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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

CONFIDENTIALDATE: April 25, 1955
Havana, Cuba

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

DECLASSIFIED BY SP6 MCK/ndc
ON 1-31-95 (JFK)

SUBJECT: AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

GIIF - Cuba

Re Havana letter 3-21-55.

On April 18, 1955, CI HAV-11 advised that the Sans Souci Night Club, which includes a gambling casino and which is located on the outskirts of Havana, had closed up on Saturday night, April 16, 1955. Source said that he had been informed that this closing had been motivated by a desire on the part of MARTIN FOX and the Tropicana interest, which interests have had 51 per cent of the operation of the Sans Souci during the current winter season, to squeeze out NORMAN ROTHMAN, FBI No. 152585B. It will be recalled that ROTHMAN for the past several years has operated as the front man and ostensible owner of the Sans Souci although he has always been bankrolled by someone else. (S)(C)(U)

On March 19, 1955, source said that he had been informed that SANTOS TRAFFICANTE, Jr. is negotiating to take over the operation of the Sans Souci, but stated that he had been informed that TRAFFICANTE did not want ROTHMAN either. (S)(C)(U)

Source on April 18, 1955 advised that he had been informed that TRAFFICANTE was coming to Havana on April 20; however, on April 19 source stated that he had learned that TRAFFICANTE had moved up his arrival date in Havana and had actually arrived on April 17, 1955. (S)(C)(U)

It is interesting to note that the Air Express edition of the Miami Herald for April 21, 1955 reported the finding on Wednesday, April 20, 1955 of the murdered body of CHARLIE WALL, described as "The 76 year old elder statesman of the Florida underworld." The news account stated that the body of WALL, shot seven or eight times with a shotgun and with his throat cut from ear to ear, had been found in his Tampa home by his wife and that he had apparently been dead one or two days. [It is not known whether WALL's murder is in any way connected with the fact that TRAFFICANTE came to Havana on April 17 after having previously announced to his friends that he would come to Havana on April 20.] (S)(C)(U)

On April 20, 1955, NORMAN ROTHMAN, mentioned above, advised SA CLARK D. ANDERSON of this office that the Sans Souci had been closed because the season was over and business was poor and that they wanted to do some remodeling at the club. This latter seems probably untrue inasmuch as it is known that a large quantity of money was spent remodeling the Sans Souci just before it reopened for business in December, 1954. (S)(C)(U)

CDA: JES

CONFIDENTIAL

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