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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-742) DATE: 4-30-64

FROM : SAC, CLEVELAND (157-127) ^o *La Cosa Nostra*

SUBJECT: CAVBOMB

Re Cleveland letter to Director, 3-30-64, and Bulets to Cleveland, 4-16-64 and 2-5-64.

On March 24, 1964, SA FRANK G. DOUDS, Youngstown Resident Agent, met with CV-344-C at Steubenville, Ohio, where he made available photographs of RALPH CANNOVA, aka., and SEBASTIAN VERMIGLIO, FBI #451960, who were mentioned in the referenced Cleveland letter as being badly wanted by Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). He advised that he did not know either, but he thought CANNOVA looked very familiar. He stated he would retain the photographs and would advise when and if he developed any information on either. CV-344-C, on this occasion, made a letter from his father, GUISEPPI PINDELLI, available written in Italian and which has since been interpreted and reads as follows:

"BUENO AIREs
March 5, 1964

"Dear Benny:

"I received your letter and you don't know the contentment I have had to hear from you. Its not the

- 6 - Bureau
 - (1 - 92-6054)
 - (1 - 137-1826)
 - (1 - 62-9-11)
 - (1 - 66-2542)
- 6 - Cleveland
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DATE: 11-14-2017

GV 157-127

hundred dollars you sent me, but it had been so long since you had wrote to me, and I didn't know what to think. I know you do a lot of running around and I thought maybe something may have happened to you. Because I always write to ROCCO (RAY) and always ask about you, but he never tells me anything. Dear Benny I'm getting along fine outside of missing the family and all the friends. You told me about the Immigration turning me down, it really don't matter. You also say you may have some other hope, if you can do anything do it, if not as long as we have our health. You also asked me to write to JIM TRIPODI and TONY RIPPEPPI of Pittsburgh and to thank them for what they have done to help you in your troubles. I'll sent you two separate sealed letters one for JIM and one for REPPEPPI and I'll thank them for you. I'm sorry to hear about MIKE AQUARO's death, but when death comes there's nothing you can do about it. MARGE sent me a card for Christmas and told me she sent \$10.00 in it. But no \$10.00. If you go to Warren ask her how she sent the \$10.00, because she don't write to me much. And give her my best regards. ROCCO (RAY) has been alright. There isn't a month that passes by that he don't send me \$25.00. I can get by for a month here but if something should happen I couldn't get by. Because here in Argentina there is nothing a person can do. In the first place I'm 78 years old and when I get up in the morning all my bones ache. Old age is bad. But thank God, up till now, I needed help from no one but you and ROCCO. You wanted the address of where I bought the oil. It seems to me it was 210 Grand Street, New York City. I don't remember too well but the brand name was JAUSO and it was only 20% olive oil. Then there are many places in Newark, N.J. that sells stuff like that line and for you it would be convenient to carry stuff like that in your car. Because if you get stopped for anything, you can say you sell merchandise. You also wanted the address of JOSEPH DI LIGORRE. It's 687 Galoria Street, Franklin, New York. If not go to this address: Mrs. MARIE PAPALIA, 73 S. Kensington Ave., Rockville Center, N. Y. This is the daughter of PEPPINO CARBONE, the brother of cousin FRANCES CARBONE. Because this MARIE knows where PEPPINO

DATE: 11-14-2017

CV 157-127

DI LIQUORE stays. Because they visit with one another about every week.

"PEPPINO DI LIQUORE is a painter and gets houses on contract. He has his father and mother and brother in this town you tell me about but I don't remember. If you write me let me know if FRANK MEZZATESTA is still in these parts. Also let me know if God Father, PETE is still in Steubenville and also TONY, the one that run around with God Father, PASQUALE NAPOLI. No more to say. My niece and family send their regards to JIM TRIPODI and family. My regards to TONY REPPEPI. Also regards to FRANK DI AGOSTINO and all our friends and all our family. Your wife and children and I send you my regards,

"Your father,

"Giuseppi Pindelli

"P.S.

"You tell me not to say anything to anybody about my immigration. Who can I say anything to? I don't write to anybody. All they know is that you sent me a check for a hundred dollars and I thank you very much. Best regards, Your father.

JOE PINDELLI"

ROCCO (RAY) PANDELLI is the son of GULSEPPI.

MARGE mentioned is the daughter of GULSEPPI.

