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# Memorandum

TO :

DIRECTOR, FBI (92-6054)

DATE: 1/31/64

FROM :

SAC, CLEVELAND (92-748)

SUBJECT:

LA COSA NOSTRA, aka  
AR - CONSPIRACY

*E. B. G. M. J.*

*AD*

*157 742  
62 9-11*

Re Cleveland airtel to Bureau dated 1/17/64.

On January 15, 1964, CV 344-C was contacted by SA FRANK G. DOUDS and furnished the following information:

RE: PITTSBURGH ORGANIZATION

CV 344-C advised that much has been said about the leadership in the "organization" in newspapers in the

6-Bureau (2 - 157-742)  
(2 - 169-9-Sub 11)

4-Cincinnati

8-New York (92-2300)

8-Pittsburgh  
(2 - 92-534)

29-Cleveland

- (1 - 92-167 SCALISH)
- (1 - FRANK MILANO)
- (1 - 92-400 ANTHONY MILANO)
- (2 - 92-New FRANK DE AUGUSTINI)
- (1 - 92-280 WHITEY BESASE)
- (1 - 92-397 JAMES LICAVOLI)
- (1 - 92-874 ANGELO PERNA)
- (1 - 92-New GUS DEMA)
- (1 - 92-912 BONES BATTISTA)
- (1 - 92-869 LEO MOCERI)
- (1 - 92-630 ERNIE LA SALLE)
- (1 - 92-810 ANTHONY DELSANTER)
- (1 - 92-768 TONY MOLLIKA)
- (1 - 92-808 DOMINIC MALLAMO)
- (1 - 92-988 JAMES PRATO)
- (1 - 92-New MIKE ROMEO)
- (1 - 92-639 PAUL ROMEO)
- (1 - 92-173 JOSEPH AIELLO)
- (1 - 92-621 Crime Conditions Youngstown)
- (1 - 92-782 Crime Conditions Toledo)
- (1 - 92-634 Crime conditions Warren)
- (1 - 137-1130)
- (1 - 137-341-SA)
- (2 - 92-718)
- (1 - 137-10 PAT FERRUCCIO)
- (1 - 92-477 Criminal Intelligence)

*K*

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*W. J. ...*  
*E. ...*  
*WINE*

Pittsburgh area, but the most powerful individual in the Pittsburgh area is TONY RIPEPI. He stated there is no one higher in the Pittsburgh area and especially in Washington or Allegheny Counties. He also exerts influence in West Virginia. He stated although "CHUCK" TEEMER is the front man for the Red Dog Club, a very elaborate gambling casino near Chester, West Virginia, and was previously at the Club 30 and the Jockey Club, large gambling spots in Chester, West Virginia; TEEMER is merely tolerated for his political influence and all the employees of the club are working for TONY RIPEPI.

CV 344-C stated that he is certain that RIPEPI is the "boss" and although FRANK VALENTI allegedly attended the Apalachin meeting, he was merely there as a representative of RIPEPI. He stated that from information he had obtained, the Apalachin meeting was by no means a meeting of the real bosses of the Mafia, but was a meeting of the representatives of the real bosses. He stated as an example of this, JOHN T. SCALISH of Cleveland was at this meeting and if he was there, he, the informant, knows that he is not the "boss" of Cleveland. If he attended, he was merely there as an emissary of ANTHONY MILANO.

CV 344-C advised that GABRIEL and SAMUEL MANNARINO of New Kensington, Pennsylvania, were unquestionably members of the "organization", but they would come under the domination of RIPEPI.

CV 344-C stated he had heard of SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA and if he is in the organization he would also be under RIPEPI.

CV 344-C advised that he knows MIKE ACQUARO as a member of the "organization" and had been a power, but at present he is allegedly in poor health and dying.

He stated he knows ANDREW MANGINI, as a member of the "organization" and engaged in numbers activities and other gambling in the Pittsburgh area. He stated he would describe him actually as a "nobody" in the "organization" and not well thought of because of being known as a "sucker" in any gambling game which runs in the Wheeling, West Virginia, area.

