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CUBA, RACKETEERING AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES
TRAFFICANTE, SANTOS
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CUBA - gambling

011666

Am Gambling Act IN CUBA

MAIN FILE 62-75147-210

Section 2

HSCA 6-14-78

Volume 1 of 2 Response Volumes

Office Memorandum

1-14-58

TO: DIR, FBI

62-75147-210-103

FR: Legal ATTACHE, Havana, Cuba

Subj: Am Gambling Act IN CUBA

Melburn Clark's Casino, Hotel Nacional

JAKE LANSKY oversees the operation;

principal interests: Moe Bernard Dality,

Meyer Lansky, Sam Tucker, & Thomas Joseph

Mc Ginty.

Hotel Comodoro Casino

- in the past managed by Ralph RONA, FBI

NO 1370469 - a con inf also

advised that Santo Traff has an interest
in this casino.Hotel Havana Riviera CasinoDino Cellini & Marvin Herscovitz - the
floor managers

Edmund Hennson - overall manager.

Hotel Capri Casino

Jack Lieberbaum - part owner

Charles "The Blade" Tourian & Richard
Nicholas Constantino part owners.

- also mentioned that Santo Trappicanti had a substantial interest in the casino.

Hotel Sirella Baltimore Casino

owned by Cuban congressman Amletto Battisti;

Sans Souci

Santo Trappicanti, Joe Stassi, & Joe Rogers.

Tropicana

(*)
Martin Cox & Alberto Ardena Moya;
said that Ardena is the "big man"
for Roberto Fernandez Miranda - brother-in-law
for Mrs. Batista.

Other Casinos under Construction

old Hotel Playa - downtown Havana - Joe Stassi

Hotel Desunille - recently remodelled hotel
would also get a license for a
gambling casino.

62 - 75147 - 210 - A

article - 12-13-57

- mentions that the Havana Riviera Hotel
reportedly cost \$24 million,

Office memorandum 8-20-57

TO: DIR, FBI

62-75147-210-94

FR: Legat, Havana

Subj: Am Gambling Activities in Cuba

G I I F - General Intelligence Intelligence
File - Cuba

- on 8-15-57, Jack Linsky, who oversees gambling at the Nacional, stated that the brother-in-law of Batista received 50% of all profits from slot machines in the Nacional; ~~also~~ implied that the same person received 50% from all people.
- Linsky said that during the normal tourist season his slot machines take in 4800-6000 a week -

Office Memorandum 1-24-57

TO: DIR, FBI

FR: Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba 62-75147-210-92

- Norman Rothman who formerly operated the Las Bouci is presently managing the Copacabana Night Club in Camaguey, Cuba
- also, Miguel Truzy, a contact of the Havana office, said on 1-23-57, said that a new gambling casino to be opened at Hotel Comodora in Havana - in Feb, 1957 -
- says that the Comodora is one of Havana's leading hotel - only second to the Nacional -
- source also said that Rafael Reina, aka Ralph Reina, is to be the managing

at Comodoro cauno - some also said
that Reina is a close associate of Santo
Trappicante, JR., & that a number of
years ago Reina was assoc with
Trappicante in the bolita racket in
Tampa, FL.

Am Gamb - CUBA - MAIN FILE 62-75147-210
Section 3 HSCA 6-14-78

OFFICE MEMORANDUM - U.S. GOV.

TO: DIR, FBI

62-75147-210

FR: Legal ATTACHE, HAVANA

8-27-58

Subj: Am Gambling in Cuba

- describe an effort by Cuban gov to prevent
Trappicante from opening a casino in the Hotel
Playa - it does say that Lansky said
that in recent months (summer '58) "certain
~~operation~~ individual" particularly
Santo Trappicante had been attempting to
import slot machines directly - instead of
going through Ardura ("bag man" to Fernandez).
Lansky said this was effective in the case of
the Hotel Havana Hilton - the Cuban gov would
get a substantial take -

p2 Hotel Nacional

- Wilbur Clark; Meyer Lansky also has an interest; also has an interest in the Riviera.

p3 - mentions that Joe Rogus, the alias for Joe Stassi, a business assoc of S.T.)

