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STUART SUTOR

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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REPORTING OFFICE <b>PITTSBURGH</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>CLEVELAND</b>	DATE <b>6/19/59</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>4/20 - 6/8/59</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>STUART SUTOR; etal; Unknown Subjects, Theft of 317 Weapons, 16 Blankets, 1 Carbine Rack, Ohio National Guard Armory, Canton, Ohio, 10/14/58</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>RICHARD GORDON DOUCE</b>	TYPED BY <b>apr</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>THEFT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY; INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN PROPERTY; FEDERAL FIREARMS ACT; NEUTRALITY MATTER; CONSPIRACY</b>	

### REFERENCES

- Reports of SA RICHARD GORDON DOUCE, Pittsburgh, 2/12/59 and 4/20/59
- Report of SA GEORGE E. DAVIS, JR., Miami, 3/30/59
- Report of SA ROBERT W. KENNEDY, New York, 5/20/59
- Report of Latent Fingerprint Section, 4/10/59
- Report of SA FRED E. GORDON, Jacksonville, 4/17/59

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~~Confidential~~ADMINISTRATIVESAMUEL MANNARINO, FBI #115840

The following investigation was conducted in an effort to obtain a recent photograph of national top hoodlum, SAMUEL MANNARINO, to establish his presence at the Seagull Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida, under the alias SAL MANN, during the important stages of the gun-running conspiracy, i.e. 10/24/58 - 11/7/58. A recent photograph is also needed in connection with investigation at the Warwick and St. Moritz Hotels, New York, New York.

On 4/30/59 SA RICHARD GORDON DOUCE contacted NORMAN GREENBERG, crime reporter for the "Pittsburgh Post Gazette," JAMES ROGERS, crime reporter for the "Pittsburgh Press," and LESTER SULLIVAN, crime reporter for the "Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph," with the request that they make a thorough search of their respective newspaper morgues in an effort to locate a photograph of MANNARINO. The reporters pointed out that for a number of years they have been interested in obtaining a photograph of MANNARINO, but to the best of their knowledge no photographs of him exist. Each reporter promised to recheck his respective newspaper morgue but when recontacted on 5/4/59 all stated that they were unable to locate a photograph of MANNARINO.

It is recalled that on 1/26/59 USA HUBERT I. TEITELBAUM, Pittsburgh, Pa., revealed that he would call [redacted] as a witness before the Federal Grand Jury during [redacted] inquiring into the [redacted]

[redacted] Canton,

Ohio.

[redacted] came to the USA's office on the morning of [redacted] in response to a subpoena to testify before the grand jury and refused to sign a waiver of immunity from prosecution arising out of his possible testimony before the grand jury. Consequently, Mr. TEITELBAUM did not consider it advisable to actually have [redacted] testify under these circumstances.

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[redacted] While waiting to be called before the grand jury, [redacted] was seated in the witness room at the New Federal Building, Pittsburgh. When he was approached by news photographers he retreated to the nearest exit which happened to be a very small clothes closet and remained there for almost two hours sitting in a chair which he had dragged into the closet with him. During his dash to the closet, [redacted] uttered obscene threats to news photographers and the newspapers that evening described [redacted] conduct as a game of "peek-a-boo" with the press. During the entire day on 3/16/59, while [redacted] was at the New Federal Building, he wore dark glasses and covered his face completely with a handkerchief.

JACK SCHWARTZ, Special Agent, Intelligence Division,  
Internal Revenue Service, Pittsburgh, [redacted]

[redacted] advised SA DOUCE on 4/30/59 that [redacted]

JFK Law 11(a)

WILLIAM AHLSTROM, news editor, New Kensington, Pa., "Daily Dispatch" newspaper, on 6/4/59 advised SA FRANK E. ALLISON, JR., that for the past 20 years he has made every possible effort to obtain a photograph of MANNARINO for publication in connection with racket articles to no avail. AHLSTROM stated that he has requested MANNARINO to give him a photograph on many occasions and has been refused every time. AHLSTROM pointed out that he has been very reluctant to take MANNARINO's photograph surreptitiously since MANNARINO would undoubtedly file suit against him and might even subject him to physical violence. In conclusion, AHLSTROM expressed the opinion that there is no photograph of SAMUEL MANNARINO in existence.

