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Mr. DeLoach.....
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Mr. Bishop.....
Mr. Casper.....
Mr. Callahan.....
Mr. Conrad.....
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FBI

Date: 12/15/67

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TO DIRECTOR, FBI (92-6054)

FROM SAC, NEWARK (92-1203)

SUBJECT LA COSA NOSTRA
RACIAL MATTERS
NEWARK DIVISION

Remyairtel, captioned as above, 8/25/67.

NK 2327-PC on 12/13/67, advised SA BERTIE J. WRISTON, JR. that in his opinion the friction between the Black Muslims and the LCN over the numbers business in Newark, NJ, is growing worse. The Black Muslims did not take over any part of the numbers business as previously planned, but are resorting to shaking down the numbers operators.

Within the past month or so seven numbers runners have been robbed and beaten up. No newspaper publicity resulted because the victims did not file complaints with the Newark, NJPD.

Informant said some numbers operators are paying off as high as \$200 per week to the Black Muslims for "protection". This shakedown is being tolerated because the

- 5 - Bureau (RM)
- 1 - New York (92-2300) (Info)
- 1 - Philadelphia (92-444) (Info)
- 1 - Newark
 - (1 - 157-1611A) (NEWARK)
 - (1 - 100-49200) (NOI)
 - (1 - 100-47817) (SNCC)
 - (1 - 137-3700)
 - (1 - 137-3902)

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NK 92-1203

LCN figures behind the scenes are afraid of retaliation through murder of some of the Black Muslims may set off a race riot. This, in turn, would further interfere with the numbers business; cause local, state and possibly Federal investigations into the causes of the riot; and, as importantly, embarrass the politicians.

Informant said the LCN is aware of this situation, but is leaving the individual numbers operator to get along as best he can. The individual operator, not having an "Army" to retaliate, is therefore complying with the shakedown requests.

The situation, however, is growing worse because the Black Muslims, feeling the LCN is bowing to their demands, are making greater demands for "protection money". When the interference and demands become non-manageable, the individual operators will either be forced out or the LCN will step in with the necessary force to correct the situation.

Informant feels the Black Muslims are using Mafia tactics - an "Army" and secrecy. He said the LCN does not relish the idea of doing combat with the Black Muslims.

NK 2327-PC denied his numbers operation was experiencing trouble. When asked what specific reaction a mob boss would have should informant relate the above problem, informant said the boss would listen attentively, then state, "You know what has to be done". This evasion of the problem leaves the individual numbers operator only the choice of paying the shakedown price because he is in no position to do battle.

Above for information of the Bureau and neighboring offices.