



Newsday Photo by Karen Wiles
Santucci outlines cocaine charges

DA: Probe of Mob 'Hit'

By John Cummings

Kew Gardens—An investigation into the murder of a major mob figure has not only resulted in the arrest of the accused killer, Queens District Attorney John Santucci announced yesterday, but has also smashed a \$1-billion cocaine-smuggling ring.

Santucci said that the drug ring had been operating for two or three years as "one of the principal connections" supplying Colombian cocaine to the Jackson Heights community, where 23 slayings in the last year have been linked to drug trafficking. Jackson Heights has been labeled by federal authorities as the unofficial cocaine capital of the nation.

Five accused ring members were arrested Sunday at Kennedy Airport while they were attempting to bring

six kilograms of nearly pure cocaine through Customs, Santucci said. The estimated street value of the contraband would be \$3 million, he said.

The district attorney said that, in the murder case, a reputed 61-year-old mob hitman named Marco (Tony Marino) Mucciolo of 158-20 100th St., Howard Beach, has been arrested on charges of murdering Pasquale (Paddy Mac) Macchiarole, 56, of Rego Park and Southold, a member of the Vito Genovese crime family.

The victim's body was found stuffed into the trunk of a car last March 28 in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn. Macchiarole reportedly had been plotting to take over leadership of the crime family from Frank (Funzi) Tieri. He had already muscled his way into gambling and loansharking operations of other

mobsters, and was becoming a major figure in narcotics, informed sources said. Figures like Macchiarole had bankrolled drug purchases with usurious loans, according to the sources.

Sgt. Joseph Coffey of the office of the chief of detectives said that Mucciolo was associated with the John (Sonny) Franzese faction of the old Joseph Colombo crime family. **Franzese**, who lives in Roslyn, was paroled from a federal prison in November.

Mucciolo also has been accused of a second murder, that of Muaro (Tony) Agnello, a former city fireman whose body was found May 19, 1974, under a pile of burning tires in a vacant lot in Elmhurst. He had been shot.

According to sources close to the case, Mucciolo had a personal grievance. Macchiarole had assaulted and

Grand Jury To Probe JFK Heist

By Charles T. Moses

Brooklyn—At least 10 persons are being subpoenaed to appear next week before a federal grand jury that will hear evidence on the \$5.8-million Lufthansa holdup, federal law-enforcement sources said yesterday. The December heist was the largest cash robbery in U.S. history.

The sources said that those subpoenaed are to appear on Wednesday and Thursday. A source said, "We believe that all of these people have information on the people who actually planned and executed the holdup." The sources said that the holdup men have been linked to one of New York's five major organized-crime families.

On Dec. 11, six or seven men, covered with ski masks and heavy sweaters, overpowered 10 workers at the Lufthansa cargo terminal at Kennedy Airport and escaped with cash and jewelry. Investigators theorized in December that the gang had operated with "inside information." Ed Franzetti, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, has said, "They knew precisely where to go."

