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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
MILAN DETACHMENT, ZONE 3
APO 512, U.S. Army

Ref.No. 360-a

21 November 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE.-

Subject: John J. GIARRATANO, ASN 0671340

Re : Investigation.

Pursuant to instructions from the Supervising Agent, CIC, Milan Detachment, Zone 3, this Agent in the company of Special Agent H.V. Martini-van Richthofen, conducted the necessary investigation and established the following:

1. No traces of Subject were found.
2. The COSTA Family of Abbiategrasso was interviewed with negative results on Subject's whereabouts.
3. Antonio COSTA mentioned in reports of 23 October 1946 and 4 November 1946, Subject: Same as above, proved to be a 13 year old lad "gifted with occult powers" who conducts seances to locate missing persons. In this work he is helped by a simple but shrewd mother.
4. It appears that this lad became aware of his mystic gifts during the early part of this year and since then has devoted his time to exploiting his power to help locate missing persons. The family does not demand payment for the services rendered, but gladly accepts monetary or material gifts. In short, as this Officer observed, the seance is held thusly: the lad is blindfolded and a picture of the missing person is placed, face down, before him. A piece of cold steel (a large bolt) is then pressed against the lad's right jugular vein, the picture is turned up and his right hand is placed on the picture, covering it entirely. Then Antonio COSTA "does his stuff" (sic!). He goes into a semitrance and attempts to contact the missing person. If contact is established, he reacts by saying "VEDO" (I see). Once contact is established the interested persons pose questions to the lad who transmits them to the "spirit" contacted, which in turn answers questions through the lad. Thus the client learns of the whereabouts of his missing loved one, his health, his financial conditions, etc. The client then offers the family a little contribution and leaves for home happy and satisfied. When the lad cannot contact a missing person, he simply says "NON VEDO" (I do not see) and the client leaves disappointed or lingers on for four or five hours or days till the time that contact is established. This Officer placed the picture of Subject before the medium and spent hours there while Subject attempted

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

to contact Subject, each time failing, of course. This Officer noticed that the lad fingered the Subject's photograph, made sure it was the one placed before him by this Agent (since 7 or 8 photos are placed before him, to make the medium go through them at one sitting) and then very clearly said "NON VEDO" each time.

5. Judging from the number of people waiting to take part in the seance and by the correspondence the family has accumulated in the past year from all parts of Europe and North and South America, this Officer would venture to say that the Costa Family is doing a thriving little business. Their social and financial conditions have improved since the discovery of the lad's powers.

6. The lad has been helped quite a bit by the Italian and international press, when some of his contacts really turned up living. This Officer is in no position to discuss the pros and cons of spiritualism since he is not well versed on the Subject. From a positive investigative standpoint however, there were no traces of Subject to be found, ~~and~~ any evidence leading to the belief that Subject can be located. *not*

7. To reconstruct the case a bit, it seems that Subject's uncle Rosario in POGGIOREALE, Sicily, heard through friends living in Northern Italy of Antonio COSTA and his power to locate missing persons. One Franco MAGNI fu ERNESTO, 25 years old, engaged to one Rosa IPPOLITO of 7, Via Ricovero, POGGIOREALE, whose father was a friend of Subject's Uncle, interested his Aunt (or Friend) Vittoria COLOMBO of Lecco, Italy, in going to ABBIATEGRASSO with a picture of Subject (which Uncle Rosario received from Subject's parents in America) to employ the services of Antonio COSTA in an attempt to contact Subject. Vittoria COLOMBO proceeded to Abbiategrasso and sat in one seance where the medium (COSTA) supposedly contacted Subject. Antonio COSTA noticed that the picture of Subject was taken in America in a flying cadet officer's uniform and very conveniently told COLOMBO that he contacted Subject but Subject spoke in a language that he (Costa), could not understand, but which he thought to be English. He also stated that Subject did not speak any Italian when he asked questions in Italian. (Whether Subject speaks Italian or not, this Officer has no way of knowing, but it would be interesting to note). COLOMBO was encouraged by this first seance and promised to return with a picture of Subject in civilian clothes. The COLOMBO wrote Subject's parents in America requesting above mentioned photograph and also for a gift package to cover the expenses to ABBIATEGRASSO from LEGGO. COLOMBO has returned all correspondence and pictures received from the Subject's parents over to this Agent.

AGENT'S COMMENTS.-

If Subject's Family in America has faith in mediums and spiritualism, then this Agent cannot persuade them to abandon their contacts with MAGNI, COLOMBO, COSTA et alii. If on the other hand the

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 3 -

the family requested an official investigation of the whereabouts of Subject, then this Agent regrets to inform them that no trace of Subject has been found. Subject's Family is warned against "being taken in" by confidence tricks of the above nature.

The case is considered as closed by this Agent.

Nicholas A. NATSIOS,
Special Agent, CIC,
1st Lt., MI,
Zone 3, Milan Detachment

APPROVED:

M. A. TONINI,
Major, MI,
Supervising Agent

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