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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba

SUBJECT: CRIME SURVEY - PITTSBURGH DIVISION

DATE: March 28, 1951
Havana, Cuba

Rebulet March 15, 1951, which transmitted a copy of Pittsburgh letter to the Bureau dated March 10, 1951. This latter requested verification of certain information furnished by a potential informant, PHIL PETRULLI.

It is desired to point out by way of background that theoretically at least, gambling in Cuba is illegal except in the National Casino which has been closed during the last two tourist seasons due to labor troubles with the gastronomical workers union. Despite its alleged illegality, gambling operates openly with the apparent consent of government authorities in the following places:

- Montmartre Night Club, located in downtown Havana.
- Tropicana Night Club, located out in a residential section of Havana.
- Jockey Club, operated in conjunction with the Oriental Park race track.
- Sans Souci Night Club, situated on the outskirts of Havana.

Chief source of information of this office concerning gambling operations during the current tourist season has been one BERNARD GORELICK, Rabi No. 477, between Zapotes and Santa Emilia, Santos Suarez, Havana. GORELICK is a singer and a master of ceremonies who is known professionally as BENNY ROBERTS. For the past several months he has been employed as master of ceremonies at the Rio Rita Night Club in downtown Havana. The following is summary of information furnished by ROBERTS over a period of several months.

Gambling in the first three of the above mentioned places, namely Montmartre, Tropicana and Jockey Club, is operated entirely by Cuban individuals and there is no "foreign" capital invested in these enterprises. The Sans Souci, which was forced to close during the 1949-50 season due to lack of profits, was taken over by new management prior to the opening of the 1950-51 season, was redecorated and opened with considerable fanfare in December, 1950. Informant advised that a good deal of money was invested in this operation by a group of Americans working together with a group of Cubans. Informant was able to establish the identities of the following individuals, both Cuban and American, who are interested in the Sans Souci.

CDA: JES
64-153

*left to Pitt
cc - [unclear]
4-13-51
[unclear]*

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