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CUBA - gambling

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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

Wilbur Clark's Casino, Hotel Nacional
JAKE Lansky oversees the operation;
principal interests: Moe Bernard Dalitz,
Meyer Lansky, Sam Tucker, & Thomas Joseph
McGinty.

Hotel Comodoro Casino
- in the past managed by Ralph REINA, FBI
NO 1370469 - a con inf also
advised that Santo Traff has an interest
in this casino.

Hotel Havana Riviera Casino
DINO Cellini & Maurice Horowitz - the
floor managers
Edmund Lennson - overall manager.

Hotel Capri Casino
Jack Lieberbaum - part owner
Charles "The Blade" Tourine & Richard
Nicholas Constanzo part owners.

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

Hotel Sevilla Biltmore Casino

owned by Cuban congressman Amletto Battisti;

Sans Souci

Santo Trafficante, Joe Stassi, & Joe Rogers.

Tropicana (X)

martin Cox & Alberto Arduna Moya; said that Arduna is the "Big man!" for Roberto Fernandez Miranda" - involved in deal for Pres. Batista.

other casinos under construction

Cuky correct

old Hotel Plaza - downtown Havana - Joe Stassi

Hotel Deauville - recently remodeled 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
GIIF - General Investigative Intelligence
Fite — Cuba

- on 8-15-57, Jake Lansky, who owns gambling at the National, stated that the brother-in-law of Batista receives 50% of all profit from slot machines in the National; implied that the same percentage 50% from all people.

- Lansky said that during the normal hours play his slot machine take in 4800-6000 a week -

Office Memorandum 1-24-57

TO: DIR, FBI

FR: Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba 62-75147-210-20

- Norman Rothman who formerly operated the Sans Souci is presently managing the Copacabana Night Club in Camaguay, Cuba

- also, Miguel Tray, a contact of the Havana office, said on 1-23-57, said that a new gambling casino to be opened at Hotel Comodoro in Havana - in Feb, 1957 -
- says that the Comodoro is one of Havana's leading hotel - only second to the National -
- source also said that Rafael Reina, aka Ralph Reina, is to be the managing

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

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

OFFICE MEMORANDUM - US GOVT.
TO: DIR, FBI 62-75147-210
FR: LEGAL ATTACHE, HAVANA 8-27-58
Subj: Am Gambling in Cuba

-describes an effort by Cuban gov to prevent Trafficante from opening a casino in the Hotel Playa - it does say that Lansky said that in recent months (summer '58) "Cuban ~~[redacted]~~ individual" particularly Santo Trafficante 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 Cubangov would get a substantial take -

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p2 Hotel Nacional

- wilbur clark; Meyer Lansky also has an interest; also has an interest in the Riviera.

p3 - mentions that Joe Rogers, 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, had been in Havana -

- on 8-1-58, Thomas J. Kelley, Resident Manager of the Hotel Nacional, said that Mike McLaney, had been inquiring about purchasing the Hotel Nacional -

Hotel Havana Riviera

Jake + Meyer Lansky; Harry + Bea Smith;

(A) Hotel Capri Casino

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

interest in these hotels.

Hotel Havana Hilton

Joe Stassi - manager

Sans Souci

- favorite hang out of Trafficante

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Tropicana
managed by William Otto Burchoff

Hotel Comodore Casino
Trafficante

Hotel Playa
- not yet opened

Hotel Deauville
Trafficante

Hotel Sevilla Biltmore
- operated by Amletto Battisti

OFFICE MEMORANDUM
TO: DIR, FBI
FR: SAC, NEW YORK
SUBJ: DOM COMM'S ACT IN CUBA

- conf w/ said staff ped 60% Sans Souci, Joe Stassi, 20%, and a Cuban National, Raul Gonzalez 20%. - he added that Gonzalez had a close connection with the missile men in Cuba.

- always attendance @ Sans Souci small
- two bingo men called Keane and Buckner came in to help out - SS losing money - new arrangement
20 - Stassi
20 - Keane & Buckner
20 - Gonzalez
40 - S.T.

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

- said he left Sans Souci because of its small bank + debts.

- Keane said that from what he observed at the Sans Souci + in looking over the books that the entire operation was losing btwn $18,000 to $33,000 a month. He said he thought the Sans Souci [redacted] "next he [redacted] a drop or something, maybe pink." When questioned about the statement he said it was just a guess; that it does not figure that the Sans Souci would stay open just to lose money.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM 5-9-58

TO: DIR, FBI

FR: LEGAT, HAVANA

Subj: AM GAMB

P/O - Norman Rothman, operating slot machines in the interior of Cuba - said on 5-7-58 that because of recent rev. attitude the slot machine trade had been very slow.

OFFICE MEMO 3-18-58

TO: DIR, FBI

FR: SAC, New York

Subj: Am Gambling Act

National

manager - Wilbur Clark

financial - Moe Dalitz, Ruby Kolod, Morris Kleinman, 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 Leibenbaum & Sidney Shepard; Casino said to have been financed by Nick Di Costanzo

floor managers - Charles Tourine & George Raft

dealers school - being operated by Dino Cellini

Havana Hilton

- now under construction; expected to open June, 1958.

Las Sorci

- under control of Trafficante & Marcello group

- says Marcellos have slot machines in all Cuban

- says that Norman Rothman, Joe Meola, & Nick Jerome all look after the Marcellos interests

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Tropicana

- Trappicante
- managed by Joe Bishoff "Lefty Clark"

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

- On Oct 18, 1963 Bosch, in an interview said that there was no longer a Cuban Anti-Com Army, Escambray Front, & that Duque himself was no longer active in anti-Castro endeavors (72)