TONY RIPEPI was described by CV-344-C in Cleveland letter to the Director, dated January 31, 1964, captioned "La Cosa Nostra, AR - CONSPIRACY", as the most powerful individual in the organization in the Pittsburgh area and one who exerted influence in the West Virginia area. He stated the elaborate gambling casinos in the Chester, West Virginia area are controlled by RIPEPI.

FRANK DI AGOSTINO in the same letter was described by CV-344-C as the second in command of the "organization" in the Cleveland area under ANTHONY MILANO.

DATE: 11-14-2017

CV 157-127

CV-344-C advised the PETE referred to in the latter part of this letter was an individual named PETE MARFRICI, a crippled individual with a half foot who returned to Italy years ago and married and had several children there. On the rise of MUSSOLINI, he was forced to flee, and he was smuggled to the United States and lived in Steubenville, Ohio, running illegal enterprises until about 1950 when in ill health and destitute, his passage was paid back to Italy by some of his associates. He stated PETE MARFRICI and PASQUALE NAPOLI had baptized him (CV-344-C).

Regarding the TONY mentioned in the latter part of the letter, he stated he is identical with an ANTHONY PALOMINA who was a close associate of JAMES TRIPODI and resided in Steubenville, Ohio, for years. He stated several years ago, PALOMINA killed an individual who allegedly tried to rob him in Steubenville. There was "heat" and a disagreement between TRIPODI and PALOMINA and PALOMINA ran to get support from TONY MILANO, Cleveland, in ironing out the disagreement. Since TRIPODI was more powerful and more influential, PALOMINA was forced out of Steubenville, Ohio, and is presently in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area and closely associated with TONY RIPEPI.

CV-344-C advised PALOMINA is small, dark complexioned and resembles a Mexican. He stated prior to coming to the Steubenville, Ohio area he had been the righthand man of his godfather, PASQUALE NAPOLI, who ran the docks for years in Brooklyn, New York, and CV-344-C had stayed with PALOMINA in New York, about 1932. CV-344-C left New York area about that time and later, after he had married, he and his wife returned to New York about 1934 or 1935, and PALOMINA was there at that time, working with his godfather, NAPOLI.

Relative to FRANK MEZZATESTA, the Cleveland letter to the Director, dated March 30, 1964, captioned "CAVBOMB", page 4, contained information relative to MEZZATESTA and his background, along with his connection with the prime suspect, DOMINIC MOIO who was murdered September 2, 1963.

On April 23, 1964, CV-344-C advised that he had contacted FRANK MEZZATESTA, 415 Earl Street, Kent, Ohio, on the previous day. He had showed MEZZATESTA the letter from his father in which he had mentioned him (MEZZATESTA).

CV 157-127

MEZZATESTA, after reading the letter, then took CV-344-C around the Kent, Ohio area where he introduced him as an "old friend" and told these associates how in 1929, he and CV-344-C were both hiding from the police in Detroit, Michigan, and neither knew the other was wanted.

CV-344-C stated that in 1929 he had escaped from the Training School for Boys, Washington, D. C. By that time his father had re-entered the United States illegally and his father took him to Detroit to hide out. It was while there that he met MEZZATESTA through his father. MEZZATESTA was a fugitive on a counterfeiting charge and was not arrested until some time later.

MEZZATESTA, during the day and evening, brought up the name of his good friend, DOMINIC MOIO. He advised he had known and been close to him for years and had met him in Detroit, Michigan. He had been very close to him until the time of his murder. MEZZATESTA advised CV-344-C that his father, GIUSEPPI PINDELLI, also knew MOIO from about 1933 to 1947, when he was deported to Italy. He had known him in Detroit and later when MOIO later settled in Canton, Ohio, and when PINDELLI was living in Warren.

MEZZATESTA also advised CV-344-C that PINDELLI knew "CADILLAC CHARLIE" CAVALLARO when both were located in the Pittsburgh area in the middle 1920's and later when PINDELLI lived in Warren and CAVALLARO had settled in the Youngstown area.

CV-344-C inquired about other friends of his father still around, and MEZZATESTA stated that he was very friendly with FRANK GALLO, Nimisello Court, S.E., Canton, Ohio.

It is to be noted that the investigation of CAVBOMB revealed DOMINIC MOIO was in daily contact with GALLO at Canton, Ohio, and that GALLO was an alibi witness for MOIO in his arson trial in Trumbull County, Ohio, where he had been charged with setting fire to the Wadsworth Feed Company, Warren, Ohio, which occurred on February 12, 1961.

