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A I R T E L

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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 the Bureau dated 8/9/67.

SD 1064-C-TE was recontacted on 8/9/67 and furnished the following information on La Cosa Nostra (LCN):

- ④ - Bureau (AM-REG)
 - ③ - 92-6054
 - ① - 137-9187
- 2 - St. Louis (AM-REG)
- 2 - Detroit (92-914) (AM-REG)
- 2 - San Francisco (92-253) (AM-REG)
- 2 - Los Angeles (92-1112) (AM-REG)
- 2 - New York (92-2300) (AM-REG)
- 2 - Chicago (92-1173) (AM-REG)
- 2 - Phoenix (AM-REG)
- 2 - New Orleans (AM-REG)
- 1 - Las Vegas (92-625) (Info) (AM-REG)
- 1 - Kansas City (92-883) (Info) (AM-REG)
- 1 - Cleveland (92-748) (Info) (AM-REG)
- 1 - Miami (92-853) (Info) (AM-REG)
- 1 - Tampa (92-218) (Info) (AM-REG)
- 3 - San Diego
 - (2 - 92-229)
 - (1 - 137-1088)

JDA:mt
(28)

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137-9187

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92-6054-207

18 AUG 14 1967

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[Other illegible signatures]

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Approved: _____ Sent: _____ M Per _____

79 AUG 23 1967 Special Agent in Charge

SD 92-229

I. NEW YORK DIVISION

Informant had no definite information regarding the successor of TOMMY LUCHESE but stated there was a possibility that the Under-Boss under LUCHESE would be elevated to the boss of that family.

New York, note in previous contacts with this informant he advised a former New York Congressman was an LCN member. He identified former U. S. Congressman, MARCO ANTONIO, as that congressman who was a member of the LCN. The informant has received this information from his friends, MARCO, aka., "MIMI" LI MANDRI, and his son, JOE LI MANDRI. Both are LCN members residing in San Diego. MARCO is the father to JOE. Both were involved in narcotics when they resided in New York City and both served time together for narcotics activities before leaving the New York area and settling in San Diego.

*N.Y.
Calif*

Li mandri

II. ST. LOUIS AND DETROIT DIVISIONS

(Informant advised that on 8/5/67, he received a call from St. Louis boss, TONY GIARDANO, who was staying at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, California. He agreed to meet GIARDANO in Los Angeles on Monday, 8/7/67. On that date, he drove to Los Angeles and found GIARDANO staying at the Beverly Hilton with his Jewish companion, ARTHUR SAFRON, who has two sisters living in the Los Angeles area. TONY GIARDANO wanted a meeting with JOHN ROSELLI. Informant arranged for the meeting and was present with GIARDANO and ROSELLI, on 8/7/67. GIARDANO had come to Los Angeles on behalf of the Detroit LCN family. He advised them that the first week the Frontier Hotel was opened in Las Vegas, they lost \$250,000 on the gambling tables and that if this loss kept up, they would have to close down. He stated that their biggest problem was getting people to come to the hotel and that they needed some top-flight floor shows. Apparently the Frontier Hotel was opened without having top shows booked and now they were having trouble getting the shows that would draw people into this hotel.

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983-10333

SD 92-229

M. J. Calif

The Detroit family sent GIARDANO to Beverly Hills in an attempt to get ROSELLI to use his influence with theatrical agents to get these shows.

Informant advised that ROSELLI did not indicate he could help them and confidentially stated that the old timers, like ROSELLI and himself, are sitting back now and laughing at the aggressive younger hoodlums in the Detroit family, like TONY ZERILLI, trying to "run the show" by themselves and getting in over their heads in attempting to run a big Las Vegas Hotel and Casino.

The meeting ended, however, with ROSELLI agreeing to meet with TONY ZERILLI (son of JOE ZERILLI of Detroit) between 8/15-17/67 in Palm Springs, California. *meet*

(Informant stated that he is the only one who knows of this meeting besides those persons involved and that if any close FBI surveillance in Palm Springs is discovered by the participants, it would seriously jeopardize his position. Informant stated that as far as he knows, the only reason for the meeting between ROSELLI and TONY ZERILLI is to attempt to arrange for top entertainment at the Frontier Hotel.)

Informant stated that at no time did TONY GIARDANO tell him that the St. Louis family held points in the Frontier Hotel, but that he assumes they do as a result of GIARDANO's efforts on behalf of ZERILLI.

At this meeting with the informant, he again indicated that JOE ZERILLI is "traveling" as a result of some subpoena outstanding. He had no further information in this regard.

III. LOS ANGELES DIVISION

Calif

(Informant advised that he was notified on 8/5/67 by his "Capo" JOE ADAMO of San Diego regarding the death of the Los Angeles LCN boss, FRANK DESIMONE. ADAMO instructed him that the orders received from Under-Boss NICK LICATA instructed all members to remain away from the funeral so that there would be no embarrassing incident for the family.

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Informant, who holds the Los Angeles LCN family leadership in low regard, told ADAMO he was going anyway and that he did not consider LICATA his boss.

