

Agency Information

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F B I

Date: 3/4/64

Transmit the following in AIRTEL
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: Director, FBI
FROM: SAC, Miami (92-463) *ED*
RE: JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA, aka *John*
AR

On 3/ 2/64, MM 913-C advised he had received information from one DAVID SIEGEL, who was residing in room 748 of the Fontainebleau Hotel, indicating there was a large amount of counterfeit money available in Miami. SIEGEL subsequently furnished on the morning of 3/3/64, one \$20.00 counterfeit bill to the informant, who furnished the same to this office. The informant, who previously knew SIEGEL when both served time in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, learned that the individual who had the counterfeit money in Miami was named "JOE" and that he was from Miami and Pittsburgh. Informant did not know "JOE's" full name nor address. The informant did learn that "JOE" lived in a nice house on Miami Beach and was either Italian or Jewish.

SIEGEL advised the informant that he had been to "JOE's" house and had seen 85 bundles of \$20.00 bills, each bundle containing \$20,000 for a total of \$1,700,000.

- 3 - Bureau (1 - 137-4866) (AM)
 - 3 - Miami (1 - 137-2117) (1 - 66-2586)
- HWS:amc
(6)

To B. Wick

REC 10

92-4194-5

EX-117

12 MAR 5 1964

MAILED

Approved: [Signature] Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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MM 92-463

On the afternoon of 3/3/64, the informant advised SIEGEL, acting as an intermediary for another individual, was going to put up \$1,300 in good money for \$6,500 of the counterfeit \$20.00 bills. The good money was reportedly to be delivered to SIEGEL at approximately 3:00 p.m., on 3/3/64, at which time arrangements would be made for the delivery of the counterfeit money. The informant was going to attempt to identify "JOE" as he contemplated being with SIEGEL. A surveillance by Bureau Agents at the residence of JOE MEROLA reflected he arrived on the afternoon of 3/3/64 at his residence at 3:15 p.m. He remained for seven minutes, thereafter departed, and proceeded alone in his car to the vicinity of Meridian and Arthur Godfrey Road on Miami Beach. For security reasons it was not possible to determine whether MEROLA carried anything from his residence, nor his immediate action following his arrival in the vicinity of Arthur Godfrey Road.

MM 913-C subsequently advised that he had gone with SIEGEL to the Royal Castle on Arthur Godfrey Road, which is located at 780 Arthur Godfrey Road, and thereafter proceeded to a vacant area near there and found in the bushes a package containing \$6,500 in counterfeit money. SIEGEL, who owed the informant some money, then gave the informant ten of the counterfeit \$20.00 bills as part payment.

It was previously learned from Departmental Attorney WILLIAM S. KENNEY, at Miami, that MEROLA had advised him that PHIL MAINER and his brother from Cleveland had a large amount of counterfeit money and that MEROLA had actually furnished to KENNEY some of the counterfeit bills. MEROLA, with KENNEY, discussed the matter with Secret Service at that time and KENNEY advised that he was displeased with MEROLA inasmuch as MEROLA would not go along with the government in an attempt to recover the money and arrest the individuals with the same. KENNEY advised he instructed MEROLA at that time to have nothing to do with the matter and he should not handle it.