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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (63-4426)

DATE: 6/9/58

FROM: *S.H.W.* SAC, PITTSBURGH (92-277)

SUBJECT: MEETING OF HOODLUMS,
APALACHIN, NEW YORK
11/14/57
AR
OO: ALBANY

Re Albany airtel to Bureau, 5/12/58, and Pittsburgh letter to Bureau, 5/28/58.

The following information requested by the Albany Office concerning MIKE GENOVESE was. MICHAEL JAMES GENOVESE, MICHAEL GENOVESE, is being set forth herewith:

VERIFICATION OF THE STATUS OF MIKE GENOVESE AS A MAJOR FIGURE.

Investigation in the Pittsburgh vicinity subsequent to the meeting of hoodlums at Apalachin, New York, on 11/14/57 has established the fact that GENOVESE is a major figure as far as the Pittsburgh racketeering element is concerned. His association with racket figures in the vicinity of Apalachin during November, 1957, has received widespread publicity in Pittsburgh newspapers.

GEORGE "MOON" MESSER, a potential criminal informant of the Pittsburgh Office who is intimately acquainted with many Pittsburgh top hoodlums through association with them when they began their racket careers and who was once associated with Pittsburgh top hoodlum SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA as a partner in a coin machine business in Pittsburgh, advised SA ROBERT A. VOEGE on 2/27/58 that in his opinion LA ROCCA is "head of the entire racket set-up in Western Pennsylvania" and that the MANNARINO brothers of New Kensington, Pa., are "probably just below him" in stature. He stated that he has no doubt that LA ROCCA is grooming MIKE GENOVESE for this lofty racket position so that he may take it over following the retirement of LA ROCCA.

- 2 - Bureau
- 2 - Albany (62-1152)
- 4 - Pittsburgh (2-92-277)
(1-92-235) (1-92-246)

RAV/jab
(8)

COPIES MADE, DATE 6-8-58 BY *cwc*
RE *Mannarino*
FOR REVIEW AT FBIHQ AND/OR DELIVERY
TO HSCA RE REQUEST DATED 6-4-58
(SEE BUFILE 62-117295)

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Contacted again on 5/29/58 MESSER advised that he has had no reason to change this opinion.

FRANCES PRIAM, a potential criminal informant of the Pittsburgh Office who is closely associated with the Pittsburgh racketeering element and is presently a waitress at the Red Eagle Club, formerly known as The Genovese Cocktail Lounge, 412 Larimer Avenue, Pittsburgh, advised SA ROBERT A. VOEGE on 2/19/58 that she understands that SAM MANNARINO is the chief racketeer in Western Pennsylvania and that SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA is his immediate underling. She advised that it is obvious to everyone connected with the rackets in the Pittsburgh area that MIKE GENOVESE, a polished, sincere, serious and ultra-conservative individual, is the next heir to LA ROCCA's position with the responsibilities that go with it. PA

Contacted again on 6/3/58 she said she has had no reason to change this belief.

SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS OR OPERATIONS OF MIKE GENOVESE SINCE NOVEMBER 14, 1957.

GENOVESE has been engaged in no known actual substantial financial transactions or operations since 11/14/57, but informants have advised that he is actively endeavoring to develop several newly anticipated enterprises.

On 4/11/58 the Pittsburgh Office received information confidentially from THOMAS MARTIN, Vice-President, Real Estate Division, Potter Bank and Trust Company of Pittsburgh, that ~~ARTHUR D. NELSON~~, ^{AKA} a Pittsburgh top hoodlum and a partner of GENOVESE in Archie's Automatic Car Wash, 8050 Bennett Street, Pittsburgh, had ^{ARCHIE} approached Potter's Loan Department for a \$275,000 construction loan in order to build a 54-unit motel in the vicinity of Monroeville near Pittsburgh at a total cost of \$491,000.

On 5/20/58 PG 573-C, who has supplied reliable information in the past, advised SA JOHN S. PORTELLA that he had been able to learn that the aforementioned ARTHUR D. NELSON, who is better known as "ARCHIE," and MIKE GENOVESE are planning to build a large auto parts and accessory store on Frankstown Avenue near the aforementioned automatic car wash. He stated that it was his understanding that ground would be broken in the near future for the construction of the new building that will house this store.