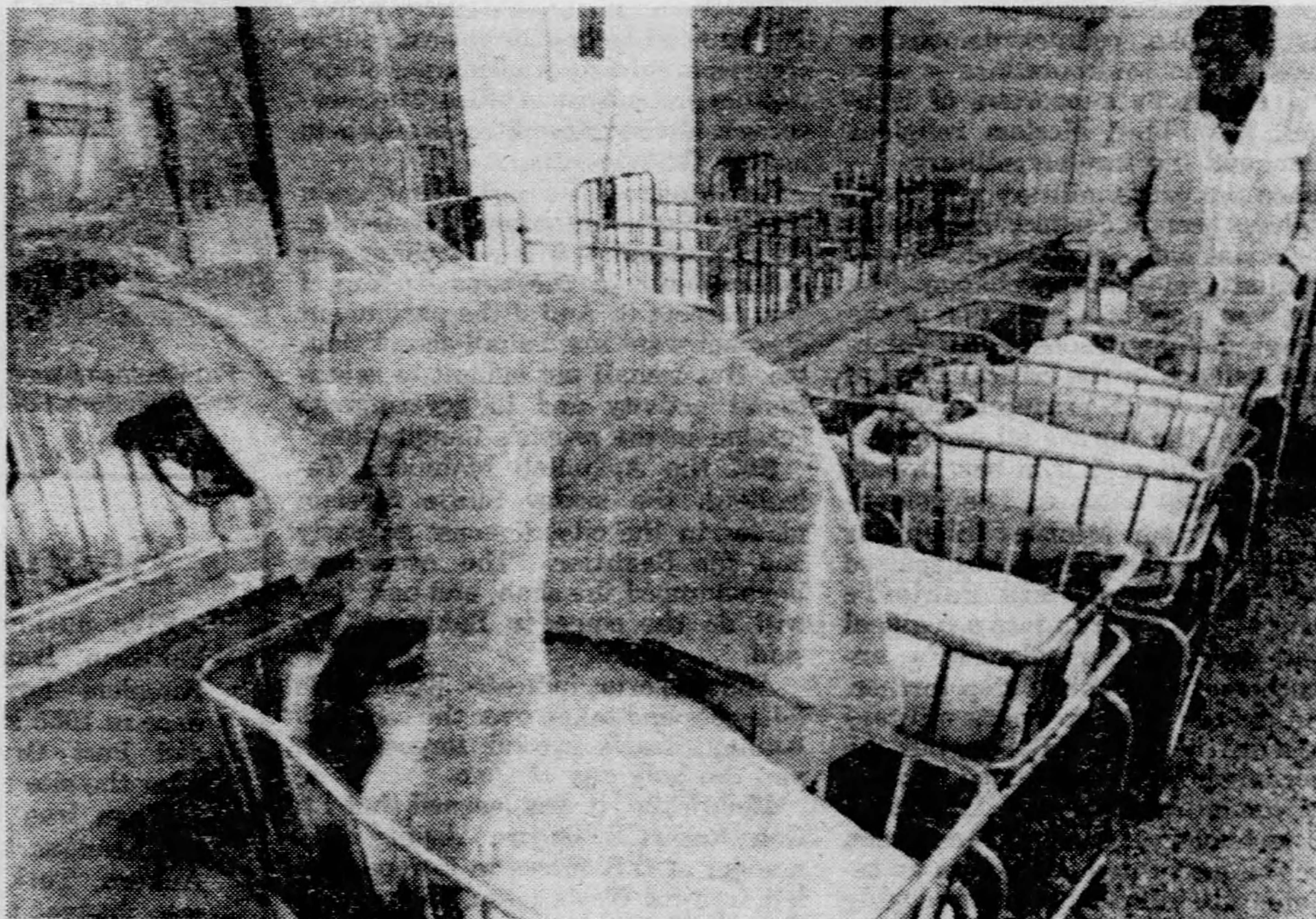
The FBI said last month that the thieves got at least \$5 million in U.S. currency, \$850,000 in jewelry and an undetermined amount of foreign currency. Most of the cash taken in the pre-dawn robbery was from a shipment of American money being delivered from the Commerzbank in Frankfurt, West Germany, to the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York. The cash was part of a routine transfer of bills accumulated at the West German bank, according to a spokesman for Commerzbank. A Lufthansa spokesman said in December that the rest of the take was from 35 separate shipments of valuables.

Thomas Puccio, the head of the Organized Crime Strike Force for the Eastern District of New York, refused to comment on the grand jury proceeding. The FBI, which helped develop the information to be presented to the grand jury, also refused to comment.

A task force of local and federal agencies has been investigating the theft. Officials had predicted an early break in the case. On Dec. 13, police found the van used by the thieves as a getaway vehicle. City police have said that fingerprints were found on the bumper, door and mudguard of the van. The van had been stolen near the World's Fair grounds in Flushing.

Investigators said the gang split into two parties, with one breaking through a gate to drive the van into a ramp area and the other entering the building through a front delivery entrance.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the biggest armed robbery in the United States, prior to the Lufthansa theft, was also in New York City in 1971, when thieves robbed the Pierre Hotel of cash and jewelry estimated to be worth up to \$5 million. In 1974, \$4 million was taken from the offices of the Purolator Corp. of Chicago.



UPI Photo

Mystery Disease Strikes Italian Children

A doctor and a nurse tend babies at Santobono Hospital in Naples. What the Italians call the "dark disease," believed to be a virus that attacks the respiratory system, has killed 59 children—most of them from impoverished families—in southern Italy over the past year. (Story on Page 41.)

Plot to Bilk Mom

By Peter M. Gianotti

Kew Gardens—A 30-year-old unemployed man was accused yesterday of attempting to extort money from his mother by saying that he had been kidnaped.

Police said that Jeffrey Reisman of 70-20 175th St., Fresh Meadows, was in debt and tried to extort \$3,300 from his mother, Nettie Portnoy of the same address, through the fake kidnaping.

Reisman was arrested last night at a McDonald's restaurant at 35th Street and the Avenue of the Americas in Manhattan, according to police, who gave the following account:

Mrs. Portnoy found a note under the door of her home at 5 AM Monday. The note said that her son had been kidnaped and it demanded a \$3,300 ransom for his return. But Mrs. Portnoy did not have that much money available.

She subsequently received a series of telephone calls from Reisman, who told her that he was being held against his will. Mrs. Portnoy agreed to pay \$750 for his release.

Reisman called a friend, who was to be the conduit for the money. Acting on Reisman's instructions, the friend went to the Fresh Meadows home to get the cash. But the go-between was caught by police, and told them that he was to deliver the money to Reisman in Manhattan. Reisman was arrested at the restaurant.

No charges have been filed against the go-between, who was questioned by police but apparently was not aware of the **extortion** attempt, authorities said.

Reisman was booked last night at the 112th Precinct station house in Forest Hills. He was charged with third-degree grand larceny and was to be arraigned today in Criminal Court.