(Report of SA JAMES F. KELLY, dated 12-19-62, at Cleveland, captioned "CAVBOMB")

CV 157-127

Relative to the murder of DOMINIC MOIO, on September 2, 1963, prime suspect in the death of CHARLES CAVALLARO, MEZZATESTA advised CV-344-C the following:

He stated from his own investigation of the movements of MOIO prior to his death, he believed that MOIO had been killed in Youngstown and his body was then taken to Canton, Ohio, where it was recovered. He gave no indication of those responsible, and CV-344-C did not pursue this.

He stated that DOMINIC MOIO definitely was responsible for the death of BILLY NAPLES who was blown up in his car, July 1, 1962. He stated that MOIO had been ordered to set up NAPLES and took an active part in the murder. He did not elaborate on the details or the others involved. He did, however, state that MOIO "led BILLY NAPLES around by his nose" and was on his payroll. He said MOIO and BILLY NAPLES had many times visited together in his home, and MEZZATESTA personally was very fond of BILLY. He stated regardless of his feelings for BILLY when "they" stated he had to be eliminated, he was powerless to do anything to stop his murder, regardless of his personal feelings.

According to CV-344-C, MEZZATESTA stated that MOIO had been definitely for hire at all times and got mixed up with too many of the warring factions in the Youngstown area and that was why he was killed.

MEZZATESTA told CV-344-C to stay away from Youngstown as it was a "bad" town. He said there was dissension between various factions, and they were not organized with lines of authority. He amplified this by stating one group would have control of the prosecutor, another would have the sheriff, and another group would have the police department. As an example, he said when a group would open up the barbut with the consent of the prosecutor, the sheriff would interfere and visa versa and this caused the bloodshed and jealousy.

MEZZATESTA stated his nephew, ANTHONY MADAFFARE, is no longer residing in his home but has taken a room in the town of Kent. He said the nephew came to the United States

DATE: 11-14-2017

CV 157-127

on a visitor's visa and in order to halt his return to Italy, he and MOIO arranged a marriage for several hundred dollars with a prostitute (ROSE BRYSON) who hung out at the NAPLES brothers sandwich shop.

MEZZATESTA stated ROSE BRYSON had called on him on April 21, 1964. She has divorced his nephew and had remarried, and she had stated she had been interviewed by the INS that day but had "told them nothing" about her marriage to MADAFFARE to stay his deportation.

CV-344-C told MEZZATESTA he had heard that his nephew had been wanted for murder in Italy, and MEZZATESTA stated someone was confusing his nephew with an ANGELO MACRI or MACREA. He stated MACRI or MACREA had fled Italy after murdering three or four police officers. He had arrived in Canada and later came to Kent, Ohio, where he stayed in his home for about two months. He later went to New York City where he was arrested and returned to Italy.

MEZZATESTA stated ANGELO had a brother who was sought by the Italian Police, and they found him asleep and killed him without giving him a chance. Thereafter, ANGELO was out to avenge his brother's death, and he sought out each officer involved and killed them. He told them they had killed his brother when his eyes were closed, and he was killing them with their eyes open and facing him.

CV-344-C stated in talking to MEZZATESTA he was able to determine that although he appears to be a harmless Italian, he is capable and apparently willing to engage in any action that he is called on to handle. He stated there was no doubt in his mind that he would handle a "contract" if he were asked to do so. He also stated the possibility exists that he had been an accomplice of MOIO in several of his bombings and arson cases, but he had given him no details.

CV-344-C stated he told MEZZATESTA that his father had been turned down for re-entry into the United States, but he was still working to try to get him back in the country. MEZZATESTA stated at this point that if GUISEPPI ever came back, they would call on all their "friends" in the "organization" through the United States to renew friendships and for

DATE: 11-14-2017

CV 157-127

"handouts" which would be owed GUISEPPI for his years of silence and separation from his family, and for remaining solid and not telling the police agencies anything.

CV-344-C stated he was surprised that MEZZATESTA was as talkative as he had been with him, but he believed he had been so as a result of his close friendship with his father. He stated there is no doubt in his mind that MEZZATESTA would go into the complete details of various happenings including bombings and killings if GUISEPPI would return to the area. He stated since he would be driving his father around to meet his friends such as MEZZATESTA and GALLO, he would also acquire these details which would be of interest to this Bureau. He reiterated his father would not furnish information, but he could obtain the same through him and relay this to the Bureau.