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On 5/27/58 FRANCES PRIAM advised SA ROBERT A. VOEGE that she had learned MIKE GENOVESE and several of his friends would open a negro cocktail lounge in the Homewood Section of Pittsburgh and this establishment would hire negro help and have a negro manager.

No further information regarding the aforementioned business transactions has been received to date, but developments along these lines are being followed closely by the Pittsburgh Office.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS BEGUN, ENTERED INTO OR DISCONTINUED SINCE NOVEMBER 14, 1957, BY MIKE GENOVESE.

No known business operations have been begun or discontinued or have been entered into by MIKE GENOVESE since 11/14/57 except as outlined under the previous caption.

RE-ALIGNMENT OF CRIMINAL OR QUASI-LEGAL OPERATIONS IN REGARD TO MIKE GENOVESE.

There has been no information concerning the re-alignment of any such operations on the part of MIKE GENOVESE to date. Informants have advised, however, that GENOVESE is well aware he is under investigation by the Bureau and has instructed his associates to be close-mouthed in their contacts with other individuals. It is also noted by informants that the numbers business engaged in by GENOVESE moves its "floating headquarters" frequently to avoid suspicion.

INFORMATION REGARDING FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND THE RE-ALIGNMENT OF CRIMINAL OR QUASI-LEGAL OPERATIONS DEVELOPED BY OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE PITTSBURGH DIVISION SINCE NOVEMBER 14, 1957.

CARMEN R. DAMIAN, Field Supervisor, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, U. S. Treasury Department, and WILLIAM F. DURKIN, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Narcotics, U. S. Treasury Department, Pittsburgh, Pa., advised SAS THOMAS G. FORSYTH III and DAMON W. PITCHER that their organizations have not conducted any investigation into the activities of MIKE GENOVESE since 11/14/57 and do not anticipate the initiation of such an investigation in the near future.

Continuing liaison with the police departments of Richland and West Deer Townships, which cover the neighborhood surrounding the GENOVESE residence at Gibsonia, Pa., has reflected that no new information concerning GENOVESE has been developed.

The Pittsburgh Office is presently reviewing and re-evaluating its major hoodlum investigation in an effort to ascertain the actual financial holdings of this subject. Constant checks are being made in this regard, keeping in mind that an estimate of the net worth of a major hoodlum such as MIKE GENOVESE, based upon his scale of living, will be invaluable not only for uncovering heretofore unknown sums of money, but for dissemination to the local office, of the Internal Revenue Service as an aid to that agency's investigative efforts. This information will be evaluated for comparison with the suggested agenda of the Apalachin meeting to determine whether the transactions are in any way coincidental.

There has been no new information coming to the attention of Pittsburgh agents, through informants or sources, which would indicate that the Apalachin meeting was held for anything other than those purposes listed under Section E of referenced Albany airtel.

It is to be noted that Pittsburgh Informant PG 514-C advised on 11/25/57 that he had received information from one PAT ^{PA} TIANI, who had obtained it that same day from MIKE GENOVESE, that at the meeting it was agreed to build a string of motels across the country and local representatives of the group were to begin construction in their territories. The group at Apalachin would be called upon for any financial aid needed in this regard. At this same time GENOVESE reportedly advised TIANI that he and his partner, ARCHIE NELSON, also a Pittsburgh top hoodlum, had plans to build a motel at Monroeville, Pa.

MIKE GENOVESE was contacted by SA ROBERT A. VOEGE on 5/29/58 at which time he advised that inasmuch as he had little education compared to that of a FBI Agent he would consent to an interview only in the presence of his lawyer, VINCENT CASEY of Pittsburgh. He admitted that he was "shook up" over the investigation which has centered around him to date and he does not believe he has done anything wrong to warrant such an investigation. He admitted that he was at Apalachin, New York, on 11/14/57, but stated he "didn't know what it was all about." He said that he wishes now he had never been