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CG 91-3396

Bureau fugitive based upon a warrant issued that date charging MENDOLIA with violation of Title 18, Section 1073, United States Code in that on or about January 26, 1964, MENDOLIA fled from Bakersfield, California, to the State of Illinois to avoid prosecution for the crime of burglary. MENDOLIA remained a fugitive until June 30, 1964, when he was arrested by Bureau Agents at Chicago, Illinois.

Following the arrest of MENDOLIA on June 30, 1964, at Chicago, MENDOLIA refused to discuss any of his activities or associates.

Extensive investigation to place the weapons recovered at the scene of the abandonment of the getaway car in this matter, the residence of FRANK DELEGGE has met with negative results. This investigation was conducted in an effort to trace the weapons from the point of manufacture into one of the subject's possessions. The results of this investigation conducted by other divisions is not being set forth in the details of this report but is maintained in the Chicago file.

On January 7, 1964, CG 5913-C, advised SA WILLIAM A. MEINCKE that he was with MIKE LA JOY on January 7, 1964. The informant advised that LA JOY refuses to talk about the Franklin Park Bank robbery other than the fact that he is in deep trouble and is "sweating it out". The informant advises that LA JOY refuses to comment regarding

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the robbery.

The informant also advised that in the afternoon of January 7, 1964, he and LA JOY went to the restaurant operated by FRANK DELEGGE in the vicinity of 16th and Cicero, Cicero, Illinois. Upon entering the restaurant DELEGGE told them to get out, that the FBI had just left and he did not want anyone associated with the bank robbery in the restaurant. The informant advised that DELEGGE was all excited about the FBI visit and that he kept mentioning that he was "sweating it out".

On January 7, 1964, CG 6232-C, advised SA WILLIAM A. MEINCKE that he had been in contact with the father of MIKE LA JOY. LA JOY's father advised the informant that it is costing him a great deal of money regarding his son's implication in the bank robbery, that he expects MIKE will have to do some time in connection with the robbery. The informant could gain no further information regarding the details of the robbery from LA JOY's father.

On January 9, 1964, PCI [redacted], inmate, Illinois State Penitentiary, Stateville, Illinois, advised the following concerning the robbery of the Franklin Park Bank on September 23, 1963:

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GUY MENDOLIA is a close friend of FRANK DELEGGE and PAT SCHANG and was brought in on the robbery.

[redacted] did not know about the telephone "school bomb" alarm but stated the freight train was supposed to be longer than it was. The short train caused a chase since the robbers figured the police could not cross the tracks to the bank from the station and sufficient time to catch them, before they made the getaway.

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JOE D'ARGENTO, GUY MENDOLIA, GERRY TOMASZEK and MIKE LA JOY went into the bank, GUY MENDOLIA stood by the door, he wore a raincoat. PAT SCHANG drove the getaway car. MIKE LA JOY was behind the counter with GERRY TOMASZEK and LA JOY probably put money in his pockets beside the loot he put in the box.

During the chase JOE D'ARGENTO fired the shots with a carbine through the rear window at the pursuing police cars. He broke the window first. D'ARGENTO also fell out of the car breaking off the right door as it braked rapidly at the garage of DELEGGE's residence.

GUY MENDOLIA and TOMASZEK ran immediately through a nearby yard, where they got rid of some of their clothing and guns. MENDOLIA carried a box with part of the loot and took it to a residence of some friend nearby. This could have been FRANK

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MENDOLIA left town soon after the robbery, he refused any share of the loot.

Arrangements for the splitting of the loot were possibly made in a restaurant at the northwest corner of Milwaukee, Lincoln and Fullerton. [redacted] was present when D'ARGENTO, TOMASZEK and LA JOY met at this spot, the day after LA JOY and D'ARGENTO were released on bond. (Subjects were arrested September 27, 1963, TOMASZEK made bond September 27, 1963, SCHANG surrendered October 2, 1963, D'ARGENTO, LA JOY and SCHANG were released on bond October 3, 1963.)

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EMIL CROVEDI may have been the person who obtained D'ARGENTO, SCHANG and TOMASZEK's share of the loot from LA JOY and delivered it to them, about two weeks after the robbery.

After the subjects were released on bond there was a great amount of bitterness and accusations as to who was the Government pigeon.

Because several thought LA JOY was weak and due to his heavy debts and problems because of his gambling habits, LA JOY was looked at with suspicion.

LA JOY is the nephew of FRANK DE LEGGE and of WILLIE "POTATOES" DADDANO, well known Chicago syndicate hoodlum. Because of this relationship, CROVEDI fronted for the remaining subjects and re-

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quested JOE ROSSI, a known Cicero, Illinois hoodlum, to take CROVEDI to DADDANO to discuss the possibility of LA JOY or FRANK DELEGGE having admitted to the FBI the robbery of the Franklin Park Bank and the identity of the remaining subjects.

Also under suspicion since he was in on the job was GUY MENDOLIA, because he had not been arrested as were the others.

Eventually all the subjects were forced to take a lie detector test, given by someone hired by DADDANO and possibly given at DADDANO's house or some unknown place on the west side of Chicago.

All cleared as being an informant, MENDOLIA left town shortly after, refused any part of the loot and eventually the subjects dismissed the idea that a "beeper" caused the Government to solve the robbery.

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On January 16, 1964, PCI [] advised as follows:

Concerning the Franklin Park Bank robbery September 23, 1963, the garages used by the subjects to keep the work cars used in the robbery, belong to or were used by EMIL CROVEDI and GUY MENDOLIA.

The train was definitely a short train on the day of the robbery, this was the train that prevented the police cars from arriving at the bank while the robbery was in progress. [] did not know if it was a scheduled freight or not, but it regul-

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arly went through at the same time and was always a long train. The robbers felt that they would have plenty of time to get away but he did not know how the robbery was planned to coincide with the train going through Franklin Park.

After the subjects were out on bond and while they were trying to find out who the pigeon was, GERRY TOMASZEK, JOE D'ARENTO and [] met MIKE LA JOY and JOHNNY "THE BUG" VARELLI at Sansonetti's. Mannheim and Grand to discuss the matter. [] was not allowed to hear the conversation nor was he told of the decisions made. JOHN VARELLI was supposed to try to determine the pigeon in the matter. [] recalled that EMIL CROVEDI had acted definitely as a go-between in taking the money from LA JOY to PAT SCHANG.

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He said MENDOLIA went out of town right away, later called back for PAT SCHANG to bring the second work car and getaway car out of town to MENDOLIA. He only knew MENDOLIA was somewhere out west, possibly Phoenix, Arizona or Los Angeles, California.

On April 7, 1964, CG 6747-C, advised SA LEONARD A. WOLF the following:

The informant advised that over the week end he had met a woman named DORIS NESSI, whose husband JAMES NESSI, is to be released from the Federal Penitentiary at Sandstone, Minnesota on

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