The following investigation was conducted by SAS RICHARD GORDON DOUCE and ROBERT G. ABEGGLEN to establish a photographic surveillance on the second floor of the Central Drug Company, Executive Office, which overlooks the Ken Iron and Steel Company in New Kensington, owned and operated by MANNARINO. Before making contact with the Central Drug Company, SAS DOUCE and ABEGGLEN observed that the corner office on the second floor would provide an excellent view of an area often frequented by MANNARINO and that excellent

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photographs could be taken at a distance of about 35 feet. Since the inception of the Top Hoodlum Program serious difficulty has been experienced in obtaining MANNARINO's photograph because he never appears in public without dark glasses. The Central Drug Company location was considered ideal since on 5/29/59 SAS DOUCE and ABEGLLEN observed MANNARINO standing in front of his office without sunglasses.

WILLIS V. HUG, Vice President, Central Drug Company, Executive Offices, 1263 - 3rd Avenue, New Kensington, on 5/29/59 was contacted concerning the FBI's interest in obtaining a photograph of MANNARINO. Without disclosing any details of the investigation, HUG was told that MANNARINO was the subject of an important criminal investigation and that the FBI would greatly appreciate using a second floor office as a vantage point to obtain his photograph. HUG stated that in the interest of good citizenship and because of his disgust over the corruptive influence present in New Kensington due to MANNARINO control of the community he would be glad to make the space available with the approval of A. H. BLEIER, President of Central Drug Company.

Mr. HUG suggested that the agents wait for Mr. BLEIER's return since he was expected in the office within the hour. When Mr. BLEIER arrived, Mr. HUG did not explain the purpose of the visit and SAS DOUCE and ABEGLLEN were introduced to Mr. BLEIER and accompanied him to his office on the second floor which was the ideal location to take photographs.

It should be noted that when SAS DOUCE and ABEGLLEN entered the Central Drug Company they did not identify themselves to the receptionist on duty but merely asked to speak to Mr. HUG. Since the agents were carrying briefcases containing cameras and were required to wait a short time before seeing Mr. HUG in a room occupied by drug salesmen also carrying briefcases, there was absolutely no grounds for the receptionist to assume that the callers were Special Agents of the FBI. This form of approach was taken to afford the utmost precaution and protection to the Central Drug executive contact since it was felt that no one in the company except one or possibly two executives, should know of the agents' desires.

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Mr. BLEIER appeared to be genuinely pleased to see the interviewing agents and before the purpose of the visit was explained, he outlined at some length his hardships as a young man who successfully developed a profitable chain of drug stores servicing several Pennsylvania counties. He stated that he was appalled that the racket element in New Kensington held such tight control over the community and emphasized that over the years he has attempted to dedicate himself to improving the situation by being of service to his community. As an example, BLEIER pointed out that he is a former member of the Lions and somewhat active as a Rotarian. Mr. BLEIER also spoke at some length about his membership in the local country club and at that point in the interview asked the agents how he might be of assistance.

Without disclosing any details of the investigation, Mr. BLEIER was told that SAMUEL MANNARINO was the subject of an important criminal investigation being conducted by the FBI and that he could be of real service by making his office available as a vantage point from which the agents could obtain a photograph of MANNARINO. Upon hearing this, Mr. BLEIER's hands began to shake noticeably and his entire attitude and expression changed immediately. It seemed obvious to the interviewing agents that the man was almost terror stricken at the agents' request when it involved MANNARINO.

After a few moments of silence on the part of Mr. BLEIER, he finally re-gained his composure and began making excuses to the effect that if his employees ever learned that photographs were taken from his office, business might be subjected to a boycott on the part of the Italian population in New Kensington. Mr. BLEIER was reminded that it was his duty as a good citizen to extend cooperation to the FBI in connection with investigations into violations of Federal law, and he agreed that it was his clear duty to grant the agents' permission to take the photographs. He agreed that a man of his background and position in the community should be pleased to assist the FBI especially when such assistance would be of great value in the possible solution of an

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important matter under investigation involving one that he admittedly recognized as being responsible for the present corruption in his community. Mr. BLEIER strongly implied that he was afraid of MANNARINO and his confederates and the possible reprisal he might be subjected to if the photographs were ever made public.

