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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office MIAMI	Office of Origin MIAMI	Date 4/24/59	Investigative Period 1/10-4/15/59
TITLE OF CASE SANTO TRAFFICANTE, JR., aka.		Report made by STEPHEN J. LABADIE	Typed By: EJM
		CHARACTER OF CASE ANTI-RACKETEERING	

Synopsis:
REFERENCE: Report of SA STEPHEN J. LABADIE, 1/15/59, Miami.

- C -

ADMINISTRATIVE

Three copies of this report are enclosed to the Bureau in order that one copy may be transmitted to the Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba, for information, as the Legal Attache is continuing to maintain coverage on subject.

As set out above, the Miami Office is considering this case closed UACB, inasmuch as the Legal Attache, Havana, is able to follow anything of interest through sources there and report same to the Bureau and Miami, as well as any other interested offices.

Approved	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made:	1 Legat 1 Mr. 6/4/59 1 Mr. 4710	92-2781-94	REC-91
3 - Bureau (92-2781)		APR 27 1959	EX 103
2 - Miami (92-88)			
REC'D - LRT CRIM DIV SEC. 1		SEARCHED SERIALIZED	

According to T-7, after the downfall of the BATISTA Government, the slot machines were removed by a group of unknown individuals from the Sans Souci Gambling Casino. The remaining equipment in this casino was not damaged. T-7 advised that TRAFFICANTE was able to take precautions with the gambling equipment at the Hotel Comodoro and he had the equipment stored in various rooms in the hotel. As a result, none of this equipment was damaged.

On February 25, 1959, T-2 advised SA JAMES P. O'NEIL that subject's interest in the Hotel Comodoro Casino is handled by BENNY FERNANDEZ, formerly of Tampa, Florida. T-2 said subject's interest had previously been handled by RALPH REINA of Tampa, but REINA is no longer connected with this operation. T-2 said BENNY FERNANDEZ was not, to his knowledge, connected with gambling in Tampa, but was considered a gigolo. He stated FERNANDEZ had been the boyfriend of GLORIA HERNANDEZ, who was the widow of LAWRENCE HERNANDEZ, SR., one of the founders of the Columbia Restaurant in Tampa. T-2 said that prior to going to Havana, FERNANDEZ had lived in Washington, D.C., with Mrs. GLORIA HERNANDEZ, who recently died.

Hotel Deauville Casino

On January 1, 1959, after the downfall of the BATISTA Government, mobs of people ransacked some of the gambling casinos in Havana. The Hotel Deauville Casino was ransacked and the gambling equipment thrown into the street.

On January 9, 1959, T-8 advised that he had recently been released from Principe Prison, Havana, in the general release of prisoners which occurred on January 1, 1959. He said he previously worked for TRAFFICANTE as a chef and bodyguard at the Sans Souci Night Club. T-8 recalled that in connection with the financing of the Deauville Casino, he was requested by TRAFFICANTE sometime during the period between January and March, 1958, to go to Rancho Boyeros Airport outside Havana to pick up money from a messenger who had come over from Florida. T-8 said when he delivered the package of money to TRAFFICANTE, he ascertained that it contained \$500,000.00 and it was "Jersey" money destined for the Deauville Casino.

The Newark Office advised by communication dated May 23, 1958, that sources contacted have no information

concerning "Jersey" money destined for the Hotel Deauville Casino, Havana.

The following informants were contacted with negative results:

T-9 by SA FRANK R. GERRITY on March 11, 1959.

T-10 by SA JOHN R. KINSINGER on March 26, 1959.

T-11 by SA WARREN J. DONOVAN on March 4, 1959.

T-12 by SA HOWARD C. LADUKE on March 5, 1959.

T-13 by SA JOHN P. FOLEY on March 4, 1959.

T-14 by SA THOMAS J. EMERY on February 17, 1959.

T-15 by SA THOMAS J. EMERY on February 24, 1959.

T-16 by SA JAMES T. MC SHANE on March 9, 1959.

T-17 on March 9, 1959, advised SA EDMUND FLANAGAN that he had heard from unrecalled sources that GERARDO CATANA of New Jersey had sent money to Havana, Cuba, for the gambling casino in the Hotel Riviera in 1957. T-17 added that he had not heard any information concerning "Jersey" money going to the Deauville.

T-17 was asked concerning the possibility of \$500,00.00 "Jersey" money going to the Deauville Casino. T-17 reflected that to his recollection, the Deauville Casino is a very small operation and the \$500,000.00 would be too much money for such an operation. T-17 explained that the Deauville had two casinos, one in the lobby which is quite "plush", but very small, and another downstairs, which is a cheap casino catering mostly to the "Cuban trade."

T-17 explained that the bankroll for the entire operation of both casinos in the Hotel Deauville would, in his opinion, be no more than \$20,000.00 to \$35,000.00. T-17 went on to say that the Deauville Hotel itself is not expensive inasmuch as it rents rooms for \$5.00 or \$6.00 a night, and the hotel itself is not elaborate.

On February 25, 1959, T-2 advised SA JAMES P. O'NEIL that subject had an interest in the casino operated in the Deauville Hotel and is represented there by CASIMIRO HERNANDEZ of Tampa, Florida. T-2 stated that HERNANDEZ

INFORMANTS

T-1 is HAV-33.

T-2 is MM 416-C.

T-3 is PCI ALBERTO SUAREZ ALEMAN, doorman at the apartment building where TRAFFICANTE resides in Havana, Cuba.

T-4 is TOM GALVIN, Inspector, INS, Tampa, Fla.

T-5 is MM 647-PC.

T-6 is Dr. EUGENE F. COSTANTINO, former PCI, who is the female doctor of subject's wife in Tampa, Fla.

T-7 is HAV-31.

T-8 is PCI GUIDO DE PHILLIPS, Havana.

T-9 is NY 136-C.

T-10 is NY 169-C.

T-11 is NY 2151-C.

T-12 is NY 889-C.

T-13 is NY 147-C.

T-14 is NY 2522-C.

T-15 is NY 204-C.

T-16 is NY 2227-C.

T-17 is NY 2427-C.

T-18 is ANTHONY J. GRIMALDI, SR., PCI, Tampa, Fla.

T-19 is MM 648-C.

INB
REVIEWED BY FBI/JFK TASK FORCE

ON 10/23/66 JML/DAB/DW/TBS

- ☒ RELEASE IN FULL
- ☐ RELEASE IN PART
- ☐ TOTAL DENIAL