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**Discover the Truth** at: **<http://www.theblackvault.com>**

OFFICE MEMORANDUM \*United States Government

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, PITTSBURGH (92-407)

SUBJECT: JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA  
FORMER CRIMINAL INFORMANT  
OF MIAMI DIVISION

Date: 8/23/61

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Sufficient copies of this cover letter are being made available to the Bureau and designated offices to allow for inclusion with appropriate letterhead memoranda in the various substantive case files.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies each of fifteen separate letterhead memoranda under the following captions:

1. GABRIEL MANNARINO, aka; AR  
(Bufile 92-2914)

2. SAMUEL MANNARINO, aka; AR  
(Bufile 92-2918)

Note, numbers 1 and 2 are a dual caption.

3. UNKNOWN SUBJECT; Theft of \$70,000 in Diamond Rings from HAROLD KLEIN, Salesman, M. W. Schiffman Company, New York City, Eastern Supply Company, 3/6/54

4. FRANK THOMPSON PHILLIPS

5. UNKNOWN SUBJECT; Theft of \$600,000 Worth of Jewelry from William Penn Hotel Vault, Pittsburgh, Pa., 4/29/54

6. GENERAL CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE

7. ANTHONY LAPORE;  
RICHARD BRAVIERE

17- Bureau (Enc. 75)  
30- Miami (Enc. 50)  
3- Cleveland (Enc. 3)  
17- Chicago (Enc. 17)

2- Little Rock (Enc. 2)  
3- New York (Enc. 3)  
TGF/JW 14-PITTSBURGH  
(86)

ENCLOSURE

56 SEP 7 1961

92-2914 -  
NOT RECORDED  
158 SEP 6 1961

PG 92-407

8. UNKNOWN SUBJECT; Theft of Ten Contemporary Paintings;  
G. DAVID THOMPSON, Whitehall, Pa. - VICTIM, 7/28/61
9. UNKNOWN SUBJECT; Theft of Unset Diamonds Valued at  
\$65,000 to \$75,000, K. Company, Pittsburgh, Pa., 10/14/55;  
SIMOND DIENSTAG - VICTIM
10. UNKNOWN SUBJECTS (2); Robbery of \$126,000 in Jewelry;  
Mrs. TITUS HAFFA - VICTIM, 4/21/58, Chicago, Illinois
11. UNKNOWN SUBJECT; Theft of Approximately \$350,000  
Non-negotiable Securities, 11/22 - 12/12/60, Miami, Florida;  
Dr. ANSALMO ALLIGERO - VICTIM
12. UNKNOWN SUBJECT; Theft of \$400,000 Worth of Securities,  
7/17 - 23/61, Queens, New York; BERNARD PAWNS - VICTIM
13. UNKNOWN SUBJECTS (2); Robbery of Jewels and Cash in  
Excess of \$249,180.48, Miami Beach, Florida, 1/20/58; Mr.  
and Mrs. HARRY BLUM, ETAL - VICTIMS; ITSP; MT
14. UNKNOWN SUBJECT; Theft of \$250,000 in Jewels from  
MARTIN LEHR, Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs, Arkansas, 3/27/57;  
ITSP
15. UNKNOWN SUBJECTS (2); Armed Robbery of Approximately  
\$117,200 in Jewels and Cash, Residence of EDITH and FRITZ  
WERNER DORIGIO, Hollandale, Florida, 3/20/61; ITSP; MT

Enclosed for Miami Division are copies of each of the fifteen memos for Miami files 137-1594 and 87-8049 and for various substantive cases.

Enclosed for New York are copies of letterhead memos concerning cases designated as numbers 6 and 12.

Enclosed for Little Rock are two copies of memorandum designated as number 14.

Enclosed for Chicago are copies of memos designated numbers 6, 7, 10, 14 and 15.

Enclosed for Cleveland are copies of memos designated as numbers 1 and 2.

