

DATE: 11-14-2017

JFK Assassination System  
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Date: 7/10/67

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Via A I R T E L A I R M A I L - R E G I S T E R E D  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (92-6054)  
FROM: SAC, SAN DIEGO (92-229) (P)  
LA COSA NOSTRA  
AR - CONSPIRACY  
(OO: New York)

Re San Diego airtel to Bureau dated 6/28/67.

SD 1064-C-TE was recontacted 7/5/67 and furnished the following information on La Cosa Nostra (LCN):

I. LOS ANGELES DIVISION

Re: YOUNGNAP  
(OO: Los Angeles)  
(Bufile 7-11777)  
(LA 7-1080)

- 4 - Bureau (AM-REGISTERED)  
(3 - 92-6054) (1 - 137-9187)
- 2 - Chicago (92-1173) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 1 - Cleveland (Info) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 2 - Detroit (AM-REGISTERED)
- 1 - Kansas City (Info) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 1 - Las Vegas (Info) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 2 - Los Angeles (92-1112) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 1 - Miami (92-583) (Info) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 2 - New Orleans (AM-REGISTERED)
- 2 - New York (92-2300) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 2 - San Francisco (92-253) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 1 - St. Louis (Info) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 1 - Tampa (92-218) (Info) (AM-REGISTERED)
- 3 - San Diego  
(1 - 137-1088)

JDA:klb  
(25)

56 JUL 25 1967

JUL 12 1967

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

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92-6054-2052  
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Informant advised he had no information indicating LCN involvement in YOUNGNAP case.

Informant was specifically asked concerning possibility of FRANK JOHN VELOTTA, FBI No. 313 999 C, presently residing in the Los Angeles Division, having access to YOUNGNAP money, as set out in Los Angeles teletype to Bureau 7/3/67.

Informant stated VELOTTA last visited him 6/27/67, accompanied by RAYMOND FERRITTO. Identified FERRITTO as a burglar from Erie, Pennsylvania and an associate of VELOTTA. Stated that VELOTTA and FERRITTO drove from Los Angeles area to San Diego in FERRITTO's 1966, gray Mercury station wagon (California license SJC 005), because VELOTTA's 1965, black Cadillac recently caught fire and burned. VELOTTA collected \$1,500 insurance money rather than have car repaired. Informant was of the impression VELOTTA in need of money at this time and specializes in burglaries only. Stated VELOTTA owns a ten-unit apartment house in the greater Los Angeles area. On one occasion while visiting in Los Angeles, VELOTTA showed apartment house to informant, and informant recalled driving through Coldwater Canyon and possibly into San Fernando Valley area, where apartment house located. From comments made by VELOTTA, informant believes he purchased the apartment house and possibly some private homes as an investment with other associates. Informant believed two of these associates were RAY FERRITTO and JULIUS PETRO.

Informant stated VELOTTA is an expert burglar operating with different hoodlums out of the Cleveland area. Informant believed RAY FERRITTO and ALBERT "Tubby" FIGER were two of the persons with whom he operates. Informant was very doubtful that VELOTTA would ever become involved in a crime of violence such as kidnaping or the bomb murder of GERALD JOSEPH COVELLI at Encino, California on 6/18/67.

Informant emphasized that VELOTTA has been contacting him in San Diego occasionally for the past few months to discuss with him his efforts to keep from being extradited to Florida on a burglary charge, hoping that the informant would have contacts through SANTO TRAFFICANTE, LCN boss in Florida, to pay off some public officials in order to kill

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extradition process. Informant also speculated that VELOTTA and JULIUS PETRO have been contacting him to develop friendship, with a hope of sometime being invited to join LCN.

Informant advised that at his last meeting VELOTTA claimed he had received information through his contacts in Cleveland that AL POLIZZI could help him. Informant identified AL POLIZZI as ALFRED POLIZZI of Coral Gables, Florida, former LCN boss in Cleveland, now living in Coral Gables, Florida and a retired millionaire. VELOTTA claimed to the informant that POLIZZI had sent word back to Cleveland that if VELOTTA was willing to return voluntarily to Florida and enter a guilty plea to the local burglary charge outstanding against VELOTTA, he would not serve more than six months in jail.

In accordance with Los Angeles teletype setting forth VELOTTA as a possible suspect in YOUNGNAP, the informant was questioned further regarding any conversations he had with VELOTTA. Informant could not recall VELOTTA ever mentioning RONALDDAVID CARABBIA or his brothers, ORLANDO and CHARLES CARABBIA, Cleveland hoodlums. He could not recall VELOTTA mentioning Cleveland fence TONY BUFFA. Informant had no information connecting VELOTTA with burglary of drugs valued at \$429,575 at Franklin Park, Illinois on 5/22/67 from E. R. Squibb & Son.

