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## Document Information

ORIGINATOR: FBI  
FROM: DONAHOE  
TO: BELMONT

TITLE:

DATE: 01/16/1961  
PAGES: 3

SUBJECTS:

ANTONIO DE VARONA  
MANUEL ANTONIO VARONADOCUMENT TYPE: PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
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~~SECRET~~

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
 Re: MANUEL ANTONIO VARONA  
 105-76826

Chief, Office of Secretary of Defense on 12-13-60 and came from one William A. Ullman who got it from Tomlinson. (S)(u)

In view of the serious implications of infiltration of this CIA-supported anti-Castro activity the 12-13-60 data was telephonically supplied to CIA on 12-15-60 and confirmed in writing (105-76826-17) (u)

CIA by letter 12-16-60 advised of receipt of data from one of its contacts who had received it from Julia Cellini that the Cellini brothers have long been associated in the narcotics and white slavery rackets in Cuba. Reportedly the Cellini brothers planned to support the FRD in hopes of moving in on their old business after overthrow of Castro. (S)(u)

During a White Slave Traffic Act investigation in 1945 it was alleged that both Julia Cellini and Dino V. Cellini were procurers. The family had a history of involvement in gambling. Edward Goffredo Cellini had been a croupier-dealer in a gambling house. (31-71997) ✓

[Dino Cellini (FBI No. 2198122) was considered during the 1953-1956 period by the Legal Attache, Havana, as a potential criminal informant but he was discontinued in February, 1956.] He was a floor man for the gambling casino at the Tropicana night club in Havana. (137-858) In 1959 Washington Field (WFO) advised Dino Vincent Cellini was formerly associated with Joseph Francis Nesline, WFO top hoodlum, in a gambling operation in Washington about 10 years ago. (137-4014-10) (u) ✓

[Goffredo R. Cellini was a criminal informant (Havana 31) of the Legal Attache, Havana, from March, 1958 through May, 1960.] This Cellini has extensive background of employment in gambling operations. He went to Cuba in 1957 and in 1958 was Afternoon Manager of Wilbur Clark's Casino Internacional (gambling casino). His brother, Dino, was one of the overseers in gambling casino at Hotel Havana Riviera. His brother Edward Goffredo Cellini was Evening Manager of same casino in which informant was employed. Informant was personally associated with such hoodlums as Jack Lansky and Meyer Lansky, had contact with (u) ✓

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
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~~SECRET~~

REVIEWED BY <sup>DOD</sup> FBI/JFK TASK FORCE  
ON 7-16-97 DAB/ROP  
☒ RELEASE IN FULL  
☐ RELEASE IN PART  
☐ TOTAL DENIAL

Santo Trafficante and personally knew Americans holding large gambling interests in Havana including Frank Erickson. [He furnished extensive data on hoodlums and gambling. Beginning in July, 1958, Legal Attache was authorized to pay him up to \$100 monthly for services. His discontinuance in May, 1960, was prompted by his return to U.S. Legal Attache felt he was stable, responsible family man. (137-4014)] *q(u)*

In connection with a security investigation in 1957 it was established that Benvenuto M. Cellini is apparently the father in the Cellini family and he resided at 8144 Eastern Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. Julia, Dino, Edward and Goffredo were identified as four of his children. (105-58517-9)

Files of Identification Division contain no arrest records for Benvenuto, Julia, Edward and Goffredo Cellini on basis of name search. Dino Cellini has record of only two convictions (1941 and 1945) on gambling charges.

Background of Cellini family does not indicate they could make contributions of millions of dollars but definitely points to possibility Cellini brothers are fronting for gambling interests.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Attached is letter to CIA advising that Agency of the additional data received. In view of CIA's support of both Varona and FRD we are asking CIA whether it has obtained any verification of these allegations and whether it has received any other data indicating financial backing of anti-Castro elements by U.S. gambling interests. *(X)(u)* *yes, ✓* *sent*

2. In view of critical public reaction which could be expected to follow the reactivation of large-scale gambling operations in Cuba by top hoodlums should Castro be overthrown, recommend Investigative Division consider desirability of instituting inquiries along this line from criminal intelligence standpoint. *yes, ✓* *yes* *ERC 1/17*

*Inquiries re Cuban gambling have been continuous. Let to MM, BS, NK, & SH, realerting. 2/1/61. CPT*

*Send memo to Kennedy.*  
~~SECRET~~ - 3 - *X*