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SANTO TRAFFICANTE, JR.  
  
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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (92-2781) **SECRET**

FROM : Legal Attache, Havana (92-1)

SUBJECT: SANTO TRAFFICANTE, JR., was.  
ANTI-RACKETEERING

DATE: December 10, 1958

#211,326  
Classified by *Sp3 cld/gcl*  
Declassify on: OADR 7/21/83

Reference Havana letters dated September 22 and October 17, 1958; Miami airtel dated September 17, 1958; report SA STEPHEN J. LABADIE, Miami, dated October 2, 1958; and Miami letter dated October 23, 1958.

Set forth below is additional information concerning the subject and his associates which has been developed by the AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE *11/1/83*

[Residence] (X)(u)

The subject continues to reside in Apartment 14-B at Calle 12, No. 20, Vedado, Havana, Cuba. (X)(u)

[Automobiles] (X)(u)

On October 28, 1958, PCI [ ] who is employed as a combination doorman and caretaker at Calle 12 No. 20, advised that subject was visited by a married couple on October 24 and 25, 1958, and that this couple was riding in a 1953 Buick, Florida license 34 W 344. (X)(u)

[Associates] (X)(u)

DECLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/KSR  
ON 6-6-97 (JFK)

On October 16, 1958, PCI [ ] advised that about four months previous an individual, similar in appearance to GABRIEL MANNARINO, FBI # 854850, had lunch with a number of other individuals at TRAFFICANTE's apartment. (X)(u)

On October 28, 1958, PCI [ ] said that subject had been visited on a number of occasions by SAMUEL "STRETCH" RUBIN, FBI # 4736859, Miami gambler. Source noted in addition that GEORGE LEVINE, FBI # 382915, paid several calls on TRAFFICANTE shortly after TRAFFICANTE moved into his apartment at Calle 12 No. 20. (X)(u)

ENCLOSURE  
2 ea to MM, NY  
8 - Bureau (Enc. 1)  
1 - Havana  
DJB:lg  
(9)

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
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12/10/58

On November 5, 1958, former PCI [ ] Afternoon Manager, gambling casino, Hotel Nacional, advised that ANTHONY RANDAZZO, Dade County SO No. 179194, is identical with the individual whom he previously identified as TONY RENDOZZI. (X)(u) *LA*

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On October 29, 1958, HAV-31 informed that ANTHONY RANDAZZO had been observed in the gambling casino in the Hotel Nacional with two other individuals, one who used the name MILANO and one who used the name LONARDO. In this regard HAV-4 advised on November 7, 1958, that on October 29, 1958, the following individuals arrived in Havana from Miami aboard PAA Flight 415:

DOMINICK LONARDO  
CARMEN MILANO  
PETER MILANO

(u)  
(X)

On October 29, 1958, T. JAMES ENNIS, Manager, Hotel Havana Riviera, advised that the following individuals arrived at the Hotel Havana Riviera:

JOHN DEMMI, 3405 Elmore, Tampa, Florida;  
JAMES LONGO, 2119 Beach Street, Tampa, Florida;  
SAM TRAFFICANTE, 701 West Alfred, Tampa, Florida.

(u)  
(X)

Mr. ENNIS noted that these individuals, together with their wives, registered as a group. (X)(u)

On December 2, 1958, PCI [ ] advised that the following individuals have visited TRAFFICANTE at his apartment in the past:

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FRANK DIECIDUE, FBI No. 764639 B;  
JAMES COSTA LONGO, FBI No. 4454459;  
JOE R. DIEZ, FBI No. 895483 B;  
SAM TRAFFICANTE, FBI No. 492471 B.

(u)  
(X)

Source noted that DIECIDUE was frequently in the company of JOE STASSI, FBI No. 559327, during his visits to TRAFFICANTE's apartment. STASSI has been reported in the past as the partner of TRAFFICANTE in the gambling casino at the Sans Souci night club. (X)(u)

[Gambling Interests] (X)(u)

[General Information] (X)(u)

Referenced Havana letter dated September 22, 1958, furnished information concerning an individual named J. M. BROGNOLO who was reported by HAV-31 to have requested informant to put him in touch with [ ] in order that indirect contact could be made with SANTO TRAFFICANTE. (X)(u)

