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TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, San Francisco (92-1661) (P)

SUBJECT: La Cosa Nostra (LCN)
AR - Conspiracy
OO: New York

Re San Francisco airtel 1/28/69 and teletype 2/10/69.

La Cosa Nostra Activities
New York Division

On 1/30/69, SF 3208-PC advised SA's KENT Q. BRISBY and RICHARD T. BRETZING that he recalled one BUDDY BELLAGIORTA (phonetic), who used to hang out at the source's pizza parlor in New York City. During the twenty years when the source has known BUDDY, that individual has engaged in bootlegging, narcotics, hi-jacking, numbers, and bookmaking. He used to run around with CHARLIE "BULLETS," whom the source said died from natural causes six or seven years ago. As recently as a couple of years ago, BUDDY was operating in the Bronx and Manhattan in numbers, bookmaking, and hi-jacking. The source said he was never introduced to BUDDY as a member of the LCN and therefore couldn't definitely say that he was a member; however, he is constantly associating with known members in New York.

The source mentioned one NICK TARANTINO (phonetic), whom he described as a member of the Luchese Family of the LCN in New York. TARANTINO runs poker games and books horses and sporting events out of a club located on Williamsbridge Road in New York City. He uses one CARMINE (LNU) in this

- 5 - Bureau (Registered)
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Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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operation. The source said this CARMINE was arrested with the source two or three years ago in a gambling raid. (It is believed the source is referring to CARMINE SONEARATO) The source advised that CARMINE is fully acquainted with TARANTINO's entire operation and is the type who would "break" under pressure. CARMINE is not known to the source as a member of the LCN.

The source mentioned one VINCENT GENEROSO (phonetic), who is bookmaking out of the Belvedere Bar on 2nd Avenue between 105th and 106th Streets in Manhattan. Across the street from this bar is a liquor store, where many "old timers" in the LCN congregate in a back room and play cards. The source said GENEROSO is frequently there also and is well known to many of the LCN members. However, the source added that GENEROSO has never been introduced or pointed out to him as an LCN member.

The source mentioned ANTHONY FARANO (phonetic) as a numbers operator and bookmaker on 128th Street in Manhattan. The source did not think FARANO was a member, but advised that he is used by the LCN as an official in the meat union in New York City. FARANO also has hidden ownership in a small bar located in one of the towns just outside of Bronx. The source advised that he has been to this bar, but does not now recall whether it was in White Plains or another smaller town.

The source identified AL MINIACCI (phonetic) as one of BENNY DE MARTINO's men in New York. AL operates the Paramount Vending Machine Company, Bronx, New York, which the source believed was located on Brookner Boulevard. The source does not know AL as an LCN member, but advised that he works under the direction of DE MARTINO, who is a capo decina in the Genevese Family. The source advised that AL placed cigarette machines and vending juke boxes in the source's pizza parlor in New York and subsequently extended a loan to the source on this equipment. After the business fell through, AL removed the vending equipment without prior consultation with the source, claiming all the money in them and demanding that the source pay up on the outstanding balance of the loan. The source said he has refused to pay this balance, which totals \$600.00. He said he is sure that AL was stealing money from him when he was servicing the vending machines and does not feel obligated to repay this loan until all of this other debts have been cleared.

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The source was quizzed about the incident which he had previously described involving PAUL VARIO and an explosion involving lye. The source repeated the same details as before, and stated that VARIO was particularly burned on his left hand where his wedding ring was located and his left wrist where he wore his watch. A couple of small burns occurred on his face, but the source did not know whether or not they were third-degree burns. He said that the doctor's office where they rushed VARIO was located about a block away from TADDO MARINO's bar, where the accident happened. He reiterated that this doctor was introduced as an LCN member, but he did not know which family he belonged to. He said that he faintly remembered that the doctor lived in the same building where his office was located. The source said the name DR. MARIO TAGLIAGAMBI did not mean anything to him.

On this occasion, the source told of the details which resulted in 1958 with his own membership in the Luchese Family of the LCN. He advised that he had been a "recruit" under the sponsorship of PAUL VARIO and that he met all of the qualifications for membership by the early summer of 1958. He declined to specify these qualifications. He said that PAUL VARIO took him in VARIO's car to an out-of-the-way bakery in Brooklyn, located on a side street where little traffic was present. The source said he does not know Brooklyn very well and does not know exactly where this bakery is, but he felt that he might have a better chance pinpointing it with a street map of Brooklyn. He advised that VARIO appeared tense while driving him to this bakery, indicating that "the old man" wanted to see the source and talk to him. VARIO explained that "the old man" was his capo decina but that few people know about him.

When they arrived at the bakery, VARIO introduced the source to an old baker, the apparent owner of the shop. The source said the baker was dressed very shabbily with long sleeves on his shirt rolled up. He was about sixty years of age at that time, was stooped over, about 5'7", 145 lbs., medium build, greyish hair. The source said one thing he remembered most about the meeting was the agitation on the part of the baker and his apparent desire to hurry up and get them out of his bakery.

The baker quizzed the source on his parentage and his association with VARIO and other LCN members. Then he dismissed both of them and VARIO brought the source back to Manhattan.