CV 344-C advised that the seven VOLPE brothers had been powers in the Pittsburgh area in the 1920s. He stated JOHN VOLPE had been the "boss" of the "family" and was later killed with two of his brothers at Gianni Brazzano's Bar in Pittsburgh. He stated

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that BRAZZANO was murdered at a later date for his suspected part in the VOLPE murders. CV 344-C stated BRAZZANO has a son still residing in the Pittsburgh area, namely JOHN BRAZZANO who is extremely close to young MIKE ROMEO of Campbell, Ohio, who is the son of PAUL ROMEO. PAUL ROMEO has retired, but held in high respect by the "organization" and formerly a power in Campbell, Youngstown, and Mahoning County, Ohio. OTHER 4

CV 344-C stated there are a couple of the VOLPE brothers still residing in Pittsburgh, but he does not know them personally.

CV 344-C stated he had known GUY VOLPE, who later died of pneumonia at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and at one time when he was wanted by the local authorities on some charge around Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he had hidden out in the home of a GUISEPPI PINDILLI, a member of the "organization" who was later deported to Italy. PINDILLI was at that time residing in the area of Scottsdale, Pennsylvania, where he was later arrested on a narcotics charge. This arrest had taken place about 1927.

CV 344-C advised concerning the killing of the VOLPE brothers in Pittsburgh, he had learned from GUISEPPI PINDILLI that one of the alleged killers of the VOLPE brothers was a man named (FNU) SPINELLI, and he had fled to Italy to escape reprisals and was either apprehended there by authorities or "they" the organization caught him and killed him in Italy.

RE: NEW YORK ORGANIZATION

CV 344-C advised a member of the "organization" who had been a power at one time was one PASQUALE NAPOLI, who controlled the longshoremen in Brooklyn for many years. He stated he had died about one year ago. He was known personally by the informant.

RE: CLEVELAND ORGANIZATION

CV 344-C advised the "organization" at Cleveland, Ohio, was at one time under the control of CICCIO (FRANK) MILANO. A Calabrese, MILANO fled to Mexico owing the United States a great deal of money for the evasion of income taxes.

CV 344-C stated CICCIO MILANO, presently in ill health, was succeeded by his brother ANTHONY MILANO. He stated that his word is "law" at present even with the Sicilian group in Toledo, Akron, Canton, Sandusky, Warren and Youngstown, Ohio.

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CV 344-C stated that FRANK DE AUGUSTINI, Owner of the Roman Gardens, Mayfield Road, section of Cleveland, is the second in command in Cleveland under MILANO. He stated he did not know FRANK BRANCATO well but he believed that he would be next in command in the Calabrese group in Cleveland and under MILANO and DE AUGUSTINI.

CV 344-C stated that there would be two distinct groups in the organization in the Cleveland area or in Northeastern Ohio and as far west as Toledo. He stated the set up is unusual in that the Calabrese group is more highly respected than the Sicilian group in the geographical area. He stated his opinion comes from reactions to different arguments which have arisen and would have later been settled by meetings. He stated the Sicilian group operates its own enterprises and there is apparently a pact that they and the Calabrese will not encroach on each other's enterprises.

In this geographical area, the Sicilian group includes JAMES LICAVOLI, aka Jack White, Cleveland; "WHITEY" BESASE of Toledo under LICAVOLI and ANGELO PERNA of Toledo under BESASE. He stated they have enterprises operating in Toledo.

Informant stated LICAVOLI has GUS DIMA as the representative at Sandusky, Ohio, who has his sources of income there.

Informant stated PAT FERRUCCIO was the representative for LICAVOLI for years, but lost out for some reason. FERRUCCIO still a member is not in good standing at present. CV 344-C stated he has heard that a "BONES" BATTISTA of Canton, Ohio, is more or less in control in that city at present. He had supported the right candidate in a local election there and was able to operate, but needed a "bank roll" for his operation. He sought outside help and, therefore, LEO MOCERI, ERNIE LA SALLE and ANTHONY DELSANTER became his partners in a bookie and numbers operation.

At Warren, Ohio, CV 344-C advised ANTHONY DELSANTER became "boss" of the area when MIKE FARAH, a Syrian, was murdered (6/10/61). The organization had put up with FARAH as long as he had influence and had the politicians in his pocket. When he became obstreperous and uncontrollable, the "organization" "dumped" him. He also stated that CHARLES IMBURGIA, operator of the Sunrise Inn, East Market Street, Warren, Ohio, may now be affiliated with the Sicilian group of LICAVOLI, but at one time several years ago he was part of the Pittsburgh group headed by RIPEPI.

