

CASOLARO

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Yes - True
through U.S. military and intelligence facilities, some through civilian ports of entry, while other shipments came via Mexico.

True Yes
It was a time, Ricconecciuto added, when sizeable amounts of Cambodian and Chinese gold also were starting to find their ways into a U.S. black market in precious metals.

Yes True
In total there evidently were billions of dollars in bullion in transit.

Casolare reportedly had become aware of all of this from Ricconecciuto over the immediate months before he phoned me.

As Ricconecciuto and I compared information, moreover, the probable reasons for Casolare's interest in talking to me became clearer.

The overlapping information which I independently had developed on trafficking in gold and platinum while investigating the 1976 bomb-slaying of Phoenix journalist Don Bolles for the SCOTTSDALE PROGRESS and the 1977 shooting death of Tucson escrow agent Charles Morgan for NBC-TV's "Unsolved Mysteries" included four names in common -- one banking structure, one metal reclamation company, and two individuals -- with those names mentioned by Ricconecciuto to Casolare in describing the early-to-mid-1970s dealings in "tolo bars" and other Asian gold.

When Casolare queried me in late July, in effect, he should have heard a number of familiar names with a potential for confirming -- in the context of his concerns -- yet another tentacle of "the Octopus."

True True
So, (1) with Bolles investigating the theft of industrial gold from Motorola and other electronic firms, along with platinum thefts from other sources, by organized crime in the Phoenix area, (2) with Morgan handling escrow functions in Tucson for large-scale gold and platinum transactions, and (3) with Casolare looking into a range of precious metal deals with political and intelligence community connections, the points in common between what each of them was either targeting or doing indeed are fascinating:

True by A.
Entity A -- A banking structure entailing affiliated financial institutions in Los Angeles and Tucson with close links to important Republican Party figures in both California and Arizona, it appeared to have been a laundromat for profits from illicit dealings in precious metals and other illegal activities.

*A number of previous newsletters, copies still available upon request have outlined some of my investigative findings in the

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(2) Whenever informant records maintained by a criminal law enforcement agency under an informant's name or personal identifier are requested by a third party according to the informant's name or personal identifier, the agency may treat the records as not subject to the requirements of this section unless the informant's status as an informant has been officially confirmed.

(3) Whenever a request is made which involves access to records maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation pertaining to foreign intelligence or counterintelligence, or internal security, and the existence of the records is classified information as provided in subsection (b)(1), the Bureau may, as long as the existence of the records remains classified information, treat the records as not subject to the requirements of this section.

In denying that the bureau has any records on Morgan, the FBI must have been lying to me either with or without statutory authority.

Granting the FBI the benefit of the doubt and assuming that the deception must have a statutory basis, its legality almost certainly would have to be found somewhere in the language of the 1986 FOIA amendment as cited.

That realization opens up several fascinating possibilities.

Could Morgan's killing have been examined by the FBI in the context of a larger federal investigation which otherwise has remained secret?

Could Morgan have been a "confidential informant," however limited, in that still covert federal probe?

Or, more likely as now suggested by the connections to what Casolaro was investigating, could Morgan have been involved in something touching on "foreign intelligence" matters -- CIA-linked gold dealing, etc. -- which remain "classified"? *ybs*

Significantly, there are other indications as well which support the last possibility as a legal basis for the FBI's current refusal to acknowledge files on Morgan.

I previously have been reluctant to write about them because the case already was strange enough.

But they no longer can be ignored.

In 1973 a number of Morgan's associates -- conspicuously including the man whom I have called Mr. X -- were indicted by federal authorities in Tucson for illegal trafficking in gold.

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What is the truth?

On the basis of information developed in the Morgan case over the past few years, it does not appear that his murder was a product of his role in precious metal deals.

yes
not related
only
not Gov!

What about rollers?

But I also have acknowledged for the past five years that his *could have been*
 urgency about illicit movements of precious metals could have been *acting to close*
 secondary factor in the plot. *lots of political participation*
and Soviet and Turkish. *So as to be*
 If the organized crime trail in gold and platinum which *to be*
 following had even larger intelligence community ramifications *to be*
 as he did not live long enough to discover, wouldn't the CIA have *to be*
 itored the investigation of his 1976 murder with some concern? *to be*
 Wouldn't CIA operatives even have been *to be*
 directing the probe to know *to be*

in
could have been
high because he was
been getting close
to the bottom
of the hole
and was well
under things
the bottom
commenced
in both