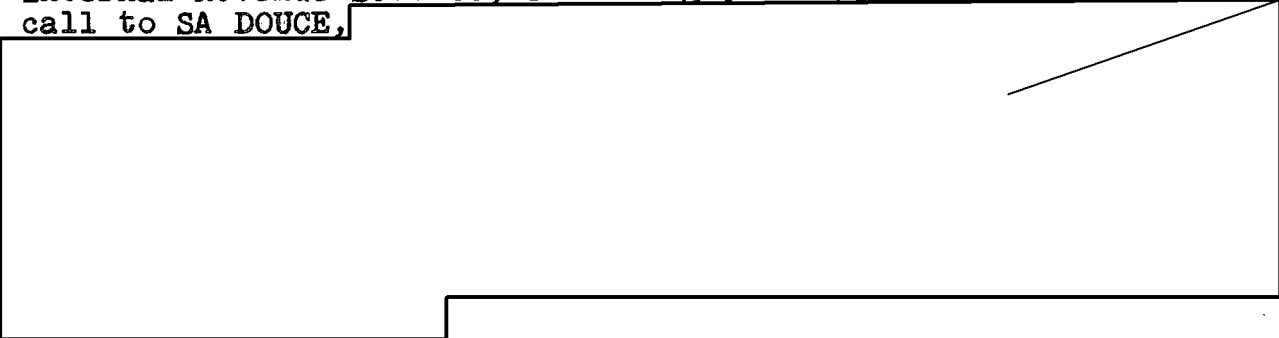
It was explained to Mr. BLEIER that the photographs would be treated in such a manner that such a situation would never occur, but he still declined to give his permission. He promised, however, to give the matter some serious thought and would contact the office if he changed his mind.

Mr. BLEIER was reinterviewed by SAS DOUCE and ABEGGLEN on 6/1/59 and again refused to give his permission to take photographs, saying that he had to place duty to his business above duty to his country.

Mr. WILLIS V. HUG was recontacted on 6/1/59 by SAS DOUCE and ABEGGLEN at which time he emphasized that he was greatly disappointed over the decision reached by Mr. BLEIER, but added that since he had no control over this situation there was nothing at all he could do.

It is noted that only Mr. BLEIER and Mr. HUG were aware that agents had contacted the Central Drug Company for the purpose of obtaining a photograph of MANNARINO.

JACK SCHWARTZ, Special Agent, Intelligence Division, Internal Revenue Service, Pittsburgh, on 6/5/59, in a telephone call to SA DOUCE,

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It is noted that even though SCHWARTZ has been most cooperative in the past in connection with top hoodlum investigation in New Kensington, he was not given any information concerning the plans to photograph MANNARINO from the Central Drug Company nor was the unsuccessful approach to the Central Drug Company revealed to him.

It appears logical to assume that BLEIER was in such fear of reprisal on the part of MANNARINO and his confederates should it become known that Bureau Agents attempted to photograph him, that he immediately told MANNARINO of the Bureau's plans. This situation is an excellent example of the obstacles that must be overcome in connection with any violation within the Bureau's jurisdiction in New Kensington which is dominated completely by the MANNARINO gang.

On 5/29/59 SA DOUCE contacted Mr. and Mrs. JAMES C. POST, established neighborhood sources covering MANNARINO's residence since the inception of the Top Hoodlum Program. Without disclosing details of the investigation Mr. and Mrs. POST were impressed with the necessity of obtaining a recent photograph of MANNARINO. Mr. POST, an executive in the International Division of ALCOA, and his wife, stated that they would be pleased to make available a room on the second floor of their home which was located diagonally across the street from MANNARINO's residence at a distance of approximately 125 feet. SAS DOUCE and ABEGGLEN maintained a photographic surveillance from the POST residence using the Alfa camera and Photo Tel lens from 8:15 AM until 6:30 PM on Saturday, 6/6/59, but MANNARINO was not observed although several photographs of his family were taken.

On Sunday, 6/7/59, the photographic surveillance continued from 7:30 AM until 12:30 PM with agents working 15 minute shifts on the camera in order to be prepared when MANNARINO left his home. At 11:05 AM on Sunday morning, MANNARINO appeared in the doorway wearing sunglasses and a summer hat pulled well down over his eyes. He quickly walked from the doorway to his car parked in front of his house, with his head down, and SA ABEGGLEN was able to take approximately 15

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photographs in the space of approximately 20 seconds. At present, these photographs are being developed but it is doubtful whether they will be of any value to this investigation.

No additional photographic surveillances are contemplated from the POST home or elsewhere in New Kensington because of the obstacles outlined above. The situation will be followed closely, however, and in the event MANNARINO should ever appear in public without sunglasses photographic surveillances will again be considered.

ALBERTO ARDURA, aka., Alberto Ardura Moya

Investigation conducted to date in Miami and Jacksonville, Florida, discloses that ARDURA, a Cuban National and part owner of the Tropicana Nightclub, now living in Ormond Beach, Florida, with his family since the collapse of the BATISTA government, has been identified in connection with an exchange of long distance telephone calls to NORMAN ROTHMAN, now under indictment in this case, which included calls to "SAMMY" in New York City during February, 1959, who is probably identical with national top hoodlum SAMUEL MANNARINO.

