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K. C. Copy
for file.

August 31, 1945

SE-202
Mo-7743

In re: CARL CARRAMUSA, et al.

Honorable Sam Wear,
United States Attorney,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your recent request for a summary of the investigation of CARL CARRAMUSA at al, our case file number# SE-202 and MO-7743.

This investigation was predicated upon information obtained in [text stricken through] of our case, file SE-183, wherein following a number of sales of narcotic drugs to a government informant, resulted in the arrest of LOUIS and PATSY VENTOLA on February 22, 1940 and the seizure of illicit narcotic drugs having a wholesale value of more than \$3,000.00, in an apartment occupied by the latter named defendant at 29th and Benton Boulevards, Kansas City, Missouri. At the time of their arrest, the VENTOLAS told investigating officers confidentially that they were employed to sell narcotic drugs by CHARLES BENGIMINA, alias "Redbrick", and that BENGIMINA was a distributor for narcotic drugs under the direction of CARL CARRAMUSA, who was the direct representative for the Kansas City Narcotic Syndicate owned and operated by the local ITALIAN MAFIA SECRET SOCIETY.

Subsequent Investigation resulted in the arrest of CHARLES BENGIMINA, and although there was an abundance of evidence to sustain convictions of this defendant and LOUIS and PATSY VENTOLA as principals, these three defendants were permitted to enter pleas of guilty for conspiracy and each received a minor prison sentence.

During the latter part of 1941 and early part of 1942, an investigation was conducted at Kansas City, Missouri and

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a number of purchases of narcotic drugs secured, which on February 17, 1942 resulted in the

arrests of CARL CARRAMUSA, alias "Carey", and CHARLES TAIBI, alias "Charles Ryan", and the seizure of two late model automobiles. From facts ascertained in this investigation as well as from information obtained from the VENTOLAS, it was the opinion of the investigating officers that CARL CARRAMUSA had access to an apparently large quantity of narcotics which the officers believed was concealed somewhere in the vicinity of Independence Avenue and Montgall Streets, Kansas City, Missouri. Working intensively on this theory for more than forty-eight hours investigating officers succeeded in locating the narcotic cache at 425 Montgall Street, where in a very ingeniously devised secret panel the agents found a very large quantity of heroin hydrochloride having a wholesale market value in excess of \$40,000. This seizure resulted in the arrest of FELLIPO and SAMUEL PERNICE, occupants of the residence where the narcotic drugs were concealed.

The four defendants, CARL CARRAMUSA, CHARLES TAIBI, SAMUEL and FELLIPO PERNICE, were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury at Kansas City, Missouri on February 28, 1942, for violation of the narcotic laws.

Following further intensive investigation, facts were obtained which, on April 1, 1942, resulted in six additional indictments against the four-above-mentioned persons and NICOLO IMPOSTATO, JOSEPH DELUCA, PAUL ANTINORI, JOSEPH ANTINORI, CHARLES BENGIMINA, LOUIS VENTOLA and PATSY VENTOLA.

In order to give you as complete a picture as possible, I would like to go back to 1929 when a man known to the narcotic officers, only as NICOLINE, and who later was identified as NICOLO IMPOSTATO, came to Kansas City, Missouri from Chicago, Illinois and "mused in" to the local rackets through JOHN LAZZIA, czar of the Kansas City underworld during the Pendergast regime. John Lazzia was later assassinated. Since shortly after his arrival in Kansas City, NICOLO IMPOSTATO assumed the position as second in command under JOSEPH DELUCA who was in charge of the narcotic drug syndicate, which was made up of JAMES BALISTRIERE, TOBY GIZZO, JOSEPH DELUCA, JAMES DESIMONE, JACK ANCONA, JOE OLIVER, ANGELO NIGRO, TUDI LASCOULA, JOE PATITO DAVE FINKELSTEIN, and JOE and MIKE LASCOULA. This syndicate was financed by the local Italian

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Mafia, commonly known as the "Blackhand" organization, and all of the above-named persons in the narcotic syndicate were members of this organization with the exception of the three LASCOULAS.

This subsidiary of the Italian Mafia placed the illicit peddling of contraband narcotics on a strictly business basis and appointed or hired a legal advisor, a supervisor, general manager, a

traveling representative, a bookkeeper, and an extensive sales force. Through its business like tactics this organization soon developed contacts with the major sources of illicit narcotics in the United States, and within a short time was supplying not only the Kansas City area but was carrying on an extensive trade in the States of Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Nebraska, Arkansas, Kansas, and Illinois.

