Released under the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (44 USC 2107 Note).

DATE: 11-14-201

## IDENTIFICATION FORM

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DATE:

01/16/1992

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SEE FBI 62-109060-8288

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**RESTRICTIONS:** 

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

**COMMENTS:** 

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DL 89A-43 PAGE TWO

New York is being provided information copies for inclusion in source file only.

The attached is provided for whatever action deemed appropriate. Leads are being left to the discretion of Dallas.

Since no leads are outstanding, WMFO is placing this matter in RUC status.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE:

Source providing the attached information is

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89A-DL-43

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## CONFIDENTIAL

The following information was telephonically provided by 17856-OA to Special Agent WILLIAM M. MACKEY, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Washington Metropolitan Field Office on 1/16-17/92:

Source learned Tampa, Florida, attorney FRANK RAGANO (phonetic) would be appearing on the ABC News show "PRIME TIME LIVE" on 1/16/92 claiming to have information that former TEAMSTERS President JIMMY HOFFA instructed La Cosa Nostra (LCN) bosses to kill President JOHN F. KENNEDY in 1963. Based upon source's past relationship with both HOFFA and RAGANO, source categorized RAGANO's claims as "lies".

Source advised source's relationship with HOFFA began in the late 1950s while HOFFA was a Vice President of the TEAMSTERS. Source's relationship with HOFFA lasted until HOFFA's disappearance. Source described the relationship between source and HOFFA as "close" noting that source was one of HOFFA's few associates who could meet with or call HOFFA at any time without an appointment. Source stated HOFFA offered source a position as one of HOFFA'S trusted assistants which source respectfully declined.

In regard to RAGANO, source recalled attending only three or four meetings with HOFFA and others in the early 1960s which were also attended by RAGANO Although source has not had contact with RAGANO for many years, source recalled RAGANO (like most people attempting to contact HOFFA) was required to make an appointment to see HOFFA in the early 1960s. Source was not aware if RAGANO'S status with HOFFA changed in later years.

Source identified attorneys close to HOFFA as EDDIE SHAFITZ (phonetic), a partner of the late EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS in Washington, D.C. and an attorney (name not recalled) who was a close associate of the BUFFALINO LCN family. Source did not consider RAGANO an attorney "close" to HOFFA.

Source advised HOFFA was very close to LCN boss SANTOS TRAFFICANTE and other LCN members. Source said HOFFA was capable of ordering a contract "hit". Source advised HOFFA was always "doing favors" for high level LCN members and, if HOFFA requested a contract "hit", the "hit" probably would have been done by the LCN for free.

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Source identified JOSEPH CONNO (phonetic) as a current TEAMSTERS official in New York City. Source described CONNO as one of HOFFA's close assistants in the 1960s who may have knowledge of HOFFA's activities prior to the assassination of PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

Based upon source's relationships with past LCN bosses, source commented that if RAGANO's claims about an LCN contract against PRESIDENT KENNEDY were true, RAGANO would have been killed by the LCN years ago. Based on RAGANO's claims that HOFFA, through RAGANO, requested TRAFFICANTE to arrange for the murder of PRESIDENT KENNEDY, RAGANO should have been killed shortly after PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S assassination. This would have been done to prevent RAGANO from identifying either HOFFA or TRAFFICANTE as orchestrating the "hit".

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