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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (92-6054)

DATE: 3-20-69

FROM : Legat, Rome (92-80) (P.)

SUBJECT: LA COSA NOSTRA
AR - CONSPIRACY

ReROMlet 3-5-69.

For the Bureau's information, there follows a translation of a report furnished Legat on 3-19-69 by the Central Bureau, Criminal Division, Italian National Police, Rome, which expresses its observations relating to the Mafia in Italy and its counterpart in the United States:

The ties between the Sicilian Mafia and its counterpart in the United States were particularly close during the years following World War II. The close ties were maintained principally for the traffic of heroin from Sicily to the United States.

The concentrated effort of the Italian police in cooperation with the FBI and the U. S. Bureau of Narcotics assisted in disclosing these ties and stopping the illegal traffic of heroin to the United States.

Cited in particular is the Italian police operation of June, 1961, which led to the arrest of the dangerous Italian Mafioso SALVATORE CANEBA, Italy, also known as John Sperandio, and with the filing of charges against 42 others for illicit traffic in drugs and other grave crimes. The Judicial Tribunal of Rome in November, 1967, handed down severe sentences to CANEBA and these other individuals.

5 - Bureau

(1 - Liaison Section)

(1 - Bufile 92-3962, ANTHONY CARILLO)

(1 - New York, 92-1122, ANTHONY CARILLO)

2 - Rome (1 - 92-179, ANTHONY CARILLO)

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Another operation cited is the one conducted by the Squadra Mobile (Flying Squad) of Palermo, Sicily, in June, 1965, which referred to the Italian Judiciary a report denouncing members of the Sicilian Mafia and members of the American criminal element for aggravated criminal conspiracy. Penal proceedings in this matter were concluded in 1968, when the court acquitted the defendants for insufficiency of evidence. However, the intervention in this matter by the Italian police and the numerous warrants of arrest issued during the police investigation served to impede the efforts of the Mafia in Sicily.

The Italian police have reason to believe that the Sicilian Mafia has abandoned its drug traffic with America. This belief is based on the fact that at the Appalachian Convention of noted criminals in the United States in 1957, it was suggested that dealing in drugs be halted. The police have also noted that in the past several years there has been very little activity in the trafficking of drugs between the U.S. and Italy.

The Italian police are of the opinion, however, that there still exist some ties between the Sicilian Mafia and the American criminal element. Two reasons for this belief are set forth below:

1. It appears that the American criminal element undertake to protect and conceal the location of Sicilian Mafiosi in the United States who are wanted for grave crimes committed in Italy. One case recalled is that of the dangerous Mafioso SANTO LIBRICI, accused of many grave crimes in Italy, one of which was the killing of a police functionary. LIBRICI illegally entered the U.S. in 1960 under the protection of the Mafia and was not arrested until August, 1967, in New York, where he had assumed the identity of FRANCESCO AGOSTO. *Italy* Based on information provided by the Italian police, he was subsequently arrested in the United States and deported to Italy. However, many other Sicilian Mafiosi sought by Italian justice have found refuge in the United States under the protection of the Mafia.

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2. There also exist close ties between the American criminal element and dangerous Mafiosi who have been expelled from the United States and reside in Italy. The noted American gangster LUCKY LUCIANO died in Italy in 1961; however, one of the bosses of the American Mafia, GIUSEPPE DODO, also known as Joe Adonis, has been residing in Italy since 1956. In regard to ADONIS, it will be recalled that in December, 1968, the Federal Bureau of Investigation advised the Italian police that a committee of members of La Cosa Nostra in the United States, which included ANTONIO CARILLO, THOMAS EBOLI, DAVID VPETRILLO, and others, had left the United States a short time before to go to Italy with the intention of meeting JOE ADONIS. One of the possible reasons for the meeting was to discuss a possible successor to VITO GENOVESE, who at that time was in very bad health. Investigation by the Italian National Police verified that these individuals had arrived in Italy but it was not possible to establish whether they met with ADONIS.

CARILLO, however, was arrested by the Italian National Police on November 23, 1968, charged with conspiring to import and export narcotics. He was subsequently granted provisional liberty; however, he must report to the Italian police every 15 days. The charge against CARILLO is still being investigated by an Investigating Magistrate and no decision has yet been handed down.

The activities of JOE ADONIS are closely followed, and pertinent information developed relating to his activities is furnished to American police authorities.

Other members of the American criminal element of Italian origin suspected of belonging to La Cosa Nostra in the United States will frequently travel to Italy with the apparent purpose of touring and visiting relatives. Because of the prompt notification by the American police authorities, their activities are checked and any pertinent information developed is disseminated to American authorities.

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The above report does not provide data not already known to the Bureau. However, it has been reported to present the observations of the Italian police regarding the Italian Mafia and the American criminal element.

HENRY MANFREDI, Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, Washington, D.C., advised on 3-19-69 that he has concluded his talks with Italian police officials regarding its investigation of the 90 individuals who have been charged with aggravated criminal conspiracy to import and export narcotics to and from Italy and with regard to the CARILLO case.

MANFREDI advised he has suggested to Italian authorities that they examine records of the SALVATORE CANEBA trial, which was concluded in 1967, and the records of the trial held in Reggio Calabria on 10-23-67 against 115 defendants, all of whom were charged with being members of the Italian Mafia and with aggravated criminal conspiracy. The Bureau will recall in that trial on 12-23-68 the court sentenced 73 of the defendants to prison terms ranging from 3 months to 27 years. Forty of the defendants were acquitted on grounds of insufficient evidence. According to MANFREDI, the records of these two trials might assist the Italian police in their current investigation of the 90 individuals.

MANFREDI said there is no question that the case against TONY CARILLO is a weak one. He did suggest to the Italian police that they might wish to issue letters rogatory so that ~~GIUSEPPE SARAGO~~, an Italian national currently in ^{Italy} jail in Canada, could be questioned regarding any possible ties between him and CARILLO. According to MANFREDI, SARAGO was one of six Italians arrested in Canada in the latter part of 1967 for bringing narcotics into Canada.

Any pertinent developments in this matter received by Legat will be reported to the Bureau promptly.