It is noted that MEROLA was interviewed by Pittsburgh SAs JOHN S. PORTELLA and THOMAS G. FORSYTH III in Miami at the request of MEROLA, made to Departmental Attorneys WILLIAM KENNY and WILLIAM KEHOE.

Prior to the commencement of the interview on 8/14/61, DJ Attorneys KENNY and KEHOE spent approximately ten minutes alone with MEROLA, after which SAs PORTELLA and FORSYTH were called into KENNY's office, Room 201, Federal Building, Miami. Before the beginning of the interview, DJ KENNY advised SAs PORTELLA and FORSYTH that MEROLA had set the conditions that the Departmental Attorneys be present; that he would never testify to any information furnished; that he requested his identity be protected so that none of his information ever could be traced back to him; and that he would not discuss any matter in which he had been a participant.

After the interview had progressed for some time, MEROLA relented and told of several matters in which he had participated.

On 8/15/61, the interview was resumed under the same conditions. At its conclusion, MEROLA advised SAs PORTELLA and FORSYTH that he intended to be in Pittsburgh, Pa., on 8/24/61, one day before the time he is scheduled to surrender to the U. S. Marshal, Pittsburgh, to commence service of his five year sentence in connection with his conviction in the gun-smuggling case captioned "STUART SUTOR, ETAL; TGP; ITSP; FFA; NM; CONSPIRACY." MEROLA said he felt certain that between 8/15/61 and 8/24/61 he would have recalled additional information of value to the FBI and would be willing to talk without DJ Attorneys being present. Arrangements for such contact were made, and results will be made available to the Bureau and interested offices.

For the information of the Bureau, DJ Attorneys KENNY and KEHOE requested that they receive copies of all the information furnished by MEROLA. Attached hereto are copies for transmittal to the Department of Justice.

CAUTION SHOULD BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH USE OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN ENCLOSED MEMORANDA SO THAT MEROLA'S IDENTITY IS NOT DISCLOSED.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

August 23, 1961

GABRIEL MANNARINO, aka;  
SAMUEL MANNARINO, aka

92-2914

On August 14, 1961, and on August 15, 1961, JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA, 2018 North Bay Road, Miami Beach, Florida, was interviewed at Room 201, Federal Building, Miami, Florida, by SA JOHN S. PORTELLA and SA THOMAS G. FORSYTH III in the presence of U. S. Department of Justice Attorneys WILLIAM KENNY and WILLIAM KEHOE, who were there at the insistence of MEROLA. At the outset, MEROLA stated he would never testify to any of the information furnished, and he desired his identity be protected. MEROLA advised as follows:

A. PERSONAL HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Name Change

No information has ever been received why the MANNARINO family name was legally changed from RUGGIERO to MANNARINO.

Marriage of GABRIEL MANNARINO

GABRIEL "KELLY" MANNARINO's wife, JEAN, had no choice in her selection of mate. The marriage was arranged between her father, FRANK AMATO, of Braddock, Pa., and KELLY MANNARINO.

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JOJO MANNARINO, who suffers from a palsy-like twitching and from severe stammering, is a "nut" and "con man." He has dissipated the fortune of his wife, HAZEL, widow of motion picture actor LEWIS STONE, in just a few years. KELLY and SAM MANNARINO allow JOJO to come to New Kensington occasionally on the condition that he "stays out of trouble," but JOJO always does something to get into trouble, such as writing worthless checks, and is forced to leave town. After such visits to New Kensington, KELLY and/or SAM MANNARINO ordinarily make good the amount of the worthless checks written by JOJO.

92-2914-

ENCLOSURE

Nip

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Some of the "dons" in the Pittsburgh, Pa., area are:

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JOHN CHRISTOPHER FONTANA,  
all of New Kensington, Pa.;

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phases of the MANNARINO-controlled slot and pinball machines.

