

Agency Information

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Document Information

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JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA
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On the afternoon of 3/21/61, MM-722-C telephonically advised he was under the impression MEROLA may have pulled this score and should be considered a suspect. He based this on the fact that MEROLA had previously mentioned to him the valuable jewelry these individuals owned and how nice it would be to get it. He also based this on the fact that he had heard MEROLA was frequenting Gulfstream Race Track, which is directly across from the restaurant run by Victims.

Subsequently MM-722-C advised SA PRUE C. CLINKSCALES that he was convinced MEROLA had "his two boys" pull this score. He based this on the fact that MEROLA had in his possession immediately following the robbery expensive jewelry. He had learned this from MEL ADLER, a close friend of MEROLA and the informant. Informant advised SA CLINKSCALES that MEROLA had sold two pieces for approximately \$10,000 to a local individual and had offered a big piece for sale to SAM KAY, a Miami Beach racketeer millionaire.

FLA-

Also of interest in this matter, MM-722-C had earlier advised that he believed MEROLA's "two boys" were the individuals responsible for a number of kidnappings of well-to-do individuals which had occurred on the Beach. These kidnappings consisted of the forcible taking of individuals and shaking them down for a sum of money. One such incident was reported to the Bureau by Miami teletype of 1/11/61 captioned UNSUBS (2); HENRY HARVEY HERMAN - VICTIM; KIDNAPING. This individual was abducted at a stop light, was not transported interstate and was released unharmed with the promise that he would later pay his abductors the money demanded. No federal violation was involved since no interstate transportation. Information has been received re similar kidnappings handled in the same manner but Victims reportedly involved had refused to make an official complaint to police agencies.

On the night of 4/3/61, pursuant to a specific request, MM-722-C telephonically contacted Supervisor SWINNEY. He was asked to furnish all information concerning MEROLA's possible participation in this loss and was advised that information he had previously given to SA CLINKSCALES was known to SA SWINNEY. He was told it was absolutely necessary to determine from whom he had obtained this information and the complete details.

MM-722-C advised he had learned from MEL ADLER that MEROLA had sold two pieces of jewelry immediately following instant loss to a local individual in order to get money for MEROLA's "two boys" to get out of town until things cooled off. He also advised that CHARLES DELMONICO, son of Top Hoodlum CHARLIE "THE BLADE" TOURINE, had told him, MM-722-C, he had recently purchased two pieces of jewelry from MEROLA for \$7,500 in order for MEROLA to get money to get his boys out of town until things cooled off. FLA.

MM-722-C also advised MEROLA had in his possession a gun with a silencer and it is noted a silencer equipped gun was used in instant robbery.

In view of the foregoing information, it was considered desirable to interview MEROLA in an attempt to resolve whether he was implicated in this violation. Accordingly, SA SWINNEY telephonically contacted him, requesting that he come to the Miami office on the morning of 4/5/61. He appeared voluntarily as requested and was interviewed by SA SWINNEY out of the presence of any other personnel since it was felt he would be more likely to admit any implication on his part under these conditions.