For your further information, it was definitely ascertained during the course of the investigation of our case file SE-202, that JOHN VITALE of St. Louis, Missouri, who was arrested in that city in the spring of 1940 and who is now serving an eight year sentence in federal prison for violation of narcotic laws, was the "front" for a group of Italian narcotic traffickers at St. Louis, Missouri headed by THOMAS BUFFA and TONY LOPICARO, and that the source of supply of the St. Louis organization was the Kansas City Narcotic Syndicate.

During the spring of 1942 further intensive investigation of our case file SE-202 was conducted at Kansas City, Missouri, St. Louis, Missouri, and Tampa, Florida and Havana, Cuba by officers of the United States Bureau of Narcotics, which revealed facts and information to the effect that JAMES DESIMONE, who was later indicted by a federal grand jury, had been employed in capacity of a traveling representative of the Kansas City Narcotic Syndicate and acted as a "liaison" man between this organization and their source of supply. It was also ascertained that SEBASTINO NANI, a large scale narcotic trafficker and reputed head of the Italian Mafia in Brooklyn, New York, had furnished several large shipments of drugs to the Kansas City Narcotic Syndicate in recent years. It was further revealed that PAUL and JOSEPH ANTINORI, of Tampa, Florida, had as their source of narcotic supply one JUAN MANUEL ALFONSO of Havana, Cuba, a prominent Cuban poli-

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tician and internationally known narcotic smuggler.

On December 18, 1942, additional indictments amounting to the sum total of 155 counts for violations of the narcotic laws, were returned against fourteen defendants, namely: JOSEPH DELUCA, NICOLO IMPOSTATO, JAMES DESIMONE, PAUL ANTINORI, JOSEPH ANTINORI, CARL CARRAMUSA, CHARLES TAIBI, THOMAS BUFFA, TONY LOPICARO, FELLIPO PERNICE, SAMUEL PERNICE, LOUIS VENTOLA, PATSY VENTOLA, and CHARLES BENGIMINA. Of these defendants, NICOLO IMPOSTATO, CHARLES TAIBI, and FELLIPO PERNICE entered pleas of guilty and received the following sentences: Nicolo Impostato, two years; Charles Taibi, one day in jail; Fellipo Pernice, four years probation. Defendant SAMUEL PERNICE was dismissed in order that he might enter the armed forces on the plea of guilty by his father. On February 25, 1943, defendant CARL CARRAMUSA was convicted in Federal Court at Kansas City, Missouri on one of the above-mentioned indictments and sentenced to four years in federal prison, which was

later reduced and probated as a result of assistance rendered the Government. On March 20, 1943, the defendants JOSEPH DELUCA, JAMES DESIMONE, PAUL and JOSEPH ANTINORII were convicted in Federal Court at Kansas City, Missouri on an indictment, Docket No. 15539, and received the following prison sentences: Joseph DeLuca, three years; James DeSimone, six years; Paul Antinori, five years; and Joseph Antinori, five years. The convictions of these individuals was largely sustained on the testimony of CARL CARRAMUSA. Pending indictments against CHARLES BENGIMINA, LOUIS VENTOLA and PATSY VENTOLA were dismissed on March 24, 1943 due to some previous agreement made by their defense counsel, James DeLeo, with the United States Attorney's office, to the effect that these three defendants would not be prosecuted for any violations of the narcotic laws which occurred prior to the date on which they entered pleas of guilty in connection with our case file SB-183. The remaining defendants, namely THOMAS BUFFA and TONY LOPICARO of St, Louis, Missouri, were dismissed on September 30, 1943 due to lack of evidence to sustain conviction in federal court.

As a climax to the investigation of our case file SE-202, the defendant CARL CARRAMUSA, who cooperated with the Government to the fullest extent throughout the course of the investigation and who assisted materially by his testimony in federal court, was assassinated by blasts from a sawed-off shotgun

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on June 21, 1945 at Chicago, Illinois, by three unidentified men riding in a black Mercury sedan. An intensive investigation is now being conducted by the Bureau of Narcotics under the direction of the writer in an effort to learn the identities of CARRAMUSA'S assassins and the names of those responsible for this crime.

Very truly yours,

George H. White,
District Supervisor.

cc: Bureau

cc: Dist. #2

cc: Dist. #9