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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO :

Mr. Belmont *alb*

DATE: January 7, 1965

FROM :

Mr. Gale *GA*

SUBJECT:

LA COSA NOSTRA

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

In connection with our intensive investigation regarding internal strife at La Cosa Nostra's top level, which has resulted in the expulsion of Joseph Bonanno from the "commission," a Los Angeles top echelon criminal informant, who is the brother of one of Bonanno's closest confidants, has reported that Bonanno has appealed to the parent organization in Sicily regarding "commission" action taken against his group. This informant stated that his brother told him that the Mafia in Sicily controlled the United States counterpart until 1930, when the United States branch was granted self-governing rights.

Concerning international aspects of La Cosa Nostra, we have previously developed interesting information, particularly through our highly sensitive coverage of Philadelphia "commission" member Angelo Bruno, regarding this organization's counterpart in Italy. This source has revealed that the Italian organization is headed by a "commission," and is organized by individual "family" groups, with "boss," "underboss," etc., in a manner similar to the table of organization of this country's La Cosa Nostra, which has its origin in Sicily. The above source also revealed that the United States and Italian brother organizations operate independently in that the leadership of one does not impose any mandatory control on that of the other. It was indicated that a member of the organization from one country is not automatically accepted as such in the other country, and such an individual must again prove himself to be accepted as a member should he move from one country to another.

The manner in which accepted protocol between these groups actually functions is well exemplified by Angelo Bruno's visit to Sicily during the past few years, during which he met with one Calogero Sinatra, whom he described as recently having been elevated to the position of "boss" of a "borgata" (family) in Sicily. While in Sicily, Bruno also met with Joseph Ida, who had preceded Bruno as "boss" of the Philadelphia La Cosa Nostra "family,"

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Stanley
- 1 - Mr. McAndrews
- 1 - Mr. Emery

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