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9/11/67

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (137-17219)
(ATTN: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JAMES H. GALE)

FROM: SAC, MIAMI (137-4138)

MM 1231-C-TE
TECIP

Re Buairtel to Miami, 9/7/67.

The Bureau points out, in reairtel, as to certain discrepancies contained in information furnished by the captioned informant. One of these is the fact that PAUL VARIO was identified by the informant as one of those in attendance at meetings held in presence of the informant in New York.

Bureau refer to Miami airtel under captioned matter dated 8/21/67, page 3, paragraph 1. Therein it is stated by the informant that VARIO had at one time been a member of the BONANNO family, but was shifted to the LUCHESE family and was made a "captain" by LUCHESE.

Bureau refer to Miami airtel dated 9/6/67, under caption "LA COSA NOSTRA, AR - CONSPIRACY" wherein informant was re-interviewed concerning that information furnished on 9/4/67, relating to his trip to N. Y. Informant stated that this trip was not to be construed as a "meeting" with all persons in attendance at the same time. He states that any misconception would have been his fault, that he was "summoned" to New York by PAUL VARIO for a two-fold purpose, number one being to re-finance informant for monetary setbacks incurred during recent court trials, and number two, to

4 - Bureau (1-92-6034) (RM)
2 - New York (92- LCN) (RM)
1 - Miami
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bring informant up to date as to recent occurrences in the LCN, particularly with regard to the BONANNO family. The situation with that regard was furnished to the Bureau and New York in the airtel mentioned above.

The informant insists that the initiation ceremony ascribed to LCN membership by other admitted LCN members was not the case in his situation and re-iterates that this ceremony, although in existence at one time, was not given to him, and at the time of his admission, according to the informant, the ceremony was 'passe'.

Regarding execution squads set up by BONANNO throughout the country as set forth in Miami airtel to Bureau 8/21/67, the informant has no further details relating to this at this time, however, he did explain that he had learned during his trip to New York that these people had been "paid off" by the other factions to disclaim their loyalty to BONANNO to the point that they were no longer considered a threat, at least as was related to the informant by VARIO.

In connection with the development of this informant, as has been noted through experience with informants in general, a complete picture of information furnished is generally gained through a series of interviews and is particularly true in this case. This informant is not of a nature to be "grilled" at length at any one confrontation. The interview with him usually lasts no longer than an hour at a sitting and some times less. At this stage of his development, the informant retains a certain reticence toward conferences with law enforcement personnel. It is expected that, with proper development of confidence between Agent and informant, these natural barriers will dissolve.

The next interview with the informant is scheduled for about the end of this week, at which time some of the questions put forth by the Bureau in rebuairtel will be attempted to be resolved.

9/7/67

Airtel

To: SAC, Miami (137-4138)

From: Director, FBI (137-17219)

MM 1231-C-TE
TECIP

The above-captioned source should be interviewed in detail regarding his knowledge of La Cosa Nostra (LCN) activity in an effort to obtain clarifying data with respect to information he has previously furnished regarding this underworld organization.

This source has reported that he was "made" a member of the Bonanno "family" approximately 20 years ago, however, he stated there was no initiation ceremony involved in connection with his induction. It is noted that his account of becoming a member of the Bonanno "family" substantially differs from that furnished by other Bureau sources who are members of the Bonanno "family." These sources have advised there was a formal ceremony at the time they became full-fledged members.

The Bureau's experience in connection with the development of member-informants in LCN discloses that some of these sources are initially reluctant to provide intimate details of their initiation, however, with additional well-planned interviews, these source have furnished complete information regarding the specific circumstances existing when they became members of LCN.

Miami airtel to the Bureau and New York dated 9/5/67, entitled "La Cosa Nostra, AR - Conspiracy" advises the informant furnished information regarding an LCN meeting which he attended on Long Island, New York. This source reported

1 - Miami (92-853)

1 - New York - Information (La Cosa Nostra, AR - Conspiracy)

1 - 92-6054 - La Cosa Nostra, AR - Conspiracy

JEK:bjn

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DUPLICATE YELLOW

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Airtel to Miami
Re: MM 1231-C-TE

approximately 13 members of the Bonanno and Gambino "families" were in attendance. Among those he identified were Paul Vario and Carmine Tramunti. It is noted Bureau sources have previously reported these two individuals are members of the Luchese "family." The informant should be pressed for full details regarding this meeting, including its exact location and identity of all in attendance.

MM 1231-C-TE has also stated that Joe Bonanno maintained "execution squads" throughout the country and specifically in Los Angeles, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Chicago, and elsewhere. The informant should be interviewed in detail concerning this situation in an effort to obtain complete details.

It is recognized that the informant, as a veteran hoodlum, has an exceptional potential to assist the Bureau. Interviews with him should be aimed at obtaining very precise information regarding his knowledge and possible involvement in LCN activity.

In reporting the results of the interview of MM 1231-C-TE concerning this matter, designate copies for Bureau file 92-6054, "La Cosa Nostra, AR - Conspiracy," and the New York Office.

Suairtel.