Informant advised that he drove to Los Angeles on Monday, 8/7/67, and "paid his respects" to DESIMONE. He saw in attendance Capo JOE DIPPOLITO but did not see NICK LICATA. He believes he was the only one there from the San Diego decina. He also observed members of the Los Angeles Police Department Intelligence Detail and knew that they would follow him until he left Los Angeles. In order to meet with TONY GIARDANO, he swung out of the funeral procession at a turn and got away from the Los Angeles Police Department unit following the funeral procession. In this way he was able to meet with GIARDANO and ROSELLI later at the Beverly Hilton.

At this meeting, the informant advised that there has not been time to formulate any definite plans to choose the new LCN boss for the Los Angeles family. He expects both NICK LICATA and DIPPOLITO to make a try for it. (The informant will also attempt to get the position.) He believed it would take a month or more for LICATA to arrange for a family meeting to choose a successor. He stated that in all probability the meeting would take place in the ranch and vineyard country around Cucamonga, California, and that in all probability, JOE DIPPOLITO would help in making the arrangements.

(The informant advised that he would only receive a phone call and be told when to report to Los Angeles and that after arriving in Los Angeles, he would be told where to go and would be unable to stop and make any phone calls from that point on.) Informant stated the Los Angeles family would elect their own boss and that if they could not agree or if internal fighting for the position developed, the commission would then make the decision for them.

He stated that in his own decina, he hoped to get the backing of JOE and MARCO LI MANDRI, FRANK BALISTRERI, and PHILLIPO DAMIANO. He expected opposition from his capo, JOE ADAMO, and LEO DIA. He stated that DIA is still vacationing in Europe.

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Calif

(Informant admitted having been visited by FRANK VELOTTA on 8/3/67 and that he introduced VELOTTA to visiting capo, FRANK LA PORTE of Chicago. He stated VELOTTA is still going around with a woman who has magazine crews working under her. He furnished no information indicating VELOTTA is involved in burglaries at this time.

Calif - Ill

(In regard to Gambler EDDIE NEALIS, he advised that NEALIS is up and around again after his serious heart attack and that he was recently over to Las Vegas and brought back word that the Detroit mob's new hotel, "The Frontier," was badly in need of some experienced gambling employees.

Calif. Nevada

IV. PHOENIX DIVISION

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Informant advised that he heard CHARLIE "BATZ" BATTAGLIA of Tucson was recently in the Los Angeles area visiting his brother, JOHN BATTAGLIA, in prison. He stated that as far as he knows, BATTAGLIA is not a member in good standing, as he is a member of the Bonano family and that all of them are "out" until the Bonano family makes its peace with the commission.

V. CHICAGO DIVISION

Calif

Informant advised that Capo FRANK LA PORTE of Chicago was in San Diego to appear before the Federal Grand Jury on 8/2/67 and that he left on 8/4/67. He was accompanied by MIKE PAOLETTA, his brother-in-law, whom he employees at Co-Op Music Company. He stated that PAOLETTA is not an LCN member. (While LA PORTE was in San Diego, they all had dinner together. Those present were informant, LA PORTE, PAOLETTA, FRANK VELOTTA, HARRY BIANCONI, a local San Diego hoodlum who has been used by the LCN as a messenger carrier and contact man for years, as well as his partner, JOE ESTY.) ESTY's true name is JOE ESPOSITO. He is the son of DIAMOND JOE ESPOSITO of Chicago. ESTY is now in partnership with BIANCONI, developing a packaging process and was attempting to get LA PORTE to invest in it.

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VI. SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION *Caly*

Informant advised ~~FRED~~ RE CUPIDO is selling the trucking equipment repossessed from FRATIANO so that LA PORTE will not lose as much money. He stated that, to date, RE CUPIDO has sold four of the trailers repossessed from FRATIANNNO. RE CUPIDO is now attempting to sell four of the tractors repossessed from FRATIANNNO and that if he is successful, LA PORTE won't lose very much money as a result of FRATIANNNO being unable to stay in business. He stated that JEWEL FRATIANNNO quit running the Fratianno Trucking Office for a few days but has returned to the Office. She is still talking about divorcing FRATIANNNO as a result of his love affair with the prostitute, JEAN BOUDL. He stated that FRATIANNNO actually wants to marry BOUDL. He stated that FRATIANNNO is broke at this time.

In regard to ANGELO MARINO, LCN member at San Jose, informant advised as far as he knows, he is back in San Jose at the California Cheese Company (and he would be contacting him in a few weeks). *Caly*

VII. NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

In view of the New Orleans Office's interest in FRANCESCO PAOLO COPPOLA, aka., "Three Fingers," the informant was questioned further about COPPOLA. (He stated that while he was with TONY GIARDANO recently in Los Angeles, he asked him about COPPOLA and learned that COPPOLA is now serving a 15-year jail term in a Rome, Italy, prison and that the Italian Government has confiscated his property. The informant is of the impression that TONY GIARDANO is still somehow in contact with COPPOLA. *Caly*