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stated that the new law would prevent any further importation of this material and will also prevent the installation of slot machines in the gambling casino that SANTO TRAFFICANTE had hoped to open in the Hotel Plaza. LANSKY noted that the specific reference in the decree to the shipment back to the United States of slot machines located in the Customs warehouses in Havana would have a direct effect upon the Hotel Plaza as it was their slot machines "which are presently tied up in Cuban Customs."

2. The decrees increasing the value that a hotel must have before it may apply for a gambling license is also aimed at the Hotel Plaza and, according to JACK LANSKY, is a direct result of action taken by Cuban Congressman AMLETTO BATTISTI who owns the gambling concession in the Hotel Sevilla Biltmore. LANSKY noted that because of the close proximity of the Hotel Plaza to the Hotel Biltmore, BATTISTI has been concerned that competition from the Hotel Plaza would definitely affect the casino operation in the Hotel Sevilla Biltmore.

JACK LANSKY was of the opinion that the two Government regulations would make practically impossible the opening of the gambling casino in the Hotel Plaza by TRAFFICANTE.

#### CASINOS IN OPERATION

Wilbur Clark's Casino  
Hotel Nacional

JACK LANSKY, Miami Top Hoodlum, continues to be the overseer in the gambling casino at the Hotel Nacional.

Hav-31 advised on July 2, 1953, that he had ascertained that there is considered to be a loose working relationship among all the casinos in Havana. This source said that the casinos in the Hotel Havana Riviera and the Hotel Nacional are considered to be practically joint operations because of the interests of MEYER LANSKY in both.

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*Fla. Nevada  
Cuba*

On July 7, 1958, PCI [ ] dice table boss at the Hotel Havana Hilton casino (conceal), advised that MEYER LANSKY continues to be a very powerful figure in gambling in Cuba and is the major interest holder in the casinos in the Hotels Nacional and Riviera. PCI [ ] stated in addition that few people are aware that SAM TUCKER, one of the interest holders in the Nacional casino, is an important figure in American gambling and is reputed to be worth many millions of dollars. This source said that TUCKER is a large interest holder in the Desert Inn in Las Vegas and the new Stardust in Las Vegas, as well as in the Hotel Nacional casino. Source related further that TUCKER has investments in a large number of other operations both in Florida and Nevada.

On July 14, 1958, Hav-31 advised that he had ascertained from a source he considered reliable that the following combinations have interests in the Hotel Nacional gambling casino:

1. Florida combination composed of MEYER and JACK LANSKY, VINCENT ALO, was. Jimmy Alo and Sammy "Blue Eyes" and JOE MADONIS, represented at the Hotel Nacional by JACK LANSKY. *4/0*
2. Cleveland combination composed of SAM TUCKER, GEORGE GORDON, and THOMAS MCGINTY, represented at the Nacional casino by SAM TUCKER and occasionally represented in TUCKER's absence by GEORGE GORDON. *ohio  
Cuba*
3. New York combination composed of FRANK ERICKSON and ABNER "LONGY" ZWILLMAN, represented at the Hotel Nacional by BERT BRIGGS. *NY  
Cuba*

Source advised in addition that "BIG AL" POLIZZI belonged either to the New York or Cleveland combination and also had an interest in the Nacional casino. *NY*

Source stated that GEORGE GORDON had recently been at the casino in the Hotel Nacional because SAM TUCKER had been absent due to the death of TUCKER's brother-in-law in Cleveland. Source stated that an individual named BOBBY KAY had represented the Cleveland group at the Hotel Nacional. *oh.*

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casino a year ago during SAM TUCKER's absence in Europe. Source noted that he believed GEORGE GORDON maintained a residence in West Palm Beach, Florida, since GORDON had placed a telephone call to his wife there. Source advised further that GORDON recently made a telephone call to JOE ROGERS (an alias of JOE STASSI, a business associate of SANTO TRAFFICANTE) and influenced ROGERS to place an individual by the name of LOU ROSE in the Hotel Havana Hilton as a dealer. *Cuba*

Source noted that SAM TUCKER is in partnership in an enterprise called "Miami Skyways" with BENNIE GAINES. *Cuba*

On July 23, 1953, Hav-31 advised that DAVE YARAS, former Chicago gunman, had been in Havana. Source said that YARAS' son was recently loaned \$400 by SAM TUCKER. *11*

On July 29, 1953, Hav-31 advised that BERT BRIGGS had been on vacation from the Hotel Nacional gambling casino and that he had vacationed in New York City. Source said that BRIGGS was reported to have contacted FRANK ERICKSON while in New York.

