

**JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM  
IDENTIFICATION FORM**

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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TO: HO  
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DATE: 01/10/1956

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

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**JFK Act 6 (4)**

COMMENTS: MEMO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
DECLASSIFIED BY 5668 SW/RSR  
ON 1-18-97 (JFK) DATE: January 10, 1956  
Havana, Cuba

FROM : Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba (144-2)

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL CUBAN HOSPITAL SWEEPSTAKES  
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF LOTTERY TICKETS

~~SECRET~~

Reference Havana letter 12-8-55 captioned AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA, GIIF, and Bureau letter dated 12-20-55. (X)u

PCI ANTONIO POUSA FRANK advised on January 9, 1956, that he had received reliable information that the Oriental Park Race Track in Havana was going broke under the management of Director JOSEPH G. LEASE and that there is a good possibility that the Track will close in the near future. Source stated that the first three weeks of racing have resulted in large losses to the Track and that the bills in connection with operation of the Track are mounting to astronomical figures. Source stated that he also received reliable information that Track officials are talking about expediting the issuance and sale of International Cuban Hospital Sweepstakes tickets to get additional revenue to support the Track. Source advised that the individual at the Track who is in charge of having the Sweepstakes tickets printed is a friend of his and that he will follow this matter closely. (X)u

No indication has been received by the Havana Office of possible or anticipated transportation of Cuban Sweepstakes tickets to the United States. On January 9, 1956, however, Lt. HERIBERTO HERNANDEZ, head of the Alien Control Section, Cuban National Police, confidentially advised that he had received a communication from Miami Beach Chief of Police ROMEO SHEPHERD asking information concerning possible charges against GEORGE LEVINE and SALVATORE GRANELLO by the Cuban National Police. Lt. HERNANDEZ described this request as a "feeler" inasmuch as he had received other information from Florida indicating that both LEVINE and GRANELLO are very anxious to return to Cuba. (X)u

All significant developments with reference to the above will be immediately reported by the Havana Office. The Bureau is respectfully requested to furnish from its files any derogatory information with reference to LEASE or information connecting him with underworld elements. Extra copies of this letter are attached for forwarding to the Miami and New York Offices for information. (X)u

A description of LEASE from personal interview and observation is as follows: (X)u

Name: JOSEPH G. LEASE  
Address: Hotel Nacional, Havana, Cuba - formerly resided Walden, New York and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
Age 49  
62-75147-210-77

AAC:JES

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Date of Review 1/10/82

~~SECRET~~

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TO C. I. I. 7. CUBA

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Havana

JAN 12 1956