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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: January 18, 1954

FROM : Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Re Miami letter to the Bureau January 13, 1954, with copies to Havana. *DM*

DECLASSIFIED BY *SPS max/ude*
ON *8-26-94* *(WPA)*

Concerning the Miami informant's allegation about the Sevilla-Biltmore Hotel trying to get a gambling casino permit, it is believed that this information may be true, although this office has no definite information to corroborate it. Two or three years ago, AMLETTO BATTISTI leased the Sevilla-Biltmore to a Chicago group and one WILLIAM HOGAN came to Havana as Manager of the hotel. HOGAN died at the hotel about three or four months ago and the management was taken over by one SOL SIMON, also out of Chicago. *(S)u*

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Havana PCI [redacted] who is connected with the gambling casino in the Tropicana night club, advised some time ago that SIMON was encouraging Havana street prostitutes, of which there are many in the downtown area where the Sevilla is located, to frequent the Sevilla bar and endeavor to make pickups there. It would seem logical that SIMON might try to go one step further and establish a casino in the hotel, although it is believed that he would have much difficulty in obtaining a permit due to opposition on the part of other casinos. *(S)u*

With regard to MEYER LANSKY, the Bureau was advised that LANSKY owned a part of the gambling concession at the Montmartre night club in downtown Havana during the 1952-1953 season. It has not been possible to determine whether LANSKY is participating at the Montmartre this season. *(S)u*

The ANDRES MAURICIO HEILER mentioned by the informant is believed to be identical with ANDRES HEILER mentioned in Havana letter to the Bureau dated June 10, 1952, in the case entitled "UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, Theft of \$120,000.00 Worth of U. S. Treasury Bonds From First of Boston Corporation, New York, New York, November 21, 1951, ITSP." HEILER purportedly is the representative in Cuba of the Seaboard Steel Company of New York City. From the limited information available concerning him, it would appear that he is an international floater out to make a fast dollar whenever possible. He was reported to be residing at the Hotel Sevilla-Biltmore in 1952. He definitely does not work for the American Embassy. *(S)u*

Classified by *SP6 BJA/GCL*

CDA:hcw Declassify on: OADR 12/17/84

RECORDED - 3

CC: 2-Miami (via direct airmail)

INDEXED - 3

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With regard to the individual named OSCAR of the Tropicana, he is doubtless identical with OSCAR ECHEMENDIA, who together with the brothers PEDRO and MARTIN FOX, owns the Tropicana. ECHEMENDIA is personally known to this office and efforts will be made through him and [redacted] to ascertain the identity of the person named JIMMY. The Bureau and the Miami Office will be advised of the results. *W*

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Two copies of this letter are being sent via direct airmail to the Miami Office.

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