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SAC, Baltimore 7/3/63

Director, FBI (92-6054)

LA CAUSA NOSTRA
AR - CONSPIRACY

Rerep SA J. Stanley Botts dated 6/3/63 at Baltimore and Baltimore airtel 6/28/63, captioned "Julius Salsbury, aka., AR; IGA - Numbers Lottery."

In reviewing referenced report, it is noted that you indicate that there is no evidence of the existence of captioned organization, or any other Italian criminal organization, in the Baltimore Division. Your report indicates that you have contacted a number of law enforcement officials in Baltimore and asked them if they had any knowledge of the existence of captioned organization based on their experience in criminal matters in Baltimore. Each such source contacted reportedly had no knowledge of La Causa Nostra.

Unless an unusual situation exists in which a law enforcement official contacts your office to volunteer information about the existence, nature, activities and membership in La Causa Nostra, you should not approach such outside officials and enter into any discussion about their possible knowledge of this organization. Experience in this investigation has shown that information of value received concerning captioned group has come almost exclusively from well-placed live informants and highly confidential sources. The Bureau is not aware of any instance in this country where we have received any authentic, or detailed, data regarding this group from any law enforcement official. Additionally, the original instructions regarding the method of conducting this investigation cautioned you not to discuss our knowledge of La Causa Nostra with any outside groups, and that any informant contacts regarding this matter were to be handled in such a way that we would be in a position of receiving, and not giving, information concerning the existence and activities of this Italian criminal organization.

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JUL 3 - 1963
COMM-FBI

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Letter to Baltimore
Re: La Causa Nostra
92-6054

Considerable detail has been received, both in the Baltimore and New York Offices, regarding the attempts of two New York hoodlums, Pasquale Zirpoli and Sal Romano, to shake down Julius Salsbury and other Baltimore gambling figures for percentages of their gambling operations, and for various cash amounts. You have previously been alerted to fully explore the significance of these shakedown attempts with regard to captioned investigation.

Referenced Baltimore airtel, under the Julius Salsbury caption, sets forth information received from BA CS 1220* concerning one Joe Gallo from Brooklyn being "sent down to tell Frank Corbi and the rest of the guys that they are not to bother Salsbury any more." It is noted that Frank Corbi is a Baltimore top hoodlum, and is recognized by many sources as the leading Italian racketeer in Baltimore. It is quite possible that the Joe Gallo mentioned is the Joseph Gallo identified by NY 3864-C-TE as a highly placed member of the Carlo Gambino "family" in La Causa Nostra. As you are aware, Gambino succeeded Albert Anastasia on the "commission," heads one of New York's five "families" in this organization, and has been named by a number of sources in New York as the chairman of the "commission."

New York has recently received information from the above-mentioned New York top echelon informant that Joseph Gallo is acting for Charles Dongarra, a "caporegima" in the Gambino "family" during the Summer of 1963. Dongarra is a key leader in the Gambino group in that he is one of three Gambino "caporegimas" who serve as a screening board for matters presented to Gambino.

In view of this situation, and in reflection of considerable previous data concerning Salsbury's attempted intervention with New York racket leaders through Gerald Laietta, aka Gerry Ryan, an important member of La Causa Nostra in New York, it is of importance that Baltimore appreciates the significance of information regarding Joe Gallo contacting Frank Corbi and giving him orders. It is suggested that Baltimore thoroughly review original Bureau instructions in this investigation, and that Agent personnel handling this matter in Baltimore also review summary-type reports prepared by the New York Office covering this organization on a nationwide basis.

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Because of the importance of establishing the true picture of this organization's activities in our larger metropolitan areas, it will also be necessary that any logical underworld source be contacted concerning the possible activity of this organization in Baltimore. Inasmuch as our most complete and detailed data on this group has been received from member-sources, it will, therefore, be both necessary and appropriate to contact such sources who may logically be in a position to furnish data concerning this organization's activities in the Baltimore Division.

Philadelphia, upon your next contact with PH 599-C-TE, is to determine the extent of this informant's knowledge concerning the activities of La Causa Nostra, of which he is a veteran member, in the Baltimore and Delaware areas. It is appreciated that in your necessarily limited contacts with this informant you have attempted to bring him along gradually by discussing activities in Philadelphia with which he would logically be most familiar. However, because of his long-standing membership in captioned organization, and in view of the immediate importance of extending our knowledge of this organization's significance in the Baltimore Division, you should bring this topic up with this source upon your next contact.

New York in your next contact with NY 3864-C-TE is to attempt to determine first of all if the Joe Gallo mentioned by the Baltimore source would logically be the Joseph Gallo who is an associate of NY 3864-C-TE, and, thereafter, attempt to develop the information received from the Baltimore source regarding the contact with Frank Corbi in Baltimore. While this New York informant may not have any general knowledge of possible make-up of this organization in Baltimore, he should be in a position to possibly develop certain data through his contact with Gallo, who, incidentally, would appear to be informant's acting "caporegima" during these summer months. This is to be done, of course, only if it can be handled in such a way that informant would not draw any suspicion to himself because of knowledge he would have concerning this Baltimore matter. The informant may have the opportunity to broach this subject with Gallo without causing undue concern, or during association with Gallo, the possibility exists that Gallo might bring up the subject himself.

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