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Director, FBI

February 6, 1958

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Legat, Havana (92-9)

SAMUEL MANNARINO, was.;
GABRIEL MANNARINO, was.
TOP HOODLUM PROGRAM
ANTI-RACKETEERING

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE~~

Re Pittsburgh letter to Bureau dated January 22,
1958.

On February 5, 1958, PCI [redacted], who is employed as Afternoon Manager in the gambling casino at the Hotel Nacional and whose identity must be concealed, advised that he was well acquainted with both the subjects. [redacted] informed that many years ago when he was one of a gambling group from Steubenville, Ohio, operating a club in the West Virginia area near the Pennsylvania border, the MANNARINO brothers tried to "muscle in" on the group but that their attempt was unsuccessful. He said that the MANNARINOs are generally considered to control all the horse betting and numbers operations in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and Morgantown, West Virginia. He informed that the MANNARINOs were the money men behind NORMAN ROTHMAN, FBI #152585 B, during the period 1951 and 1952 when ROTHMAN operated the Sans Souci night club and gambling casino. He said that ROTHMAN was unable to make a success of this operation and that after losing considerable money, the MANNARINO brothers pulled out. Source informed that he believed their interests in this operation actually extended over a period of only about nine months.

Source further advised that he knew of no island owned by gambling interests or hoodlums off the coast of Florida near Cuba. He said that to his knowledge the MANNARINOs have had no interest in Cuban gambling operations since they pulled out of the Sans Souci.

In this regard it should be noted that there are only a few islands off the north coast of Cuba, and these are generally considered to be uninhabitable because of lack of water. Islands farther to the north would comprise the Florida Keys, many of which are uninhabitable for the same reason.

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2/6/58

On February 5, 1958, ARTIE NEWMAN, an old-time gambler who works as a cashier in the Hotel Nacional gambling casino, was contacted concerning the MANNARINO brothers, and he furnished substantially the same information as PCI [redacted]. He said that the MANNARINOS and CHUCK TEEMER formerly had been the money men behind the Sans Souci casino but that they pulled out of the operation after NORMAN ROTHMAN was unable to make it a financial success. He stated emphatically that to his knowledge none of these individuals have money interests in gambling operations in Cuba at present.

OTHER 4

Referenced Pittsburgh letter indicated that ROCCO BUFFONE had been reported to be a cousin of the MANNARINO brothers and an individual who fronted for them in one of their enterprises.

A review of the incoming flight manifests on February 3, 1958, reflected that an individual by the name of ROCCO BUFFONE arrived in Havana at 1:42 P.M. on January 30, 1958, aboard Pan American Airways Flight 493 from Miami. His destination was given as the Hotel Nacional.

Investigation is continuing in Havana. (X) (u)

Two extra copies of this letter have been prepared for forwarding by the Bureau to Pittsburgh.

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