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DATE: 11-14-2017

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7/16/63

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (137-8862)
FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (137-9495)
SUBJECT : NY 3936-C

ReBuairtel to NY, 7/11/63, and NYairtel to Bureau, 7/9/63.

As the Bureau is aware, the manuscript as furnished by NICOLO GENTILE provided an insight into the existence and operations of the organized Italian criminal element, referred to by GENTILE as "Onorata Societa", that is invaluable in uncovering intelligence of an historical value in a vital phase of the Bureau's program in the criminal intelligence field.

It is of merit to note that information set forth in this document bearing upon the causes and effects of the "Castellammarese War" as recounted by GENTILE, when compared with the information furnished by JOSEPH VALACHI (protect), strongly indicates the conclusion that the "Onorata Societa" of GENTILE is identical to VALACHI's "La Cosa Nostra". In furtherance of this concept and to more fully develop this thesis, an interview of GENTILE would, of necessity, be designed to completely explore and establish conclusively the evolution of the modern organization. It would be most difficult for such an interview to be as probative, thorough and patently productive unless conducted by personnel most experienced in, and cognizant of, all the known aspects of the current investigation of "La Cosa Nostra".

- 6 - Bureau (137-8862)
- (3 - 92-6054)
- 1 - New York (92-2300)
- 1 - New York (137-9495)

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55 JUL 29 1963

ORIGINAL FILED IN 137-8862-90

DATE: 11-14-2017

NY 137-9495

It would be incumbent upon the interviewing personnel to determine as completely as possible the knowledge of an individual who is a self-professed member of the organized Italian criminal element for a period of approximately fifty years, particularly one who professes to be personally involved in a most intimate manner in the machinations of the organization that foreshadowed the policy making body and current ultimate authority of "La Cosa Nostra", the "Commission".

There is no doubt that GENTILE has been out of the US during the past 20 years and has during this period beseeched prominent members of the organization for funds. It is also to be noted that information developed by highly confidential sources, particularly in Philadelphia, have indicated the existence of a similar organization in Italy and Sicily, today, and these sources have further indicated that a degree of comraderie exists between the organization here and abroad. Interview of JOSEPH VALACHI developed that warnings have been sent by CHARLES LUCIANO to VITO GENOVESE re the identities of informers, and a California source has furnished information concerning a request from this organization abroad to eliminate an individual here for an affront committed over there. Herein lies a further area of great potential to be developed by interview of GENTILE, particularly in view of his past assistance to the Central Intelligence Agency in being able to effect a cooperation with the organization in Sicily. It is extremely more likely to proceed on the theory that he has not been inactive in organizational activity during his absence from the US, particularly in view of the reported degree of this activity while in the US.

Rather than be considered a handicap, his age should be regarded as a definite asset in favor of a fruitful interview, particularly in view of the fact that by the steps taken by him to date he fully indicates a desire to sell the one asset he considers his greatest, his experiences in the organization that have not been properly rewarded. His frustration in this regard at this time may be considered similar to the motivation for cooperation displayed by VALACHI, and his memory of past events appears to be exceptionally clear and lucid. It would, therefore, appear that time would be of the essence for actuarially he would not

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NY 137-9495

be considered to have very much time left to him. It is indeed a rare opportunity that presents the great potential that exists in an intelligent, patient interview of a live source capable of furnishing a wealth of criminal intelligence spanning a half century of a hitherto secret criminal organization, well worth the inherent calculated risk and investment.

It is the strong recommendation of the NYO that the Bureau very favorably consider authorizing the interview of NICOLO GENTILE by Special Agents well versed in the past current intelligence of "La Cosa Nostra", and that this interview be given immediate priority. The Bureau is requested to designate the personnel and to impose the limits and extent of their authorization.

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7/16/63

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file 2

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(9)

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92-6054-

NOT RECORDED
183 JUL 22 1963

54 JUL 22 1963

7/18/63

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