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The source recalled that there was no other shopping areas or visible stores in the neighborhood of this bakery.

According to the source, prior to his meeting "the old man," PAUL VARIO had to get an "okay" from PAULIE HAMM, a capo decina in the Luchese Family at that time in charge of the area where the source was from. HAMM has since died of natural causes. The source said this is normal, when a "recruit" is being made from a different area than the one handled by the capo into whose regime he was being placed. In this case, PAUL VARIO handled part of Brooklyn for the Luchese Family and the source was from Manhattan.

A few days after this initial meeting with "the old man," the source met in the union hall next door to the Fontainebleau Flower Shop, Brooklyn, with PAUL VARIO, PETE (LNU), whom the source described as the "cumpari" of PAUL VARIO, BABE VARIO, and CIRO (LNU), a cripple who runs a luncheonette in Brooklyn and a member of the Luchese Family in VARIO's regime. He said that PAUL VARIO had been given authority by "the old man" to make the source an LCN member. Each person present drank a toast and then turned their glasses up-side-down, thus signifying that all of the proceedings that went on at this meeting would remain sealed up as if inside the up-side-down glasses. The source was explained the codes of the LCN and of the Luchese Family, all of the do's and dont's, and was then taken by PAUL VARIO around to each of the others present and shook hands with them, with PAUL sealing their handshake with his right hand, repeating the words, "La stessa cosa," which mean in literal translation, "The same thing." The source said this meant that he was the same as the ones with whom he had shaken hands. At this point, the source said he was then a member of La Cosa Nostra. He added that shortly thereafter the books were "closed" and no other members were made. After this ceremony, PAUL VARIO reported the results to "the old man." The source said he only saw "the old man" on one other occasion, when "the old man" was visiting PAULIE HAMM at a club on 112th between 1st and 2nd Avenues. HAMM at that time was the Capo over CARMINE TRAMUNTI and when HAMM died, TRAMUNTI took over as capo. The source said he might be able to recognize a photo of "the old man," particularly one taken around 1958.

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The source elaborated on some of the instructions he had received from PAUL VARIO during his initiation ceremony. He was instructed to discontinue all activities with narcotics, counterfeiting, smuggling, gun running, or any other activity which fell within the primary jurisdiction of the federal government. Fights within the family would not be tolerated, according to VARIO, and all differences should be brought to the attention of the capo decina of the participants in the disagreement. VARIO counseled the source to step carefully when he was entering new territory, so as to avoid stepping on the toes of other families or other members of the Luchese Family. He stressed that they wanted no wars. The source was instructed to report to his capo decina before leaving the New York area, as the capo might have someone he wanted the source to visit or a message he wanted carried. VARIO also told the source he must always have access to a gun or guns. The source was instructed to refrain from talking about his membership in the LCN, even to other members. It was emphasized that the source was never to contact "the old man" without first receiving permission from VARIO. VARIO stated that "the old man" would not stand for members to drop in on him. The source added that BABE VARIO has never visited "the old man" at the bakery to his knowledge. He has seen him away from the bakery on a number of occasions. PAUL VARIO was the liaison man with "the old man," and whenever a "score" was made, VARIO always took the "old man" his cut.

The source was questioned about the possibility of CHARLES GIAMPAOLO, also known as Charlie the Baker, being identical with "the old man." The source said the name meant nothing to him; he would have to see a photograph. He was told that GIAMPAOLO was allegedly affiliated with Ciro's Club in New York, and the source replied that the only Ciro's he knows is Ciro's Bar on 48th Street between 8th and Broadway. He said this bar is sometimes called Duffy's Bar. However, he said he has never heard of the "old man" being affiliated with this bar.

The source said another member of PAUL VARIO's regime is one BLACKIE (LNU), who is running a labor union for the LCN in Harlem.

The source advised that one way of identifying TADDO DE MARCO, who he had mentioned above, would be to check the baptism records of JOEY DE MARCO, who was killed in 1958-59. The source recalled that TADDO DE MARCO had mentioned that he was not only JOEY's LCN godfather, but his Church godfather as well.

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The source advised that PEPI, who he had mentioned above, had a brother-in-law named MORRIS (LNU), who had served time in Atlanta with the source. He had arrived at Atlanta in about 1955. The source thought the full name might be MORRIS CIACOI (phonetic sound like Chacoy). He said PEPI was under PETE DELSI and TADDO DEL. DELSI's brother, RALPH DELSI, is the boss of a labor union dealing with tar and waterproofing, in addition to owning the Crow's Nest.

The source said that he nearly got into bad relations with PAUL VARIO a couple of years after he was made a member. He was arrested by narcotics officers for conspiracy in narcotics with one CHARLIE (LNU), who was the cousin of FRANK FANI (phonetic), a member of the GAMBINO family. The source said that CHARLIE was a runner of his in his numbers operation and was arrested one day in the act of paying the source for his collection. CHARLIE was also dealing in narcotics and had just come from a narcotics sale. He was under surveillance at this time and the narcotics agents thought the source was involved in the sale of these narcotics and arrested him along with CHARLIE. The source advised that the LCN "sat back and waited" to see how the disposition would turn out. When the charges were later dropped, the source was "cleared." The source said his specialty in Harlem and the Bronx included bookmaking, poker games, numbers, and peddling hot jewelry and clothing.

