

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90100-10105
RECORD SERIES : HQ
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 52-72398-108

Released under the John
F. Kennedy
Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 45876 Date:
12-11-2017

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : PG
TO : HQ

TITLE :

DATE : 02/12/1959
PAGES : 78

SUBJECTS :

JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA
STUART SUTOR

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4; 10(a)2
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/07/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE, APPROVAL OF ATF

COMMENTS : RPT

PG 52-1687

~~Confidential~~

U. S. Attorney ALBERT M. MORGAN, Fairmont, W. Va., on February 3, 1959, advised SA WATSON that he had just received a telephone call from C. HOWARD HARDESTY, JR., of the Furbee and Hardesty Law Firm of Fairmont which firm is representing the Dupont Air Interests in the recovery of the twin engine Beech Aircraft piloted by SUTOR. Mr. MORGAN also pointed out that this is the same firm that employs ROBERT SARVER and added that HARDESTY told him that SARVER might possibly represent SUTOR. MORGAN said that the Beech Craft was released by the government and would be turned over to the Dupont Air Interests on February 5, 1959. He also said that it is his understanding that if SARVER eventually represents SUTOR he, SARVER, intends to strongly advise SUTOR to cooperate with Special Agents of the FBI.

Deputy Sheriff RIDGLEY, Fairmont; on January 26, 1959, advised SA WATSON that on the same date he censored a letter received at the Marion County Jail from SUTOR's wife, KAY SUTOR, of Miami, Florida. RIDGLEY said that in her letter Mrs. SUTOR mentioned that one EDDIE HOFFMAN of 104 Seventh Street, South St. Petersburg, Florida, had been asking about SUTOR and offered to assist SUTOR in anyway possible.

SAMUEL MANNARINO
FBI Number 115840
(Pittsburgh Top Hoodlum)

NORMAN ROTHMAN
FBI Number 152585B

JFK Act 6 (4)

PCI [redacted] a former top hoodlum of the Pittsburgh Office, and one-time officer in the Sans Souci Night Club in Havana, Cuba, advised SA JOHN S. PORTELLA on January 22, 1959, that in his opinion SAM MANNARINO engineered the theft of firearms from the National Guard Armory in Canton, Ohio, but is being shunned by the racket element for his foolishness in becoming involved in such an undertaking. [redacted] said that MANNARINO is showing signs of mental illness and speculated that MANNARINO fingered the burglary of the armory without the knowledge or consent of his brother, GABRIEL MANNARINO (Pittsburgh top hoodlum).

[redacted] recalled that while he was connected with the Sans Souci during the period 1951-1952 he felt that NORMAN ROTHMAN

- G -
COVER PAGE

~~Confidential~~

52-72398-108

~~Confidential~~

On instructions from SAM GIARUSSO, RICCI went to Newburgh, New York, and obtained a sample MG from TRAPINI on September 4, 1958. RICCI took the MG to the Pygmalion Club, New York City, where he met SAM GIARUSSO and they in turn went to the Warwick Hotel also in New York City. They parked in front of the hotel and a man, later identified as JOE MEROLA, approached the car, took the MG from RICCI and entered the hotel. RICCI and SAM GIARUSSO then returned to the Pygmalion Club. Shortly thereafter, MEROLA entered the club and handed the MG back to RICCI and said, "This is what I want, get me all you can, but clean them up."

RICCI returned to his home in Middletown, New Jersey, with the MG.

On September 11, 1958, RICCI was arrested by ATU Agents at his home and the following items were seized:

- 1 .45 caliber Thompson MG, SN 750471
- 6 Cases of M-1 Carbine parts
- 1 1958 Edsel station wagon (RICCI's auto)

It has been determined that RICCI legitimately purchased the M-1 Carbine parts for \$1000 cash from THOMAS A. GREALY, Grealy Arms Company, 448 Pompton Avenue, Cedar Grove, New Jersey. RICCI stated that SAM GIARUSSO furnished the \$1000.

Since RICCI's arrest, JOE GIARUSSO has made several contacts with RICCI, who is out on bail, for more guns. JOE GIARUSSO said that "Bayonne JOE" is interested in securing a source for quantity of American-type guns. "Bayonne JOE" is JOSEPH ZICARELLI, a top hoodlum in the Newark Office.

It should be noted that the above information was acquired by ATU Agents from RICCI on a confidential basis. They are presently attempting to develop RICCI as an informant and, therefore, request that none of the above information be disseminated outside the FBI.

DANIEL HANNA

An anonymous letter delivered to the Pittsburgh Office in November, 1958, stated that the S & S Distributing Company

- I -
COVER PAGE

~~Confidential~~

52-72398-10P

~~Confidential~~

panel truck mentioned at length in this case has been observed parked in the driveway at 1127 Freeport Road, Natrona Heights, Pa., the home of one ART ERRICO. The anonymous letter pointed out that the truck was parked near a garage at the end of the driveway on a number of occasions and described ERRICO as a numbers operator.

WILLIAM AHLSTROM, a reporter for the "New Kensington Daily Dispatch" newspaper, advised SA PORTELLA on November 13, 1958, that he had received information from one of his sources that the S & S Distributing Company panel truck had been observed in the vicinity of the National Cash Register warehouse on 13th or 14th Street, New Kensington, Pa. According to AHLSTROM, the source reported observing boxes being unloaded from the truck near the warehouse. AHLSTROM could only identify the source as one of the many people who call his paper on a daily basis to report information concerning the MANNARINO mob.

