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TO : Director, FBI (92-2867)

DATE: March 12, 1958

FROM : Legat, Havana (64-153)

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA
ANTI-RACKETEERING

File
FOG.I.I.F. - Cuba

(S) m

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Reference Havana letters dated January 14, 1958, and December 13, 1957.

There is set forth below additional information which has been developed concerning the activities of American gamblers in Havana since the submission of referenced letters. *(S) m*

Casinos in Operation

- Wilbur Clark's Casino
- Hotel Nacional

Class. & Ext. Reason - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 Date of Review

3/22/88
5/2/02
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This casino continues to be operated by individuals previously identified to the Bureau. JAKE LANSKY, Miami Office top hoodlum, oversees the operations of the casino in the Hotel Nacional and is assisted by SAM TUCKER who has an interest in the casino. *(S) m*

On February 5, 1958, PCI GOFFREDO CELLINI (conceal), who is employed in the casino at the Hotel Nacional, advised that GEORGE SADLOW, an old associate of MEYER and JAKE LANSKY, was in Havana staying at the Hotel Nacional and frequenting the casino there. On February 27, 1958, PCI CELLINI advised that JAKE LANSKY and SAM TUCKER had been visited on that date by General MANUEL BENITEZ VALDES, a Cuban Senator and former Chief of Police in Cuba. General BENITEZ indicated that he was highly indignant over the treatment MEYER LANSKY had been receiving, and he considers MEYER LANSKY to be a good friend and one of the few gentlemen in the gambling profession. He indicated he would do everything in his power to put his support behind a movement to return MEYER LANSKY to Cuba. He stated he intended to publish an open letter in both the English and Spanish language newspapers in Havana in the immediate future indicating his support for MEYER LANSKY. *(S) m*

12 - Bureau
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62-75147-210-120

MAR 17 1958

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Source informed that immediately prior to the conversation with JAKE LANSKY and SAM TUCKER, BENITEZ indicated he had been in conference concerning the matter with SANTO TRAFFICANTE and JOE SILESI, wa. Joe Rivers. *(u)*

The English language and Spanish language newspapers of Sunday, March 2, 1958, carried an open letter from General BENITEZ supporting the return of MEYER LANSKY to Cuba.

Hotel Havana Riviera Casino *(u)*

On January 23, 1958, Havana-4 advised that DINO CELLINI, who acts as a floor boss at the Hotel Havana Riviera casino, continues to operate a school for Cuban dealers. Source said the school is located in the Ambar Motors Building at 23rd and Infanta Streets, Havana, Telephone U-8781. *(u) Cuba*

On February 4, 1958, TIM HALL, Reservations Manager, Hotel Nacional, confidentially advised that HARRY and BEN SMITH, part-owners of the Hotel Havana Riviera and believed to be of Jewish extraction, are two brothers who had made a great deal of money during prohibition days running a number of "drinking joints" in Toronto, Canada, which were almost continually filled with Americans who came across from the United States to get drunk. He informed that they owned the Prince George Hotel in Toronto. He said he had heard that they had made such a great deal of money in Canada that they desired to hide the fact by investing some of it in the Havana Riviera. *(u) Cuba*

On March 10, 1958, Assistant Manager NEIL WALSH, Hotel Havana Riviera, confidentially advised that he had ascertained from TOMMY GUINAN, an employee in the casino at the Havana Riviera and brother of the famous Tex Guinan, that the following individuals have some "points" in the Havana Riviera casino: *(u)*

- MEYER LANSKY
- HARRY SMITH
- BEN SMITH
- "DUSTY" PETERS
- EDWARD LEVINSON
- IRVING "NIGGIE" LEVINE
- EDDIE TORREO
- BEN LEVINE
- "RUDY" KORNOCK
- DINO CELLINI

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3/12/58

On February 3, 1958, NICHOLAS DI COSTANZO, wa. "Fat The Butch", advised that he is an "old Yonkers boy" and that he was born in Italy. He said that he has three children - a son who is a graduate of Holy Cross and Georgetown Law School and who recently passed the bar in the District of Columbia and in New York, a daughter who is a graduate of the College of New Rochelle in New York, and another daughter who is presently attending Marymount College in New York. He informed that his son will handle legal work for him concerning interests he owns in Florida and New York. He indicated he had purchased a substantial amount of real estate in those areas during World War II which had increased greatly in value. He furnished a calling card in the name of "DI COSTANZO HOLDING CO., 537 South Broadway, Yonkers 5, N. Y., Telephone Yonkers 5-3800." This card shows NICHOLAS DI COSTANZO as President and indicates a residence telephone of Yonkers 3-5325. ~~DI COSTANZO~~ indicated that a certain number of points in the Capri casino operation are being held open for ~~GEORGE WRAFT~~ *Calif. Cuba*

On February 13, 1958, PCI OSCAR LOPEZ RODRIGUEZ advised that ~~NAT HARRIS~~, ~~LARRY SNOW~~, and ~~MARBIN KRAUSE~~ all have points in the casino of the Hotel Capri. *Cuba*

On February 26, 1958, TED SCOTT, writer for the "Havana Post", advised that on the preceding evening he had seen ~~JIM NORRIS~~ of the International Boxing Commission and ~~SANTO TRAFFICANTE~~ conversing together at the Hotel Capri gambling casino. This information was confirmed on the same date by PCI OSCAR LOPEZ RODRIGUEZ. *Cuba*

On the same date another source advised that the following individuals had been identified as working in the casino of the Hotel Capri: *Cuba Ohio*

- ~~HARRY BROOKS~~, formerly of Cleveland and a former associate of MICKEY COHEN;
 - ~~ABIE COHEN~~;
 - ~~JIMMY SAIGH~~;
 - ~~HY SAMUELS~~;
 - ~~MATTY BROWN~~.
- Ohio* *(S) u*
- [~~Hotel Havana Hilton~~] *(S) u*

On February 18, 1958, ~~RALPH RUST~~ and ~~CALVIN "TOMMY" CHAPPELL~~, former dealers in Las Vegas, Nevada, advised that they had come to Havana at the request of ~~CLIFF JONES~~, former Lt. Governor of Nevada, to work in the casino at the Havana *(S) u*

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