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JFK Assassination System  
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : Legat, Havana (64-153)  
SUBJECT: AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA  
ANTI-RACKETEERING

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: December 29, 1958

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*Top Hood Lums Havana Cuba*

DECLASSIFIED BY *SP8 mac/rde*  
ON *8-29-94 (JFK)*

Reference Havana letters August 27, and September 8, 1958, and Miami teletype of October 23, 1958, transmitting information received from Legat, Havana.

Set forth below is additional information which has come to the attention of the Legat, Havana, concerning the activities and interests of American gamblers in Cuba:

GENERAL INFORMATION:

AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF *CM 58*  
DATE *1-4-85*

The disturbed political situation in Cuba and the resulting decrease in tourism has had a severe affect in recent months on the gambling casinos in Havana. Most of the casinos are barely breaking even. It is apparent, however, that American gamblers continue to have an optimistic long-range view concerning the eventual success of gambling casinos in Cuba. In recent months on the occasions when gamblers have sold interests in casinos, there has apparently been a number of other gamblers interested in buying those interests. In addition, the Legat, Havana, continues to receive information indicating that other gamblers in the United States are planning to invest in and construct more casinos in Cuba as soon as the political situation stabilizes.

On 9/29/58, T. James Ennis, manager of the Hotel Havana-Riviera, advised that he was informed by a Florida hotel manager named (FNU) VON HAGEN that VON HAGEN was interested in setting up an island-wide punch board operation in Cuba. VON HAGEN stated that PILAR GARCIA, Chief, Cuban National Police, had indicated that he would allow such an operation if given a percentage.

On 12/18/58, HAV-31 informed that a new gambling casino of small size called The Colony would shortly open up on the Isle of Pines, Cuba, and that this casino would be operated by an individual named BEN FINNEY and another individual named PHIL SCHAEFER.

HAV-31 also informed that an individual named STANLEY SPENSKY, who formerly owned a number of houses of prostitution and slot machines in Steubenville, Ohio, had just been released from prison where he had been "doing time for murder" and was in Havana looking for a gambling operation in which he could invest money.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
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OTHERWISE  
#24326  
Classified by *SP6 BJA/col*  
Declassify on: OADR/2-12-84

12 - Bureau  
1 - Havana  
DJB:MEG  
(13)

37 JAN 13 1959

*94 cards  
1/1/59*

*2cc - NK  
1cc - NK  
2cc - MM  
1cc - CL  
1cc - SU  
1cc - NK  
1cc - GI  
1cc - BS  
1cc - 4710*

*Copy stamp  
on back*

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*1/13/59 clg/arc*

DATE: 11-14-2017

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Havana 64-153

12/29/58

[arrest pressure was brought upon witnesses, investigating officers and newspaper reporters, as well as the girl herself, to "forget about the whole thing." Source noted that one Cuban newspaper reporter wrote an article intimating that SCALIA was linked with the MAFIA. Source stated this newspaper reporter was subsequently threatened with death if he did not "forget about the MAFIA and keep his mouth shut." Source said that the principal police officer who had acted on behalf of SCALIA in this matter was Lieutenant Colonel IRENALDO GARCIA BAEZ, the head of SIM. (S)(U)

SANS SOUCI NIGHT CLUB CASINO:Havana, Cuba

The Sans Souci Night Club and casino continues to be operated by SANTO TRAFFICANTE. On 12/19/58, HAV-33 informed that TRAFFICANTE, his wife and their two daughters had been observed in the Sans Souci casino on 12/15/58. Source said that a nephew of TRAFFICANTE named SANTO JOSE TRAFFICANTE is now managing the Kiosko, an adjunct to the Sans Souci, which operates as a gambling casino for the "poorer money crowd." CUBA

TROPICANA NIGHT CLUB AND CASINO:Havana, Cuba

CUBA The Tropicana continues to be owned by Cuban interests, principally MARTIN FOX and ALBERTO ARDURA MOYA. In the past ARDURA has been described as the "bag man" for General Roberto Fernandez Miranda, the brother-in-law of President FULGENCIO BATISTA. CUBA

The new manager of the casino is LOUIS McWILLIE, a Dallas, Texas, gambler who replaced WILLIAM GUSTO BISCHOFF (Miami Top Hoodlum). BISCHOFF now owns part of the money craps game at the Hotel Capri casino. CUBA

HOTEL SEVILLA-BILTMORE CASINO:Havana, Cuba

As previously indicated, the Hotel Sevilla-Biltmore casino is owned by AMLETTO BATISTI, Cuban Congressman. Sources have advised Legat, Havana, that BATISTI has been observed on numerous occasions in conversation with SANTO TRAFFICANTE, JR., and that there are indications that these conversations are related to "bolita" operations in Florida. It should be noted that BATISTI is considered to be the biggest "numbers" banker in Cuba.

ORIENTAL PARK RACE TRACK AND CASINO:Havana, Cuba

The Oriental Park Race Track and gambling casino continues to be operated by GEORGE LEVINE. CUBA

On 9/15/58, JOE MEDINA, American Express Company representative in Havana (conceal), advised that LEVINE had seen him on that date and had requested MEDINA to wire \$20,000 to JOHN KEILLY, c/o Central Bank

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