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Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI  
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90110-10027  
RECORD SERIES : HQ  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : CR 87-40901-40

Released under the John  
F. Kennedy  
Assassination Records  
Collection Act of 1992  
(44 USC 2107 Note).  
Case#:NW 54027 Date:  
08-25-2017

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI  
FROM : MM  
TO : HQ

TITLE :

DATE : 09/28/1960  
PAGES : 6

SUBJECTS :  
JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified  
RESTRICTIONS : 4  
CURRENT STATUS : Redact  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/06/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS : MEMO

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: SEP 28 1960

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (87-13024)

SUBJECT:

CHANGED

JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA, aka.;  
 WILLIAM W. RABIN; AL SEID, aka.,  
 Al Zeid (TN)  
 ITSP; IMPERSONATION

OO: Miami

Re Miami teletype to Bureau and Chicago, 8/25/60;  
 Miami teletype to Bureau, 8/26/60; Pittsburgh teletype  
 to Bureau, 8/26/60; Richmond teletypes to Bureau, 8/26/60,  
 and Miami teletype to Bureau, 8/28/60.

The title of this case is marked changed to delete  
 from the title the names of subjects JOHN CHARLES HERRMANN,  
 aka.; JOHN EDER, aka., and JIMMY MARTIN, and to add as  
 subjects WILLIAM W. RABIN and AL SEID, aka. The title  
 was previously carried in referenced communications as  
 "JOHN CHARLES HERRMANN, aka.; JOHN EDER, aka.; JOSEPH  
 RAYMOND MEROLA, aka.; JIMMY MARTIN - ITSP".

For the information of New York and Washington  
 Field, on August 25, 1960, MM 722 PC advised he had learned  
 MEROLA planned to leave Miami that night by plane for  
 Chicago to join HERRMANN and EDER (Miami Top Jewel Thieves).

- 3 - Bureau  
 (1 - 87-41245)  
 3 - Chicago (1 - 87-11127)  
 2 - New York (1 - 87-10541)  
 2 - Pittsburgh (87-6706)  
 (1 - 87-5446)  
 2 - Richmond (87-5068)  
 2 - WFO (1 - 87-4785)  
 6 - Miami  
 (1 - 137-2065-SubA) (1 - 137-1594-Sub)  
 (1 - 87-13042) (1 - 87-8756)

PCC:mgw  
 (20)

102  
 52 OCT 10 1960

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6 SEP 30 1960

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22628 JS6/9K  
 Re: Joseph Merola  
 for review at FBIHQ by  
 HSCA re 22078 request.  
 (See Bufile #62-117290)

STAT. SECT.

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 87-41245-

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"on a job". On August 26, 1960, informant advised he had learned MEROLA and two unknown associates departed Miami early morning of that date, reportedly for Roanoke, Virginia. Informant learned that AL SEID had taken these three individuals to the Miami International Airport, SEID remaining in Miami until the afternoon of August 26, 1960, when he flew to Pittsburgh. Informant learned MEROLA was expecting a \$500.00 Western Union money order after arrival in Roanoke and SEID, before departing from Miami, was making efforts to obtain money to wire to MEROLA at Roanoke.

Investigation at Eastern Airlines, Miami, on August 26, 1960, determined three individuals using names J. MEADE, D. BERMAN, and L. BURNS departed Miami at 1:20 A. M. that date on Eastern Airlines Flight 854 non-stop, one way tickets, for Washington, D. C. An unexplained notation was on the ticket issued to J. MEADE reflecting intention to travel to Roanoke, Virginia. No positive identification of photograph of JOSEPH MEROLA was made for the J. MEADE.

Confidential source, Miami, advised on August 26, 1960 that a \$500.00 Western Union money order sent 11:10 A. M. that day to NELLIE MEROLA, c/o Will Call, Roanoke, Virginia.