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12/10/58

On October 23, 1958, Mr. THOMAS J. KELLEY, Resident Manager, Hotel Nacional, furnished a copy of the registration card completed by "Mrs. Mr. J. M. BROGNOLO" on August 13, 1958. The records of the Hotel Nacional indicate that BROGNOLO checked into the hotel at 12:20 P.M. August 13 and checked out of the hotel at 12:59 P.M. August 16, 1958. Copy of the hotel registration card is being enclosed for forwarding to the Miami Office. Inquiry among airport limousine chauffeurs developed that individuals checking into the Hotel Nacional at 12:20 P.M. would normally arrive at Rancho Boyeros Airport between 11:00 A.M. and 11:30 A.M. (X) (u)

A review of airlines' manifests of entries into Havana on August 13 and departures on August 16, 1958, developed that only two individuals came in as a party between 11:00 and 11:30 A.M. August 13, 1958, and departed Havana on August 16, 1958, subsequent to 12:59 P.M., the sign-out time of J. M. BROGNOLO. These individuals were JOSEPH VEGA and MARY B. GORDON who arrived in Havana from Tampa, Florida, at 11:20 A. M. aboard National Airlines Flight 301 on August 13, 1958. They carried three pieces of luggage weighing 63 pounds. JOSEPH URGa and MARY GORDON departed Havana aboard National Airlines Flight 302 for Tampa, Florida, at 7:40 P.M. August 16, 1958. They left as a party and carried seven pieces of luggage weighing 130 pounds. Opposite URGa's name appeared the following identification number which was for airline official use only, 102-823930. Opposite GORDON's name was the number 102-823929. (X) (u)

On November 7, 1958, Mr. THOMAS J. KELLEY, mentioned above, advised that the records of the Hotel Nacional failed to reveal any record of a JOSEPH VEGA or URGa or a MARY GORDON. (X) (u)

On November 17, 1958, PCI [redacted] bell-boy, Hotel Sevilla Biltmore, Havana, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on November 13, 15, and 16, 1958, the subject, [redacted], and AMLETTO BATTISTI had meetings in the Hotel Sevilla Biltmore. [redacted] is the afternoon floor boss of the gambling casino in the Hotel Havana Riviera and a long-time associate of TRAFFICANTE in Havana. BATTISTI is a Cuban Congressman who owns the gambling casino in the Hotel Sevilla Biltmore and who is considered to be one of the leading numbers bankers in Havana. Sources have advised that BATTISTI has a reputation of being able to cover any numbers bet. PCI [redacted] stated that in addition SANTO TRAFFICANTE, two unidentified Cubans, and two Americans named LEONARD TRENTO and FRANK (X) (u)

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FREEMAN or FREEMORE had a meeting in Room 455 of the Sevilla Biltmore on November 12, 1958. Source was of the opinion that all these meetings were concerned with bolita operations in Havana and Florida. Source noted that an individual named GEORGE SABA comes to the Sevilla Biltmore from the United States twice each week with a handbag and sees AMLETTO BATTISTI. Source was of the opinion that SABA is a runner for lay-off bets in connection with bolita operations in Florida. In this regard the files of the Havana Office reflect that SABA was arrested by Cuban police on January 27, 1956, at Rancho Boyeros Airport when he was preparing to depart from Havana for Miami. At that time SABA had on his person \$600. in American currency and a number of miscellaneous pieces of paper bearing figures and notations which caused the Cuban police to believe that he might be acting as a runner in bringing lay-off numbers money from Miami to Havana. At the time of his arrest SABA gave his address as 1501 S.W. 63rd Avenue, Miami, and indicated he was born January 5, 1904, in Lebanon. He was described as 5'6", 180 pounds, brown-grey hair, and blue eyes. (X) (u)

[Hotel Plaza] (X) (u)

On September 19, 1958, HAV-33 advised that JOE STASSI, an associate of the subject, together with an individual named FRANK BIRD (phonetic) and other unknown individuals had invested approximately \$300,000.00 in the construction of a gambling casino in the Hotel Plaza in Havana. Source advised that in this connection a meeting had been held of a number of gamblers in the Hotel Havana Riviera in early September, 1958, and that the subject was present at this meeting. According to source, the principal item on the agenda was the Hotel Plaza casino. (X) (u)

On October 8, 1958, HAV-31 informed that PETE SARNO, who had previously worked at the Sans Souci gambling casino, was going to work in the casino in the Hotel Plaza. (X) (u)

