furnished to the Newark Office pointing to the possibility that COLLE could have met Pittsburgh national top hoodlum SAM MANNARINO in Washington, D. C.

DR. LOUIS C. PESSOLANO, MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA

By letter dated July 9, 1959, the Bureau was furnished background information concerning Dr. PESSOLANO and the part he played in the gun running conspiracy. It was pointed out that Dr. PESSOLANO had furnished valuable information which resulted in the indictment of several co-conspirators in this case and could place national top hoodlum SAM MANNARINO in the conspiracy but was afraid to do so because of his fear of being assassinated by the MANNARINO mob. On the basis that Dr. PESSOLANO was in an awkward position of facing a perjury indictment and possible disgrace in the medical profession because of his connection with this case, the Bureau was requested to authorize the expenditure of \$160 to cover airline fare and hotel accommodations for the doctor to travel to Pittsburgh where he would be interviewed by Agents of the Pittsburgh Office.

By airtel dated July 16, 1959, the Bureau authorized Pittsburgh to provide for travel and expenses of Dr. PESSOLANO where he would be interviewed in an effort to place MANNARINO in the conspiracy.

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