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TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

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COMMENTS :

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PH 92-444

Leads (cont'd)

PHILADELPHIA:

AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.

1. Will maintain contact with IRS, Philadelphia.
2. Will concentrate investigative effort on BRUNO's lieutenant, PHILIP TESTA, noting his continued activity in numbers operation in the Philadelphia area.
3. Will report contacts with informants who have knowledge of ANGELO BRUNO.
4. Will report results of requested investigation of [Legal Attaches, Canada and Panama.] (X)(u)

Administrative Data

On 10/23/61, IRS Agent WILLIAM LYNN advised SA J. ROBERT PEARCE that

JFK Law 11(a)

Banking records of the late IRVING CAREY at the Little River Bank in Miami are not being included in this report, but will be analyzed by an accountant for possible assistance in conducting the BRUNO investigation. In this regard, it should be noted that IRS has these records in their possession.

By letter received 10/4/61 the Bureau advised that [the Legal Attache, London, had again discussed with British Security Service M5 and Colonel CUMMING the insurance policy held on the gambling casino, Plaza Hotel, Havana, Cuba. The name JOSEPH STASSI was unknown to Lloyds of London, who were reinsurers in the amount of \$70,000 to the American International Reassurance Corporation of New York City.] (S)

- D -
COVER PAGE

REVIEWED BY ^{DES} ~~WJFK~~ TASK FORCE

ON 7/22/88 Jct

- RELEASE IN FULL
- RELEASE IN PART
- TOTAL DENIAL

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92-2117-391

~~SECRET~~Lucerne Corporation
Panama

Information has previously been reported showing ANGELO BRUNO in possible receipt of payment by insurance companies for damage done to the gambling casino, Plaza Hotel, Havana, Cuba, January 1, 1959. Investigation has established that payment was made in the amount of \$185,000.00, portions of which, if any, going to ANGELO BRUNO not known. It has been developed, however, that owners of record of this casino were FRANK BURD and JOSEPH STASSI, both of New York City. In regards to prior information alleging BRUNO to have financial interests in the gambling casino in Havana, Cuba, it is noted that information was obtained showing a business associate of BRUNO in this regard as being CARL "PAPPY" IPPOLITO, as well as other individuals. More recent information has shown that ANGELO BRUNO's close business associate in the Miami, Fla., area, IRVING CAREY, deceased, had a financial interest in the above-captioned concerns which has been established to have been located in the Plaza Hotel, Havana, Cuba. Prior investigation has also shown that KENNETH LATER had entered into a civil claim against FRANK BURD for payment of moneys allegedly lost by LATER in the business operation of captioned corporation.

By letter dated September 22, 1961, the New York Division furnished a pre-trial examination of FRANK BURD on December 1, 1959, Docket Number 26518, Municipal Court of the City of New York, Borough of Manhattan, 9th District, which pertained to civil action by KENNETH LATER against FRANK BURD, Defendant. This pre-trial examination was made available by JEROME F. P. TOBIN, Attorney for Plaintiff KENNETH LATER, to SA JAMES M. MC ANDREW on August 25, 1961. This interview is being set forth in detail, as it shows not only the history of organization to some extent of the captioned companies, but furnishes details regarding operation of the company and, in addition, lends credit to previous information developed showing BRUNO and IPPOLITO as having connections with this gambling casino, it being noted that they are referred to herein as ANGIE and PAPPY.

- 3 -

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PH 92-444

Business Interest
Dominican Republic

Information previously developed showed ANGELO BRUNO in receipt of money originating in the Dominican Republic. ANGELO BRUNO's possible association in this regard is with BEN GOLOB, JOSEPH MANGONE, and BERNARD "BUCKY" ALLEN. The following investigation was conducted in an effort to further develop ANGELO BRUNO's association with this business venture in the Dominican Republic. In this regard, it is noted that BERNARD ALLEN, who currently operates in the Dominican Republic, and ALLEN's former business partners, JOSEPH MANGONE and BEN GOLOB, previously employed NORMAN FROMKIN, and ALLEN currently has FROMKIN as a business partner in the Dominican Republic.

On October 10, 1961, PH T-1 advised SA J. ROBERT PEARCE that

JFK Law 11(a)

- 40 -

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92-2717-391

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JFK Law 11(a)

By communique dated October 11, 1961, the San Juan Division advised that on October 11, 1961, NORMAN FROMKIN and JOSEPH "SHEFFER" had arrived in San Juan aboard Pan American Airways Flight 431 from Ciudad Trujillo. It was said that FROMKIN claimed that the purpose of the trip to Puerto Rico was to meet with one VICTOR JORGE, who arrived in Puerto Rico from St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, on the same date, and who obtained \$2,000 in coin to operate a surplus property business in the Dominican Republic, inasmuch as hard money was disappearing in the Dominican Republic.

In this regard, it should be noted that JOSEPH VINCENT SHESSER is an employee of FROMKIN and BERNARD ALLEN in the Dominican Republic.

The following investigation was conducted to ascertain additional information regarding BRUNO's association and business interests in the Dominican Republic:

By letter dated October 5, 1961, the New York Division advised of interview of RONALD RUDLIN. Instant letter stated that the records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York, furnished September 27, 1961, by PAULINE DE FIORE, to IC JOHN F. GOOD, contained no record of RONALD RUDLIN.

By communique, October 18, 1961, the Newark Division furnished results of interviews of MARVIN FROMKIN, and Mrs. IDA FROMKIN MILLER, other relatives of NORMAN FROMKIN.

- 41 -

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D. ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

On October 6, 1961, Lieutenant WILLIAM STEIGER, Commanding Officer, Special Investigative Squad of the Chief Inspector, Philadelphia Police Department, stated that PHILIP TESTA, Philadelphia Police Department Number 222651, residence 769 South 8th Street, was a large numbers operator. It should be noted that TESTA is a lieutenant of ANGELO BRUNO.

E. POLICE PROTECTION
AND POLITICAL TIES

No additional information has been developed since date of last report in regard to BRUNO's political ties.

F. PENDING
PROSECUTIVE ACTION

On October 23, 1961, WILLIAM LYNN, Internal Revenue Service, Intelligence Division, Philadelphia, advised that

JFK Law 11(a)

On October 18, 1961, Departmental Attorney THOMAS MC BRIDE advised that in the near future, upon completion of Internal Revenue Service inquiry in the Miami, Fla., area, results of both the FBI and Internal Revenue Service would be reviewed for the possibility of ascertaining the possible avenue of prosecution of ANGELO BRUNO or his associates for tax violation. After the pertinent interview, MC BRIDE advised that he would probably convene Federal Grand Jury in Philadelphia or at Miami, Fla., to hear witnesses in this regard.

- 69 -

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