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DATE: 11-14-2017

**JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
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VERNMENT

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TO : Director, FBI

FROM : Legal

SUBJECT: Attache, Havana, Cuba (64-153)

DATE: January 24, 1957

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ACT: AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

GIIF

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE INTELLIGENCE FILE

Reference Havana letter dated December 20, 1956, setting forth a resume of Americans connected with gambling casinos in the Havana area.

PCI TIRSO SACERIO advised on January 4, 1957, that NORMAN ROTHMAN, who formerly operated the Sans Souci Night Club in Havana Cuba, is presently managing a new gambling casino opened at the Copacabana Night Club in Camaguey, Cuba, on December 31, 1956.

Source stated that ROTHMAN received permission to operate the gambling casino and was issued a license through the political influence of TONY PEREZ BENITO, who is married to the daughter of President BATISTA of Cuba. Source stated that as a result of the assistance offered ROTHMAN by PEREZ BENITO half interest in the casino was granted to PEREZ BENITO.

Source further advised that ROTHMAN is alleged to have placed slot machines in various bars and night clubs in other cities in Camaguey Province. Source stated that arrangements for installation of these slot machines were made through the influence of PEREZ BENITO and ALBERT ARDURA. ARDURA is closely associated with ROBERTO FERNANDEZ MIRANDA, brother-in-law of President BATISTA. Recent publicity with reference to slot machines in the Havana area indicates that ARDURA is one of the principal importers of slot machines to Cuba and he is also reputed to have considerable interest in gambling operations.

MIGUEL TRIAY, a contact of the Havana Office, advised on January 23, 1957, that a new gambling casino is to be opened in the Hotel Comodoro in February, 1957. The Comodoro is one of Havana's leading hotels and is rated second only to the Hotel Nacional. Source stated that one RAFAEL REINA, also known as RALPH REINA, is to be the manager of the gambling casino at the Comodoro. Source advised that REINA has already arrived in Cuba and that he frequents the Sans Souci Night Club at the present time.

Source further advised that REINA is a close associate of SANTOS TRAFICANTE, Jr., and that a number of years ago REINA was associated with TRAFICANTE in the bolita racket in the Tampa, Florida, area.

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(See BIA file #62-117290)

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