

Agency Information

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Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI  
FROM : WELTE  
TO : ROSEN

TITLE :

DATE : 04/13/1961  
PAGES : 3

SUBJECTS :

JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Rosen *Rw*

DATE: April 13, 1961

FROM : W. B. Welte *W*

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS (2); Armed Robbery of  
Approximately \$117,200 Jewelry and Cash,  
Residence of Edith and Fritz Werner  
Dorigo, Hallandale, Florida, March 20, 1961  
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN PROPERTY -  
MAJOR THEFT *DCRISO*

Tolson	
Belmont	
Mohr	
DeLoach	
Evans	
Malone	
Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tavel	
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W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
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This is to advise of a complaint made to the United States Attorney's (USA) Office, Miami, by O. B. Cline, a former Assistant United States Attorney now in practice of criminal law in Miami, that the FBI had intimidated Joseph Merola by insisting that he become a st pigeon or his probation would be revoked and people would be advised he was an informant. The SAC, Miami, obtained an affidavit from SA H. Wayne Swinney who interviewed Merola and the action of SA Swinney indicates he used poor judgment in the interview.

### BACKGROUND:

Victims Edith and Fritz Werner Dorigo who own and operate the Hofbrau Haus restaurant, Hallandale, Florida, on the evening of 3/20/61 were robbed by two armed white bandits who wore gloves and had stockings over their faces.

Miami Informant Chester Gray advised he believed Joseph Merola's "two boys" had committed this robbery. He based this the fact that immediately following the robbery Merola had in his possession expensive jewelry. Merola has a gun equipped with a silencer and this type weapon was used in the robbery.

Merola has an extensive criminal record dating back to 1947. He is now serving a two-year probationary sentence in connection with an Immigration and Naturalization Service matter. Merola until recently was an informant of the Miami Office and has in the past furnished information primarily concerning illegal arms shipments to Cuba.

### INTERVIEW OF JOSEPH MEROLA:

Merola voluntarily appeared at the Miami Office on 4/3/61 and was thoroughly interviewed by SA Swinney as a suspect in this case. He denied participation in the robbery or any knowledge of it. He refused to submit to a polygraph examination or furnish an alibi.

### Enclosure

- 1 - Administrative Division
- 1 - Mr. C. A. Evans

GEB:raj  
(8)

*W*  
MAY 2 1961

*FILED*

*3/29/61*