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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

[Handwritten initials]
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (92-6054)

DATE: 12/9/64

FROM : SAC, DETROIT (92-914)

SUBJECT: LA COSA NOSTRA
DETROIT, MICHIGAN
AR

See The following information was furnished to SAs BARRON T. CONKLIN and JOHN L. SHELBURNE on 11/19/64 and ~~11/30/64~~ by DE 1022-C-TE:

For the information of the Bureau, this informant has been associated with all the leaders of the Detroit organization for the past 25 years. He grew up with ANTHONY TONY GIACALONE, whom he considers one of his closest friends. He was brought into the rackets in Detroit by PETER CORRADO.

Informant stated that the term La Cosa Nostra meant "Our Thing" in Sicilian and was a good description of the organization although it was not used previous to the television disclosures in Detroit.

Source explained as follows:

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These people believe that the control of all illegal enterprises in the State of Michigan and any other towns, belongs to them and any money earned from any illegal enterprises subsequently invested in a legitimate business gives these people an interest in that legal enterprise. The syndicate in Detroit controls all the State of Michigan plus many cities in Ohio, including Cleveland and Wheeling, West Virginia. PETER CORRADO, now deceased, had a large interest in Las Vegas for many years and PETER LICAVOLI has an interest in Tucson, Arizona. Before PETER CORRADO died in 1957, his son DOMINIC CORRADO made a monthly trip to protect his interest in Las Vegas.

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Source stated that the syndicate control in Detroit is possible only because there is a large percentage of Italians and Sicilians. The control of the individual by the syndicate is based on fear. This fear was brought to this country from Sicily.

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
- 1 - New York (RM) 92-2300 - Info.
- 2 - Detroit

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[Handwritten signatures and initials]
Sullivan
825
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DE 92-914

NUMBERS OPERATION, DETROIT

Source advised that the numbers operation in Detroit has been in existence for many years and he has been closely associated with it for the past 25 years. Source advised that when he entered the operation, the man who completely controlled the operation was PETER CORRADO and when he died in 1957, he had headed this operation for 28 years. During this time, PETER CORRADO developed the organization, made all decisions, and was in complete control of the numbers operation together with all other forms of gambling in Detroit. The basic rule of PETER CORRADO in the numbers business during all of this time was that the business is to be run as if it were a legitimate business. The source furnished the following illustration:

In 1952, the number 101 came up as the winning number. This is known as a fancy and it is always played very heavily. On this particular day when the tapes were totaled the amount of money to be paid out amounted to one and three-quarter million dollars. There was utter confusion and chaos and FRANK DI MAGGIO came up to PETER CORRADO and said "Boss, we are wiped out." You can't pay. You will have to drop the odds to 300 to 1 from 500 to 1." PETER CORRADO said "When the bets were called in what odds did you take them at." DI MAGGIO said 500 to 1. PETER CORRADO then said then we pay off at 500 to 1. CORRADO called each person who had a percentage of any one of each of the four houses and told how much money he had to come up with that night. Many stated that they did not have this amount of money and PETER CORRADO loaned each one their necessary amount of money. By 6:00 a.m., \$1,750,000.00 was raised and distributed. Source advised he delivered \$90,000.00 in \$100.00 bills, wrapped in newspaper which was yellow with age. Within six months this loss had been absorbed and the numbers operation was again making very heavy profits.

Source stated there were four houses which were owned and controlled by the family. Each of these houses operated until October 25, 1963, when they went out of business upon orders of JOSEPH ZERILLI. Fifty percent of each house was owned by the members of the three families, ZERILLI, TOCCO and CORRADO. The ownership of the remainder was divided among operators of the various houses. These houses are as follows: