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JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: July 15, 1964

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (137-5029)

SUBJECT: JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA, aka.
AR

Re Bureau letter to Miami and Chicago, 6/16/64,
and Bureau letter to Chicago dated 6/29/64.

Re letters advised that information was furnished to Departmental Attorney WILLIAM KENNEY by JOSEPH MEROLA concerning allegation that the "outfit" had a Federal Agent on the payroll in Chicago. It was further noted that GUY MENDOLA made a statement to MEROLA that Federal Agents had two persons in Chicago as informants, both of whom possess the first name VITO.

VITO ZACCAGNINI is currently in Federal custody and has furnished voluminous information to the Chicago Office in addition to offering testimony before a Federal Grand Jury. ZACCAGNINI was a member of the SAM DE STEFANO group which is extremely active in the juice racket. Undoubtedly, DE STEFANO and members of his group are aware that ZACCAGNINI is currently cooperating with the Federal Agencies in the Chicago area. However, since offering this cooperation, ZACCAGNINI has been placed in confinement and his whereabouts have been kept confidential and is known to a select few who are employed with the United States Prison Department, the United States Attorney's Office, Secret Service and the Chicago Division.

As the Bureau knows, CG 6404-C also possesses the first name VITO. This informant is well acquainted with the underworld and has played an active part in solving major hijacking cases in the Chicago area. This individual is also acquainted with GUY MENDOLA and Chicago Office is aware that MENDOLA is presently frequenting informant's hangout. There is no indication that this informant has been exposed to the underworld as such and it is noted that major cartage thieves continue to frequent his hangout. CG 6404-C has been an informant of

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
- 2 - Chicago
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the Chicago Office for a number of years as the Bureau is aware, and undoubtedly had this individual's informant status become known to the underworld, his effectiveness would have long since ceased.

VITO NITTI is the subject of a case involving counterfeit series E bonds and Bank of America Express Checks. In connection with this charge, NITTI surrendered himself to the United States Marshal's Office, Chicago; however, he subsequently refused to furnish any information to Chicago FBI Agents in regard to the counterfeit matter or other criminal matters.

No informant or confidential source of the Chicago Office has ever furnished information indicating that information provided by FBI informants or sources are available to the hoodlum element. To the contrary, sources have advised that hoodlums in Chicago have taken for granted that they "cannot get to the FBI."

As the Bureau is aware, an incident occurred during the past month whereby a United States Secret Service Agent named ABRAHAM BOLDEN was charged with attempting to sell a Secret Service report to a minor hoodlum for \$50,000. The incident received a great deal of publicity and the bribery was referred to in some newspaper accounts as involving "Government Reports". In regard to this publicity, this is a possibility for the above allegation.