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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: November 20, 1953
Havana, Cuba

FROM : Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba (64-153)

SUBJECT: AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA
GIIF. - Cuba

SECRET

Re Miami letter to the Bureau November 5 last.

The following general information concerning the local gambling situation was furnished by FCI [redacted] of the gambling casino of the Tropicana Night Club, Havana, on 11-18-53 while he was being interviewed on another matter. (X)

[redacted] confirmed that the gambling concession at the Hotel Internacional, Varadero Beach, Cuba, will be operated this season by RALPH GOULD of New Orleans, DICK RICHARDSON of Biloxi, Mississippi, and "DUTCH" SHIELDS. The only additional information furnished by him and not contained in relet was the fact that SHIELDS had operated the Dunes Club in Norfolk, Va. (possibly Virginia Beach). He also said that SHIELDS had operated in Southern Pines, North Carolina. (X)

The Oriental Park horse track is scheduled to reopen on November 21, 1953 after being closed during the summer months. [redacted] said he had bid for the gambling concession in the Jockey Club which is located in the grandstand at the track; however, he was informed that the concession had been given to one GEORGE LEVINE, who fronted for the concession during the 1952-53 winter season. This office was never successful in definitely establishing who put up the money for the operation although there was a definite tie-in between it and the Sans Souci night club. LEVINE is believed to be out of Miami. He resided at the Hotel Comodoro in Havana during the past season. (X)

[redacted] advised approval from government authorities had been obtained to set up a gambling operation at the Havana Greyhound Kennel Club, the only dog track in Cuba. He said that the past week CHARLES F. "CHUCK" FREEMER, who fronted for the Mannarino interests at the Sans Souci in Havana several years ago, had been in town to study the possibilities of setting up the operation at the dog track. Due to a clause in the contract between the owners of the dog track property and the operators to the effect that no gambling other than the regular pari-mutual betting will be allowed on the property, [redacted] said that the setting up of the operation is stymied at the present. He explained that the owners of the dog track property also own the Casino Nacional which they hope to rent to some one for the coming winter season. Since the dog track and the Casino are located only a short distance apart, the owners of the properties do not wish to prejudice their chances of renting the Casino by permitting gambling to operate at the dog track. (X)

CDA:JES

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To: Director, FBI

November 20, 1953
Havana, Cuba

Subject: AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

GIIF
EJG

The Sans Souci club continues to be operated by ~~NORMAN ROTHMAN~~, although there is no information as to who is the money behind him. [redacted] advised that ROTHMAN's assistant, ~~EDDIE ALTMAN~~, is suffering from stomach cancer and is in serious condition. He said that ALTMAN is not aware of the fact that he has cancer. OO

OTHER 4

Concerning the Montmartre club, [redacted] furnished no information as to who will operate the gambling concession there this year. It will be recalled that ~~MEYER LANSKY~~ had a share of the concession during the past season. OO

Extra copies of this letter are attached for forwarding by the Bureau to the Miami, Norfolk and Charlotte offices.

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