On October 16, 1958, HAV-31 informed that FRANK MURPHY and MILTON SEID, who had formerly worked in the gambling casino in the Hotel Nacional, were going to work in the Hotel Plaza gambling casino. (X) (u)

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On November 14, 1958, HAV-33 advised that the administrator of the gambling casino in the Hotel Plaza is ~~GEORGE SHERMAN~~ who appears to be operating the casino jointly with ~~JOE STASSI~~. Source noted that ~~FRANK GENTILE~~, who was formerly boss of the poker table at the Sans Souci, is now working at the Hotel Plaza casino. (S)(u) *CUBA*

On November 21, 1958, HAV-33 informed that gambling at the Hotel Plaza casino had been temporarily suspended by the police for a short period of time on November 19, 1958. Source indicated that it appeared a "shakedown" was involved. Source stated he had observed the following individuals in the casino: ~~JOE STASSI~~; his brother ~~ANTHONY STASSI~~, wa. Tony Rogers; ~~GEORGE LEVINE~~; ~~JACK FREEMAN~~; ~~FRANK GENTILE~~; ~~GEORGE SHERMAN~~; and ~~MILTON SEID~~. (S)(u) *CUBA*

Hotel Havana Hilton (S)(u)

On September 19, 1958, HAV-33 advised that the Hotel Havana Hilton continues to be managed by ~~JOE SILESI~~, wa. Joe Rivers, an associate of the subject. (S)(u) *CUBA*

On October 24, 1958, HAV-33 advised that ~~ANGEL GONZALEZ~~ ~~GONZALEZ~~ is no longer employed at the gambling casino in the Hotel Havana Hilton. Source subsequently informed that ~~GONZALEZ~~ had purchased an interest in the gambling casino in the Hotel St. Johns. (S)(u) *CUBA*

Hotel Capri Casino (S)(u)

The Hotel Capri Casino continues to be managed by ~~CHARLES TOURINE~~, wa. Charles White, and ~~NICHOLAS DI COSTANZO~~, wa. "Fat The Butch." (S)(u) *CUBA*

On November 7, 1958, HAV-33 informed that the subject continues to have a substantial interest in the gambling casino in the Hotel Capri. Source noted that ~~FRANK RENZONI~~, who formerly worked for the subject at the Sans Souci casino, appears to be the person responsible for protecting subject's interest in the Capri. Source noted that ~~ANTHONY WILLIAMS~~, who is the brother of ~~JOHN HARRY WILLIAMS~~, Boston Top Hoodlum, is employed at the gambling casino in the Hotel Capri. (S)(u) *CUBA*

On November 21, 1958, HAV-33 informed that on November 17, 1958, ~~NICHOLAS DI COSTANZO~~, ~~CHARLES TOURINE~~, ~~ANTHONY WILLIAMS~~, the subject, and other individuals had a meeting with other casino operators in Havana but that the purpose of this meeting was not known. (S)(u) *CUBA*

It should be noted that on numerous occasions the subject has been observed by members of the Legal Attache's Office, Havana, in conversation with ~~NICHOLAS DI COSTANZO~~ and ~~CHARLES WHITE~~ at the Hotel Capri. (S)(u) *CUBA*

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[Hotel St. Johns] (X) (u)

On September 24, 1958, HAV-31 informed that the following individuals have interests in the St. Johns Casino:

RAUL ~~GONZALEZ~~ PEREZ  
ANGEL ~~GONZALEZ~~ GONZALEZ  
ROBERTO ~~MENDOZA~~  
CALEEL SIMON  
SID JACOBS

CUBA

(u)

Source said that he was quite certain that RAUL GONZALEZ PEREZ is representing the money interests of SANTO TRAFFICANTE. (X) (u)

On November 14, 1958, HAV-33 informed that two of the interest holders in the St. Johns casino were ANGEL GONZALEZ GONZALEZ and CALEEL SIMON. Source informed further that JOHN WILLIAMS, Boston Top Hoodlum, has purchased an interest in the craps table in the St. Johns Hotel casino. (X) (u)

[Hotel Deauville Casino] (X) (u)

On October 24, 1958, HAV-33 informed that the principal interest holders in the Hotel Deauville casino were:

SANTO TRAFFICANTE  
EVARISTO GARCIA

(u)