At this time, the source admitted for the first time that his present relations with PAUL VARIO were not good. He said VARIO got upset with him when he learned that the source had obtained several shylock loans outside of the family without clearing with him first. He said VARIO had already gone out on a limb for the source with BENNY DE MARTINO of the Genevese Family, sitting down with BENNY and arranging a schedule when the source would pay back the loans already outstanding. Then the source obtained some more loans on top of this and, when his business fell through, left New York without contacting VARIO.

The source said that he knows of at least one occasion when PAUL VARIO has attempted to reach him through his brother, who deals in Las Vegas. This occurred a couple of months ago, and VARIO's message was that he would like to sit down with the source and straighten everything out, so that the source could return to New York. The source said he declined this offer, suspecting that it was an attempt to get him out in the open

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where he could be "hit." He added, however, that he felt once he got his shylock debts cleared up, he could probably renew his relationship with VARIO and the LCN. He indicated that this would be a delicate undertaking and he stressed the need to be extremely careful and to move slowly, for he felt the possibility of his being killed was very real.

The source, at this point, began to discuss hi-jacking in New York, which he said was a specialty of the LCN. He advised that a large lot existed in Brooklyn where the LCN took hot trucks and transferred the stolen goods into trucks that were not stolen. He said he might be able to identify the whereabouts of this lot if he had a street map of Brooklyn.

The source said the LCN also has numerous garages in Queens that are used as "drops" for stolen merchandise. Other "drops" are located in the outskirts of the New York burroughs. The source said JOHNNY ANGELO, whose nickname is JOHNNY ANG, has several drops. He said ANGELO is a member of the Gambino Family and is one of the few persons to whom PAUL VARIO introduced the source as a member of the LCN. This introduction occurred as a result of the source contacting ANGELO and picking up some stolen merchandise for VARIO. The source recalled one of ANGELO's drops was in a wastepaper shop (junk shop) in the Bronx, near a club on Morris Park Avenue. Again, the source said a map might help him pinpoint this location.

The source said PAUL VARIO never goes along on a hi-jacking and most of the time, LCN members do not even go along. Instead, they control the handling of the stolen merchandise once the hi-jacking has occurred.

The source explained that much of the hi-jacking is handled with the complicity of the truck drivers, who are slipped some money and give their trucks up without reporting the theft for four or five hours. Then they allow themselves to be tied up and claim they were hi-jacked, frequently blaming it on to Negroes. This allows the hi-jackers to get rid of the stolen goods without worrying about being spotted in the hot truck. The source continued that many warehousemen and watchmen are also paid off to allow thefts to occur either from the parking lots or warehouses. Most of these thefts occur on a weekend and the theft is not reported by the watchmen until the hi-jackers have had sufficient time to unload the stolen goods.

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On 2/10/69, SF 3208-PC advised that it was rumored among some of the members of the LCN that there were four or five priests of the Roman Catholic Church in the New York area who were members of the LCN. The source stated that he has never personally met any priests who were known to him as members of the LCN. However, he said he found this idea to be not entirely impossible, particularly in view of a recent discovery by Italian police that some priests in Sicily were members of the Mafia and were using a monastery to conceal property stolen by the Mafia.

Miscellaneous Information

The source advised that he met BILL BONANNO about three or four years ago in New York City, through one JOE NATARO, a close friend of the BONANNOS and the owner of a trucking service in Brooklyn. The source advised that BONANNO was hanging real close to NATARO because his father, JOE BONANNO, had just been kidnaped. The source said he knew NATARO as an old-time member of the Anastasia Family, before that family was taken over by GAMBINO. According to SF 3208-PC, NATARO has since died. He added that he has heard that BILL BONANNO has moved to San Jose, California, recently and may be getting some kind of an operation going there. 113

The source advised that he has met and been associating recently with two burglars, ROBERT JOHN BARTHEL and WILLIAM MASON, known on the streets as "Bob" and "Tim" respectively. They operate mainly in Los Angeles and San Francisco and maintain a residence in the Los Angeles area, telephone number DU 4-9623. According to the source, both of these individuals have recently been involved in a "shakedown" of two unknown victims who are evidently partners in a business. Through BARTHEL and MASON, the source was introduced to an Italian nicknamed "The Whip." This individual was described by the source as being about 46 to 48 years of age, 5'9", 180 pounds, brown hair with receding hairline, and a noticeably large flat nose. He is allegedly from Brooklyn, New York, and is sometimes called "Brooklyn." He is apparently involved in this shakedown and is representing someone in Los Angeles by the name of (FNU) SICA. (It would appear that this person in Los Angeles could be identical to either JOE, FRANK, or FRED SICA, three hoodlum brothers known to the Los Angeles Division.) According to the source, over \$5000.00 has been paid by the victims already and allegedly taken to (FNU) SICA by "The Whip." The source indicated that he would remain alert to any further information concerning this matter.