The Cleveland Division, in no way wishes to be argumentative and overly insistent in its efforts to secure the cooperation of the INS in getting PINDELLI into the United States on a parole basis; but it is felt that his re-entry into the United States is the best and most promising avenue to obtaining the solution to the CAVALLARO murders and others which occurred previously in the Youngstown area and which are believed related. The Bureau's patience and consideration in this matter is appreciated.

CV-344-C himself pointed out that although there is no doubt in his mind that through his father he can get the true picture of these murders, including CAVALLARO's, this information would be not likely evidentiary. However, it is pointed out there have been various and differing theories of these murders reported by various informants. If the true story could be obtained, it would allow this division to concentrate on obtaining evidence which might eventually lead to the prosecution of those responsible:

In view of the above, it is again requested that the Bureau, through liaison with INS Headquarters, explore the possibility that PINDELLI be allowed to return to the United States on a temporary or parole basis, as it is felt his presence will materially aid in the work of this Bureau as well as the INS facilities.

CV 157-127

INS has pointed out that PINDELLI if, in the United States on a temporary or parole basis, would **get** out of line he could be put out of the country immediately and his presence in the United States would in no way cause any embarrassment to any United States agency.

ADDENDUM:
(EEB)

Information has just come to my attention to the effect that CV-344-C may himself soon be the victim of a gang-land killing.

This information is being set out here as a part of the over-all consideration the Bureau should give to my recommendation that effort be made through INS to return GUISEPPI PINDELLI to this country.

On November 25, 1963, CV-554-PC advised that on that date he had been in Wheeling, West Virginia, and in touch with PAUL HANKISH who had just been released from the penitentiary on a burglary sentence. CV-554-PC said that BILL LIAS was currently boss in Wheeling and that from what HANKISH told him there may be, in the not too distant future, a struggle for power in Wheeling between LIAS and HANKISH.

On January 17, 1964, when HANKISH entered his automobile parked in front of his residence in Wheeling it blew up, apparently as the result of a bomb being placed in it. HANKISH was critically injured and both legs amputated. Both of his hands were badly mangled. HANKISH informed local authorities he blamed LIAS for responsibility in the bombing.

On March 1, 1964, CV-554-PC visited HANKISH in the hospital, and on March 4, 1964, the informant said HANKISH is of the definite opinion that LIAS was responsible for the bombing. HANKISH told the informant he had been in touch with individuals in Detroit and New Jersey regarding the bombing, and they told him they would obtain satisfaction for him and "take care of the Greek". HANKISH told the informant that apparently

CV 157-127

LIAS did not clear the bombing, and it was an "outlaw deal". At that time, HANKISH apparently did not know who did the actual bombing. The informant said that on about February 25, 1964, AL ROSS, a well known Pittsburgh hoodlum, had visited HANKISH and while the informant did not know the significance of the visit felt that ROSS is the type of individual HANKISH might use to retaliate against LIAS.

On March 17, 1964, CV-554-PC advised he had just learned that AL ROSS of Pittsburgh was going to "dump" BENNY PINDELLI and EARL DE ANGELIS. He said he had also learned that ROSS had come close to "dumping" DE ANGELIS and PINDELLI four or five days ago. Informant did not know whether this involved the HANKISH bombing but felt it was connected with it. CV-554-PC said that both DE ANGELIS and PINDELLI, whom he knows, are capable of having done the HANKISH job.

On April 29, 1964, CV-554-PC advised that on the preceding weekend he had visited HANKISH and learned that HANKISH is virtually positive that BENNY PINDELLI and one other unknown individual set up the HANKISH bombing. The informant had also talked with an individual known to him only as "BIG RED", who is a good friend of HANKISH and who has houses of prostitution in and around Wheeling, West Virginia and Reading, Pennsylvania. "BIG RED" told the informant that RED had warned HANKISH when BENNY PINDELLI was coming around Wheeling. He said apparently HANKISH was prepared for anyone who might shoot at him but was not prepared for the bombing. Informant is of the opinion HANKISH is waiting for the right time to take care of both PINDELLI and LIAS and believes HANKISH will have the job done by AL ROSS.