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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY:

FBI

RECORD NUMBER:

124-90068-10001

RECORD SERIES:

HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER: 62-75147-210-76

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR: FBI

FROM:

HAV

TO:

HQ

TITLE:

DATE: 12/14/1955

PAGES: 3

SUBJECT:

AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

DOCUMENT TYPE:

PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT

ORIGINAL

CLASSIFICATION:

Unclassified

NEW

CLASSIFICATION:

REVIEW DATE:

06/24/1998

UPDATE DATE:

STATUS

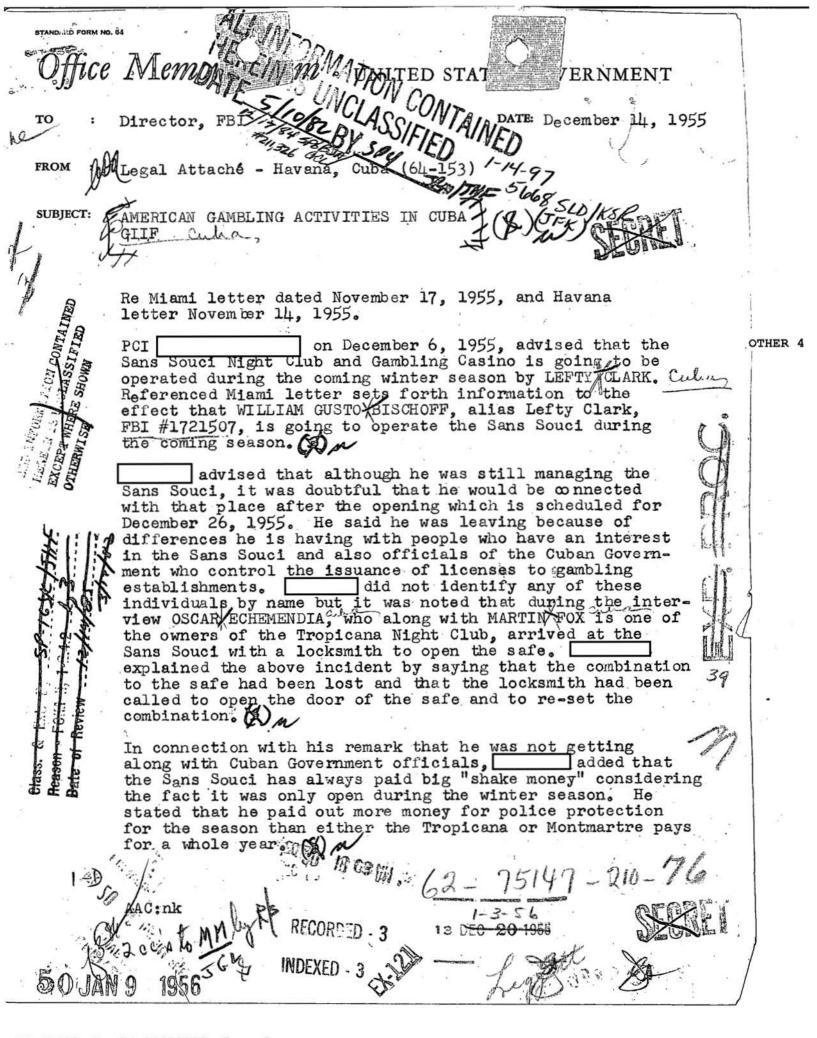
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RESTRICTIONS:

JFK Act 6 (4)

COMMENTS:

MEMO



1

Havana 64-153



OTHER 4

stated that in connection with the proposed new gambling casinos in Havana, many investors have been led to believe that the government was interested in opening these places in order to attract tourist trade to Cuba. He explained that after large amounts of money were spent in planning these places and buying and installing equipment, the government then assessed each place that wanted to open a large "donation" in addition to the \$25,000.00 license fee. added that the new casino at the Hotel Nacional had originally been assessed \$100,000 in addition to the license fee but that this figure had later been lowered to between \$25,000 and \$50,000. added that plans for opening a gambling casino in the Hotel Comodoro have been dropped for the present because of the prohibitive amount of graft which would have to be paid in connection with obtaining a license. He said that the Atlantic Hotel, on First Avenue in Miramar. Havana, had also planned to open a gambling casino which was to be called the Copa, or Copacabana. stated that extensive alterations and repairs have been undertaken at the hotel in order to house the gambling casino. He pointed out that the hotel will now have to pay the extra graft for the license or lose the money already invested in the alterations. said he did not know the plans involved in this transaction nor did he know the identity of the person who allegedly was to run the Copa Gambling Casino. It was noted on Dec. 6. 1955, that the alterations and remodeling at the Atlantic are being undertaken. Hotel, as described by Mr. H. Lindsay/Gatty, who on December 1, 1955, left his position as manager of the Sevilla-Biltmore Hotel and who is now executive assistant manager at the Hotel Nacional, advised on December 9, 1955, that the Sans Souci is presently owned by Tropicana interests and that through arrangements with government officials a permit has been granted to open Sans Souci on December 26, 1955. Gatty advised it is his belief that the Sans Souci has not had a license to operate since the time over but has only been allowed to run because of the heavy graft it affords the Cuban police.