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OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (92-2940)

DATE: 5/15/58

Handwritten initials
FROM: SAC, PITTSBURGH (92-226)

RE: SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA, Was.
ANTI-RACKETEERING
(OO: Pittsburgh)

ST
DP

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are two copies of the report of SA ROBERT A. VOEGE, Pittsburgh, dated 5/15/58.

REFERENCES

- Report of SA FREDERICK T. HOULIHAN, Philadelphia, 3/27/58.
- Report of SA ROBERT A. VOEGE, Pittsburgh, 3/28/58.
- Pittsburgh radiogram to Miami, 3/31/58.
- Baltimore letter to Pittsburgh, 3/31/58.
- Miami airtel to Pittsburgh, 4/1/58.
- Report of SA CHARLES E. SANDALL, Buffalo, 4/2/58.
- Baltimore airtel to Pittsburgh, 4/8/58.
- New York airtel to Pittsburgh, 4/11/58.
- Pittsburgh airtel to Miami, 4/17/58.
- Newark letter to Pittsburgh, 4/18/58.
- New York letter to Bureau, 4/17/58.

ADMINISTRATIVE

IN VIEW OF THE CONVICTION OF THE SUBJECT FOR ASSAULT WITH
INTENT TO KILL AND HIS ARREST FOR CARRYING A CONCEALED
WEAPON, HE MAY BE ARMED AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS.

- ① - Bureau (ENCLS - 2)
- 2 - Baltimore (92-149) (ENCLS - 2)
- 2 - Buffalo (92-87) (ENCLS - 2)
- 1 - Jacksonville (INFO) (ENCL - 1)
- 2 - Miami (92-163) (ENCLS - 2)
- 2 - New York (92-825) (ENCLS - 2)
- 2 - Philadelphia (92-497) (ENCLS - 2)
- 4 - Pittsburgh

RAV/amb
(16)

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66 JUN 17 1958 *407*

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CRIMINAL INFORMANT COVERAGE

The Baltimore Office advised that the indices of the Baltimore Division disclosed the following information regarding MAX L. GOLDBERG, an accountant for the subject, which is considered pertinent to this investigation:

By memorandum of January 4, 1958, to the Agent In Charge, GOLDBERG was listed as a confidential informant of Baltimore. At that time, it was reported that MAX L. GOLDBERG had resided in Baltimore for many years and resided with his wife and children at 3701 Clarinth Road. He was described as a certified public accountant who operates not only in Baltimore, but throughout the eastern United States. He was further identified as an informant for the Baltimore Office since October 3, 1946, and it was stated that since that time, he had furnished valuable information relative to slot machine operators, distributors and various individuals which the Baltimore Office desired to interview, and no payment of money was necessary for these services. It was stated that the informant had furnished reliable background information regarding slot machine operators and had given considerable information in an investigation of the reactivation of the CAPONE gang. In connection with this investigation, he obtained a copy of the Wurlitzer Company franchise in Pittsburgh, Pa., for the Baltimore Office when it was being sought throughout the country.

In 1950, it was reported that GOLDBERG is extremely cautious and desires thorough discreetness in divulging information. He was found to have been highly reliable and trustworthy as long as he was approached cautiously. It was reported at that time that there was no question regarding his loyalty and in April, 1950, he was designated as a confidential source. No record was found in the indices of the Baltimore Office indicating that GOLDBERG had been contacted since 1950.

During August, 1951, in the course of a survey regarding interstate transportation of gambling devices, inquiry was made of numerous local law enforcement agencies. At that time MERVIN BOYD, United States Treasury Department, advised that MAX GOLDBERG handled the accounting work

for a major portion of the gambling device operators in the eastern portion of the United States. He stated that GOLDBERG is cognizant of the purchases, sales and proceeds of the operators of gambling devices in the east, and it was his belief that GOLDBERG can and will furnish valuable information concerning sales and transportation of gambling devices to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On March 27, 1958, an attempt was made to interview GOLDBERG, but it was learned that he was away from his Baltimore residence. Attempts are being made by the Baltimore Office to obtain the full cooperation of GOLDBERG in furnishing all details available to him regarding individuals connected with the Top Hoodlum Program and consideration is being given to developing him as a current potential criminal informant of the Baltimore Office.

