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LA 92-113 G

On March 4, 1964, LA 4448-C-TE who is an admitted member of La Cosa Nostra and for many years a known friend and associate of ROSELLI, first furnished information that ROSELLI was a member of the Chicago "Brugad" of La Cosa Nostra and one of the most powerful and influential members of this organization. Informant also stated that ROSELLI's true name is FILIPO (Philip) SACCO; that he was born in Caserta, Italy about 60 years ago and that he was brought to the United States by his parents when he was a young boy. He said that ROSELLI has observed unusual precautions to guard the secret of his birth.

B. APPROX. 1905

Investigation has verified the fact that FILIPO SACCO was born in Italy and came to the United States with his mother when a small boy. He attended school in Boston, Massachusetts, leaving school in November, 1917. In May, 1923 a charge of larceny was filed against PHILIP SACCO in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In September, 1923 there was a default and a capias was issued. This case was nolle-prosequi in May, 1926.

Informant first met ROSELLI in Los Angeles in the middle 1920s at which time he was already using the name JOHN ROSELLI. They became close friends and informant learned of ROSELLI's birth and family early in their association and met other members of ROSELLI's family.

LA 4448-C-TE recalled that one of ROSELLI's boyhood friends was ALBERTO DANGREDO (TANCREDI TORTORA); that ROSELLI and TORTORA were in trouble together in the Boston (informant's recollection) area possibly a narcotics matter and on one occasion ROSELLI showed informant a police photograph of TORTORA and ROSELLI together taken when they were both young men. Informant believed it was a Boston Police Department photograph. He said ROSELLI had apparently obtained the photograph through a Police Department contact and had destroyed it many years ago.

Informant recalled that about the time JOHN ROSELLI came to Los Angeles in the middle 1920s, TORTORA was also in Los Angeles "hiding out" for a couple of murders he had committed back east (recalled as New York). Informant said that TORTORA was persuaded by VITO GENOVESE to return to the East Coast and turn himself in upon the promise that

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Chicago newspaper stories of the death of TONY CHARLANDO (for which TORTORA was charged) state that TONY CHARLANDO and five of his "gang" heavily armed, went to the home of his brother CHARLES CHARLANDO and that this was the culmination of a feud between the two brothers. During the ensuing fight CHARLES and TONY CHARLANDO and a thirdman, who endeavored to assist CHARLES, were wounded. Several days later TONY died. Shortly after the shooting, five men were arrested in the vicinity. The names of these five men were not identical to any of the known aliases of TORTORA or ROSELLI. However, it is noted that TORTORA was charged with this murder so was probably one of the five men arrested.

"The Journal", a Chicago newspaper which merged in the "Chicago Daily News", in its issue of April 29, 1922, relates that TONGREDE TORTORA was arrested at his soft drink parlor in Chicago and a quantity of opium, cocaine and morphine were found. Two men and two women were also arrested. The men arrested were RALPH STORTOTO, age 21 and GERONA DURANDO, age 30.

No record of the shooting of TONY CHARLANDO or the narcotics arrest of TANGREDE TORTORA has yet been located in the Chicago Police Department files. The fingerprints of ROSELLI were searched through Chicago Police Department files with negative results.

Assuming that ROSELLI was one of the five men involved in the CHARLANDO shooting and/or was one of the two men arrested on the narcotics charge with TORTORA, it is logical to speculate that he had the Chicago Police Department record purged. This becomes more logical in view of LA 4448-C-TE's statement that ROSELLI showed him a police department photograph of himself and TORTORA taken when they were young men and that ROSELLI is a member of the Chicago "Brugad" and no doubt had access to contacts in the Chicago Police Department.

In view of the above it is apparent that TORTORA has knowledge concerning ROSELLI's activities which is vital to the continued investigation of ROSELLI's past. He is the only person known and may be the only person living who knows this information. If he would talk he could possibly furnish information which would enable the Bureau to bring this investigation to a logical conclusion either

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by furnishing information to link ROSELLI to a prosecutable crime or deportation as an alien.

The Legat in Rome has furnished information that TANCREDI TORTORA currently resides on Corso Italin Street, Acerra, Italy and is a dealer in fruits and vegetables with his brothers PARIGI and COMIZIO. He is single, reportedly in good health and since his deportation to Italy has not been known to engage in any suspect activities and has not come to police attention. It was not possible to determine if he is now or has been affiliated with La Cosa Nostra.

TANCREDI's nephew, CARMINE TORTORA, son of PARIGI, is a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy and now an officer in the U. S. Navy.

Nearly a year has gone by since LA 4448-C-TE originally furnished the information concerning ROSELLI. It is the opinion of the Los Angeles Office that an interview of TORTORA could now be conducted without unduly jeopardizing the informant.

The interview of TORTORA is an extremely critical and important step in the ROSELLI investigation. It should be well thought out and planned. It should be thorough and exhaustive. To accomplish this, the person conducting the interview should have knowledge, or have readily available knowledge of ROSELLI's complete history, background, and activities as the Bureau knows them. Such knowledge would suggest lines of questioning which might not otherwise be apparent. It would assist in discerning if TORTORA was telling the truth and in general would tend to make the interview more productive.

The Los Angeles Office for more than seven years has, under the Criminal Intelligence Program, conducted an intensive investigation into the background, history and activities of ROSELLI. It is a complex case involving numerous associates and varied activities. During all of this period the ROSELLI case has been assigned to SA HAROLD F. DODGE who is familiar with all phases of the investigation.

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Bureau initiate steps to have the Legat, Rome determine whether or not an interview of TANCREDI TORTORA, aka., could be conducted in Italy; the circumstances under which it could be conducted and whether or not a Bureau Agent other than the Legat could assist in the interview or be present or closely available during the interview.

It would be desirable if the interview and the subject matter could be maintained in a confidential manner as TORTORA's life could possibly be endangered. For security reasons it might be desirable to conduct the interview at some other location away from TORTORA's home town.

The Los Angeles Office recommends that when arrangements for an interview have been completed the Bureau authorize SA HAROLD F. DODGE to participate, if possible, in the conducting of the interview.

There are several factors indicating TORTORA will cooperate in this key interview. For example, according to LA 4448-C-TE, in the late 1920s the close relationship between TORTORA and ROSELLI was already deteriorating. Thereafter, they developed separate interests and the close relationship never again existed. As noted above, ROSELLI has, through the years, indicated distrust of TORTORA. Several years ago informant received a letter from TORTORA for ROSELLI in which he expressed financial need and made a request for money. ROSELLI told informant he was ignoring the letter and refusing to send any money and again expressed his distrust of TORTORA and his concern that TORTORA might cooperate with authorities and expose his past. This concern is well founded, for, as noted above, TORTORA is in possession of highly compromising information concerning ROSELLI's past.

Therefore, in view of the above and considering the fact that the Italian Police will be able to exert some persuasion on TORTORA, there is a logical basis to believe that TORTORA might cooperate with the Bureau. It is felt that this critical interview should be conducted utilizing the element of surprise. As TORTORA speaks English, it is