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COMMUNICATION SECTION

OCT 15 1968

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Bishop	✓
Mr. Casper	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. Felt	✓
Mr. Gale	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Sullivan	✓
Mr. Tavel	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Miss Holmes	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

FBI WASH DC

FBI-BUFFALO

1102PM URGENT 10/15/68 PJF

TO DIRECTOR (92-6054) AND ALBANY

FROM BUFFALO (92-337)

LCN BUFFALO DIVISION

AS BUREAU AWARE IRREPLACEABLE REMBRANDT PAINTING "PORTRAIT OF A YOUNG MAN" STOLEN IN BURGLARY OF GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE MUSEUM ROCHESTER NY JAN. THIRTYONE LAST. PAINTING VALUED CONSERVATIVELY AT TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

^C ~~La Cosa Nostra~~
SINCE THEFT LCN MEMBER INFORMANT BU THREE THREE TWO DASH C DASH TE AND BU FOUR FIVE ONE DASH C DASH TE HAVE ADVISED PAINTING IN POSSESSION OF UNKNOWN LCN MEMBER IN "REGIME" OF FRANK VALENTI "CAPO" OF "MAGADDINO FAMILY" OF LCN IN ROCHESTER.

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO RUSSELL DE CICCIO APPROACHED BU FOUR FIVE ONE DASH C-TE AND ADVISED HE HAD PAINTING AVAILABLE AND WAS ATTEMPTING TO FENCE FOR NINETY THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS. DE CICCIO ADVISED WOULD NOT CONSIDER TRANSPORTING PAINTING OUT OF NYS BECAUSE OF EXTREME FBI INVESTIGATIVE PRESSURE ON HIS ACTIVITIES. AFTER IT WAS APPARENT NO FEDERAL VIOLATION COULD BE DEVELOPED PLAN FORMULATED BY BU FOUR FIVE ONE C-TE TO PLACE UNDERCOVER AGENT OF NYSP IN CONTACT WITH DE CICCIO. DURING PAST WEEK UNDERCOVER OPERATIVE HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH DECICCO

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MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

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TO PURCHASE PAINTING.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE LATE LAST NIGHT TO TRANSACT SALE AT AIRPORT NEAR PLATTSBURG ^{NEW YORK} NY.

AS A RESULT OF CLOSE COORDINATION BY FBI AND ^{NEW YORK STATE POLICE} NYSP DE CICCIO AND CARMEN C. BONANNO ^{also known as} AKA BANANNAS CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF FRANK VALENTI WERE ARRESTED BY ^{NEW YORK STATE POLICE} NYSP AT APPROXIMATELY EIGHT FIFTY FIVE PM TONIGHT. STOLEN REMBRANDT RECOVERED INTACT AND UNDAMAGED.

ARRESTS MADE TO APPEAR RESULT OF ROUTINE ^{NEW YORK STATE POLICE} NYSP CHECK IN ORDER TO PROTECT INFORMANTS. ALSO ARRESTED WAS UNDERCOVER AGENT WHO WILL BE RELEASED ON BOND OCTOBER SIXTEEN NEXT.

DE CICCIO AND BONANNO LODGED IN CLINTON COUNTY JAIL WITHOUT BAIL AND CHARGES WITH CRIMINALLY RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY.

TONIGHT'S SEIZURE WHICH IS LATEST OF FBI ENGINEERED RECOVERIES THIS YEAR FROM ^{La Cosa Nostra} LOW BURGLARY OPERATIONS IN BUFFALO AND ROCHESTER BRINGS TOTAL OF RECOVERED STOLEN PROPERTY TO OVER SIX MILLION DOLLARS.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING.

END

BGM

FBI WASH DC

CC: MR. GALE