Informant further advised he had no information of VELOTTA recently visiting Cleveland, and from comments of VELOTTA, he doubted that VELOTTA had been back in Cleveland recently.

Informant stressed his opinion that VELOTTA is an expert burglar, specializing in getting around burglar alarm systems, and would not be involved in a crime of violence if he could possibly avoid it.

Informant was not aware of any other contacts of VELOTTA in the San Diego area and stated that VELOTTA spends most of his time these days in the Los Angeles area and identified some of his companions as RAY FERRITTO, JULIUS and MIKE PETRO, NICK VALENTI, and NICK TIRABASSI in the Los Angeles

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area. Informant stated that these are all acquaintances of JIMMY "The Weasel" FRATIENNO from the days when he resided in the Cleveland area and are not friends of the informant.

Informant stated that his association with VELOTTA is not close enough to have detailed information regarding burglaries being pulled by VELOTTA and his gang.

Informant advised that when VELOTTA contacts him again, he will attempt to bring up the subject of YOUNGNAP money to determine if VELOTTA has any information of value.

Re: JOHN ROSELLI

Informant indicated he has been in recent conversation with ROSELLI, and that ROSELLI is no longer making plans to go to Chicago, and therefore informant assumes SAM GIANCANA, aka Mooney, might not be returning to Chicago.

(Note that in last contact with informant, he indicated the possibility that GIANCANA would be returning to Chicago in about a month.)

Informant speculated that GIANCANA might have decided against returning to Chicago after receiving reports regarding subpoenas being issued for FRANK LA PORTE and other Chicago Heights hoodlums being subpoenaed before the Federal Grand Jury at San Diego.

Informant stated he has had a meeting with his "capo," JOE ADAMO, and has been informed that LCN boss FRANK DESIMONE will not allow the informant to "cut in" on the gambling operations of NICK SIMPONIS in the Palm Springs, California area. DESIMONE sent word to the informant through ADAMO that when SIMPONIS opened his new card room in Cabazon, California, he had an understanding with DESIMONE that the Los Angeles family would leave him alone and paid off \$40,000 to the LCN leadership to leave him alone. DESIMONE claims he is now going to honor this agreement and refuses to give the informant permission to muscle in on SIMPONIS's operation.

II. SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

Re: JIMMY FRATIENNO

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Informant advised that he has been in recent telephone contact with FRATIANNO and learned that Los Angeles criminal attorney JAMES CANTILLON has notified FRATIANNO and his wife that he is no longer going to represent them at San Diego because of the money FRATIANNO still owes him as the result of representing them against state charges in El Centro, California.

Re: CARL LEE CASPERSON

Informant stated that in conversations with FRATIANNO, FRATIANNO has made no statement to indicate that he is aware of CASPERSON's present location.

Informant was specifically requested to bring up CASPERSON's name in his next conversation with FRATIANNO, since both he and FRATIANNO knew CASPERSON in prison. Informant advised that he intended to do this but forgot to do so.

III. CHICAGO DIVISION

Informant still had no information regarding the bomb murder of GERALD JOSEPH COVELLI at Encino, California on 6/18/67. (COVELLI former Chicago hoodlum and gave testimony against JIMMY "Monk" ALLEGRETTI - LCN member of the Chicago family.) It is noted at the time COVELLI was murdered at Encino, California on 6/18/67, FRANK LA PORTE of Chicago was with the informant at San Diego waiting to testify before the Federal Grand Jury.

Informant stated that LA PORTE's reaction to the killing was one of surprise, and that he did not think LA PORTE knew anything about it. Informant had no information indicating that COVELLI's murder was an LCN contract killing. He speculated, however, that it could have been, as the result of the testimony he gave against ALLEGRETTI, and that LA PORTE would not necessarily know about it unless he was involved in it himself.

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IV. NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

In accordance with New Orleans request by letter dated 6/5/67, the informant was questioned regarding FRANCESCO PAOLO COPPOLA, aka "Three-Finger Frank." Informant reminisced about his past association with COPPOLA and in substance stated the following:

Informant has known COPPOLA for many years and was on a very friendly basis with him. He was aware that COPPOLA is now living in Italy and claimed that COPPOLA is very wealthy. Stated that in the past COPPOLA has invited him to visit him in Italy, but he has never done so. Stated that many years ago COPPOLA lived for a while in Los Angeles when JACK I. DRAGNA was LCN boss in southern California. (It is noted in New Orleans reports on COPPOLA that he was booked at Los Angeles County Jail on 7/1/31 and 10/27/31 for operating a still.