GARCIA has previously been identified as a former partner of FREDESVIDO ~~BOSQUE~~ CUETO, FBI No. 420934, in the Havana-Madrid Jai Alai Fronton. GARCIA has also been identified as a "bolita banker" in Havana for many years. (X) (u)

[Sans Souci Night Club] (X) (u)

The subject continues to personally oversee the operation of the Sans Souci night club gambling casino, and his principal assistant continues to be SID JACOBS. On October 16, 1958, HAV-31 advised that TOMMY "GAGS" ~~GAGLIANO~~, who formerly worked at the Comodoro gambling casino, is now working in the Sans Souci gambling casino. (X) (u)

CUBA

[Hotel Comodoro Gambling Casino] (X) (u)

Information concerning the manager of the Hotel Comodoro, SALVATORE ~~GAETANO~~ SCALIA, was set forth in Havana letters dated October 17, 1958. Numerous sources have advised that subject owns a substantial majority interest in the Hotel Comodoro casino and that TRAFFICANTE transferred SCALIA from the gambling casino in the Sans Souci to the position of manager in the casino in the Hotel Comodoro. (X) (u)

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On November 17, 1958, PCI [redacted] previously mentioned, advised that SCALIA had been associated with SALVATORE GRANELLO and GEORGE LEVINE several years ago when they operated a cigar concession in the Hotel Sevilla Biltmore in Havana. (X)(u)

On November 15, 1958, HAV-32 advised that SALVATORE SCALIA had been arrested on November 14, 1958, in connection with the shooting of a Cuban girl named MARTA SANDOMINGO MACHADO at Calle 16 No. 2, Apartment 501, Vedado. HAV-32 stated that investigation indicated SANDOMINGO was SCALIA's mistress, and, although SCALIA denied it, it appeared that she had been shot during an argument. HAV-32 informed that considerable political influence had been exerted to obtain SCALIA's immediate release and that he was set free under \$25,000 bond. Source said that SCALIA was placed under the protection of Lt. Colonel IRENALDO GARCIA BAEZ, the Head of the Cuban Army Military Intelligence Service and son of Chief of Police PILAR GARCIA GARCIA. Hav-32 informed that representatives of GARCIA BAEZ had "gotten to" MARTA SANDOMINGO MACHADO and that she claimed to have shot herself. Source said that the superintendent in charge of the apartment building where SANDOMINGO had been shot had been threatened by representatives of GARCIA BAEZ to "keep his mouth shut." Source stated further that a Cuban writer named PAUBIA, who is a police reporter for the Cuban newspaper "El Crisol", had written an article intimating that SCALIA was linked with the Mafia. Source stated that PAUBIA had been threatened with death if he did not "forget about the Mafia and keep his mouth shut." Hav-32 informed further that a police officer named OSVALDO ARANGO had investigated the matter initially. Source said that ARANGO had been informed he would be promoted to Corporal if he "white washed" SCALIA and that he would be fired if he furnished a true report on the case. (X)(u) *CUBA*

On November 17, 1958, HAV-32 informed that the weapon used in the shooting of MARTA SANDOMINGO MACHADO was a .38 caliber short barrel Smith & Wesson. Source said that this weapon bore the number 104912 at the base of the grip and the number 32276 on the inside of the frame and on the cylinder. Source noted that, while the revolver was temporarily in the hands of Cuban judicial authorities, there was no doubt that it would mysteriously disappear in the immediate future. Source noted that for that reason he had managed to clandestinely obtain the revolver and had arranged to have two test shots fired from the weapon. Source noted that, while these two test shots could not serve for evidentiary purposes, they would be available for comparison purposes in the event the possibility existed that a similar weapon had been used in the killing of ALBERT ANASTASIA. (X)(u)

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Extra copies of this letter have been prepared for forwarding by the Bureau to Miami, New York, and Albany. It is requested that the New York Office advise Legat, Havana whether the weapons used in the killing of ALBERT ANASTASIA have been identified and whether it is desired that the test bullets in the possession of HAV-32 be obtained for forwarding to the FBI Laboratory. (S) (u)

ENCLOSURE TO BUREAU (For forwarding to Miami Office)

Copy of registration card # 27411 for Hotel Nacional, Havana, Cuba, for date August 13, 1958, in name "Mrs. Mr. J. M. Brognolo." (S) (u)

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