Fisur instituted August 26, 1960 at Roanoke, Virginia reflected NELLIE MEROLA received \$500.00 money order at Roanoke from where, accompanied by MEROLA and their children, she drove via Camden, South Carolina, Jacksonville, Florida, to Miami Beach, arriving late afternoon of August 28, 1960. No significant contacts observed. Whereabouts of two unknown associates of MEROLA not known after the three departed Miami by plane for Washington, D. C.

MM 722 PC advised on August 26, 1960 that he had learned MEROLA and/or his two unknown associates had with

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"BERNIE" had gone as far as Washington, D. C., ultimate destination not learned, involved a swindle or theft of a substantial amount of money, all in \$10,000 bills. He learned these bills were reportedly stolen in Japan by a representative of the United States Government shortly after World War II. Such bills were reportedly brought into the United States and since then one or two of the \$10,000 bills was sold at a discount, which sale resulted in inquiry by the U. S. Treasury Department. As a result of the inquiry the unidentified person in possession of these \$10,000 bills has been afraid to sell, spend, or otherwise dispose of same. Informant learned this person is reportedly still in the U. S. Government service, possibly connected with the United Nations or the U. S. State Department, and from conversation overheard informant gathered these bills are now or have in the recent past been stored in a safe deposit box of an unknown branch of the Manufacturers Trust Company, New York City.

Subjects feel that victim of proposed score, inasmuch as he is not in legal possession of the \$10,000 bills, would make no complaint of the loss of this money if the score successful.

MM 722 PC advised on September 19, 1960 that he learned RABIN was expected in Miami over the week-end of September 17 - 19, 1960 where, acting on instructions of GABE (KELLY) MANNARINO, New Kensington, Pennsylvania racketeer, RABIN was to obtain the fictitious credentials (mentioned herein above) from someone unknown to informant, for subsequent use in pulling above-described score. He learned nothing of the date or time for this proposed score.

On September 14, 1960, MM 660-C advised she learned on JOE MEROLA's recent trip to Roanoke, Virginia, on August 26, 1960, when MEROLA left Miami he was accompanied

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MM 722 PC learned that WILLIAM W. RABIN reportedly is in possession of a passport, which he carries with him at all times; that RABIN has stated his intentions to leave the country in the event he is successful in attempting the score described herein above, thereby avoiding a split of the loot obtained with GABE MANNARINO and others. Informant mentioned the possibility that in the event RABIN is successful in attempting this score, MANNARINO, NORMAN ROTHMAN, and others may take necessary steps to "get rid" of RABIN prior to their forthcoming trial on ITSP - CONSPIRACY charges, in view of their feeling that without RABIN, MANNARINO and ROTHMAN cannot be successfully prosecuted.

MM 722 PC previously advised in July, 1960, that he had learned GABE MANNARINO, WILLIAM W. RABIN, and NORMAN ROTHMAN (latter a Miami Beach racketeer) were concerned over their indictment in Chicago on conspiracy charges involving stolen bonds; that MANNARINO and ROTHMAN felt that "with RABIN out of the way" they could not be convicted on the conspiracy charge; and MANNARINO and ROTHMAN had reportedly made known their intentions to "get rid" of RABIN.

New York Office is origin in case involving MANNARINO, RABIN, ROTHMAN, et al, who were initially indicted in June, 1959, on ITSP - Conspiracy, later reindicted during the summer of 1960 at Chicago on the same charges to include other subjects - Bufile 87-41245; New York file 87-10541; Chicago File 87-11127; Pittsburgh File 87-5446, and WFO file 87-4785.

The above is furnished to the Bureau and offices receiving copies of this letter for information purposes.

No dissemination of this information should be made and same should not be discussed outside the Bureau without specific Bureau authority. The Miami Office recommends no dissemination or discussion outside the Bureau as same would likely reveal the identity and status of the informants herein, seriously jeopardizing the confidential relationship of these informants, and/or endangering the lives of these informants.