At Akron, Ohio, the territory is controlled by the Sicilian group operating in Toledo, Canton, Warren, and Youngstown, Ohio. CV 344-C advised that JAMES LA FATCH seemed to be the representative of LICAVOLI in that area together with his brother, TONY, and would be under the direct supervision of "WHITEY" BESASE of Toledo and LICAVOLI in Cleveland, Ohio.

At Mansfield, Ohio; CV 344-C advised TONY MOLLICA is an "organization" representative and although a Calabrese, will "hustle" with the Calabrese and Sicilian groups. Informant does not consider him a power, but stated he is a member of the "organization" and operates the Ritz Bar in Mansfield, Ohio.

At Youngstown, Ohio; the informant advised there are the same two groups in the "organization" as in Cleveland, Ohio. The Calabrese has some action and the Sicilian group under LICAVOLI have their own ventures. Both have respect for one another's enterprises. The Calabrese in Youngstown are run by DOMINIC MALLAMO who is more or less the successor to PAUL ROMEO, brother of MIKE ROMEO and MALLAMO is close to ANTHONY MILANO in Cleveland. MALLAMO is in a semi-retired position, but exacts tribute from those under him. Second in command, taking a more active part and soon to be the leading representative of the Calabrese, is JAMES PRATO, aka "Two Gun Jimmy" of Poland, Ohio, who is a nephew of MALLAMO. The informant stated when the barbut game moved to Struthers, Ohio, from Youngstown, Ohio, following the death of VINCE DE NIRO (7/17/61), they moved the game in the property of the CARABBIA brothers and only put up with them since they controlled the city administration in Struthers, Ohio, to the extent they would be allowed to operate without interference.

He stated that young MIKE ROMEO, the son of PAUL ROMEO, Campbell, Ohio, has some influence there as pointed out previously, and is very close to JOHN BRAZZANO, the son of GIANNA BRAZZANO, deceased, who was involved in the VOLPE murders in Pittsburgh.

Regarding the Sicilian group of the "organization" in Youngstown, CV 344-C stated he could not say if VINCE J. DE NIRO, bombing victim of 7/17/61, was a member of the "organization" or not. He stated, however, that DE NIRO's murder caused great concern among all members of the "organization." He stated that of all the murders committed in the Youngstown area, this was the only murder where members of the "organization" made active efforts to determine the persons responsible for same. He cited inquiry made by JAMES PRATO, JAMES TRIPODI, Steubenville, and TONY RIPEPI

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of Pittsburgh as examples of "organization" members attempting to determine his killer. He stated if DE NIRO was not a member, he was a big source of income for the organization and had been cooperative after having been "shaken down" by the "organization."

CV 344-C stated the "organization" made no inquiry of him following the bombing murder of CAVALLARO and for his reason he believed CAVALLARO was killed for getting out of line. He stated if he had been killed without the sanction of the "organization", they would have inquired as to who was responsible for the killing of one of their members. He stated that in his opinion, CAVALLARO had a portion of DE NIRO's operation and apparently tried to "hog" the entire operation after his death.

Regarding JASPER "FATS" AIELLO, JR., aka, the informant advised he is no longer held in high respect because he has "gotten out of line" by bad publicity and by engaging in armed robbery and burglary. He stated that AIELLO had formerly been well thought of and in Youngstown, he occupied about the same position at one time as TONY DELSANTER occupies at present in Warren. He noted that DELSANTER and AIELLO are still close associates.

CV 344-C advised WILLIAM NAPLES, bombing murder victim killed on 7/1/62, was killed because the "organization" learned he was responsible for killing DE NIRO. According to the information he received, the NAPLES brothers were not part of either the Calabrese or Sicilian groups and did not contribute to either and especially Cleveland.

CV 344-C stated regarding the killing of DOMINIC MOIO, Canton, Ohio, whose body was found stuffed in the trunk of his car at Canton, Ohio, on 9/3/63, the "organization" made no inquiry about his death or the parties responsible. This again would mean to him that MOIO "had gotten out of line." MOIO had somehow obtained employment with the NAPLES brothers and unquestionably "set up" BILLY NAPLES for his murder. CV 344-C stated MOIO may have been eliminated when it was learned through the newspapers that he had admitted to the FBI that he had driven BILLY NAPLES to his "Joe Blow" car just before it blew up, killing him.

#### INFLUENCE AND STATURE OF CALABRESE GROUP IN CLEVELAND ORGANIZATION

CV 344-C advised the Calabrese group at Cleveland definitely dominates the Sicilian when arguments and misunderstanding arise.



