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Mafia in Business Under FBI Nose

WASHINGTON—Only the most indiscreet racketeer would set up operations on the home grounds of the FBI, the Federal Narcotics Bureau and several stern congressional investigating subcommittees.

Yet a dapper, wavy-haired New York mobster, described in confidential government files as "a trusted member of the Mafia inner circle," recently opened an expensive apartment in midtown Washington and paid a year's rent in advance.



JACK ANDERSON of Washington in times past, may now be moving into the nation's capital.

For not only has Enrico "Harry" Tantillo, a notorious Mafia figure, rented a Washington apartment, but other gangsters reportedly are offering Mafia money to Washington businessmen caught up in debts.

The Cosa Nostra has used the loan racket to take over legitimate business in Chicago, New York City, New Orleans and many other cities. But Washington, where businessmen are often only a walk away from the FBI office or Capital Hill had been thought free of Mafia shyllocks.

The 53-year-old Tantillo left his previous haunts in the Bronx allegedly to oversee the dope trade in Washington. He is known to be associated with "Big John" Ormento and Innocenzio "John The Bug" Stoppelli, two of the nation's major heroin traffickers.

Tantillo was picked up along with more than 30 others in a District of Columbia drug sweep. Agents were frankly startled to find such a big fish in their net. They claim to have found a half-kilogram of cocaine in his apartment, according to a bond-hearing statement of Assistant U.S. Attorney Harold Sullivan. The cocaine is worth some \$120,000 on the street.

The brazenness with which the Mafia drug case developed, as recorded in filed affidavits, has shocked federal agents accustomed to a Mafia-free capital city.

Tantillo selected an apartment, for instance, only a few blocks from the FBI, Narcotics Bureau, and metropolitan police headquarters. He also chose the fashionable Hotel America for meetings with Carmine "Chow Mein" Paladino, now under indictment with him in a New Jersey federal narcotics case. All the while, the hotel happened to be housing narcotics bureau trainees from all over the U.S.

Note: The well-dressed Tantillo, who ran a pastry shop along with his narcotics business, is well known to law enforcement men. His arrest records date back to 1935, including possession of a revolver, obstructing justice, influencing a witness and previous narcotics violations. Confidential government files also charge that he "supplies wholesale quantities of heroin" to underworld customers.

EGYPT'S President Nasser sent a message last month to President Nixon asking what the United States would do for his country if Soviet influence should be reduced.

Apparently the suspicious Nasser had been listening to

rumors that his long-trusted comrade, Aly Sabry, had been dealing behind his back with Moscow. Nasser might even have feared that Moscow was conspiring to install Sabry in his place.

Nixon's reply to Cairo didn't go much beyond warm words and general assurances. Therefore, Nasser let it be known that the U.S. reply was completely unacceptable.

After President Nixon's recent speech at the United Nations, White House aide Henry Kissinger buttonholed Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and asked him what he thought of the speech.

Gromyko fended off the question, saying he didn't think of a speech as good or bad. Since he was preparing to deliver his own speech the following day, he promised that he would "try to be constructive tomorrow."

This was the reason, Kissinger replied, that the United States "tried to be constructive today."

Later Kissinger introduced Mrs. Shirley Temple Black, the former child movie star to Gromyko. Although Mrs. Black has spoken against the United Nations in her California political campaigns, President Nixon has now appointed her to our UN delegation. Gromyko, the diplomat, told her politely that the U.S. delegation would be "all the more powerful" because of her presence.