On August 3, 1953, Hav-31 advised that JACK LANSKY had received a letter from DAN "DUSTY" PETERS, Credit Manager at the Hotel Havana Riviera gambling casino. This letter requested JACK LANSKY to make reservations at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas for PAT PERDUE. Hav-31 stated that he recalls PERDUE as having been a Miami police officer who was "on the take" from gamblers in Florida. *Cuba*

On August 6, 1953, JACK LANSKY advised that interest holders in the Hotel Nacional casino were having a meeting on that date in New York City with representatives of the Intercontinental Hotels Corporation, which operates the Hotel Nacional, in an effort to reach some agreement concerning the sale of the casino.

LANSKY indicated that business in the casino had improved to the extent where the casino was breaking even.

On August 1, 1953, THOMAS J. KELLEY, Resident Manager, Hotel Nacional, advised that an individual named MIKE McLANEY had been making inquiry concerning possible purchase of the gambling casino in the Hotel Nacional. Mr. KELLEY said that McLANEY was supposed to operate the L'Aiglon Restaurant in Miami. The Miami telephone directory indicates a MICHAEL J. McLANEY residing at 7900 Harbor Isle and shows the address of the L'Aiglon as 9585 Harding Avenue, Surfside. *Cuba*  
*7/19*  
*Miami, 7/19*

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*Cat*  
On August 3, 1958, Mr. KELLEY stated he had also received information that an individual known by the name ~~RAY~~ RYAN had indicated an interest in purchasing the casino in the Hotel Nacional.

Hotel Havana Riviera Casino

On June 25, 1958, PCI [redacted] (conceal) advised that HARRY and BEN SMITH, Toronto hotel owners who have a part-interest in the Hotel Havana Riviera hotel and casino, arrived at the Hotel Havana Riviera on June 23, 1958. PCI [redacted] stated that on June 24, 1958, a private conference was held in the conference room on the 4th floor of the Hotel Havana Riviera. He informed that the following individuals had attended the conference:

HARRY and BEN SMITH  
JACK and MEYER LANSKY  
JULIUS ROSENGARD  
ED LEVINSON  
IRVING FELDMAN

Source stated that as a result of the conference HARRY SMITH was removed as President of the Havana Riviera Corporation, and FELDMAN was installed as President. Source stated this change was caused by the bad publicity received by the SMITH brothers in connection with their arrest in Canada on charges of fraud.

On June 30, 1958, T. JAMES ENNIS, Manager, Hotel Havana Riviera, advised that there had been a change in top officers of the Havana Riviera Hotel Corporation. He said that HARRY SMITH was no longer President and that BEN SMITH had been removed from the Board of Directors. He noted that IRVING FELDMAN had become President. Mr. ENNIS stated that the SMITH brothers continue to have interests in the hotel and gambling casino. He noted that MEYER LANSKY still has the major interest in the hotel and gambling casino in spite of the fact that he does not appear as a corporation officer.

On July 1, 1958, PCI [redacted] (conceal) advised that MEYER LANSKY and his wife had been residing at the Hotel Havana Riviera during the preceding week but that they had not permanently changed their residence. Source stated that it appeared that MEYER LANSKY intended to permanently maintain his apartment at Calle 12 No. 20 since he had recently purchased a substantial amount of furniture for it.

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*made*  
On July 10, 1958, PCI [ ] *Cuba* mentioned above, advised that ~~MEYER LANSKY~~ had departed for Florida on July 8, 1958. Source stated that MEYER LANSKY's wife had remained in Havana. Source noted that HARRY SMITH was observed in the Hotel Havana Riviera on July 7, 1958, but that to his knowledge there had not been any additional meetings at the hotel. Source informed that ~~JOHN LINK~~, who formerly worked as a shift boss in the Hotel Havana Riviera casino and who has previously been reported to have purchased a part-interest in the casino, is presently associated with the gambling casino in the Jockey Club at the Oriental Park Race Track. Source said that LINK has an interest in the Jockey Club.