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stopped with the second load of guns, resulting in considerable newspaper publicity, that MEROLA realized that the weapons had been stolen from a National Guard Armory in Canton, Ohio. MEROLA later learned from a source he could not recall that the burglary of the armory was committed by GEORGE FLOREA and RICHARD STEWART, with help from a "inside man," and that the guns had been stored in the beer distributorship owned by VIC CARLUCCI in Arnold, Pa. RED GIORDANO, who was convicted in this case merely because it was proven he had bought some burlap bags and the weapons, when found, had been wrapped in burlap bags, actually had nothing to do with the case. ANDY MANGINI, who was never brought into the case, actually helped load and unload the guns from CARLUCCI's beer distributorship to the truck and from the truck to the airplane.

#### Lottery

HYMEN MARTIN, aka, PITTSBURGH HYMIE, used to have the distributorship in Western Pennsylvania of the Empire Treasury lottery tickets, and since he was friendly with the MANNARINOS, they allowed his ticket to be sold at their numbers outlets in and near New Kensington, Pa. HYMIE MARTIN, with whom MEROLA became friendly when MEROLA was a used car salesman in Pittsburgh, Pa., was the one who first introduced MEROLA to the MANNARINOS, in approximately 1954. MARTIN, who now resides in Miami, Florida, probably turned over the distributorship of the Empire Treasury lottery ticket to his brother, NATE MARTIN, who is still in the Pittsburgh area.

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#### Gambling Casino

The MANNARINO gambling casino in New Kensington, Pa., operates seven nights a week. They are well patronized at this joint, and they even send "luggers" to the Squirrel Hill section of



Pittsburgh, which means that gamblers in Squirrel Hill are transported from that section to New Kensington for the purpose of gambling. Routine employees at the gambling casino receive \$150 per week flat, and those in charge receive the \$150 weekly salary plus a small percentage of the net take. It has been curious in the past to note that whenever they so desire, KELLY MANNARINO or SAM MANNARINO would walk into the gambling casino and demand that the cashier give them a sum of money. For instance, SAM MANNARINO might tell the cashier to give him \$1,000 and not to tell KELLY MANNARINO at the risk of being killed. Employees at the casino do not carry weapons generally, but on occasions, when there is a rumor that the casino may be robbed, everybody, including the MANNARINOS, goes about town fully armed.

#### Prostitution and Narcotics

Neither KELLY nor SAM MANNARINO has ever been known to traffic in narcotics or to operate prostitution.

#### Hideouts

During the long period of time, in excess of one year, that KELLY MANNARINO was hiding to avoid service of subpoenas, commencing in December of 1957, he stayed at two places: the house of "SARGE" BOTTI, in Wilmerding, Pa., and the house of FRANK D. "SONNY" AMATO, the brother-in-law of KELLY MANNARINO, who resides in East McKeesport, Pa.

During the period in 1958 when SAM MANNARINO was avoiding service of subpoena, he stayed, at least part of the time, at the parish house of Mount Saint Peters Roman Catholic Church, New Kensington, Pa.

#### F. POLICE PROTECTION AND POLITICAL TIES

New Kensington, Pa., Mayor RAYMOND GARDLOCK and the majority of his City Council have been "owned" by the MANNARINOS, since their election approximately eight years ago. At one time, JOE MEROLA, at the instructions of KELLY MANNARINO, "wired" the New Kensington City Council chambers, so that tape recordings of the proceedings could be made.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

August 23, 1961

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*Bea Copy*

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*Wife*

ENCLOSURE

92-2914-



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| Current  
Case  
Walter

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During the period in 1958 when SAM MANNARINO was avoiding service of subpoena, he stayed, at least part of the time, at the parish house of Mount Saint Peters Roman Catholic Church, New Kensington, Pa.

#### F. POLICE PROTECTION AND POLITICAL TIES

New Kensington, Pa., Mayor RAYMOND GARDLOCK and the majority of his City Council have been "owned" by the MANNARINOS, since their election approximately eight years ago. At one time, JOE MEROLA, at the instructions of KELLY MANNARINO, "wired" the New Kensington City Council chambers, so that tape recordings of the proceedings could be made.