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## JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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DATE: 11-14-2017

~~SECRET~~

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen

Re - American Gambling Activities in Cuba (X) m

Meyer Lansky and Associates May Be Using Cliff Jones as Front (X)

Cuba (

In Downey Rice's report to Hilton Hotels, unnamed "underworld sources" are quoted as having said that Meyer Lansky and Abner "Longie" Zwillman are the principals in the operation of the Havana Hilton casino being "fronted" by Cliff Jones. Cliff Jones and his law firm (Jones and Wiener) are known to have represented several of the leading gambling establishments in Las Vegas, Nevada, and investigation by the Nevada State Tax Commission and the Kefauver Committee brought out that Jones actually held a proprietary interest in some of the gambling casinos. One of these was the Thunderbird and another was the Tropicana. It has been established that a loan of several hundred thousand dollars was made by Meyer and Jake Lansky to Marion Hicks, the principal of record in the Thunderbird. Also, Jake Lansky has reported income from the Thunderbird in his Federal income tax returns. When Frank Costello was shot and slightly wounded in New York in 1957, the police found on his person a slip of paper bearing figures which exactly corresponded with a particular operation of the casino in the Tropicana. There had been allegations previously that Costello was "in" the Tropicana. (X) m

Meyer Lansky's Status and Political Influence in Cuba (X)

Meyer Lansky's participation in Havana, Cuba, gambling activities dates back at least to the 1930's although his tenure there may not have been continuous since that time. There have been a number of press articles in which it was alleged that in effect Lansky is President Batista's unofficial "czar" of gambling. During the past week, Lansky has been in NYC and while there was picked up by the NYCPD and questioned concerning the Anastasia murder according to the press. He is stated to have been charged with vagrancy and released on \$1,000 bond. Also, in press reports Interior Minister Santiago Rey of Cuba is quoted as stating that Lansky will not be readmitted to Cuba and that the Cuban Government will take steps to prevent the entrance of persons wanted by other countries for criminal activities. (X) m

(X) The Legal Attache at Havana, Cuba, has received information indicating the possibility that Meyer Lansky is "well wired" with high political figures in Cuba. Potential Criminal Informant Goffredo Cellini who is associated with Meyer and Jake Lansky at the Hotel Nacional casino has related (X) m

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~~Re~~ - Gambling Activities in Cuba *EX*~~SECRET~~

to the Attache that a representative of Andres ~~Rivero~~ <sup>Cuba</sup> ~~Aguero~~, Cuban Prime Minister, had been in touch with Jake Lansky. Rivero Aguero has frequently been mentioned as the candidate of the Cuban Government coalition parties to succeed President Batista in elections scheduled to be held in June, 1958. Rivero Aguero's representative, Suarez Rivas, advised <sup>Cuba</sup> Jake Lansky that Rivero Aguero had indicated that for a contribution of \$3,000 a month from each of the casinos at the Hotels Nacional, Havana Rivera and Capri, Meyer Lansky could be assured of encountering no difficulty with the Cuban Government. The informant said that Jake Lansky indicated that he would not "sit still for the shakedown" and simply refused to pay any sum at all to Suarez Rivas for Rivero Aguero. Informant said that he got the impression from Jake Lansky that the latter apparently believed that his brother, Meyer, was sufficiently well connected with the Cuban Government and so had no desire to start lining the pockets of the potential candidates for the Presidency. The informant in this matter was in a good position to obtain the foregoing information in view of the fact that he acted as interpreter between Suarez Rivas and Jake Lansky. *EX*

If reports are true that Cliff Jones is "fronting" in the Havana Hilton for Meyer Lansky, Lansky's connection in that group could conceivably be indicative of good political connections in Cuba. One of the group, Roberto Mendosa, has a brother Mario, who is a prominent lawyer and reputedly is legal adviser to the Cuban Government. *EX*

In view of the above, it will be interesting to see if Lansky is denied readmittance to Cuba. *EX*

ACTION:

The situation concerning American gambling activities in Cuba is being followed closely in connection with the Top Hoodlum Program. *EX*

c87 R

*Memorandum*  
4-5/58  
C.L.G. cab

*See that our legal*  
*attache is advised*  
*of all above ramifications*  
*trans.* *K*

~~SECRET~~