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SAC, Los Angeles

April 24, 1968

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Kelly

l - Mr. Rutland l - Mr. Emery

LA COSA NOSTRA ANTI-RACKETEERING - CONSPIRACY

TF

Enclosed is a copy of a translated manuscript prepared by Nicolo Gentile, who, until his flight to Italy in the latter 1930's to avoid a narcotics prosecution, operated in the upper levels of the United States Mafia in various cities.

Though the substance of this document has previously been included in a La Cosa Nostra national summary report, this manuscript should be reviewed, particularly by Agents handling LA 448-C-TE, for the purpose of further developing our knowledge of early La Cosa Nostra history, much of which has had a bearing on later events, power structures, leadership trends, etc.

It is noted for example that LA 4448-C-TE states that former Los Angeles "boss" Joe Ardizonne was murdered in 1931 by the Jack Dragna faction which took control of La Cosa Nostra in Los Angeles, California, apparently from about that time till Dragna's death in 1956. You will also note that Gentile, in discussing the events leading up to the murder of Salvatore Maranzano on 9/10/31, and the subsequent formation of the "Commission" shortly thereafter, recounts that with the word of Maranzano's murder, a purging operation was undertaken in which many of those aligned with Maranzano were murdered. Gentile refers to this operation as the "Sicilian vespers," as have certain other sources in commenting on this purge, which was reported to have 1331 Chaimed victims in various parts of the country.

You should explore with LA 4448-C-TE his recollection of the above situation and determine if he knew whether Ardizonne's death came about as part of the purge of Maranzano's sympathizers.

You should continue to make full use of this source, and any other Los Angeles source thus qualified, to assist in the full development of key events in La Cosa Nostra's history in this country. Advise the Bureau of results.

FIGURE (6)

MAIL ROOM STELETYPE UNIT

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Loach hr \_\_\_ shop \_ sper \_ lahan