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**JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM**

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY: FBI
RECORD NUMBER: 124-90068-10036
RECORD SERIES: HO
AGENCY FILE NUMBER: 62-75147-210-101

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR: FBI
FROM: NY
TO: HO
TITLE:

DATE: 01/20/1958

PAGES: 13

SUBJECT: AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

DOCUMENT TYPE: PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT

ORIGINAL
CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified

NEW
CLASSIFICATION:

REVIEW DATE: 06/24/1998

UPDATE DATE:

STATUS: Redact

RESTRICTIONS:

JFK Act 6 (4)

COMMENTS: MEMO

NY 92-886

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NYO files reflect that in 1931, COSTELLO and KASTEL organized the Midtown Novelty Company in NYC, which company operated slot machines and was later forced out of business.

In 1935, COSTELLO and ~~KASTEL~~, together with ~~REED~~ ~~BRAINARD~~ and ~~DUDLEY~~ and ~~HAROLD~~ ~~GEIGERMAN~~, organized the Bayou Novelty Company in New Orleans. L.A.

On 10/9/39, COSTELLO, KASTEL and the GEIGERMAN'S were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury at New Orleans on a charge of income tax violation.

On 4/3/45, the New Orleans Office advised that KASTEL was then alleged to be the contact between COSTELLO and the GEIGERMAN brothers who were then in active management of COSTELLO'S New Orleans interests.

In 1952, KASTEL was listed by the Kefauver Committee as one of the Top Hoodlums in the United States. FRANK COSTELLO testified before that Committee that KASTEL was in partnership with him in the Beverly Club and the Louisiana Mint Company, New Orleans, Louisiana.

On 8/22/56, information was received from an informant that ~~MATTY~~ ~~DI PALERMO~~, was., ~~Matty~~ ~~Brown~~, who lived at ~~13-48 146th Street, Whitestone, NYC~~, was a powerful bookmaker who had connections with Top Hoodlums throughout the country including PHILIP KASTEL. N.Y.

NY 1449-C advised in January, 1956, that ~~MEYER~~ ~~LANSKY~~ was then the head of the syndicate running three hotels in Cuba. Informant stated that these hotels were, the Nacional, the Tripcanna (Tropicana), and the San Souci. He stated that this syndicate consisted of most of the Top Hoodlums in the United States including FRANK COSTELLO, PHILIP KASTEL, LEFTY CLARK, (FNU) MC CUTLEY from Cleveland, and TONY ROGERS from New York.

Informant stated that these men controlled all gambling including control of the number game (bolita) which took in anywhere from \$175,000.00 to \$300,000.00 operating only on Saturdays.

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DUTCH GOLDBERG is an alias for LOUIS SHOMBERG, a Top Hoodlum of the NYO.

In April, 1947, BEN MARDEN was reported residing at 101 West 55th Street, NYC, and reportedly had been backing Broadway shows for a few prior seasons.

NY 165-C advised in 1951, that he had heard that BEN MARDEN was operating in part in Havana, Cuba for the gambling syndicate and about two years earlier had been sent to the French Riviera to introduce the American crap game into French gambling houses.

NY 99-C also advised in 1951, that BEN MARDEN had gone to Europe as a representative of American gambling interests. Informant stated that MARDEN'S purpose was to look into the possibility of opening a gambling casino and to introduce the American game of crap shooting. Informant stated that MARDEN had started to gain prominence in 1930 or 1931 when he shot and killed his partner, HARRY BLOCK, who was in partnership with MARDEN in the Alabama Club in NYC.

According to a Pinkerton Detective Agency report dated 9/15/52, which was received on a confidential basis from JOSEPH A. VAVON, 1938 Harrison St., Hollywood, Florida, informants had advised that MARDEN had an interest in the San Souci Restaurant in Havana. According to that report information had been received in NYC that MARDEN had severed a connection with a jewelry exchange at 37 West 47th St., three months earlier. Information had also been received that MARDEN was financially interested in the Blue Chain of Cuba, a Havana Radio Station.

NY 14 In May, 1953, EDWARD L. ~~PINKER~~, 550 Park Avenue, NYC, advised on a confidential basis that it had recently come to his attention that BEN MARDEN had furnished financial backing to President BATISTA in Cuba for the revolution which placed BATISTA in power. He declined to give the source of this information and stated that as a result of this financial backing, MARDEN then had control of all gambling in Cuba.

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NY 156-C advised in February, 1954, that TONY GOBELS was a good friend of BEN MARDEN. GOBELS was alleged to have a good connection with Colonel BATISTA of Cuba and spent quite a bit of time in Cuba.

TONY GOVELS is an alias of ANTHONY RICCI, FBI #277249A, a Top Hoodlum of the Miami Office.

In November, 1955, AL 2937-C advised the Albany Office that BEN MARDEN had been at Saratoga, NY, during August, 1955. Informant stated that MARDEN was alleged to be associated with DANNY ARNSTEIN and NAT HERZFELD, wealthy NY businessmen, in purchasing Gulfstream Race Track in Florida. Informant stated that negotiations might be closed in the near future on a figure in the neighborhood of \$5,000,000.00.

JACK BURKE

In 1946, the Los Angeles Office advised that JACK BURKE was quite close to MICKEY COHEN and had recently been managing COHEN'S gambling joint in Burbank, California. Informants of the Los Angeles Office had stated that JACK BURKE was among the numerous hoodlums, gamblers and petty crooks who hung around MICKEY COHEN'S Night Club, the La Brea Social Club in Los Angeles.

