

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/23/89

MICHAEL FRANZESE was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents. FRANZESE was advised that he was being interviewed under the conditions of a previous agreement he entered into with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois, and that this agreement provided for his providing information to the FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION and other representatives of the U.S. Attorney's Office under Use Immunity. FRANZESE was further advised that his interview could possibly become part of a public proceeding at the upcoming trial of NORBY WALTERS. He was further advised that interviewing agents wanted to discuss with him allegations that he was involved in murders or conspiracies to commit murders. FRANZESE understood the nature of the interview and thereafter provided the following information:

FRANZESE stated that he has never himself personally participated in the murder of any individual. He further added that he has never shot anyone. FRANZESE was questioned about his becoming a "made member" of the COLOMBO organized crime family. He was asked to comment that interviewing agents understood that it was a common practice for someone to be required to commit a murder prior to becoming a bona fide "made member". FRANZESE explained that during the early 1970's, the "book was open". FRANZESE continued, explaining that he and other individuals who were "made members" with him during the same ceremony, which occurred on October 31, 1975, were not required to kill someone. He stated that they had to give their commitment that if it became necessary for them to kill someone, they would follow their instructions. FRANZESE stated that on October 31, 1975, the following individuals were also, in his terms, "straightened out":

JIMMY ANGELINA ✓
SALLY MISCIOTTA ✓
JOHN MINERVA ✓
JERRY "BROWN"
VITO GUZZO

Investigation on 2/22/89 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 183B-2286
by SAs GEORGE W. RANDOLPH and SCOTT JENNINGS GWR/sjp Date dictated 2/22/89

FRANZESE continued, stating that he never "got the call" to commit a gangland murder. He further added that his father, JOHN "SONNY" FRANZESE, vouched for him, and in essence made it easier for him to become a "made member" of the COLOMBO family. He further added that his father had explained to the boss of the COLOMBO family, CARMINE PERSICO, that FRANZESE had a business talent and that he would be a valuable asset to the COLOMBO family.

FRANZESE was asked to comment that he allegedly authorized the murder of an individual on at least two separate occasions. FRANZESE commented that he had no problems discussing with interviewing agents the areas of questioning that were being pursued and the allegations that he authorized murdering individuals. FRANZESE, however, desired to explain that he has attempted in the past to provide this information to the FBI, and in particular to FBI Special Agent DAN LYONS. FRANZESE stated that LYONS, under the conditions of his agreement with the Eastern District of New York, sought permission of Strike Force Chief EDWARD MC DONALD to discuss murder cases. FRANZESE stated that LYONS, at a later date, advised him that MC DONALD did not desire to have FRANZESE interviewed about murder situations, fearing that the Government may be placed in a position of not being able to prosecute FRANZESE for his possible involvement in murders. FRANZESE continued, stating that he was fearful that MC DONALD would misconstrue information that he was providing and attempt to link FRANZESE, through racketeering or conspiracy statutes, to murders committed by members of organized crime. FRANZESE continued, stating that in his own mind, he felt that it could be construed that he possibly was involved in the authorizing of two murders. FRANZESE explained the two occasions:

(1) FRANZESE was called "downtown" by COLOMBO boss CARMINE PERSICO to vouch for VINNIE CARROZZA. FRANZESE explained that PERSICO wanted to know if CARROZZA was a "standup guy". He stated that the "boss" was asking for a specific recommendation. He stated that the boss had hinted to him that the COLOMBO family

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had some "work" for CARROZZA to perform. **FRANZESE** explained that "work" in organized crime terminology could mean a variety of things - murder, **extortion**, armed robbery, jewelry heist. **FRANZESE** stated that while the boss did not explain what type of "work" CARROZZA was to perform, he in any event vouched for CARROZZA and indicated that CARROZZA was a "standup guy". **FRANZESE** stated that on a later occasion, he found out that VINNIE CARROZZA was involved in a murder.

(2) **FRANZESE** advised that he again was called "downtown" by the COLOMBO family boss to vouch for BOB MARSHALL. **FRANZESE** explained that MARSHALL was in prison with his father, SONNY. **FRANZESE** stated that he was instructed by his father to go downtown and vouch for MARSHALL, and to make an introduction for him. He stated that after vouching for MARSHALL, he later learned that MARSHALL was involved with the murder of JOHN SPONTINI. **FRANZESE** estimated that the murder of SPONTINI occurred in the late 1970's.