PCI [ ] also informed that the gambling business in the Hotel Riviera gambling casino is practically back to normal on week-ends.

*Na. 11 - C.*  
On July 18, 1958, PCI [ ] advised that EDDIE TORRES from Las Vegas is presently employed in the gambling casino at the Hotel Havana Riviera. Source said that TORRES is a shift boss and has replaced IRVING "NIGGIE" DEVINE. *cu/a*

Hotel Capri Casino

On July 2, 1958, Hav-31 advised that in connection with the working relationship of gambling casinos in Havana, the following casinos were considered to be "joint" operations because SANTO TRAFFICANTE has an interest in all of them:

- Capri
- Sans Souci
- Deauville
- Conodoro
- Hilton

The foregoing information was confirmed by PCI [ ] mentioned above, on July 7, 1958. PCI [ ] also informed that an individual by the name of RICHARDSON, who is associated with the operation of the gambling casino in the Hotel Capri, is a partner of MORRIS KLEINMAN in one of KLEINMAN's gambling operations in Las Vegas. *Wick*

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PCI [ ] stated that "FAT THE BUTCH" (an alias for NICOLAS DI COSTANZO) and his "crowd" had simply moved in on the other interest holders of the gambling casino of the Hotel Capri. Source stated that "FAT THE BUTCH" had actually invested very little money in the casino but had managed to scare the other interest holders into accepting him and his group.

Hotel Havana Hilton Casino

On July 7, 1953, PCI [ ] advised that the Hotel Havana Hilton casino is operating profitably and is meeting its expenses on the slot machine operation alone. He noted that American gambling interests have been most surprised at the good Cuban turnout in the casinos. Source stated that JOE SILESI, wa. Joe Rivers, continues to manage the casino. Source said that CHARLES BRUDNER and FRANK REED continue to have interests in the gambling casino in the Hotel Havana Hilton. Source informed that ROBERTO and MARIO MENDOZA, Cubans with interests in the Hotel Havana Hilton casino, have been losing a substantial amount of money gambling and that ROBERTO MENDOZA is reported to have lost a half-million dollars in recent months.

On July 10, 1953, PCI [ ] stated that the following individuals have interests in the Hotel Havana Hilton casino:

LARRY SNOW  
JOE SILESI  
FRANK REED  
CHARLES BRUDNER  
CLIFF JONES  
ROBERTO MENDOZA  
SANTO TRAFFICANTE

Source said that JOE SILESI, according to his information, actually does have a hidden interest in the casino of the Hotel Havana Hilton. Source was unable to state whether this interest actually belongs to SILESI or whether SILESI is representing someone else. Source informed that SILESI is the unofficial manager of the casino but that an individual named LARRY LABEL handles the technical operation of the casino. Source said that he understands that SILESI, during the time WILLIAM O'DWYER was Mayor of New York, had an excellent "fix" going and maintained a plush

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gambling operation on Long Island, bringing the customers in from New York City in limousines. Source said that during the same period SILESI is also reported to have had another gambling operation going in downtown New York City. Source knew of no present gambling interests which SILESI might have in the United States.

On July 29, 1953, Hav-31 advised that ~~PATSY SMITH~~ is now working in the gambling casino at the Hotel Havana Hilton. Source noted that several years ago SMITH worked in the gambling casinos in the Sans Souci and Tropicana night clubs. Files of the Havana Office reflect that ~~PATRICK SMITH~~ was one of a number of individuals engaged in gambling activities in Cuba in 1953 who were arrested by Cuban Army Military Intelligence Service and deported to the United States. At the time of his arrest, SMITH indicated he was born August 22, 1923, in Boston, Massachusetts. During the 1952-1953 tourist season in Cuba, he was employed as "Credit Manager" at the Sans Souci.

