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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
(137-17219)

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (137-4138) (P)

SUBJECT: MM 1231-C-TE  
TECIP

DATE: 9/15/67

*La Casa*  
Re Miami airtel, 9/11/67.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION EMANATES FROM A HIGHLY SENSITIVE SOURCE AND IS NOT TO BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE THE BUREAU.

MM1231-C-TE was contacted on September 14, 1967, and furnished information relating to La Cosa Nostra (LCN) as follows:

He was initiated into the LCN during the year (approximate) 1949 or 1950. The ceremony, if such is the proper terminology, took place at a restaurant in Manhattan, name of which is not recalled by the informant. There were ten initiates, including himself, at the banquet. He recalls that among them were "PEPE" (LNU), FARNI, and others. (Note:

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
  - (2-137-17219)
  - (1-92-6054) (LCN)
- 4 - New York (RM)
  - 1-92- (BONANNO)
  - 1-92-2300 (LCN)
  - 1-92- (TRAMUNTI)
  - 1-92- (SABELLA)
- 8 - Miami
  - 1-137-4138
  - 1-137-2206 (TECIP)
  - 1-92-853 (LCN)
  - 1-92-503 (PALMISANO)
  - 1-92-404 (INDELICATO)
  - 1-92-648 (ERRA)
  - 1-92-1093 (BISOGNO)
  - 1-92-812 (GRAFT AND CORRUPTION)

NOT RECORDED

152 SEP 19 1967

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informant was not pinpointed at this point as to exact spelling of names or as to the names of all initiates. This will be gained during future interviews). The informant's sponsors into the BONANNO Family, LCN, were MIKE SABELLA and one "MARIANO." He states that MARIANO is about the age of the informant (62), and SABELLA is his (informant's) third cousin.

There was no candle light ceremony during this initiation, nor was there mixing of blood, nor oaths given with religious pictures. He states that this ceremony (as described with oaths, etc.) went out approximately twenty-five years ago. At the time of the informant's initiation, it was not a pre-requisite for the member to have participated in a "hit," although this was the case for the older members (prior to twenty-five years ago). Informant states that the "books" for new members are now closed and have been for some time, at least insofar as his particular family is concerned. At the time of his initiation, there were approximately twenty members in the BONANNO Family.

There were other family people present during the initiation banquet, and following the banquet, for the next several weeks, informant was "taken around" to LCN members and introduced as a new member. This latter situation is that which the informant described during the previous contacts and states that this is what he construed as formal initiation, when he was taken around.

The current situation with regard to BONANNO remains as described by the informant after his return to Miami from New York. Informant states there will be a "call out" in the near future for members as himself and others to have a meeting and decide finally if the current

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BONANNO Family members still affiliated with this family wish to switch membership to GAMBINO, CARMINE (LUCHESE Family) or "retire." Informant states he will go with whatever the majority of his colleagues decide. Informant will advise as to the time and location of the meeting when he is told by SABELLA or PAUL VARIO.

RE: LCN ACTIVITIES, MIAMI DIVISION

Informant advised that at the present time, the Miami area is relatively quiet, and most of the prominent people are out of town (those who winter in Miami). They will start to arrive in several weeks, at which time informant will advise as to their arrivals.

Informant re-iterated that the most powerful LCN figure in Miami is PASQUALE ERRA, who is with the GENOVESE group. Under ERRA in Miami and connected with the GENOVESE Family are JOSEPH BISOGNO (BRUNO); "JOE SCOOTCH" (INDELICATO); "LITTLE PUSSY" (TONY RUSSO).

Among those with CARLO GAMBINO in Miami are JAMES PALMISANO and TOMMY ALTAMURA. He states that AGOSTINO AMATO, VINCENT AMATO and FRANK AMATO, although LCN members, are not with the GAMBINO Family. He states that JOE RIVERS (SILESI), to his knowledge, has not been "made" and is utilized primarily to set up gambling operations.

Informant states that PALMISANO is in constant trouble with his "family" through his habit of getting financial backing from visiting LCN people on "bust out" operations or through outright stealing or swindles from his own people. A case in point, according to the informant, occurred about three years ago when a family member named "BIG STEVE" (now deceased), a junk dealer from New York, came to Miami and

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was convinced by PALMISANO and INDELICATO to invest \$50,000 in a bar in Miami named the "Skyview" on North Biscayne Boulevard. The bar was not worth more than \$5,000 and went out of business about a month after it was sold. As a result, a contract was let for both PALMISANO and INDELICATO and they were to be "set up" in Hallandale. PALISANO, however, made peace and gave back the money to "BIG STEVE."

RE: GRAFT AND CORRUPTION  
MIAMI DIVISION

Informant was asked about recent publicity which disclosed that a "contract" had been let for Dade County State Attorney, RICHARD E. GERSTEIN. (This fact had been "leaked" to the press by GERSTEIN'S office, which had received the tip from a Wackenhut Detective Agency source.) Informant stated that this was the biggest laugh to hit Miami in some time, in that GERSTEIN was, and still is, "their" number one connection in the Miami area. Informant said "Them guys (sic), including Wackenhut, and all the locals haven't yet come close to us. The only people who have the proper line on us are those in the FBI."