On April 8, 1958, GOLDBERG advised telephonically in a long distance call to the Baltimore Office that he was at that time receiving treatment at Citizens General Hospital, New Kensington, Pa., for an acute condition attributed to his sciatic nerve. He stated that he had been advised by his physician that he must be in the hospital until at least April 18, 1958, and will thereafter return to his home in Baltimore for an extended stay. GOLDBERG advised that he will cooperate fully in any way possible with Bureau agents on a confidential basis.

The following individuals are presently being utilized by the Pittsburgh Office in this investigation:

and Miss FRANCES PRIAM, a FCI who is well acquainted with many of Pittsburgh's top hoodlums and who is being utilized for coverage of the GENOVESE-LA-ROCCA interests.

PG 573-C, who is extremely friendly with the GENOVESE brothers, particularly FIORE, and who is being utilized for general coverage of the Red Eagle Club and its visitors.

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GEORGE "MOON" MESSER, a PCI, who is intimately acquainted with many Pittsburgh top hoodlums through association with them when they began their racket careers and who is being utilized for coverage of the GENOVESE - NELSON interests, as well as LA ROCCA's travel plans.

AL BUCK, former Allegheny County Detective and present Vice-President of the Fidelity Trust Company, Loan Department, Pittsburgh, Pa., who is being utilized for his knowledge of the Banker's Exchange in Pittsburgh, whereby he can obtain information regarding bank loans made to Pittsburgh top hoodlums. BUCK is also familiar with the activities of several of Pittsburgh's top hoodlums, particularly those of LA ROCCA, from having worked on criminal matters for many years in the City of Pittsburgh.

In an effort to increase criminal informant coverage, efforts are still being made to persuade Miss FRANCES PRIAM to again work as a waitress in the Red Eagle Club, formerly known as the Genovese Cocktail Lounge, as soon as it becomes apparent that racket operations are again under way at the club.

The contemplated development of Miss EVELYN GAPPOLLANO, paramour of PHIL GENOVESE, elder brother of MIKE GENOVESE, does not seem logical at this time in view of this individual's fear surrounding her relationship with the GENOVESE family. She will not be recontacted unless more specific information regarding her alleged association with Pittsburgh top hoodlums can be established.

LEADS

BALTIMORE

AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

1. Will thoroughly interview MAX LOUIS GOLDBERG, Accountant for the subject, regarding the finances of LA ROCCA and more specifically regarding his federal income tax returns for the years 1956 and 1957.

LEADS (CON'T)

2. In the event GOLDBERG advises that his records concerning GENOVESE and SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA are at his Pittsburgh Office, will make arrangements to have GOLDBERG confer with accountants of the Pittsburgh Division at a pre-scheduled time so that his workpapers may be thoroughly discussed with him.

BUFFALO

AT BUFFALO, NEW YORK

1. Will conduct a thorough neighborhood investigation in the vicinity of 380 Normal Avenue in an effort to ascertain the identity of the person who recently died at that address and to determine whether or not the subject attended the funeral.
2. Will obtain the residence telephone number for ROSINA LA ROCCA CONTI and her husband, CATINO, at the aforementioned address and will bear in mind that the subject may be staying at this residence (or have stayed there in the recent past) to avoid the service of a subpoena.
3. Will give consideration to an interview of CATINO CONTI at his place of employment, bearing in mind that he may be able to furnish information regarding the whereabouts of LA ROCCA since February, 1958. If interviewed, a complete description of CONTI should be obtained.

JACKSONVILLE - INFORMATION

One copy of this report is being furnished for information because of allegations made by informants concerning subject's travel in Florida and Cuba during his so-called "disappearance" from Pittsburgh. With the background supplied, it is felt that Jacksonville can intelligently handle the coverage of any future leads requested.

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9. Will regularly contact potential criminal informants GEORGE "MOON" MESSER and FRANCES PRIAM so that ample coverage may be afforded the LA ROCCA - GENOVESE interests.
10. Will, through established informant coverage, endeavor to ascertain the specific whereabouts of the subject during the months of February - April, 1958, and his mode of travel during this period.
11. Will make arrangements to interview HARRY STEELE, senior partner, Fauset, Steele and Company, 1812 First National Bank Building, Pittsburgh (Grant 1-3883) a neighbor who is alleged to have been friendly and sympathetic to the LA ROCCA family, for any information of a personal nature he may be able to furnish.