FRANZESE was asked to comment about incidents in his past wherein allegations could be made, or that it could be construed, that he himself participated physically in murders. **FRANZESE** provided the following information:

(1) LARRY CARROZZA - **FRANZESE** stated that he was called to go downtown for a meeting, at which meeting he was questioned by high-ranking members of the COLOMBO organized crime family, namely JIMMY ANGELINA and JOSEPH TOMMISALLO, also known as "JOE T". **FRANZESE** stated that other individuals may have been at this meeting, but he was certain that "JOE T" and ANGELINA were there. **FRANZESE** explained that LARRY CARROZZA was associated with ANDREW RUZZO, a captain in the COLOMBO family. He stated that CARROZZA was not a "made member" of the COLOMBO family. He stated that he was close to CARROZZA, and that CARROZZA baptized his son, JOHN. He added that at the meeting, he was told that CARROZZA was dealing drugs in Brooklyn and was having an affair with his sister. **FRANZESE** stated that he was shocked to hear this information, and that he immediately defended his sister. He further stated that he wanted to make an inquiry with his sister

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as to her personal relationship with CARROZZA. He stated that he was told at the meeting not to make any inquiries, and that he was to not warn anyone and to let the matter "die". FRANZESE further commented that he could tell by the tone of the conversation that CARROZZA had a serious problem. He stated that within a short period of time, CARROZZA was killed. FRANZESE stated that he also later learned that JIMMY ANGELINA and CHUCK RUSSO were responsible for the murder of CARROZZA. FRANZESE reiterated that he himself did not personally have anything to do with the murder of CARROZZA, however, he did have first-hand conversations about it, and that he was later told that CARROZZA was murdered in order to protect the honor of his father and himself, and also because of drug dealings. FRANZESE continued, commenting that because he did not report to law enforcement authorities his suspicions as to what was possibly going to happen to CARROZZA, he felt he, through the use of racketeering and/or RICO statutes, could be charged with participating in the murder of CARROZZA.

(2) TOMMY (Last Name Unknown) - TOMMY (LNU) had done time with FRANZESE's father, SONNY, and JUNIOR PERSICO. TOMMY (LNU) was murdered in 1982 or 1983. FRANZESE explained that TOMMY's murder was a result of TOMMY's involvement in kidnappings. FRANZESE explained that again, he was called to go "downtown" to attend a meeting. At the meeting was "ALLIE BOY", "JOE T" and "SCAPPY". FRANZESE stated that he was asked to visit his father in prison and discuss with his father whether or not TOMMY had confided in his father any information about doing kidnappings. FRANZESE stated that his father vigorously stood up for TOMMY. He stated that the "family" was attempting to get to the bottom of the kidnappings. FRANZESE continued, explaining that TOMMY was accused of doing kidnappings of other organized crime family associates and members outside the COLOMBO organized crime family structure. FRANZESE stated that after meeting with his father, he carried the message back that his father considered TOMMY to be a "good guy". FRANZESE continued, explaining that he was usually used as a "go-between" with his father, and especially during the period when his father was on parole. FRANZESE continued, explaining that later on in 1981 or 1982, TOMMY was murdered. FRANZESE stated that he could not recall the names of

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the individuals who murdered TOMMY, other than he thought that one of their first names was PAUL. He stated that two individuals were responsible for the murder, and that they were relatively new members of the COLOMBO organized crime family. He stated that he felt certain he would be able to identify the photographs of the individuals. He further stated that he learned that they had committed the murders at a COLOMBO family meeting and dinner, wherein these individuals had made comments about the individual doing the kidnappings, and that they had killed him. FRANZESE stated that it was not uncommon for people to talk at family meetings. He stated that he often overheard other conversations by individuals about being involved in other crimes. He stated that obviously, these other individuals did not know that he possibly was called to a meeting concerning any one particular situation, but by listening to others' comments, FRANZESE was able to piece together who was responsible for certain crimes.

(3) JOHN SPONTINI - FRANZESE stated that JOHN SPONTINI was murdered in the late 1970's. He stated that JUNIOR PERSICO hated SPONTINI. FRANZESE stated that SPONTINI and PERSICO were in prison together. FRANZESE stated that he knew that BOB MARSHALL was responsible for the murder of SPONTINI. He stated that he was told by MARSHALL that MARSHALL did the murder of SPONTINI. Later, FRANZESE and his father talked about the murder.

FRANZESE denied that he has ever driven a vehicle that was involved in a murder. He also denied that he has ever made telephone calls, conducted physical surveillances or provided weapons to be used in a murder. FRANZESE further added that he did not physically participate in any murders, other than to have conversations about a murder or about a particular situation which he felt, from the tone of the conversation, may have led to a murder. He further added that he often heard a lot of conversations about a variety of events concerning numerous different individuals. There were numerous occasions wherein FRANZESE was questioned about individuals when nothing later happened, but FRANZESE was under the impression something may have happened to the individual. Conversations of this nature were commonplace. FRANZESE stated that after not seeing an individual around over a period of time, he naturally assumed that possibly the person was the victim of a contract murder.