He gave the following example:

He stated about 1958, a Warren, Ohio, pimp named BENJAMIN PANDELLI, not considered a member of the "organization" because of his means of livelihood which is frowned upon by the "organization", backed a sheriff in his candidacy for the office at Mansfield, Ohio. As a result of this back, he was allowed by the successful candidate to open a house of prostitution in Mansfield, Ohio. The sheriff was not backed by TONY MOLLICA, a member of the "organization" at Mansfield, Ohio.

CV 344-C stated when MOLLICA noted that PANDELLI's operation was a money maker, he approached PANDELLI and told him that people in town were talking and saying that he, MOLLICA, was responsible for the house being able to operate. He said it was giving him a bad name. CV 344-C advised PANDELLI realized that MOLLICA was not concerned about his bad name and that MOLLICA was attempting to move in and muscle him. When PANDELLI was not receptive to the attempts of MOLLICA, MOLLICA then sought the aid of MIKE ROMEO, Poland, Ohio, who approached PANDELLI with the same story. ROMEO told PANDELLI, according to CV 344-C, that he should close down for a couple of months so that things could be "cleared up." ROMEO told PANDELLI that he was a friend of his father, GUISSIPPI PINDILLI. PANDELLI refused to close and CV 344-C advised according to what PANDELLI later told him, he wrote a letter explaining the situation to his father in Buenos Aires. CV 344-C stated PANDELLI then received a letter from his father which instructed him to take this letter to ANTHONY MILANO, in Cleveland, which apparently PANDELLI did. A little later PANDELLI received a call from "WHITEY" BESASE, Toledo, Ohio, who instructed him to appear with MOLLICA at the home of JIMMIE LA FATCH in Akron, Ohio.

CV 344-C advised PANDELLI refused fearing that he would be "dumped" en route or at the meeting. PANDELLI called ANTHONY MILANO at Cleveland in the presence of MOLLICA and MILANO talked to MOLLICA at this time. He told him he was instructing PANDELLI to accompany him to the meeting but that if a "hair on the head of PANDELLI" was harmed, he would see that the whole bunch was taken care of.

CV 344-C stated PANDELLI went to Akron, Ohio, with MOLLICA for the meeting at JAMES LA FATCH's home. There were about 20 persons present. After a dinner, all except PANDELLI, not a member, retired to the basement where MOLLICA and MIKE ROMEO were interrogated.

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CV 344-C advised he learned that MOLLICA lied and he denied he had said what he had and ROMEO became infuriated and left. Everyone else shook hands with PANDELLI and he was told he could continue to "operate" and he was not "out of line." In addition, to the above mentioned, others present during this meeting were LA FATCH, "WHITEY" BESASE, LEO MOCERI, ERNIE LA SALLE, ANTHONY DELSANTER, FRANK BRANCATO and many strangers not known to CV 344-C.

CV 344-C stated about two weeks later, PANDELLI was called to the Ritz Bar operated by MOLLICA by MIKE ROMEO. ROMEO denounced MOLLICA as a "liar" in front of PANDELLI and then instructed PANDELLI to relay what had happened to ANTHONY MILANO in Cleveland and to tell him that all had been cleared up. CV 344-C stated PANDELLI advised he did not go to MILANO with this message, but saw his subordinate, DE AUGUSTINI, at Cleveland who said he would relay the message to MILANO. CV 344-C stated apparently MILANO was not to be bothered with such minor details.

RE: STEUBENVILLE "ORGANIZATION"

CV 344-C stated JAMES TRIPODI fully controls the Steubenville, Ohio, area and exerts some influence into certain sections of West Virginia. He stated that if there is to be anything done illegally in the Steubenville, Ohio, area it is necessary to first clear with TRIPODI, otherwise the parties are on their own.

CV 344-C stated that several years back an "organization" member's restaurant known as the Baron Restaurant owned by COSMO QUATRONE was held up by some armed robbers from the Cleveland area. The group included DAVE TIBERZIO, THOMAS "LAUGHING TOMMY" RUDELICK, VINCENT INNOCENZI and DOMINICK MAFRICI. The thieves had not checked with TRIPODI and as a result, MAFRICI although the son-in-law of FRANK DE AUGUSTINI, Cleveland member was killed in Buffalo about 3/15/57, while out on bond. INNOCENZI was shot several times and found near Canton, Ohio, in the summer of 1960.