Informant confirmed that COPPOLA was very active in the international narcotics traffic between Italy and Detroit. He talked about COPPOLA having moved to Louisiana and becoming involved in gambling at New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana with SILVESTRO CARROLLO.

He talked about COPPOLA eventually becoming involved in his Louisiana gambling operations with FRANK COSTELLO, the former Commission member residing in New York City. Informant related a story that during that time he accompanied JACK I. DRAGNA from Los Angeles to New York City for a meeting with the Commission. At that time FRANK COSTELLO was attempting to get Commission approval for a contract killing on COPPOLA. Informant stated that he himself got into a nasty verbal exchange with COSTELLO because COSTELLO objected to informant calling him by his first name. His remarks to COSTELLO were so inflammatory that his boss, JACK I. DRAGNA, and the Detroit boss, JOE ZERILLI, who was present, cooled it off and sent the informant home to San Diego. Informant was very critical of COSTELLO, referring to him as a "phony" whose only crime of personal violence was probably the one that obtained LCN membership for him. He advised that the outcome of the meeting was in COPPOLA's favor.

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He stated that sometime after this meeting in about 1950, COPPOLA and his partner, CARROLLO, were deported from Kansas City as illegal aliens and resided for a while in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, near San Diego, attempting to gain legal re-entry. He admitted visiting with COPPOLA at Tijuana on occasions. He admitted that while COPPOLA was staying in Tijuana he was visited by hoodlums from Kansas City and St. Louis, and specifically mentioned TONY LOPIPARO and TONY GIARDANO of St. Louis. He was reminded of the incident when he and some of these hoodlums were arrested by Mexican police. He stated that some of those arrested were not LCN members, but were simply Italians from Sicily waiting in Tijuana for permission to enter the United States. He stated that at the time of the arrest there was a lot of publicity, and that the innocent immigrants were mixed up with some of the LCN members visiting with COPPOLA in Tijuana.

He was specifically questioned about SEBASTIANO GALLO of San Diego, who was arrested with the group by Mexican authorities. He stated that GALLO was a bar owner in San Diego and an old friend of his who accompanied him to Mexico and was not an LCN member. He advised that GALLO is now deceased.

Informant advised that during this period when he was visiting COPPOLA in Tijuana, he met a "Colonel WHITE," who at that time was a high official in a narcotics law enforcement agency. Informant could not recall if it was a federal or possibly a New York state narcotics law enforcement agency. Informant advised that on one occasion, while all these hoodlums were visiting or living in Tijuana, Colonel WHITE came there and talked with some of them. When WHITE was introduced to the informant he made some remarks indicating he was aware that the informant had been appointed a San Diego "capo." Informant advised that his "capo" status was only three days old, and therefore WHITE must have had an inside informant. From conversation with WHITE, he learned that WHITE was acquainted with the LCN boss in New Jersey called WILLIE MOORE (Phonetic). Informant claimed that he then deduced the LCN boss in New Jersey, "WILLIE MOORE," must be WHITE's informant, for WHITE to know about the informant's "capo" status so soon. Informant claimed that he notified DRAGNA, and they demanded an investigation of



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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
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GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (92-6054)

DATE: 7/13/67

FROM : *HEC* SAC, MILWAUKEE (92-262) - P -

SUBJECT: *[Signature]* LA COSA NOSTRA (LCN)  
AR - CONSPIRACY  
00: New York

Re San Diego airtel to Bureau, 6/28/67.

On 7/11/67, MI 623-C-TE, who is described as a hoodlum who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised SA CARLYLE N. REED at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as follows with reference to FRANCISCO BALISTRIERI, aka Big Frank:

*CALIF*

Informant knows of no close ties at the present time between BIG FRANK BALISTRIERI and his two sons who operate a bar somewhere in the San Diego, California area or nearby with the relatives of BIG FRANK in Milwaukee such as FRANK PETER BALISTRIERI - Milwaukee LCN boss, FRANK's brother PETER BALISTRIERI, or his father JOSEPH BALISTRIERI.

*WLS*

BIG FRANK was a member of the Milwaukee LCN family. He is reportedly in poor health and apparently does not make visits back to Milwaukee as far as the informant knows.

*P*

- 2 - Bureau (AM)(RM)(92-6054)
- 2 - San Diego (AM)(RM)(92-229)(1 - 137-1088)
- 2 - Milwaukee (92-262) (1 - 137-1318)

CNR/kaj  
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18 JUL 17 1967

51 JUL 21 1967

*[Handwritten signatures and stamps]*



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