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On August 3, 1953, Hav-31 advised that an individual named ~~GEORGE McELROY~~, known as "The Greek", was working as a floorman in the Hotel Havana Hilton gambling casino.

#### Sans Souci Night Club

On June 22, 1953, TED SCOTT, columnist for the English language daily newspaper "The Havana Post", advised that he had received information from SANTO TRAFFICANTE that ~~FRANKIE CARBO~~, FBI Number 187972, was expected to arrive in Havana shortly. Subsequent contacts with SCOTT failed to develop any information that CARBO had arrived in Havana.

On June 25, 1953, Hav-31 advised he had ascertained that ~~SID JACOBS~~, who is the "right-hand" man of SANTO TRAFFICANTE at the Sans Souci night club, has "a couple of points" in the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas.

On July 9, 1953, Hav-31 informed that gambling business at the Sans Souci gambling casino appears to be reasonably good. Source stated that on July 8, 1953, ~~PETE BRADY~~ visited SANTO TRAFFICANTE at the Sans Souci night club.

On July 21, 1953, PCI [ ] (conceal) advised that gambling in the Sans Souci had picked up substantially.

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On July 29, 1958, Hav-31 advised that an individual named "SAL", who had been operating the "Kiosko", a small gambling operation adjacent to the Sans Souci, had been fired by SANTO TRAFFICANTE.

Tropicana Night Club

The gambling casino at the Tropicana night club continues to be managed by WILLIAM OTTO BISCHOFF, wa. Lefty Clark.

Hav-31 advised on July 14, 1958, that he had received information that a Detroit combination and a New York combination had interests in the Tropicana night club. In this regard it should be noted that numerous other sources have indicated the no American groups have interests in the Tropicana night club casino.

CHARLES WILSON, local I&NS representative, Havana, has advised that PIERRE CANAVESE (alias for JOSEPH DI GIORGIO, FBI No. 234993) is no longer working at the Tropicana and is reported to be employed at the recently opened dog track in Havana. *Cuba*

Hotel Comodoro Casino

On June 25, 1958, Hav-31 advised that GORDON MASTERS and BOBBY RUIZ, together with an individual named ANGELITO who has been a partner of SANTO TRAFFICANTE in the Hotel Comodoro casino, were going ahead with an operation to convert the lobby of the Hotel St. Johns into a gambling casino. ANGELITO is identical with ANGEL GONZALEZ, a close associate of SANTO TRAFFICANTE, who was with TRAFFICANTE in New York prior to the murder of ALBERT ANASTASIA. *Cuba*

Hav-31 advised on July 14, 1958, that an individual named JERRY MICHAELS is employed in the gambling casino at the Hotel Comodoro. Source stated that MICHAELS is a brother-in-law of DINO CELLINI, Director of the gambling casino at the Hotel Havana Riviera and a close associate of SANTO TRAFFICANTE. *Cuba*

Hotel Plaza

As previously indicated, the Hotel Plaza has not yet opened its gambling casino.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Hotel Deauville

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On June 24, 1958, PCI [redacted] previously mentioned, advised that ~~HENRY~~ RUBINO, who resides in Apartment 5-B, Calle 12 No. 20, will manage the gambling casino in the Hotel Deauville. Source stated that he had seen the plans for the gambling casino several months ago in RUBINO's car. Source noted that RUBINO is a close contact of SANTO TRAFFICANTE and has been working with TRAFFICANTE at the Sans Souci night club until the Deauville opens. Source said that RUBINO drives a 1957 two-door light blue Cadillac, Florida license 1WW-7712.

On July 7, 1958, PCI [redacted] noted that SANTO TRAFFICANTE has a gambling interest in the Hotel Deauville casino.

Hav-4 advised on July 22, 1958, that the Hotel Deauville casino opened on July 19, 1958. According to the source, the person publicly stated to be the manager of the gambling casino is an individual named NICOLAS MOGAN. Source stated that MOGAN is a Yugoslavian exile who in the past belonged to a group of individuals who considered themselves close friends of ex-King Carol of Rumania. Source noted that MOGAN has the reputation of being an individual without scruples where money is concerned. (S) (u)

On July 21, 1958, PCI [redacted] advised that HENRY RUBINO, who is the actual manager of the gambling casino in the Hotel Deauville, is originally from New York City. Source stated that RUBINO had been a gambler both on the West Coast and in Miami.