- on 7-23-58 a source advised that Dave Yaras, the "former" Chicago gunman, ~~was~~ had been in Havana -

- on 8-5-58, Thomas J. Kelley, Resident Manager of the Hotel Nacional, said that Mike McLaney, had been inquiring about purchasing the Hotel Nacional -

Hotel Havana Riviera

Jack & Meyer Lansky; Harry & Ben Smith;

Hotel Capri Casino

- source mentions that S.T. has an interest in the Capri, Sans Souci, Beauville, Comodoro, & the Hilton.

interest in these hotels.

Hotel Havana Hilton

Joe Stassi - manager

Sans Souci

- favorite hang out of Trappucione

Tropicana

managed by William Otto Bischoff

Hotel Commodore Casino

Trappanite

Hotel Playa

- not yet opened

Hotel Beaulieu

Trappanite

Hotel Sevilla Baltimore

- operated by Amleto Battisti

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: DIR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJ: Dir Grand ACT IN CUBA

- conf inf said Traff had 60% Sam Sanci,
Joe Stassi, 20%, and a Cuban National,
Raul Gonzalez 20%. - he added that
Gonzalez had a close connection with the
missile men in Cuba.

- array attendance to Sam Sanci small
- two bingo men called Keane and
Buckner came in to keep out - \$5
losing money - new arrangement

20 - Stassi
20 - Keane & Buckner
20 - Gonzalez
40 - S.T.

- one of the informants is either Keane or Buckner;
- it is Keane. - came from NYC where he
ran bingos to go to Havana -

- said he left Sons Souci because of its
small bank & debts.

- Keane said that from what he observed at
the Sons Souci & in looking over the books
that the entire operation was losing between
\$18,000 to \$33,000 a month. He
said he thought the Sons Souci ~~was~~ "must
be ~~losing~~ a drop or
something, maybe junk." When questioned
about the statement he said it was
just a guess; that it does not figure
that the Sons Souci would stay open
just to lose money.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

5-9-58

TO: DIR, FBI

FR: LEON, HAVANA

Subj: AM Gamb

p/o - Norman Rockman, operating slot machines
in the interior of Cuba - said on 5-7-58
that because of recent rev. activities the
slot machine trade had been very slow.

OFFICE MEMO

3-18-58

TO: DIR, FBI

FR: SAC, New York

Subj: Am Gamb Act

NATIONAL

manager - Wilbur Clark

fin int - Moe Dality, Ruby Kolas,
Morrie Kleeman, George Gordon,
Pete Brady (former Casino manager at
the Desert Inn in Las Vegas).

Riviera

owned - Harry & Ben Smith

manager - Ed Levinson

Capri Hotel

^{hotel} said to have been financed by Jack
Leiberbaum & Alf Shepard. Casino
said to have been financed by Nick Di
Costanzo

floor managers - Charles Tourine & George Laft
dealer school - being operated by DINO Cellino

Harrah Hilton

- now under construction; expected to open June, 1958

Sans Souci

- under control of Trafficante & Mammuno group
- say Mammuno have slot machines in all of Cuba
- say that Norman Rothman, for Merola, & Nick Jerome all look after the Mammuno interests

Tropicana

- Trappistale
- managed by Joe Berhoff "Lefty Clark"

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(55)

- also said that inquiry into the neighborhood of 438-440 S.W. 3rd Street, Miami, where Emilio Regue was last known to have resided, ascertained that Regue had moved w/out leaving an forwarding address.

- on Oct 18, 1963 Bosch, in an interview said that there was no longer a Cuban Anti-Comm Army, Escambray front, & that Regue himself

was no longer active in anti-Castro endeavors

(7.2)