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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SPECIAL GROUP

UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

FOLEY SQUARE, NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

October 21, 1958

STATE 607 E
CORRELANDY 7-7100

Alex Rosen, Esquire
Assistant Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Al:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of Joe DeFranco's memorandum summarizing our present information with respect to Italian food companies.

This is for your information--I recognize that there are no leads here to specific crimes in addition to those already furnished. However, the memorandum does certainly indicate the important positions some of our subjects have attained in this industry.

Warmest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Milton R. Wessel

Milton R. Wessel
Special Assistant to the
Attorney General

MRW:rgb
Enc.

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ENCLOSURE

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EX-108

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: ITALIAN FOOD FILE

DATE: October 17, 1958

FROM: Joseph DeFranco

JDF:ll:jl

SUBJECT: Italian Food Companies

The following is a summary of some factual information accumulated since the beginning of our Cheese investigation and supplements Mr. Weesel's memo of September 19, 1958.

- (1) M. MAGGIO CO., 11th & Washington Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and
- (2) CALIFORNIA CHEESE CO., San Jose and Los Angeles, California.

The M. MAGGIO COMPANY is alleged to operate a monopoly in the Italian cheese business in the Philadelphia area. The owner of this company is MICHAEL MAGGIO, alias MICHELLE, who has residence at 2519 S. 21 Street, Philadelphia, Pa., and 605 Northeast 72 Terrace, Miami, Florida. It has been reported that Maggio's other cheese makers in the Philadelphia area have been forced to cease competing with M. MAGGIO CO. under threats of death, and that these threats have successfully stopped competitors. It has also been reported that customers for M. MAGGIO'S cheese have been secured by death threats.

MICHAEL MAGGIO'S reputation is that of a member of the organized syndicate called the MAFIA, having been an enforcer in the general Philadelphia area. Maggio's arrest record includes a 1938 charge in Camden, New Jersey, for double murder, subsequently changed to homicide and for which he was sentenced to 5 to 5 1/2 years in the State Penitentiary. In 1948 MICHAEL MAGGIO was arrested in connection with the investigation of a homicide of one ANTHONY MILERVA, Jr., Vineland, New Jersey, egg dealer, who was killed on July 13, 1945. (The UBCO and TACROMINA CO. - importers of Italian olive oil and other foods have a branch in Vineland, New Jersey.)²

MAGGIO'S chief enforcer in the cheese monopoly is alleged to have been one PETER CASSELLA of 105 S. Dorset Avenue, Ventnor City, N. J. Casella has a long arrest record culminating in a July 1958 conviction for violation of the federal narcotics law and for which he was sentenced to 40 years in prison by the United States District Court, Southern District of New York. Casella is reputed to be successor to the late "Mafia Leader" of Philadelphia and Camden, one MARCO REGINELLI.

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ENCLOSURE