The July 23, 1958, edition of "The Miami Herald" contained a short note indicating that "HENRY RUBINO, who has been associated with Ciro's and other Miami spots, is supervising the gaming rooms in the new 150-room Havana Deauville Hotel."

Hotel Sevilla Biltmore

This casino continues to be operated by AMLETTO ~~BATTISTI~~ <sup>Cal</sup>, Cuban Congressman, and is managed by ~~BERT~~ FREEMAN. It appeals to a low-class gambling crowd.

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Oriental Park Race Track

As previously indicated, JOHN LINK, former shift boss at the Havana Riviera gambling casino, is reported to have purchased an interest in the Jockey Club at the Oriental Park Race Track.

On August 12, 1958, PCI [redacted] (conceal) advised that the Oriental Park Race Track and gambling casino continue to be operated by GEORGE LEVINE. Source said that the track is losing money every day and that LEVINE is not making up the loss in the casino. Source said that someone must be furnishing LEVINE with a substantial bankroll. PCI [redacted] (conceal) has previously advised that information has come to his attention that CHARLES TOURINE, wa. Charles White, and NICOLAS DI COSTANZO, wa. "Fat the Butch", were reported to be bankrolling LEVINE. PCI [redacted] indicated on August 12, 1958, that he had been unable to verify this information.

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Biltmore Kennel Club, S. A.

On July 2, 1958, Hav-31 advised he had received reliable information that the dog track in Havana would soon be reopened and that both Cubans and Americans would have interests in the track.

The Biltmore Kennel Club, S. A. opened the dog track in Marianao, Havana, Cuba, on August 1, 1958. It was publicly announced that WILLIAM L. HUNTLEY is the President of the Biltmore Kennel Club.

On August 12, 1958, PCI [redacted] mentioned above, informed that the dog track was being operated by an American named HUNTLEY, together with three Cubans, named ALEJANDRE, MIRO, and ALBERTO HERRERA. Source said that the dog track was drawing a good crowd but that the "betting handle" was not large. Source noted that a number of Americans had been brought in to operate the dog track.

General Information

Numerous sources have indicated that there has been a definite improvement in the attendance at the gambling casinos in Havana. Most casinos now appear to be operating profitably because there has been a definite upsurge in the amount of American tourist business.

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*Cuba*  
A number of sources have indicated that both BILL MILLER and PETE BRADY are interested in the Monte Carlo Hotel and Casino being constructed at Barlovento, about eight miles west of Havana.

It was previously reported in referenced Havana letter that Mr. THOMAS J. KELLEY, Resident Manager, Hotel Nacional, had informed on May 14, 1958, that he had been approached by JOHN SCHWARTZ, whom he described as "the former right-hand man for FRANK COSTELLO", and JOE Z. LIPSKY to manage a hotel which they expected to construct in Cienfuegos, Cuba. This hotel would have a gambling casino.

On August 1, 1958, Mr. KELLEY informed that about two weeks prior to that date he had received a telephone call from SCHWARTZ indicating that a private plane would be sent to KELLEY within ten days to take him to Cienfuegos to the proposed hotel site. KELLEY said the plane never appeared.

PCI [ ] previously mentioned, advised on July 21, 1958, that DAVE YARAS had been in Havana recently on a "pleasure trip." Source said that YARAS is a former Chicago gunman. YARAS has Chicago PD No. D 14360. PCI [ ] stated further that another individual from Chicago, who appeared to be a "heavy" known as "Manny Scar", was in Havana.

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Police Activity re American Gamblers

Hav-32 has recently advised that the Department of Investigations of the Cuban National Police intends to re-institute a program of fingerprinting and photographing Americans affiliated with gambling in Havana. Source stated that this police action was based on the press publicity emanating from the United States to the effect that numerous members of the Mafia were believed to have gone to Cuba. (S)(u)

Extra copies of this letter have been prepared for forwarding to the following offices:

Albany  
Cleveland  
Miami  
Chicago  
New York  
Salt Lake City

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