For the benefit of all offices, ARDURA has long been recognized by the Pittsburgh Office as a confederate of SAMUEL MANNARINO. As an example, MANNARINO in October, 1956, advised that he had shipped a number of slot machines to ARDURA and ROTHMAN in care of the Tropicana Nightclub in Havana, Cuba, and pointed out that Cuban Government, at that time, had granted them permission to place the machines in various spots throughout the island. MANNARINO at that time admitted that he would have an interest in the operation.

Moreover, Havana 4, interviewed by the Legat in September, 1956, described ARDURA as the principal importer of slot machines in Cuba associated with MARTIN FOX in the operation of the Tropicana Nightclub. Havana 4 at that time characterized ARDURA as a close personal friend of Colonel ROBERTO FERNANDEZ MIRANDA, brother-in-law of former Cuban dictator FULGENCIO BATISTA and director of the Cuban National

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Commission of Sports. Havana 4 said at that time that through the influence of MIRANDA, ARDURA had no difficulty in placing slots on location in Cuba. X(U)

To further demonstrate ARDURA's closeness to MANNARINO, it is interesting to note that during the Top Hoodlum investigation in New Kensington, it was discovered that during the period, March, 1957, to July, 1957, the New Ken Novelty Company, operated by MANNARINO, shipped 137 slot machines and five boxes of slot machine parts to ALBERT ARDURA, in care of the Tropicana Nightclub.

On the basis of past experience in the Top Hoodlum Program, there is little doubt that MANNARINO, ROTHMAN and ARDURA are very close and it is not beyond the realm of possibility that ARDURA, along with ROTHMAN, could have been the receiver of the National Guard weapons when they reached Cuba.

It is significant that Dr. LOUIS C. PESSOLANO, when first interviewed concerning the part he played in the gun-running conspiracy, came up with the name CECIL HARDURA, as the person who instructed him to rent the twin engine Beechcraft for a hunting and fishing party. Dr. PESSOLANO has, of course, implicated ROTHMAN as the man who instructed him in the matter since that time but in his effort to hamper the investigation, PESSOLANO may have unintentionally brought out the fictitious name HARDURA knowing that ARDURA was involved in the conspiracy.

PHILLIP JAMES MAINER, FBI #868314A

It is recalled that MAINER and his associate, GEORGE MIKE FLOREA, FBI #2888609, were named by Canton, Ohio, Police Department informant at the beginning of this investigation as the men who committed the burglary at the Ohio National Guard Armory on 10/14/58.

It is also recalled that supplemental investigation in New Kensington established that MAINER was in contact with

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PCI HENRY ABRAHAM of this office approximately two years ago in an effort to sell a load of stolen cigarettes which may have eventually reached GABRIEL MANNARINO, owner of the S & S Distributing Company, a cigarette vending machine business in New Kensington. Most offices are aware that the S & S Distributing Company panel truck was used to transport part of the stolen weapons to the airport in this case and, of course, GABRIEL MANNARINO is the brother of SAMUEL MANNARINO.

When interviewed in February, 1959, PCI ABRAHAM claimed he was not acquainted with MAINER but mentioned two individuals had approached him some time ago with a load of hot cigarettes. It may be significant that ABRAHAM brought out the name of a man who tried to sell the hot cigarettes who is now dead.

The following investigation was conducted to again determine whether ABRAHAM could be acquainted with MAINER.

On 4/21/59 PCI ABRAHAM examined a good photograph of MAINER and advised SA JOHN S. PORTELLA that MAINER was not the person who accompanied UFFIE CHARLES, deceased, several years ago in an effort to sell a load of stolen cigarettes. ABRAHAM also denied that he ever referred CHARLES or anyone else attempting to sell stolen merchandise to GABRIEL MANNARINO at the S & S Distributing Company or anyone connected with the MANNARINO gang.

It is noted that earlier in this investigation confidential source MIKE ZERVOS, who is well acquainted with ABRAHAM, positively identified MAINER as the person who approached ABRAHAM with another unknown individual approximately two years ago in an effort to sell a load of cigarettes. ZERVOS also pointed out at that time that he had seen MAINER in New Kensington on a number of occasions loafing around the Kenmar Hotel which is a gathering place for members of the MANNARINO gang. As an example, DANIEL HANNA, aka., SPEEDO, who is already under indictment in this case as one who

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