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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
MAY 1962 EDITION  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

# Memorandum

MIN-181-72

TO : Director, Domestic Contact Service  
ATTN: Services Division

DATE: 20 November 1972

FROM : Chief, Miami Field Office

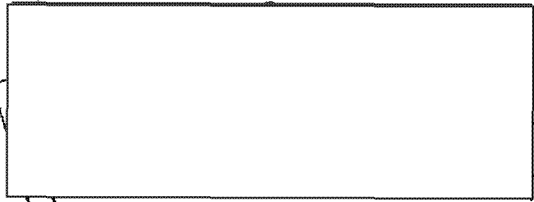
SUBJECT: Joseph R. Merola

1. We recently received a call from Joseph R. Merola, Gordon Cooper and Associates, Opa-Locka, Florida, who informed us that he was entering the county jail in Nassau County, New York on 13 November 1972 to begin a one year sentence for petty larceny. He stated that he felt he should let us know his whereabouts "in case you wanted to get hold of me for anything".

2. Merola, of course, protested his innocence to us and stated that he was accused of participating in an armed robbery and was tried on this charge in May 1972 with the trial ending in a hung jury. He claimed that the prosecuting attorney recommended dismissal of the charges because of his inability to prove Merola's guilt. Merola alleges that the judge stated that Merola's record proves him an undesirable character and therefore the charges should not be dropped. The judge thereupon offered him the choice of a retrial with a promise of a twenty-five year sentence if convicted, or to plead guilty to a charge of petty larceny with a one year sentence. Merola choose the latter.

3. We thanked him for his thoughtfulness and wished him well.

DW:aldane:hmm



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