In 1947, the Los Angeles Office advised that JACK BURKE had been identified by Assistant Chief of Police JOE REED, Los Angeles Police Department, as being one of the individuals associated with MICKEY COHEN in a gambling house operation. He stated that other individuals associated in this operation were SANDY WATSON (former LAPD Officer), JIM CONTRATO (former Mayor of Huntington Park), DAVE RUBIN (well known member of the COHEN gang) and PHILIP CARIBI, LAPD #21482.

MICKEY COHEN is a Top Hoodlum of the Los Angeles Office.

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~~FLA~~ In April, 1950, JOSEPH ~~CELESI~~, wa., Joe Rivers, from NYC, was reported to have operated a crap game at Harrison, NY, during 1949 and 1950 with JOSEPH ~~DE GEORGIA~~, wa., Joseph Rice, JAMES ~~VINTALORO~~, wa., "Jimmie The Sniff", and FRANK ~~VIGGIANO~~. This game was reported to have been raided by the Westchester County Sheriff's office and the Harrison PD. ~~N.Y.~~

In November, 1953, an informant advised that JOE RIVERS operated a book at the Melann Tavern on Westchester Avenue, Bronx, NY, and had previously worked at Yonkers Raceway.

In 1953, information was received from the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau that JOSEPH SILESI of the Pine Paper Company, 532 West 57th St., NYC, had been ejected from Hialeah Park 1/20/47, for bookmaking.

NY 136-C advised in December, 1953, that JOE RIVERS and (FNU) MULLIGAN were operating a very big crap game somewhere on LI, assisted by a person nicknamed "Label". Informant advised that 36 Police Officials were receiving \$10,000.00 a month pay-off for this game. Informant also advised that JIMMY ~~WOLF~~ was also one of the game's operators and that JOE ~~ADENIS~~, well known racketeer, owned a piece of the game. ~~N.Y.~~

NY 207-C advised in March, 1954, that an individual known as "Bandy" or "Banty" was the shylock for the mob at JOE ~~ADENIS~~'S game. Informant stated that this individual always carried a large amount of cash on his person and was a short middle-aged man with very bowed legs. ~~(S) n~~

In 1954, JOSEPH ~~SILESI~~, 265 Lafayette St., NYC, ~~112.1~~ was among a list of NYCPD bookmaking suspects.

NY 205-C advised in September, 1954, that JOE RIVERS had a large floating crap game in Nassau County, one of the three largest games in the NYC area. ~~50~~
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In January, 1954, Detective HERBERT HURLEY, District Attorney Staff, NYC, advised that according to informants, JOE RIVERS was running a big crap game in LIC.

In March, 1954, FRANK NOLAN, Schenley Liquor Company, advised on a confidential basis that he had received information indicating that JOE RIVERS was the right-hand man for JOE ADONIS and had a loan shark associate called "Label". NOLAN advised that RIVERS' job was to collect the syndicate cut of gambling in NY.

NY 207-C advised in March, 1954, that JOE RIVERS, a right-hand man for JOE ADONIS, was running one of the largest dice games in NY. (S) (X) u

In 1955, the Albany Office advised that information from an informant indicated that JOE RIVERS had been affiliated with gambling casinos in New Jersey, Saratoga Springs, NY, and in Las Vegas. AL 2937 had advised the Albany Office that RIVERS was associated with MANNI BROWN, MAFALIO BRUNO, and JOE DE STEFANA in the operation of an elaborate gambling establishment set up by JOE BIANDI at Glendale, NY. Similar information had been received by the Albany Office from another informant.

NY 842-C advised in January, 1956, that JOE RIVERS was associated with FRANK COSTELLO, JAMES (SONNY) CAMPBELL, HAROLD WARD, and a JOE RUMOK, all important gamblers, in a large crap game operating in the NY area. (S) (u)

NY 842-C advised in June, 1956, that JOE RIVERS had a piece of a large floating crap game together with HAROLD WARD, HUGHIE MULLIGAN and CHARLIE "Nigger Lips" BLOOM. (S) (u)

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NY 136-C advised in January, 1957, that the dice game operated by JOE RIVERS and HUGHIE MULLIGAN was the biggest game in NYC.

OTHER 4

In July, 1957, the Albany Office advised that according to PCI [redacted] JOE RIVERS was connected with a group operating the "Lake House" outside Lake George NY. Other individuals in this group were GUS (LNU -possibly MURPHY), who formerly worked for FRANK COSTELLO at the Villa Nova Club, NYC, GUS'S brother-in-law, ALEX (LNU), "Uncle Pete" MORRISON, "Fat Boy" CONSTANTINE, and JULIUS GOLDSTEIN.

On 5/11/56, JOSEPH SILESI, wa., Joe Rivers, was interviewed by SA THOMAS J. O'TOOLE at SILESI'S residence, 265 Lafayette St., NYC. SILESI advised that he was then employed as a mediator by the Toy Novelty Workers Union, International Local 223, 132 West 43rd St., NYC.

The "New York Daily News" of 1/8/58, carried an article stating that JOSEPH SILESI, alias Joe Rivers, age 60, of 265 Lafayette St., NYC, and SANTO TRAFFICANTE, alias Louis Santos, age 42 of Tampa, Florida, were wanted for questioning in the ALBERT ANASTASIA killing. According to this article, District Attorney FRANK HOGAN had announced at a press conference that it had become extremely important to examine RIVERS and TRAFFICANTE before the Grand Jury concerning the ANASTASIA killing on 10/25/57. HOGAN was quoted as saying that he believed their testimony might shed light on the motivation for this killing. According to this article, RIVERS was described by District Attorney HOGAN as being "an extremely active operator in gambling circles and an intimate of many hoodlums, including the murdered ANASTASIA." RIVERS was described as 5' 3", of medium build, dark complexion, gray hair, and a conservative dresser. According to the article, District Attorney HOGAN emphasized that RIVERS and TRAFFICANTE were not wanted as the actual killers of ANASTASIA.

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