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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

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COMMENTS:

MEMO

Havana Riviera Hotel. As has been previously reported LANSKY also has money invested in the gambling casino in the Hotel Nacional and his brother, JAKE ANSKY, oversees this gambling operation. "Associated with LANSKY in the Riviera are HARRY and BEN SMITH, twin brothers most recently out of Toronto, Canada, although there is some indication that they were engaged in gambling operations in the New Jersey area some years ago. Handling the restaurant operation and public relations at the Riviera is PHILLIP TAWORSKY, alias, JERRY BROOKS. He is reported to operate the Luau on the 79th Street Causway on Miami Beach, Florida. EDMUND LEVINSON, most recently of Las Vegas, is in charge of the gambling operation at the Riviera. "Several dealers and stick men from Las Vegas have been brought in by LEVINSON from Las Vegas, three of these being GEORGE FENTRESS, E. HARLEY and JOE "RED" HILL. has been previously reported, DINO CELLINI has for some months been conducting a dealers' school to train Cuban dealers for work in the Riviera.

The Hotel Capri, which opened for business on November 29, 1957, is ostensibly owned and operated by JACK LIEBERBAUM, mentioned above, and J. J. SHEPPARD. LIEBERBAUM has stated that he operates the Dunes Motel in Miami Beach and SHEPPARD is reported to be the operator of the Hotel Leamington in Miami. Information received from HAV-4 indicates that with regard to the gambling casino in the Capri, the ostensible officers are JACK BURKE, President, NICHOLAS DI COSTANZO, Vice President, and his brother, RICHARD DI COSTANZO, aka., RICHARD DEE, and two brothers named NED and SAM HARRIS. From other sources it has been learned that BURKE is associated with JOE RIVERS, a New Jersey gambler and that NICHOLAS DI OSTANZO, alias, "FAT THE BUTCH," is originally from Yonkers, New York, and has in the past operated large floating crap games in Westchester County.

One source has indicated that CHARLES OURINE, alias, CHARLIE WHITE, "CHARLIE THE BLADE," has a piece of the casino at the Capri. TOURINE is said to be from New Jersey and in the past to have been the enforcer for the New York syndicate. He is also said to be an associate of JIMMY LO, with numerous aliases including "JIMMY BLUE EYES."

Information has also been received that ABE COHEN, formerly of Albany, New York, and more recently at the Flamingo in Las Vegas, Nevada, is in town to work as floor manager at either the Riviera or the Capri. HY SAMUELS, formerly of Schenectady, New York, and most recently at the Cal-Neva Lodge, WINGY GROBER's place in Lake Tahoe, is here to work as wheel boss with ABE COHEN

