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CUBA - gambling

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Am Gambling Act IN CUBA

MAIN FILE 62-75147-210

Section 2

HSCA 6-14-78

Volume 1 of 2 Response Volumes

Office Memorandum

1-14-58

TO: DIR, FBI

62-75147-210-103

FR: Legal ATTACHE, HAVANA, Cuba

Subj: Am Gambling Act IN CUBA

Wilbur Clark's Casino, Hotel Nacional

JAKE LANSKY oversees the operation;

principal interests: Moe Bernard Dality,

Meyer Lansky, Tom Tucker, & Thomas Joseph

McGinty.

Hotel Comodoro Casino

- in the past managed by Ralph REINA, FBI

NO 1370469 - a con inf also

advised that Santo Traff has an interest
in this casino.Hotel Havana Riviera CasinoDino Cellini & Maurice Herouesty - the
floor managers

Edmund Hennson - overall manager.

Hotel Capri Casino

Jack Lieberbaum - part owner

Charles "The Blade" Tourine & Richard
Nichola Constanto part owners.

- also mentioned that Santo Trappicanti had a substantial interest in the casino.

Hotel Surilla Baltimore Casino

owned by Cuban congressman Amletto Battisti;

Sans Souci

Santo Trappicanti, Joe Stassi, & Joe Rojas.

Tropicana

Mark Fox & Alberto Ardena Moya; said that Ardena is the "big man" for Roberto Fernandez Miranda - brother-in-law for Mr. Batista.

Other Casinos under construction

key connect

old Hotel Playa - downtown Havana - Joe Stassi

Hotel Desunille - recently remodeled hotel
would also get a license for a gambling casino.

62-75147-210-A

article - 12-13-57

- mentions that the Havana Riviera Hotel reportedly cost \$24 million.

Office memorandum 8-20-57

TO: DIR, FBI

62-75147-210-94

Re: Legat, Havana

Subj: Am Gambling Activities in Cuba

G I I F - General Investigative Intelligence
File - Cuba

- on 8-15-57, Jake Lansky, who oversees gambling at the Nacional, stated that the brother-in-law of Batista received 50% of all profits from slot machines in the Nacional; ~~also~~ implied that the same person received 50% from all people.
- Lansky said that during the normal tourist season his slot machines take in 4000-6000 a week -

Office Memorandum 1-24-57

TO: DIR, FBI

Re: Legat Attache, Havana, Cuba 62-75147-210-92

- Norman Rothman who formerly operated the Las Bouci is presently managing the Copacabana Night Club in Camaguey, Cuba
- also, Miguel Truxy, a contact of the Havana office, said on 1-23-57, said that a new gambling casino to be opened at Hotel Comodora in Havana - in Feb, 1957 -
- says that the Comodora is one of Havana's leading hotels - only second to the Nacional -
- source also said that Rafael Reina, aka Ralph Reina, is to be the managing

at Comodoro cauno - some also said
that Reina is a close associate of Santo
Trappicante, JR., & that a number of
years ago Reina was assoc with
Trappicante in the bolita racket in
Tampa, FL.

Am Gamb - CUBA - MAIN File 62-75147-210
Section 3 HSCA 6-14-78

OFFICE MEMORANDUM - U.S. GOV.

TO: DIR, FBI

62-75147-210

FR: Legal ATTACHE, HAVANA

8-27-58

Subj: Am Gambling in Cuba

- describe an effort by Cuban gov to prevent
Trappicante from opening a casino in the Hotel
Playa - it does say that Lansky said
that in recent months (summer '58) "certain
~~operation~~ individual" particularly
Santo Trappicante had been attempting to
import slot machines directly - instead of
going through Ardura ("bag man" to Fernandez).
Lansky said this was effective in the case of
the Hotel Havana Hilton. - the Cuban gov would
get a substantial take.

p2 Hotel Nacional

- Wilbur Clark; Meyer Lansky also has an interest; also has an interest in the Riviera.

p3 - mentions that Joe Rogus, the alias for Joe Stassi, a business assoc of S.T.)

- on 7-23-58 a source advised that Dave Yaras, the "former" Chicago gunman, had been in Havana -

- on 8-5-58, Thomas J. Kelley, Resident Manager of the Hotel Nacional, said that Mike McLaney, had been inquiring about purchasing the Hotel Nacional -

Hotel Havana Riviera

Jack & Meyer Lansky; Harry & Bee Smith;

Hotel Capri Casino

- source mentions that S.T. has an interest in the Capri, Sans Souci, Beauville, Comodoro, & the Hilton.

interest in these hotels.

Hotel Havana Hilton

Joe Stassi - manager

Sans Souci

- favorite hang out of Trappucione

Tropicana

managed by William Otto Bischoff

Hotel Commodore Casino

Trappuciatte

Hotel Playa

- not yet opened

Hotel Beaulieu

Trappuciatte

Hotel Sevilla Belmonte

- operated by Amleto Battisti

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: DIR, FBI

FR: SAC, NEW YORK

Subj: Dir Grand ACT IN CUBA

- conf inf said Maff had 60% Samsonci, Joe Strossi, 20%, and a Cuban National, Raul Gonzalez 20%. - he added that Gonzalez had a close connection with the muscle men in Cuba.

- array attendance in Sam's Serci small
- two bingo men called Keane and Buckner came in to keep out - SS losing money - new arrangement

20 - Strossi

20 - Keane & Buckner

20 - Gonzalez

40 - S.T.

- one of the informants is either Keane or Buckner ;
- it is Keane. - came from NYC where he
ran bingo to goto Havana -

- said he left Sans Souci because of its
small bank & debts.

- Keane said that from what he observed at
the Sans Souci & in looking over the books
that the entire operation was losing between
\$10,000 to \$33,000 a month. He
said he thought the Sans Souci ~~was~~ "must
be ~~losing~~ a drop or
something, maybe junk." When questioned
about the statement he said it was
put a guess; that it does not figure
that the Sans Souci would stay open
just to lose money.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

5-9-58

TO: DIR, FBI

FR: LEON, HAVANA

SUBJ: AM GAMB

p10 - Norman Rockman, operating slot machines
on the interest of Cuba - said on 5-7-58
that because of recent rev. activities the
slot machine trade had been very slow.

OFFICE MEMO

3-18-58

TO: DIR, FBI

FR: SAC, New York

Subj: Am Jumbo Act

NATIONAL

manager - Wilbur Clark
fin int - Moe Dality, Ruby K. Old, Morrie Kleeman, George Gordon, Pete Brady (former Casino manager at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas).

Riviera

owned - Harry & Ben Smith
manager - Ed Levinson

Capri Hotel

^{hotel} said to have been financed by Jack Leiberbaum & Alfy Shepard. Casino said to have been financed by Nick Di Costanzo

floor managers - Charles Touraine & George Laft
dealers school - being operated by DINO Cellino

Harrah Hilton

- now under construction; expected to open June, 1958

Sans Souci

- under control of Trappicanti & Mannarino group
- say Mannarino has slot machines in all of Cuba
- say that Norman Rothman, for Meola, & Nick Jerome all look after the Mannarino interests

Tropicana

- Tropicana

- managed by Joe Benhoff "Lefty Clark"

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(8)

- also said that inquiry into the neighborhood of 438 - 440 S.W. 3rd Street, Miami, where Emilio Regue was last known to have resided, ascertained that Regue had moved w/out leaving an forwarding address.

- on Oct 18, 1963 Bosch, in an interview said that there was no longer a Cuban Anti-Comm Army, Escambray Front, & that Regue himself

was no longer active in anti-Castro endeavors

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