PHILIP JAMES MAINER
FBI Number 868314A

The Cleveland Office on December 2, 1958, furnished information relating to the New Kensington connections of MAINER an associate of suspect GEORGE MIKE FLOREA, FBI Number 2888609, named by a Canton, Ohio, Police Department informant as the perpetrator of the Ohio National Guard Armory burglary on October 14, 1958.

Confidential source MIKE ZERVOS (protect) in interview with SA DOUCE on January 6, 1959, positively identified a photograph of MAINER and furnished the following background information concerning him:

Approximately 18 or 20 months ago ZERVOS received a telephone call from HENRY ABRAHAM, aka "PECKY," operator of a cocktail lounge in New Kensington. ABRAHAM told ZERVOS that he had a deal that ZERVOS might be interested in and asked him to come to his place of business right away. When ZERVOS arrived at "PECKY's" place he was introduced to two individuals, one a Syrian man age about 40-45, name unknown, from New Castle or Farrell, Pa., and the other MAINER, although MAINER was not introduced to ZERVOS by name. ABRAHAM told ZERVOS that the Syrian man was a very good friend of his and had 1800 cartons of stolen cigarettes in a station wagon parked outside that he would sell for \$1 a carton. ZERVOS advised that ABRAHAM said that he wanted to buy the entire load himself but did not have enough money to swing the deal, and encouraged ZERVOS to put up half the money so they could buy the load together.

- J -
COVER PAGE~~Confidential~~

52-72398-108

~~Confidential~~

ZERVOS refused because he had only been recently released from the Western State Penitentiary after serving 22½ years after conviction for murder and suggested to ABRAHAM that they take the cigarettes to GABRIEL MANNARINO (Pittsburgh top hoodlum) who owned the S & S Distributing Company, a cigarette vending machine concern.

In the presence of ZERVOS, ABRAHAM told the Syrian man and MAINER that if ZERVOS would not put up any money he was not in a position to take the load himself but offered to take them to MANNARINO in his own car. ABRAHAM left with the two individuals and looked up GABRIEL MANNARINO who presumably bought the entire stolen shipment.

ZERVOS noticed the Syrian man in New Kensington a number of times after their initial meeting, driving a black station wagon, not further described, and assumes that he regularly supplied the S & S Distributing Company with stolen cigarettes for at least three or four months since during his first meeting with the group, the Syrian man offered to supply cigarettes regularly.

ZERVOS has not seen the Syrian man or MAINER in New Kensington for the past year and one-half but observed MAINER several times after their initial meeting in the lobby of the Kenmar Hotel and also in the Laetus Club.

ZERVOS also speculated that MAINER and his companion could have sold other shipments of stolen cigarettes to JOSEPH GIORDANO, aka "RED," operator of the Bachelor's Club in New Kensington, and a long-time fence.

ZERVOS is of the opinion that MAINER's connections in New Kensington would be with members of the MANNARINO mob as a result of his original introduction to MANNARINO or GIORDANO through ABRAHAM.

ZERVOS is extremely reluctant to make any open inquiries concerning MAINER in New Kensington and considers it highly inadvisable for him to do so at the risk of disclosure as a source of information.

ZERVOS examined photographs of GEORGE VICTOR ZUGRAVE, FBI Number 2878523, SAMUEL JOSEPH MESSARIS, FBI Number 840808, and FLOREA but was unable to recognize them.

- K -
COVER PAGE ~~Confidential~~

52-72398-108

PG 52-1687

~~Confidential~~

Photographs of the above were also displayed to PG 545-C on January 6, 1959, by SA DOUCE without making an identification.

NICK TRIKILIS
(Cleveland Suspect)

The Cleveland Office on November 28, 1958, reported that (FNU) MOORE made a collect telephone call from Pittsburgh CO 1-9000 on August 31, 1958, to the home of TRIKILIS in Canton, Ohio, HOWARD 2-5772.

SA J. EDWARD MADVAY on January 6, 1959, telephoned COURT 1-9000 and determined that that telephone number was issued to the

- L -
COVER PAGE

~~Confidential~~

52-72398-108

~~Confidential~~

<u>Number</u>	<u>Date Called</u>
35-2-1898	November 8, 1958
NAX 988J	November 16, 1958

8. Will conduct logical investigation in the vicinity of the National Cash Register warehouse to resolve the allegation that the S & S Distributing Company panel truck has been observed unloading boxes at that location.

9. Will interview PCI HENRY ABRAHAM for information concerning suspect PHILIP JAMES MAINER, FBI Number 868314A and his Syrian companion from New Castle or Farrell, Pa., who approached ABRAHAM approximately two years ago for the purpose of unloading a shipment of stolen cigarettes.

AT NATRONA HEIGHTS, PA. (Allegheny County)

Will interview ART ERRICO referred to in an anonymous letter to the Pittsburgh Office in November, 1958, concerning the allegation that the S & S panel truck has been seen parked near his garage on a number of occasions in the past.

AT RUSSELLTON, PA. (Allegheny County)

1. Will interview Lieutenant JOHN E. BOGGS, D Battalion, Fifth Missile Battery, U. S. Army Nike Site on Crawford Run Road, to determine if possible whether the five gallon oil can recovered at the Allegheny Valley Airport on November 5, 1958, could have been part of the Nike Site inventory.

2. Will canvass motels and hotels in the vicinity of the Allegheny Valley Airport in an effort to determine whether MEROLA registered as a guest during the period October 24, 1958, to November 4, 1958.

- R -
COVER PAGE

~~Confidential~~

52-72398-108